

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH

CHAPTER 1:17-2:10

PART I

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“A CHANGE IN COURSE”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Resurrection, Sovereignty, Prodigal, God’s Will

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Jonah 1:17-2:10

Jonah 1:17

***Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.
And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.***

CHAPTER 2:1-10

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly. ² And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, 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 floods surrounded me; all Your billows and Your waves passed over me. ⁴ Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' ⁵ The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; the deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. ⁶ I went down to the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God. ⁷ "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple. ⁸ "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. ⁹ But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD." ¹⁰ So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

We've now been introduced to the world's first Submariner,
Captain Jonah aboard the S.S. REPENT

Similarities and Contrasts
of the Two Prophets

THE “BIBLICAL ENDORSEMENT” OF JONAH

2 Kings 14:25

King Jeroboam II restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amitai, the prophet who was from Gath Hepher.

A PERSONAL “ENDORSEMENT BY JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF”

Matthew 12:38-41

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."³⁹ But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.⁴⁰ "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.⁴¹ "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

**The denial of Jonah's historical existence,
And him being swallowed by a great fish,
is a forerunner to the denial of the existence of Jesus Christ and his
death and resurrection from the dead.**

Jesus Himself Referred to Jonah as Historical Individual

Said No sign shall be given...

The key here is to see the typology between Jonah as being lost and wayward man

And Jonah being a type of Christ and atonement for man

Yonah means “Dove” in Hebrew

What caused Jonah to experience a change in course?

A CHANGE IN COURSE

1.) *Known Rebellion Against God*

vv. 17

IT WAS HIS “KNOWN REBELLION” AGAINST GOD

Jonah was under the conviction of the Holy Spirit

Jonah 1:1-3

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." ³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD...

1 Samuel 15:23a

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Rebellion is self-willed or Self Authoritative

“Captain of Your Own Ship”

His Known Rebellion Against God

1a.) Conviction brings a “Verdict” from God

Verse 17

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish

In Preparing,
God was moving in Perfect love toward Jonah.

This “Great Fish” was a Manifestation of “God’s Love”

Hebrews 12:6

For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

Notice:

The Fish was Just Big Enough

It wasn’t a shark with nasty teeth, or some narrow barracuda.
It was a great fish with the perfect dimension to swallow Jonah whole!

James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

**The Verdict is God’s Announcement of Displeasure,
but not Anger.**

Amazingly – God was not Angry with Jonah

Psalm 103:8

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in mercy.

Rather, God prepares a great fish to protect Jonah from Himself

I Wonder How Many Times His Mercy Comes to Me
Instead of a Shark Bite

Could it be in My Life, in Your Life
That God is Often protecting us from ourselves?

It's the things that God prepares for us -
That makes us into the people that he wants us to be

Jeremiah 18:1-4

The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: ² "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words." ³ Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. ⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

If that Clay Could Talk...

The arguing, debate, justification of the pot

**"Hey, I'm pretty cool looking. I look like an ashtray-teapot-thing.
Look - Here is my handle and here is my spout.**

...so he **made it again** into another vessel,
as it seemed good to the potter to make.

IN THIS, THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED

The Second Birth, or Born Again Experience
His Known Rebellion Against God

1b.) Righteousness brings “Judgement” upon Jonah

Verse 17

a great fish “to swallow” Jonah.

IN THIS, THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED

His Known Rebellion Against God

1c.) *Justice brings a “Sentence” against sin*

Verse 17

*And Jonah was in the belly **three days**
and **three nights.***

**In Jonah we see
Lost Humanity Because;**

*In Jonah we also see
The Redeeming Savior Because;*

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

AND IN THIS, THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED

**What caused Jonah to experience a change
in course?**

A CHANGE IN COURSE

IT WAS HIS INABILITY TO ESCAPE FROM GOD

Unable to Escape from God

2a.) The Pursuit of God

Verse 1

*Then Jonah prayed
to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.*

**It Took a Wind, a Storm, a Fish
To get Jonah to pray to God**

GOD'S DESIRE TO SAVE MANKIND

“Then”

It's a time word. “Finally”

“To”

It's an Object word = God

“From”

It's a geographical word. “Belly”

**I'll Talk to God Now, Cuz I'm in the Belly
An Act of Repentance**

AND IN THIS, THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED

Matthew 4:13-17

And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: ¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, (why?) for (because) the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Repentance “A Change in Course”

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching **the gospel of the kingdom of God**, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"

- There is No “Being Born Again” without the Act of Repentance!
- There is No “Forgiveness of Sin” without the Act of Repentance!
- There is No “Assurance of Eternal Life” without the Act of Repentance!
 - There is No “Heaven” without the Act of Repentance!

Proverbs 1:23

Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea. ² and saying, (send me a 100-dollar bill and you will be blessed) "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

We Can’t say the Word “Repent”

Because it’s not politically correct – it makes people feel uncomfortable.

It implies that someone is guilty of something.

Romans 3:12

for all have turned aside; they have all together become unprofitable; there is no one who does righteously, no, not one."

Romans 3:23
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Christianity Demands You To:

- To Have the Courage to Look Inward and to See
- To Recognize Your weakness and Acknowledge it
 - To Honestly Respond to God's Offer

The Pursuit of God after a lost and lonely man

Psalm 139:7-13 KJV

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; ¹⁰ Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. ¹¹ If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. ¹² Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. ¹³ For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

You are Unable to Escape from God!

You can't do it

Unable to Escape from God

2b.) A Change of Heart

Verse 2

"I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, and He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice

His Affliction was Self Imposed,
but God Ordained

The Mercy of God is;

That God would answer him, answer us!

God had been waiting for one certain Prayer.
the Prayer of Confession

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Matthew 5:22-24

But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Psalm 66:18

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

Isaiah 1:15

When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart-- these, O God, You will not despise.

Unable to Escape from God

2c.) A Change of Mind

Verse 3

...For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods surrounded me; all Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

I Personally Believe that Jonah is Describing His Death Experience in the Great Fish.

It Should take an Experience Like This

Luke 16:19-31

"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' ²⁷ "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

It's a Matter of the Heart and Mind and Heaven

What caused Jonah to experience a change in course?

A CHANGE IN COURSE

3.) *Helpless to Change*

vv. 4-7

IT WAS HIS SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS TO CHANGE THE SITUATION

Helpless to Change

3a.) *All we can do is look toward Him*

Verse 4-5

*Then I said, 'I have been
cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' 5 The
waters surrounded me, even to my soul; the deep closed around me; Weeds
were wrapped around my head.*

Helpless to Change

3b.) *We can only cast ourselves upon Him*

Verse 6

*I went down
to the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me
forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD, my God.*

Helpless to Change

3c.) *When we come to the end of ourselves*

Verse 7

*"When my soul fainted within me,
I remembered the LORD;
and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple.*

What caused Jonah to experience a change in course?

A CHANGE IN COURSE

4.) *Realizing God is in Control*

vv. 8-10

IT WAS HIS REALIZATION THAT GOD WAS IN CONTROL

Realizing God is in Control

4a.) *The Lord is our Mercy*

Verse 8

***"Those who "regard" "worthless idols"
"forsake" their "own Mercy".***

Jonah Certainly Could Have said that
About the Sailors that he had been sailing with

Jonah Certainly Could Have said that
About the Ninevites and the Assyrian Empire

Jonah Certainly Could Have said that
About Himself

(It's one thing to know about God – it is another thing to be willfully
ignorant of Him)

Jonah was being willfully ignorant

*"Those who "regard" "worthless idols"
"forsake" their "own Mercy".*

"If I look for deliverance from anything or anyone else other than God, then I have abandoned my only hope of rescue from this life's troubles"

POSSESSIONS / PAST SITUATIONS / OUR B.C. LIFE / BETTER DAYS

Jonah is Not Talking about the Sailors on the
Ship

He is Talking About Himself.

Realizing God is in Control

4b.) The Lord is our Salvation

Verse 9

*But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."*

Notice This Everyone!

That Jew is Saved Like the Gentile

Jonah 1:16

Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

Romans 3:30

since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

Jonah, being a Jew, Fled from the Possibility

that God might Save the Gentiles, is now brought to the same level as they...

Jews and Gentiles

Must come to God the same way- through Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah and the Savior of the world

"I Will Sacrifice"

To sacrifice is to...

Sacrifice HEB 2076 *zabach* (zaw-bakh');

To offer up that which is innocent because of my guilt. "Admission of Guilt" "How do you plead" = GUILTY in the first degree!

"I Will Pay

To Pay is to...

Pay HEB 7999 *shalam* (shaw-lam');

To make amends, make good, to do what was said, make restitution, to "will" to restore.

What I Have Vowed"

What I Have Vowed is to...

Vowed HEB 3444 *yeshuw` ah* (yesh-oo'-aw');

something saved, one who has been delivered. Someone declared victorious. - - By an act outside of themselves.

A Better Reading Is...

***But I will "admit my guilt" to You with "loud shouts" of "adoring worship";
I will "make good" on what I have "freely received".
Deliverance Is of the LORD."***

Our New Testament Counterpart to Jonah 2:9 is...

Revelation 2:2-5

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...

Realizing God is in Control

4c.) The Lord is our God

Verse 10

SOOO the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

God was in Perfect Control

It's Twofold Here

#1

If you're the fish, it means to disgorge or to heave. Regurgitate, barf or puke

#2

If you're Jonah, it means to exit. to cast forth, to be deposited. To spew

Simply Meaning:

The Fish Desired to "Vomit"

And the Prophet desired to be "Vomited"

So there you go...

God's Will be Done, By Hook or by Crook or Puke

It's an alternative mode of transportation
for when we do not obey the first time

It Speaks of a “A Second Chance”

THE PERSONAL APPLICATION

There are These Three Things That We Learn Here from This Lesson

#1

Is that God is in Control

He is ready, waiting and willing to lead you gently through life

#2

Is that Jonah was Delivered from Hell

That God desires that my hope and rest be in resurrection

#3

Is that God has His plan ready for my life to be lived out

The more I let God be God, the more meaningful my life becomes.

Will I let God be in Control of my life?

Has God Delivered me from Hell?

Is God’s plan being lived out in me?

To be Deposited

WHAT MADE JONAH EXPERIENCE A CHANGE IN COURSE?

- 1.) IT WAS HIS “KNOWN REBELLION” AGAINST GOD
- 2.) IT WAS HIS “INABILITY TO ESCAPE” FROM GOD
- 3.) IT WAS HIS “SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS” TO CHANGE THE SITUATION
- 4.) IT WAS HIS “REALIZATION” THAT GOD WAS IN CONTROL

What do I need to do?

end