

# MINOR PROPHETS

JOEL ♦ OBADIAH ♦ JONAH

*The Pitiful Prophet*

*Jonah 2*

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see



# **Jonah is a unique prophecy**

- He is disobedient and discordant**
- Only one verse has declarative prophecy**
- The word of the Lord is for Nineveh;  
the prophecy is for Israel**
- The prophetic content is found in the life  
of Jonah, not the words of Jonah**

# **Experience is the message**

- **Example is a teaching tool – 1 Cor 10:6–13**
- **Common in prophecy – Hosea 1–2, Ezekiel 12**
- **Teaching using parable is characteristic of God's instruction**
- **Jonah is a powerful example to us as well as Israel**

## **Jonah 1:17–2:1**

**And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**

**Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,**

## **Jonah 2:2–3**

**saying,**

**“I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,  
and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol  
I cried, and you heard my voice.**

**For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of  
the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your  
waves and your billows passed over me.**

## **Jonah 2:4–6**

**Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight;  
yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’**

**The waters closed in over me to take my life;  
the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped  
about my head at the roots of the mountains.**

**I went down to the land whose bars closed upon  
me forever; yet you brought up my life from the  
pit, O LORD my God.**

## **Jonah 2:7–9**

**When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.**

**Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.**

**But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay.**

**Salvation belongs to the LORD!”**

## **Jonah 2:10**

**And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited  
Jonah out upon the dry land.**

# Structural Interpretation: Jonah 2

- The use of this *thanksgiving* psalm is significant to understanding Jonah's character
- Chiasmus (repetition in mirror image) is unusual to us but normal in the rhetoric of Hebrew Scripture

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**Psalm of Thanksgiving:**  
**Announcement of**  
**Answered Prayer**

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**saying,**

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**For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of  
the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your  
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**Psalm of Thanksgiving:**  
**Desperation, Distress**  
**and Deliverance**

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I went **down to the land whose bars closed upon**  
**me forever;** yet **you brought up my life from the**  
**pit, O LORD my God.**

**Psalm of Thanksgiving:**  
**A Cry of Repentance**  
**and Supplication**

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**Psalm of Thanksgiving:**  
**Worship and Vows of**  
**Obedience**

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# Chiasmus: Jonah 2

- Chiasmus (repetition in mirror image) presents elements of a text in successive reflections to focus on the middle element(s)
- **X**, the Greek letter Chi



**The LORD gets Jonah's  
Attention and  
Obedience**

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**And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah.** And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Then **Jonah prayed to the LORD** his God from the belly of the fish,

## **Jonah 2:10**

**And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.**

**Jonah remembers the  
LORD and blessing of  
His Presence**

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yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’**

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**Salvation belongs to the LORD!”**

**It is the LORD Who  
saves and delivers  
Jonah from death**

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**Does Jonah actually  
REPENT?**

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# **What should Israel understand?**

- Salvation is found only in the LORD,  
running from Him is running into death**
- God's salvation is not the exclusive right  
of Israel**
- Remembering who God is will bring us  
back into His Presence**

**How does Jonah speak  
to Christians today?**

# **Consider these thoughts:**

- Remembering God and His character will bring us back to Him**
- When God delivers us from death, His call to us is “Give testimony”**
- God’s grace extends to all! Let us be witnesses of grace to all.**

## **Acts 1:8**

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**