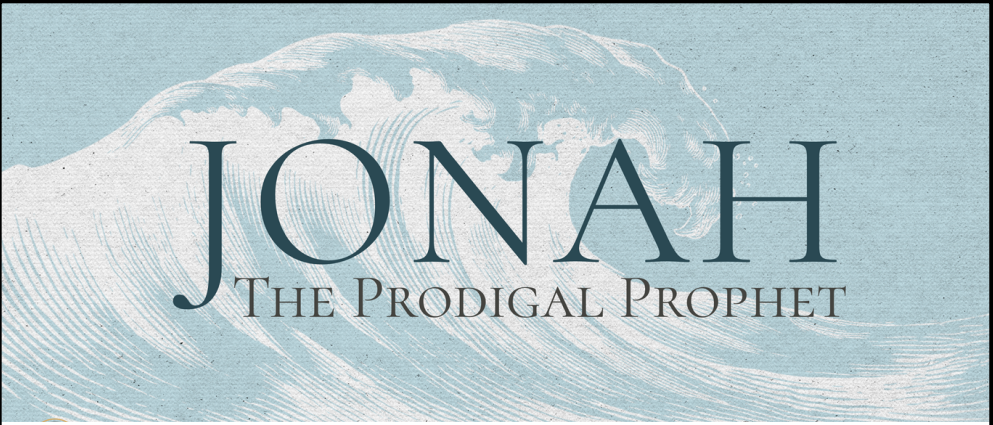




JONAH

THE PRODIGAL PROPHET

JONAH 2:1-10

QUESTION:

What do we learn from Jonah's prayer?

KEY IDEAS:

1. **God is our rescuer.** *He has the power to save us from death.*
2. **God uses hardship as a furnace of transformation.** *He has the power to reach into "the pit"—a place of suffering—to shape our hearts.*
3. **Idols are worthless—they cannot save or satisfy.** *When we turn towards idols, we turn away from God's love.*
4. **Jonah prays a beautiful prayer, but his heart remains fundamentally unchanged in huge ways.** *It's possible to affirm true things and have a heart that remains resistant to God.*

APPLICATION:

1. **Ask God to perform heart surgery:** *What area of your heart might God want to perform heart surgery on?*
2. **If you are in the pit, turn towards God:** *What are you turning towards in the midst of your pain?*
3. **Abandon idols:** *What are you prone to elevate above God?*

JONAH 2:1-10

¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. ² He said:

“In my distress I called to the Lord,
and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.

³ You hurled me into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers
swept over me.

⁴ I said, ‘I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.’

⁵ The engulfing waters threatened me,
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

⁶ To the roots of the mountains I sank down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, Lord my God,
brought my life up from the pit.

⁷ “When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, Lord,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

⁸ “Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God's love for them.

⁹ But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’”

¹⁰ And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.