

## **Confinement, Communion, and Confession - Jonah's Repentance** Notes **Jonah 1-2**

Once we become aware of our need to renew our spiritual passion and return to God, we must then take the next step. In Jonah's story we learn how to respond to God's promptings to return to Him. In fact, Jonah's experience illustrates the steps back to God. Notice what we learn from:

### **I. Jonah's \_\_\_\_\_ - 1:17**

Some see this fish simply as God's judgment on Jonah. But God used the sea as His hand of correction. The fish, on the other hand, represents much more than God's correction. The fish was:

#### **A. A \_\_\_\_\_ haven from the sea -1:17**

Notice the progression in his testimony:

1. The sailors throw him into the sea [1:15]. He, however, confessed that God was behind that action [see 2:3].
2. The waves swept over him [2:3b]. Since the sea was not calm, Jonah should have been able to tread water for only a little while. Apparently, Jonah was not a good swimmer.
3. He thought God had "banished" him [2:4]. He thought he was all by himself.
4. The water swirls around his neck as he struggles to stay afloat [2:5].
5. The water overcame him and he began to sink [2:5b-6].
6. He was about to die ["raised my life from the Pit" - 2:6-7].
7. Just before he dies [2:7] God rescued him. How did God rescue him? The great fish!

#### **B. A personal \_\_\_\_\_ to the coast - 1:17, 2:10**

God had a specific place that He wanted Jonah and the prophet was in the wrong place. The Lord still desired for Jonah to go to Nineveh. So, God prepared a way to move him from the middle of the ocean back to where he started.

#### **C. A private \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord - 2:1**

We read, "Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish."

What is a "sanctuary?" What makes a church auditorium, a prayer closet, or even a fish's belly a sanctuary? It is the place where you encounter God. And you can know that you have encountered God when He has your attention. In that moment everything, except God, diminishes in your sight. Everything else is just a distraction. And when you enter His presence you will not leave the same.

#### **Think of what happened inside that fish.**

1. **Inside the fish, Jonah recognized his utter \_\_\_\_\_ on God.**
2. **Inside the fish, God stripped the wayward prophet of both his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ [2:8].**

God removed all spiritual distractions.

3. **Inside the fish, Jonah \_\_\_\_\_ to God without reservation [2:9].**

**II. Jonah's \_\_\_\_\_**

While offering this prayer, Jonah often quoted from the Psalms. Although he did not acknowledge the chapter or verse, he allows the Word of God to permeate his thoughts. Notice at least seven specific references.

- "Your billows swept over me" [2:3] Compare with Psalm 42:7.
- "I have been banished" [2:4]. Compare with Psalm 31:22.
- "engulfed me up the neck" [2:5]. Compare with Psalm 69:1.
- "my life was fading away" [2:7]. Compare to Psalm 147:3.
- "To Your holy temple" [2:7]. Compare to Psalm 18:6.
- "to worthless idols" [2:8]. Compare to Psalm 31:6 ["Worthless idols" in Jonah 2:8 literally means "empty nothings"]
- "Salvation is from the Lord" [2:9]. Compare to Psalm 3:8.

**Why was the Word of God so critical to Jonah's spiritual recover?**

**A. God \_\_\_\_\_ through His Word to the heart**

This reminds us of the value of hiding God's Word in our hearts.

**B. God \_\_\_\_\_ our thoughts by His thoughts**

What is a word? It is a physical representation of a thought. God's Word is a physical representation of His thoughts on a level and in a language we can comprehend. Jonah's thoughts were incongruent with God's thoughts. The Word of God guided Jonah to understand and acknowledge God's thoughts about him.

**C. God's Word has a \_\_\_\_\_ effect on us**

**III. Jonah's \_\_\_\_\_**

When you come to the place that you know God has your attention and you know that you must return, what might you say to Him? Notice four responses that Jonah made concerning God's correction and drawing.

**A. I \_\_\_\_\_ Your hand at work here – 2:3, 4**

He said, "You threw me into the depths" and "I have been banished from Your sight." Notice the words "You" and "Your." Jonah makes the connection between his disobedience and God's correction. Furthermore, he holds God blameless and himself guilty.

**B. I \_\_\_\_\_ my eyes back to You – 2:4**

Jonah added, "yet I will look once more toward Your holy temple." Here is a good definition of backsliding: Taking your eyes off God. Likewise, a good definition of repentance is turning your eyes back to God.

**C. I thank You for Your \_\_\_\_\_ – 2:6**

"But You raised my life from the Pit, Lord my God," he confessed. In case you missed it, Jonah offers his thanks in faith for he had not experienced deliverance yet. He believes that God has left him alive for a purpose.

**D. I \_\_\_\_\_ my commitment to You – 2:9**