

“Thy Great Salvation!”
Jonah 2:8-9

Introduction:

1. Let’s Head Back To Jonah, This Morning!
 - Jonah Chapter 2:
 - Where We Have Been Making Our Way Through The Prayer-Poem Of Jonah!
 - It Really Is An Amazing Prayer To Us:
 - For A Couple Of Reasons!
 - First - Because Of **Where** This Prayer Was Prayed!
 - This Whole Prayer Was Prayed By Jonah From Inside The Belly Of A Great Fish!
 - But Also - Because Of **What** This Prayer Is About!
 - It Is Really A Prayer Of Praise & Thanksgiving To God For His Deliverance – Through That Fish!
2. Let’s Read Jonah’s Prayer Once Again:
 - Jonah 2:1-9 - “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. / For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. / Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. / 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. / 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!”
 - There Are 3 Main Sections In Jonah’s Prayer-Poem:
 - The First Section - Is From Verse 2 To 4:
 - Where Jonah Remembers How God Gave Him Hope!
 - Even When Things Seemed Completely Hopeless For Him As He Was Drowning!
 - The Second Section - Is From Verse 5 To 7:
 - Where Jonah Remembers How God Delivered Him!
 - Even When He Was In The Depths Of Despair!
 - The Third Section Is Verses 8 & 9:
 - Where Jonah Celebrates The Salvation He Has Received From The Lord!
 - This Morning, We Are Going To Look More Closely At The Third Section:
 - Of Jonah’s Prayer!
3. And As We Do:
 - I Believe That We Will Celebrate With Jonah:
 - As He States In 2:9 - That: “Salvation Is Of The Lord!”
 - All Throughout This Prayer:
 - Jonah Is Remembering:
 - How God Delivered Him From Death!
 - How God Saved Him From That Watery Grave!
 - But Now - Jonah Is Rejoicing:
 - In All That God Has Done For Him!
 - And What We Find In These Final Words Of His Prayer:
 - Is Really How Every Christian Should Feel!
 - And How Every Christian Should Respond To The Lord For Their Salvation – For Your Salvation!
 - We Often Sing The Words:
 - “Thank You, Lord, For Saving My Soul! Thank You, Lord, For Making Me Whole! Thank You, Lord, For Giving To Me – Thy Great Salvation, So Rich And Free!”
 - But How Often Do You Feel This In Your Heart?
 - And How Often Do You Tell This To The Lord?
 - As Psalm 107:2 Says - “Let The Redeemed Of The Lord Say So!”
 - And We Ought To “Say So” To The Lord, Who Has Saved Us & Redeemed Us!
 - How Will You Respond:
 - To The Salvation Of The Lord?

* Will There Be:

1. *A Renewed Persuasion?*

- In Your Heart?
 - There Was For Jonah!
 - After Remembering All That God Saved Him From:
 - Jonah Prays & Says This To The Lord In:
 - 2:8 - "They That Observe Lying Vanities Forsake Their Own Mercy!"
 - Here, Jonah Is Telling The Lord:
 - That He Learned *A Great Lesson!*
 - **IE:** And The Belly Of That Fish:
 - Became A One-Room Schoolhouse!
 - With Jonah As Its Only Student!
 - With The Lord As His Only Teacher!
 - Together & Alone! No Better Place!
 - And Jonah Was Able To Think About Everything That Had Happened To Him:
 - Running / Chased / Thrown / Sinking!
 - Then: Swallowed & Stuck Inside For 3 Days & 3 Nights, So Far!
 - What Did Jonah Learn?
- That Idols Are Worthless!
 - Jonah Describes Them As "Lying Vanities!"
 - They Are Completely Empty!
 - Empty & Void Of Any Truth!
 - They Are "Lying!"
 - They Are False!
 - Empty & Void Of Any Reality!
 - They Are "Vanities!"
 - They Are Like A Breath / A Vapor!
 - With No Substance!
 - Perhaps Jonah Remembered How The Lord Described Idols In Psalm 115:4-8:
 - "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. / They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: / They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: / They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. / They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them!"
 - Jonah Learned Once Again, Inside The Belly Of That Fish:
 - That Idols Are Worthless!
 - He Also Learned:
- That Idolaters Are Fools!
 - "They That Observe Lying Vanities Forsake Their Own Mercy!"
 - Those Who "Observe" These Idols:
 - Who Pay Any Attention To Them!
 - By Trusting / Praying / Worshiping Them!
 - They Are Forsaking The One True God!
 - The Only One Who Can Provide Them The Mercy & Love & Kindness They Need!
 - **IE:** Like Someone Who Refuses A Life-Giving Treatment!
 - Imagine If There Was A Cure For Ebola!
 - But Someone Turned Down The Cure!
 - Not Out Of Sacrifice, But Stubbornness!
 - This Is What It Is Like When You Turn Your Back On The Lord! And Refuse His Mercy & Steadfast Love!
 - Most Of The False Gods That People Worship:
 - Are Known For What They *Take* From You!
 - But Not The One True God:
 - He Is Known For What He *Offers & Gives* To You!
 - For No Other Reason, But His *Grace!*
 - He Alone Is: "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth!" (Exodus 34:6)
- And This Is What Everyone Needs!

- The Mercy & Loving-Kindness Of God!
- Not Just Idolaters:
 - Like The Sailors On The Ship!
 - Or Like The Ninevites!
- But Even Prophets Of God, Like Jonah!
 - He Too – He Especially – Needed This Lesson!
- **Because Sin Is Still A Form Of Idolatry!**
 - Remember What Samuel Said To King Saul, After Saul Had Disobeyed The Lord?
 - 1 Samuel 15:23 - “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry!”
- Even Stubbornness:
 - In Going Your Own Way – Apart From The Lord:
 - Is As “Iniquity & Idolatry!”
 - And Jonah Was Stubborn!
 - In His Disobedience To The Lord!
 - Look At How Far His Sin Took Him!
- And Although Jonah Never Bowed Down Or Prayed To:
 - A Physical Idol - Like The Sailors Did!
 - He Did “Observe A Lying Vanity!”
 - The Idol Of His Own Will!
 - The Idol Of His Own Sin & Disobedience & Stubbornness!
 - And He Turned His Back – And He Forsook:
 - The Only One Who Could Help Him!
 - Why Would He **Do** This?
 - Why Do **We** Do This?
- Will You Learn This Lesson With Jonah?
 - Salvation Proves That:
 - Whenever You Sin!
 - Whenever You Choose To Go Your Own Way:
 - And Follow After Your Own Will!
 - You Too Are “Observing A Lying Vanity!”
 - You Are Turning Your Back On The Only One Who Can Give You The Mercy & Loving-Kindness You Need!
 - And You Are Only Hurting Yourself!
 - Why Do We So Often Forsake & Turn Our Backs On:
 - The Love & Mercy & Kindness Of The Lord?
 - Remember What Jesus Offers?
 - Matthew 11:28-30 - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. / Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls!”
 - Why Are We So Stubborn In Our Sins?
- When You Remember The Salvation Of The Lord:
 - You Need To Have This Renewed Persuasion:
 - As Jonah Did!
 - This Great Lesson - That Whenever You:
 - “Observe Lying Vanities!”
 - You Are “Forsaking” & Turning Your Back On “Your Own Mercy!”

* How Else Will You Respond:

- When You Remember The Salvation Of The Lord?
- Will There Be?

2. **A Renewed Praise?**

- In Your Heart?
 - There Was For Jonah!
 - And After Telling The Lord The **Great Lesson** He Learned In Verse 8:
 - Jonah Now Praises The Lord & Thanks Him:
 - For His Great Salvation!
 - 2:9a - “But I Will Sacrifice Unto Thee With The Voice Of Thanksgiving!”
 - Jonah Was No Longer Going To Turn His Back On The Lord!

- Because God Had Saved Him!
- How Does Jonah Praise Him?
- Through His Worship!
 - Jonah Makes A New Resolution!
 - “But I Will Sacrifice Unto Thee!”
 - Just Like The Sailors Did On The Ship:
 - After The Lord Saved Them From The Storm!
 - 1:16 - “Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows!”
 - Sacrifice Was An Acceptable Form Of Worship In The Old Testament!
 - But In Order To Worship In This Way:
 - Jonah Would Need An Altar!
 - Jonah Would Need An Acceptable Animal!
 - And Jonah Would Need Fire!
 - But He Had None Of Those Things!
 - No Stones For An Altar!
 - The Only Animal Was The Fish!
 - And No Fire Would Work - Wet / Damp!
 - **IE:** Tried Burning Some Damp Brush! Needed Something To Help!
 - But All This Was OK With The Lord!
 - Because It Was Jonah’s Heart That He Was After, Anyways!
 - Back In 1 Samuel 15:22 - Samuel Speaking To King Saul Again - “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams!”
 - The Lord Finally Had Jonah’s Heart!
 - So Jonah Praised Him:
- Through His Words!
 - “But I Will Sacrificed Unto Thee With The Voice Of Thanksgiving!”
 - Jonah Offered To The Lord The Only Thing He Had!
 - His Voice!
 - And Even His Voice Had Been Given Back To Him By The Lord!
 - How Did Jonah Use The Air Inside The Fish?
 - He Inhaled & Breathed It Into His Lungs:
 - For Life!
 - And Exhaled & Breathed It Out:
 - For Praise!
 - **IE:** Jonah Was Having A “Singspiration” Inside The Fish! See So Many Of The Psalms In His Prayer-Poem!
 - And It Probably Did Cost Him Something!
 - Imagine What That Air Must Have Smelt Like & Even Tasted Like!
 - But The Lord Was Truly Worthy Of His Praise!
 - And Worthy Of Thanksgiving!
- When You Remember The Salvation Of The Lord:
 - You Need To Have This Kind Of Praise As Well!
 - For The Lord Is Worthy!
 - “You Are Worthy, Father, Creator, You Are Worthy, Savior, Sustainer, You Are Worthy, Worthy And Wonderful, Worthy Of Worship And Praise!”
 - And With This Kind Of Sacrifice From Your Heart & Voice:
 - The Lord Is Well Pleased!

* How Else Should We Respond:

- When You Remember The Salvation Of The Lord?
- Will There Be?

3. ***A Renewed Promise?***

- In Our Hearts?
 - There Was For Jonah!
 - After Praising The Lord:
 - Jonah Re-Dedicates Himself To The Lord:
 - Because Of His Great Salvation!

- 2:9b - “I Will Pay That That I Have Vowed!”
 - We See Here:
- A Stronger Commitment To The Lord!
 - Jonah Is Renewing A Promise He Had Made To The Lord!
 - A Promise To Do Something!
 - A Promise To Fulfill A Vow He Had Made To The Lord!
 - Now, We Don’t Know What This Vow Was:
 - But This Vow – Like Other Vows In The Bible:
 - Would Have Been Very Significant!
 - Would Have Been Very Special!
 - Would Have Been Very Serious!
 - But Whatever It Was:
 - It Shows That God Had Gotten A Hold Of Jonah’s Heart Once Again!
 - It Was A Personal Surrender Of Himself To The Lord!
 - And Jonah Was:
 - Re-Dedicating Himself To The Lord!
 - **IE:** Re-Dedication At Camp! Church! In Life! Good!
 - Jonah Knew That He Owed Everything To The Lord – Himself Included!
 - When You Remember Your Salvation:
 - Do You Renew Your Commitment To The Lord?
 - After All - Everything You Have / You Are:
 - Belongs To The Lord!
 - He Created You! He Sustains You!
 - He Has Saved You!
 - And You Belong To Him!
 - So Live For Him!
 - This Is The Greatest Praise You Can Give Him!
 - We Also See:
- A Stronger Conviction About The Lord!
 - Jonah Ends His Prayer In 2:9 With A Declaration:
 - “Salvation Is Of The Lord!”
 - And This Is A Fitting End To His Prayer!
 - Because It Was This Truth About The Lord:
 - That Caused Jonah:
 - To Pray / To Praise / To Make His Promise!
 - “Salvation Is Of The Lord!”
 - No Matter What Form It Takes!
 - If Salvation Is Through A Boat:
 - Like It Was For The Sailors!
 - It Was From The Lord!
 - Or If Salvation Is Through A Fish:
 - Like It Was For Jonah!
 - It Was From The Lord!
 - Or If Salvation Is Through A Person:
 - Like It Is For Us!
 - Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - It Is Of The Lord!
 - Acts 4:12 - “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved!”
 - “Salvation Is Of The Lord!”
 - From Start To Finish!
 - Jonah Had Nothing To Do With His Deliverance!
 - Except For His Need To Be Saved!
- And When You Remember The Salvation Of The Lord:
 - You Need To Have This Renewed Promise As Well:
 - A Greater Commitment To The Lord!
 - And A Greater Conviction About The Lord:

Conclusion:

1. That: "Salvation Is Of The Lord!"
 - And This Is The End Of Jonah's Prayer!
 - And We Must Leave Here Today:
 - With Those Words Ringing In Our Ears:
 - "Salvation Is Of The Lord!"
 - For It Really Is:
 - "Of The Lord's Mercies That We Are Not Consumed!" (Lamentations 3:22)
2. Has This Truth Made An Impact On Your Life?
 - How Will You Respond:
 - To Your Great Salvation?
 - What Lesson Will You Learn?
 - What Praise & Worship Will You Give?
 - What Promise Will You Make?
 - Because:
 - "Salvation Is Of The Lord!"

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