
God's Extraordinary Salvation

Jonah 2

1:17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and He answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

3 For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

4 Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'

5 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head 6 at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

7 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. 9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay.

Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

10 And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

God's salvation is so extraordinary ...

... He even sent a fish to save rebellious Jonah!

1. Jonah affirmed God's responsiveness (but not right away)
2. Jonah acknowledged God's discipline (but didn't repent)
3. Jonah worshiped God's saving mercy (but made promises)

So don't be grateful for Jonah's example.

Be grateful that God appointed Jesus (a "greater Jonah") to be swallowed up (in death) for you!

God's salvation is so extraordinary ...

... He even sent a fish to save rebellious Jonah!

... He even sent a "greater Jonah" to save rebellious us!

"Just as Jonah was three days ... in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days ... in the heart of the earth ... behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

– Jesus (Matthew 12:40-41)

He even sent a "greater Jonah" to save rebellious us!

1. Don't wait; cry out to the God who hears your prayers
2. Confess and repent of sins that invoke God's discipline

"Do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives." ... He disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

– Hebrews 12:5-6,10-11

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

– 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

3. Worship the only God who saves & keeps all HIS promises!

God saved Jonah so He could work through him to proclaim His salvation. God has saved (or wants to save) YOU to do the same.