

The Book of Jonah Chapter 2

Verse 1: Jonah learned that nobody can get away from God (Psalm 139:7-10). Nobody can avoid responsibility when God calls them to do something for him. Moses tried to do so (Exodus 3:11; 4:1, 10, 13). So did Gideon (Judges 6:15). So did Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:6).

At last, Jonah turned back to God and prayed. (Jonah uses words that are similar to words in the Psalms. One example is Psalm 18:4-6.) Jonah's prayer is a prayer of thanks to God, because he saved him from death in the sea.

Verses 2-3: God heard Jonah's cry for help as he sank in the water. Jonah now realized that God had caused the sailors to throw him into the sea.

Verses 4-6: The Jews believed that nobody in the world of the dead was able to worship God again (Psalm 6:5; 115:17). Death had cut them off from God. Jonah thought he could never again worship God in the Temple in Jerusalem. The world of the dead was like a prison with many bars. Nobody could ever hope to escape.

But God could bring Jonah back from the world of the dead. And he did.

Verse 7: The Temple was the special building in Jerusalem (as in verse 4), where the Jews believed that God was present in a special way.

Verse 8: Only God could have saved Jonah. No idol could have done so. People who trust in useless idols do not trust and follow the one true God. However, God still loves them.

Verse 9: Now Jonah was ready to give honor to God. He would offer him a sacrifice of thanks. God always appreciates our thanks (Psalm 116:17). And Jonah will promise to obey God and go to Nineveh.

Verse 10: The fish had served God's purpose. So now it brought Jonah near to land and threw him out of its mouth.

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Mark Kirkpatrick

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