

## The Book of Jonah

### Chapter Two – Jonah’s Repentance

#### Notes on the “Great Fish”

- Christ verified that this happened - Mathew 12:39-21
- The Hebrew words *dag gadol* (lit. “fish great”) and the Greek *ketos* (“sea monster”) do not provide much light as to what the animal is.
  - Remember that ocean life has been one of the greatest mysteries to mankind until very recently.
- Today we know of two animals in the Mediterranean that could swallow a man: the sperm whale and the great white shark.
- There are stories about this happening in recent centuries. One about a man named James Bartley that was swallowed by a whale and then cut out of it later. However, it is almost certain now that this story is untrue.

#### Was Jonah Dead in the Fish’s Belly?

- He had to be alive at some point to pray this prayer!
- The basis for believing he died rests on two things:
  - It better models Christ’s Resurrection if Jonah died and lived again.
  - The Hebrew word *sheol* in vs. 2 can be translated as *hell* or *grave*.
- J. Vernon McGee and M.R. DeHaan believe Jonah died.
- Personally, I am not convinced by the above arguments, but I see no harm in holding that position.

#### Notes on Chapter 2

- vs. 1 – Is there a stranger setting in all of Scripture than this?
- vs. 1 – “out of the fish’s belly” – while inside the fish; not before or after.
- The prayer of Jonah in verses 2-9 has many parallels to Psalms. There is a chart on the back illustrating this.
  - Note that Jonah is not just *quoting* Psalms, he is reworking those words them into his own.
- This prayer is a prayer of repentance. Jonah was a dead man (figuratively or literally). The fact that God did not end his life permanently here meant that God would still use him. He had to be humbled completely to be used again.
- vs. 8 – this verse is contrasting the hopelessness of idolatry with the hopefulness of serving God.

### Parallels Between Jonah's Prayer and the Psalms

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| <p>vs. 2 - I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.</p>                                  | <p>Psalm 18:6 - In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.<br/>Psalm 120:1 - In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.</p>  |
| <p>vs. 3 - For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.</p>                    | <p>Psalm 42:7 - Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.<br/>Psalm 18:4 - The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.</p>  |
| <p>vs. 4 - Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.</p>  | <p>Psalm 31:22 - For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.</p>   |
| <p>vs. 5 - The waters compassed me about, <i>even</i> to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.</p>                                      | <p>Psalm 18:4 - The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.<br/>Psalm 18:5 - The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.<br/>Psalm 69:2 - I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.</p>      |
| <p>vs. 6 - I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars <i>was</i> about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.</p> | <p>Psalm 30:3 - O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.</p>  |
| <p>vs. 7 - When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.</p>  | <p>Psalm 142:3 - When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.<br/>Psalm 18:6 - In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.</p> |
| <p>vs. 8 - They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.</p>   | <p>Psalm 31:6 - I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD.<br/>Psalm 31:7 - I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;</p>  |
| <p>vs. 9 - But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay <i>that</i> that I have vowed. Salvation <i>is</i> of the LORD.</p>                           | <p>Psalm 116:18 - I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people,<br/>Psalm 3:8 - Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.</p>   |