

Stepping Out of the Belly of a Whale “Ready for Action” No longer on the Run

Jonah = Name in the Hebrew means Dove.

Jonah’s assignment = Deliver the word of the Lord to his enemies to bring repentance, revival and restoration.

2 Kings 14:25 - He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath onto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which he spoke by the hand of his servant, Jonah, the son of Amittai the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

◆ What’s your Nineveh?

Write your answer

Jeremiah 1:5 (Message Bible) – “GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU” - Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you before you saw the light of day. I had holy plans for you to be a Prophet to the nations that’s what I had in mind for you.

◆ The Lord already has your plan in view before you were even conceived. God knew what direction you would be in. The question today is... are you still sleep in the bottom of the boat?

◆ As we look into chapter 2, we see here that Jonah is getting acquainted with the God of deliverance.... Not only for himself, but for the people of Nineveh.

◆ What we see here very clear is that one of the key tools that God uses to push Jonah in the right direction. (The direction of obedience) God uses his Affliction.

Affliction = Something that causes pain or suffering. Persistent, pain or discomfort.

▣ **Psalms 34:19** - Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

▣ **Jonah 2:1-2** - Then **Jonah prayed** unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

Prayer = Communication with the Lord.

▣ **1 Thessalonians 5:16** - Pray without ceasing.

▣ **2 Chronicles 7:14** - If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways. Then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.

▣ **Jeremiah 29:12** - Then you will call on me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you.

◆ When we pray it moves mountains. When we communicate with God about everything in our life, we tell the devil that he has no rule over us because we have the ability to consult God on every issue of our life and if Chronicles be true, He will heal our land. If Jeremiah be true, He is listening every time I open my mouth.... prayer is integral to our walk with God. Thessalonians says, we are to pray without ceasing, when we're driving. Pray when we're cleaning the house, pray when we're just enjoying our life on the beach, pray... because every time we communicate with God, the angels begin to be on alert. They're waiting to see what they can do for us. Prayer is key and Jonah found that out the hard way. Think about it, Jonah was covered in whale vomit, and he prayed.

Our **PRAYERS ARE POWERFUL** not because of who we are, but because of who He is, the Lord God, strong and mighty.

◆ Jonah prayed from the belly of the whale or hell... he becomes quite aware of his serious life-threatening situation.

Sheol = The realm of the dead (grave)

Job 7:9-10 = As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

Can you remember a time that you felt like you were in the center of hell ...that's how intense the situation was and you prayed?

Write your answer

Jonah 2:4 - Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

◆ Being banished from God's sight, represents people that disobey God, but there has to come a time that there is a reckoning of the wrong and a turning to what is right.

◆ In this verse, Jonah himself felt like he was cast out of the sight of the Lord. It says here...then I said ...Jonah himself said not God and there a moment in our lives, that we feel that God has left us, but scripture tells us he will never leave us, and he will never forsake us.

▣ **Deuteronomy, 31:8 (NLT)** - Do not be afraid, or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you he will be with you: he will neither fail you, nor will he abandon you.

Jonah 2:5-7 - The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

◆ Jonah says weeds were wrapped about my head. This gives us a picture of the mine struggle that Jonah went through while in the belly of hell.

Mind = Phroneo Greek translation from mine, which means a persons, understanding views, opinions, and thoughts.

◆ Sometimes as women our greatest struggle is in the mind. It is interesting that out of all the analogies and definitions that Jonah could've used in conveying his state in the belly of hell ...he says, "my head feels like weeds are wrapped around it", sometimes we feel like we have weeds growing inside of our head, 😊 foggy, feeling on the contrary sometimes we are just plain moody, immature, and temperamental. 😊

▣ **1 Peter 1:13** - Therefore prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

▣ **Proverbs 23:74** - As he thinks within himself, so is he.

▣ **Romans 8:6** - The mind that is set on the flesh is always death, but the mind that is set on the spirit is life and peace.

◆ The more you keep your mind anchored in the word of the Lord, that will guard your mind against the penetration of the enemy.

Jonah 2:6-10 - I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

◆ We see that the scripture says in Jonah that he was in the bottom of the boat, the bottom of the mountains, the bottom of the sea, this depicts dead. Jonah was definitely in his lowest moment.

◆ Sometimes when we're in that lowest moment, God is trying to get us to look inside and to see where our heart is.

Look inside right now, give me one word that says where your heart is at this season of your life.

Write your answer

● **THE KEY...TRANSFORMATION!!!**

▣ **2 Corinthians 3:18** - We all with unveiled faces are reflecting the glory of the Lord and are transformed into the same image from glory to glory. This is from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

▣ **2 Timothy 2:21** (NET) - If someone cleanses himself of such behavior, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set a part, useful for the master, prepared for every good work.

◆ Wanting to be as much like Christ as we possibly can.

◆ Yielding your heart, even in a difficult place.

REMEMBER THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

▣ In **Psalms 9: 1** - I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. I will re-count all of your wonderful deeds.

◆ When we keep the goodness of the Lord in the forefront, when we rehearse His mighty acts, as the scripture says, we keep ourselves in that place of hope rather than walking in fear of failure, disappointment. God is getting you ready for this end time move where His Spirit will release, signs and wonders, and miracles upon the Earth. Jonah was in preparation for the greatest revival that we see in scripture. Are you ready for the revival of the Lord?

Matthew 12:40 - For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the Earth?

Jonah = type Jesus

◆ Jesus rose from the dead. On the third day, he produced us on the cross of Calvary, the body of Christ. Jonah, three days in the belly of the whale produced the greatest denomination of salvation. In one day to a nation called Nineveh even the animals walked in sackcloth and ashes and repented to God. 😊