



Jonah 2

Embracing Mercy 🔥 Sun, Aug 26th 2007



Open to Jonah chapter 2 – continue

Story of young lady street preaching/witnessing

- Heckler – you believe the Bible? Yes
- What about Jonah and the whale? Yes?
- How could Jonah get air? In heaven, I'll ask
- How survive gastric juices? In heaven, I'll ask
- What if Jonah not in heaven? Then you can ask

Truth is – this account – has brought lots of questions

- This section...Jonah & fish – under attack
- Attacked often by skeptics, “hard to swallow”
- Many “Christians” hold it to be a nice fable

Is it True? Is this account true?

- First – note “great fish” not necessarily whale
- Scientific Proof- possible – many stories about
 - Some discredited....yet, not moving
- God Proof – notice – God prepared- prob with?
 - God – all powerful – creator – **Gen 1:1**
 - Could be that God uniquely equipped fish

- If men can make a submarine...God can
- **Jesus Proof**
 - **Mat 12:39-41**– established as true account
 - If you think Jesus is wrong – big problems
 - I will side with Jesus against all others
- **Biblical proof**
 - Text says he did – clearly
 - Wise is Christian who just believes Bible
 - Science, Archeology will catch up
 - But if believe Bible – always right

With that – transition with call to that – make sure Biblical

- Many mgs from Jonah I hear, enjoy...not in text
- Some talk of effect on Jonah–albino, hairless, etc
 - Say is why so effective in chapter 3
 - Is true – God can use our failures
 - Yet – I don't think is the point here
 - 1st – makes Jonah more effective as a failure than would be if obedient
 - 2nd–not in the text – not what God points to
- Be a Bearean – list, but check it out

Call you to do that today...hope you can see it

- Reminder – as open chapter – Jonah is rebelling
- Yet...this chapter – is of his repentance

I. When Did Jonah Repent?

1. This questions is actually much debated

- a. Sorry to have to deal with – yet know many hear
- b. **Some – as died...believe Jonah dies, resurrected**
 - i) Interesting...yet not clear in the text
- c. **Some – as drowns – simple reading points to**
 - i) Hope—much can be accomplished in moments
 - ii) Can happen at last minute of someone's life
- d. **Some-me – in the belly of fish – after 3 days**
 - i) Simple reading – v.1 – when and where

2. What about the wording of Jonah's prayer

- a. **Key - not physical description of Jonah's experiences**
- b. **Most of chap.– verses from the Psalms-quoted**
 - i) Shows that Jonah is knowledgeable biblically
- c. **Embraces the heart – dealt with in those Psalms, here**
 - i) Might sound odd...but it is not – wonderful
 - ii) If was simply Jonah's experiences - We might enjoy, might learn...but not identify
 - iii) You ever swallowed by fish? Likely? No
 - iv) Instead – God in wisdom – takes us through the Psalms – into Jonah's heart – struggle
 - v) Here you can identify...learn – helped

II. God's Pursues 1:17

1. Any true spiritual work – always begins with God
2. **He is Pursuing – talked about two weeks ago**
 - a. He is the hound of heaven
3. **He is Preparing** Interesting to think through
 - a. God prepared this moment – special fish? Ready?

III. Jonah Realizes his Emptiness

1. **Back to point – Jonah recognizes emptiness**
 - a. Notice v.2 – speaks of being afflicted, etc
 - b. Quote from **Ps 120, 130**
 - i) Larger thought – 1st of ascension Psalms
 - c. Key - Recognizing need...emptiness
2. **All spiritual growth – built upon seeing our need**
 - a. Beatitudes – Blessed are the poor in spirit
 - b. **Luke 15** - Prodigal son – came to himself....

IV. Jonah Recognizes God's Discipline

1. **As Jonah see's his weakness – see's God's work**
 - a. Notice – he attributes it to the Lord – good
 - b. Hebrews 12 calls us to this – accept God's hand
2. Quote from **Ps 43:6-7**

V. Jonah Remembers the Lord

1. Look over at v7 – which is a recap - soul fainted
2. Then he remembered the Lord
 - a. His word – obviously these Psalms, also **Ps 31**
 - b. Remembers what life was like with God

3. Luke 15:17

VI. Jonah Prays to the Lord

1. In one way – that is one of the major words here
 - a. Notice v.1 then Jonah prayed
 - b. Up to this point – didn't...now he is
 - c. Notice v.2, 4

2. Luke 15:18-19

VII. God Rescues Jonah

1. Time would fail to bring out all the imagery, Psalms
2. Yet note the descriptions
 - a. Surrounded...even to my soul
 - b. Deep closed around
 - c. Weeds wrapped around head
 - d. Bars behind me forever
3. Yet God rescued – brought up...saved him
4. Want you to know how much God wants to do
 - a. Luke 15:20

VIII. God Restores Jonah

1. In his repentance – Jonah submits to God
2. Notice – God restores Jonah – wow
 - a. Vomits him up on shore – pre-lunch thought
 - i) Can't keep a good man down ☺
 - b. Extends his life – gives him more time
 - c. During 3 days – fish swam back to shore
 - d. God re-commissioned – same commission

3. Luke 15:21-22

Conclusion

Hope here for the rebelling

Advice from Jonah – v.8

- **Are you looking to idols—other sources of help, life?**
 - Could be Buddhism, Islam, Hindu, etc
 - Could be things we treat as sources-idols
 - Money, pleasure, friends, games
- **Jonah tells us truth, what learned – empty things**
 - Vain, pointless—lying vanities—empty things
 - Chasing a rainbow – never catch
- **If you, then you are forsaking own mercy**
 - Notice phrase – rich
 - **Own** – yours, available, applies to you
 - **Mercy** – capitalized – not just referring to attribute – but God Himself
 - **Ps 86:5**
- **God is merciful...yours, don't miss**
 - This is what Jonah knows, rediscovered, and wants you to know

Is this you? If so – then v.7 is for you

Recognize, Remember, Prayer

Psalm 107:10-16
