



**JONAH: GOD OF
2ND CHANCES**
**“Rebellion or Repentance
It’s Our Choice”**

Jonah 2 May 11, 2014

Jonah’s Dreadful Prison *1:Vs 17*

Jonah’s Desperate Prayer *Vs 1-8*

✓ **What Jonah Reaped** *Vs 1-6*

▪ A Feeling of Horror *Vs 1-3*

▪ A Flash of Hope *Vs 4*

▪ A Foretaste of Hell *Vs 5-6*

✓ **What Jonah Remembered** *Vs 7*

✓ **What Jonah Realized & His Repentance** *Vs 8*

Jonah’s Dying Promise *Vs 9-10*

✓ His Surrender *Vs 9*

✓ His Salvation *Vs 10*

Our “2nd Chance”

+ Maybe today or this week or this month someone has been God’s messenger to you and you need to respond

to His loving Call in your life! It’s as simple as ABC!
Admit you are a sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son,
Confess Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as
 Lord for the rest of your life!!

- + Be willing to step over the line this morning and be obedient in what He is calling you to do. Maybe it is join this church family and honor Him by not attending but joining His family and being a part of bringing the good news to our community and to the ends of the earth!
- + It’s never too late to pray, confess and repent and return to the Lord, even in the belly of a fish. What area of your life are holding back from God or being rebellious in. Write them down and give them to Him today!
- + What are the false idols that you need to let go of in your life? (those things in your life that put God in 2nd place) Write them down - forsake and walk away from them!
- + Are you in a season of discipline from the Lord? If so, ask the Lord to give you strength to walk through it and see the consequences as a way to draw you closer to the Lord. That’s the reason for them anyway!
- + Spend some time this week in thankfulness for God loving you enough to discipline you and bring you back into His perfect purpose for your life!
- + Are there vows that you have made to the Lord that you have not yet fulfilled in your life? Write them down and make a plan to do those very things this month!
- + Let’s be willing to share the Gospel this week with one person who you know He is calling you to share with in your life! (Being reminded of the reality and awfulness of hell – separation from God forever) Write their name down here Commit to pray for them, for an opportunity to share with them and for you to bold enough to share.
- + For someone today, you have been running from God’s clear call on your life to serve Him in full time Christian Service. Stop running and just surrender today.

JONAH: THE GOD OF 2ND CHANCES

“Rebellion or Repentance – It’s Our Choice”

Jonah 2

May 11, 2014 AM Service

1. God’s Plan Vs 1

- God has a heart for the nations
- God wants all men to be saved
- God wants us to be his messengers, to be His light in a dark world

2. God’s Patience Vs 1-10

▪ **Jonah Disobeys God’s Call**

- Wrong attitude towards the will of God, the Word of God, his circumstances & towards the Gentiles

Jonah needed Nineveh as much as Nineveh needed Jonah!

▪ **Jonah Becomes a Curse Instead of a Blessing**

3. God’s Pursuit Vs 10-16

- His (Jonah’s) Decision & His (Jonah’s) Doom

4. God’s Provision Vs 17

- God Provided a Fish & God Wrought a Miracle

Now this morning we come to a critical question, do we continue in our rebellion and disobedience. Rebellion by the way seems like such a strong word doesn’t. Well, I’m not rebellious, sounds like a child in relation to their parents. But folks, we need to be honest, many of us are just like those rebellious children, we do with God what we want to, when we want, how we want to, and if it doesn’t fit our agenda, or how we feel, then we find some way to rationalize it. Flat out it is outright rebellion and disobedience. It is sin. It leaves us with a decision for each of us this morning. Will we repent, turn and change, and walk the other direction, or we will continue in our rebellion and disobedience and thumb our nose at God? The choice is ours, but let’s be clear. God will not use us if we are in rebellion and because He loves us and because of that will bring disciples in our lives and because of our choices there will be consequences to our decision.

The same is true for a church as a whole. And specifically with Jonah the emphasis is on following God’s will for our life and even more specific

being obedient to be the missionaries, witnesses that He is calling us to be. Now we left Jonah in the belly of this fish, let's see what He does.

1. Jonah's Dreadful Prison Vs 17

We see Jonah in a prison of sorts, a prison of his own making, by his own choices. Think about it this way – He went *down* to Joppa, *down* into the ship, *down* into the inner part of the ship, where he *lies down* to sleep, the fish takes him *down* into the depths of the sea – *the downward spiral of disobedience* – the only direction to go when one runs from God. The great news is that the only direction we can go from here is up – what goes down must come up. God told him to *arise (get up)*, the captain tells him to *get up*, the captain tells the sailors to *pick him up*, and throw him in, the fish vomits him *up* on dry land – he initiated the downward steps but the upward ones were intimated by someone else – not a bad picture of grace!

Now God had prepared that fish, a miracle occurred, and he was kept alive for 3 days and nights in the belly of that fish. It seems that it took these 3 days to finally get Jonah's complete and undivided attention. Remember, this was not a God who hated but a God who loved Him, who was saving Him, who was bringing the loving discipline into his life that he desperately needed.

But make no mistake, this was no trip to the beach! Let's look and see if it really got Jonah's attention

2. Jonah's Desperate Prayer

Let's give Jonah some credit, he did finally decide to pray. He had other opportunities to do so, but he had chosen not to. The sailors had begged him to and he had not – now the fish makes him! **Here his prayer was not born out of affection but affliction.**

Isn't it amazing how our prayer jumps to life, is revived and we call out to God as if we had been talking to Him all along, being obedient all along. God got Jonah's attention. Can you remember a time when God got your attention, and you cried out to Him? Our prayer is different, our attitude is different, everything is different. By the way what he prays is important – he prays the Psalms – quoting them 11 times from 10-13 different Psalms. This puts to bed too by the way of

those who say well God won't hear me or I've gone too far, or I'm not worthy, etc. If Jonah can pray and ask God to help him, certainly so can we even if it is something we brought on ourselves!

- **What Jonah Reaped** Vs 1-6

Here we see Jonah reaping what he had sown and it shows in the prayers that he prayed. The Bible says it and it is true, you will reap what you will sow. It may not be as immediate as Jonah's, but it will eventually catch up with you. Just give it time. Jonah sees very clearly that the waves (just like the sailors) and the water are all sent by the Lord – all instruments used by God to get Jonah's clear and undivided attention. He had to have a moment to die to himself and his will and hit rock bottom. And boy did he

- **A Feeling of Horror** Vs 1-3

Imagine where Jonah was, it had to be awful. Dark, smells beyond belief, a sense of complete and utter horror. A sense of great despair, as if he thought he was going to die. Here we see Jonah's resignation to the fact of accepting God's discipline.

- **A Flash of Hope** Vs 4

Jonah was running as far away from God and His calling as possible, to get away from everything that reminded of the Lord and His call including the temple. **Yet** in his great despair and horror, there is a glimmer of hope, a light at the end of the tunnel. And what was it, a way out, a way to rationalize his way, No! Look what it says, look toward your holy temple, quoting from Solomon. That temple represented the presence of God. Here we see he trusted God's promises. [See I Kings 8: 38-40](#)

- **A Foretaste of Hell** Vs 5-6

Not really sure if Jonah knows where he is or not – it would appear he didn't, thinking he was in Sheol – the place of death. Not a pretty picture, but one we need to be reminded of often and that is that hell is real and it is a place so horrible words simply cannot describe it. But here Jonah gets a picture of it, dark, out of God's presence, smells beyond description, torture, pain, etc. Perhaps Jonah realized what he was dooming these

Ninevehites to by his disobedience. He gives us a visual picture that is hard to forget.

We need to remember that if we don't share, then we in essence are not giving them the opportunity to miss hell & make heaven

- **What Jonah Remembered** Vs 7

That God was there, that there was still hope if he would repent. That He could not outrun God's presence or His plan for His life. That disobedience was not the way to go, that God was pursuing Him because He loved him. [Psalm 46:1](#) & [Psalm 139](#)

God had always been there, Jonah had simply "run-away" He brings us to the place where we realize He's never moved, it's us who did! God was giving Jonah the opportunity to die to his own selfish will and surrender to God's will again. The only one who could save him now was the Lord God! The one true and living God!

"Better to be united with God even in the belly of a fish than on dry land without Him! The real pit is separation from God, not a particular circumstance." J.D. Greear

- **What Jonah Realized & His Repentance** Vs 8

He realized he had messed up big time, he had walked away from God's plan and in doing so said I don't care about those people, let your judgment fall on them, they deserve it. He was being disciplined for his willful disobedience. God had sent the storm, God sent the fish, all to get Jonah's attention

Jonah realized that God was patient and full of tender love and mercy, God's covenant faithful love would see him to the end.

He was acknowledging I cannot get out of here on my own, it will only be of God. [Romans 2:4](#) – "It's God's kindness that leads us to repentance." We see a true picture of genuine repentance! This is what it looks like – a change of heart, mind and soul and then putting to those prayers and repentance and doing what we know we need to do! He realized that God had given him a second chance and he wasn't going to miss it!

Here we also see his repentance as well, of running after those false idols, those false gods, those things that we think will bring us satisfaction and they do not and that will rob us of the blessings of

God. For Jonah it was his patriotism and his pride and his rebellion. For us it can be that or something else like iff I could just have this, or that, that girlfriend or boyfriend, that job or that promotion, that TV, that car or boat, that I could buy this for my children, all things that are false, not the real thing, only a cheap fake substitute.

3. Jonah's Dying Promise Vs 9-10

Jonah is no different than you or me, Lord if you will get out of this mess I will go, I will fulfill my vows, and he meant it. As we will see He did go. He was making a promise that he was willing to fulfill if he made it out of this great fish's belly

- **His Surrender** Vs 9

Here we see he finally surrenders, throws up the white flag and admits to allowing anything between him and his walk with God. Lord I give up, I will go where you want me to go, I will do what you want me to do, I will get rid of this stuff in my life that has been keeping me from you. He was one humble man at this point! The one who was running from the Lord now because of his scrape with death comes running back to the Lord. I will fulfill the vow that I have made – we assume it was a vow to do whatever the Lord asked him to do and that He would do just that! We must be certain that we keep the vows that we make to the Lord! [Psalm 66:13-14](#)

- **His Salvation** Vs 10

God alone is the author and completer of salvation – without Him there is no salvation for anyone! Jonah recognized that truth! God causes the whale to throw him up on dry land, yet another miracle occurs, can you just see Jonah and that picture just coming out of the great fish's stomach? What a stench and a sight! God has a sense of humor even, in our times of discipline. The Lord gives Jonah a new life, a new beginning, a second chance. (By the way this is a picture of the resurrection of Christ – remember Jesus alluded to Jonah when talking about being in the grave 3 days and nights like Jonah was in the belly of the fish) For some of this morning, that's exactly what we need to experience – Christ's resurrection in us!

Our “2nd Chance”

- + Maybe today or this week or this month someone has been God’s messenger to you and you need to respond to His loving Call in your life! It’s as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!!
- + Be willing to step over the line this morning and be obedient in what He is calling you to do. Maybe it is join this church family and honor Him by not attending but joining His family and being a part of bringing the good news to our community and to the ends of the earth!
- + It’s never too late to pray, confess and repent and return to the Lord, even in the belly of a fish. What area of your life are holding back from God or being rebellious in. Write them down and give them to Him today!
- + What are the false idols that you need to let go of in your life? (those things in your life that put God in 2nd place) Write them down - forsake and walk away from them!
- + Are you in a season of discipline from the Lord? If so, ask the Lord to give you strength to walk through it and see the consequences as a way to draw you closer to the Lord. That’s the reason for them anyway!
- + Spend some time this week in thankfulness for God loving you enough to discipline you and bring you back into His perfect purpose for your life!
- + Are there vows that you have made to the Lord that you have not yet fulfilled in your life? Write them down and make a plan to do those very things this month!
- + Let’s be willing to share the Gospel this week with one person who you know He is calling you to share with in your life! (Being reminded of the reality and awfulness of hell – separation from God forever) Write their name down here Commit to pray for them, for an opportunity to share with them and for you to bold enough to share.
- + For someone today, you have been running from God’s clear call on your life to serve Him in full time Christian Service. Stop running and just surrender today.