

The Book of JONAH
Chapter 2
“The Power of Prayer”

Intro: Matthew 12:38-42

(v1) Jonah PRAYED to the LORD his God from the fish’s belly.

> Prayer - Acceptable prayer must be sincere (Heb 10:22), offered with reverence and godly fear, with a humble sense of our own insignificance as creatures and of our own unworthiness as sinners, with earnest importunity, and with unhesitating submission to the divine will. Prayer must also be offered in the faith that God is, and is the hearer and answerer of prayer, and that he will fulfil his word, "Ask, and ye shall receive" (Matt 7:7,8; 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 14:13,14), and in the name of Christ (16:23,24; 15:16; Eph 2:18; 5:20; Col 3:17; 1 Peter 2:5).

"Abraham's servant prayed to God, and God directed him to the person who should be wife to his master's son and heir (Gen 24:10-20).

"Jacob prayed to God, and God inclined the heart of his irritated brother, so that they met in peace and friendship (Gen 32:24-30; 33:1-4).

"Samson prayed to God, and God showed him a well where he quenched his burning thirst, and so lived to judge Israel (Judg 15:18-20).

"David prayed, and God defeated the counsel of Ahithophel (2 Sam 15:31; 16:20-23; 17:14-23).

"Daniel prayed, and God enabled him both to tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream and to give the interpretation of it (Dan 2:16-23).

"Nehemiah prayed, and God inclined the heart of the king of Persia to grant him leave of absence to visit and rebuild Jerusalem (Neh 1:11; 2:1-6).

"Esther and Mordecai prayed, and God defeated the purpose of Haman, and saved the Jews from destruction (Est 4:15-17; 6:7,8).

"The believers in Jerusalem prayed, and God opened the prison doors and set Peter at liberty, when Herod had resolved upon his death (Acts 12:1-12).

"Paul prayed that the thorn in the flesh might be removed, and his prayer brought a large increase of spiritual strength, while the thorn perhaps remained (2 Cor 12:7-10).

(v2) Notice Jonah said, “my affliction” - Jonah reaps what he has sown! (1 John 1:9-10)

Observe: “He (God) answered me” – God is gracious!

“You (God) heard my voice” – God is merciful!

(v3) In the New Testament: Matthew 8:18-27 (Call on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and peace!)

(v4) “I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple” – Jonah displays

FAITH in God by looking toward the holy temple. (The word **TEMPLE** is generally used in Scripture of the sacred house erected on the summit of Mount Moriah for the worship of God. It is called "the temple" (1 Kings 6:17); "the temple [R.V., 'house'] of the Lord" (2 Kings 11:10); "thy holy temple" (Psa 79:1); "the house of the Lord" (2 Chron 23:5,12); "the house of the God of Jacob" (Isa 2:3); "the house of my glory" (60:7); an "house of prayer" (56:7; Matt 21:13); "an house of sacrifice" (2 Chron 7:12); "the house of their sanctuary" (2 Chron 36:17); "the mountain of the Lord's house" (Isa 2:2); "our holy and our beautiful house" (64:11); "the holy mount" (27:13); "the palace for the Lord God" (1 Chron 29:1); "the tabernacle of witness" (2 Chron 24:6); "Zion" (Psa 74:2; 84:7). Christ calls it "my Father's house" (John 2:16). In the New Testament the word is used figuratively of Christ's human body (John 2:19,21). Believers are called "the temple of God" (1 Cor 3:16,17). The Church is designated "an holy temple in the Lord" (Eph 2:21). Heaven is also called a temple (Rev 7:5).

(From Easton's Bible Dictionary) **Today we look to Jesus! - Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

(v5-6) Jesus brings up life from the pit! (Luke 7:11-17; 8:40-56; John Ch. 11)

(v7-8) Caste aside your idols, lest you caste aside God’s mercy! (In the New Testament the term idolatry is used to designate covetousness (Matt 6:24; Luke 16:13; Col 3:5; Eph 5:5).

(v9) Jonah yields the fruit of a repentant man, (1) “I will sacrifice to You”; (2) “with the voice of thanksgiving”; (3) “I will pay what I have vowed”; (4) “Salvation is of the LORD.” (SALVATION - This doctrine of salvation reached its fulfillment in the death of Christ on our behalf. Jesus' mission was to save the world from sin and the wrath of God (Matt 1:21; John 12:47; Rom 5:9). During His earthly ministry, salvation was brought to us by His presence and the power of faith (Luke 19:9-10). Now, our salvation is based on His death and resurrection (Mark 10:25). The salvation that comes through Christ may be described in three tenses: past, present, and future. When a person believes in Christ, he is saved (Acts 16:31). But we are also in the process of being saved from the power of sin (Rom 8:13; Phil 2:12). Finally, we shall be saved from the very presence of sin (Rom 13:11; Titus 2:12-13). God releases into our lives today the power of Christ's resurrection (Rom 6:4) and allows us a foretaste of our future life as His children (2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:14). Our experience of salvation will be complete when Christ returns (Heb 9:28) and the kingdom of God is fully revealed (Matt 13:41-43.) (From Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

(v10) There’s good vomit and bad vomit, this is good vomit! Bad vomit is found in Revelation 3:14-22.