

***“Remember The Lord!”***  
***Jonah 2:5-7***

**Introduction:**

1. Will You Head Back With Me This Morning:
  - To The Book Of Jonah, Chapter 2!
    - Where We Are Exploring Together The Wonderful:
      - Prayer-Poem Of Jonah, From The Belly Of A Great Fish!
  - And Through This Prayer:
    - Jonah Is Sharing:
      - Not Just To The Lord!
      - But Also With Each Of Us:
    - His Thoughts & Feelings During The Whole Ordeal!
  - Let's Read Jonah's Prayer Together Once Again:
    - 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!"
2. This Morning, We Will Look More Closely At The Second Section:
  - From Verses 5-7:
    - In Which Jonah Is Literally Diving Deeper & Deeper Into The Description Of His Ordeal:
      - And Deeper Into His Feelings As Well!
  - What We Learn From These Verses:
    - Is That This Was Jonah's Greatest Hour Of Testing:
      - As He Was Sinking & Drowning & Just One Breath Away From Death!
    - What Would Jonah Do?
      - How Would Jonah Respond To The Lord?
        - And What Would You Do?
        - And How Would You Respond To The Lord, In Your Greatest Hour Of Testing?
3. We All Have Tests To Take In Our Lives!
  - Think Back With Me To The Last Test At School You Had To Take!
    - For Some, It Was A Very Long Time Ago!
      - And Something You Are Glad You Don't Have To Relive & Retake!
    - For Others, It Is As Fresh As Last Week!
      - And You Don't Want To Be Reminded!
  - But When You Took That Test:
    - Usually, The Best Way To Prepare For That Test:
      - Was To Actually Study!
      - To Read / To Review Over & Over Again!
    - And Then, When It Was Time To Take Your Test:
      - All You Had To Do Was Remember!
        - Remember That Math Equation!
        - Remember That Date From History!
    - But All Too Often:
      - We Can't Remember! We Don't Remember!
      - And We Start To Feel Like We Are Going To Fail!
        - And That's A Terrible Feeling!
    - But, As One Of My History Professors Would State At The Beginning Of Nearly Every Test, Just To Reassure Us:
      - He Would Remind Us: "This Too Shall Pass!"
  - 4. But The Truth Is:
    - We All Still Have Tests To Take In Our Lives!

- As Christians - These Tests Are Known As:
  - “The Trials Of Your Faith!”
  - And In 1 Peter 1:7, These Trials / These Tests Are Described As “Being Much More Precious Than Of Gold!”
- What Can We Do, When We Face These Tests?
  - How Should We Respond?
  - The Same Way Jonah Did!
    - As We See In This Second Section Of His Prayer-Poem!
- Whenever You Are Tested – And There Will Be Tests In Your Life:
  - You Need To Remember Some Things!
    - What Do You Remember?

### ***1. Do You Remember Your Plight?***

- Jonah Sure Did!
  - And He Gives Us His Feelings About His Plight:
    - And What He Thought Was Going To Be His Final Test!
  - After Jonah Was Swallowed By The Fish:
    - He Remembered How He Felt As He Was Sinking & Drowning In The Sea!
  - This Is What He Remembered:
    - 2:5-6a - “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!”
  - Jonah Believed That This Was God’s Final Judgment:
    - Upon Him For His Disobedience!
      - God’s Final Test!
    - And He Would Never Forget How It Felt!
      - He Felt:
  - The Great Pressure Of His Judgment!
    - “The Waters Compassed Me About, Even To The Soul!”
  - Imagine The Great Pressure Of The Water:
    - That Pressed Upon Jonah As He Was Sinking!
    - **IE:** Even Most Modern Military Submarines Have A Crush Depths Of About 2,400 Feet Deep!
      - Average Depths Of Mediterranean Sea Is 4,900 Feet!
  - The Water Became To Jonah:
    - Not Just A Watery Grave For His Body!
    - But A Painful Hell For His Soul!
  - Even His Heart & His Soul:
    - Ached - Because He Felt Fearful & Forsaken & Even Forgotten By God! He Also Felt:
  - The Great Power Of His Judgment!
    - “The Depth Closed Me Round About!”
  - The Further Down You Go Into The Sea:
    - The Darker It Becomes!
    - To The Point, Where There Is No Light Visible!
      - Less Than 1 Mile Down!
  - Jonah Felt Like He Was Being Buried Alive:
    - And There Was No Way Out!
    - And There Was Noone To Help Him! So Dark!
  - The Great Pain Of His Judgment!
    - “The Weeds Were Wrapped About My Head!”
    - **IE:** Ever Went Fishing And Caught Nothing But Seaweed?
      - Tightly Wound On The Hook & The Line!
      - Almost Impossible To Get It All Off!
        - Now Imagine Your Head Getting Tangled Up In Massive Amounts Of Seaweed!
    - It Could Have Been Very Painful!
      - And The More You Struggle, The More You Would Panic!
        - Jonah Probably Felt Like The Strands Of Seaweed Would Become His Burial Shroud!
  - The Great Prison Of His Judgment!
    - “I Went Down To The Bottoms Of The Mountains!”

- The Picture Here Is That:
  - Jonah Felt Like He Was At The Deepest Point Of The Sea!
    - Where The Deepest Valleys Of The Sea Were Formed!
  - Look How Low Jonah Felt He Could Go!
- It Wasn't Just The Water That Holding Him Down!
  - It Was The Earth Itself That Was Keeping Him In!
  - He Was In A Pit!
    - And To Him It Was Like A Dungeon!
    - He Further Felt:
- The Great Permanence Of His Judgment!
  - "The Earth With Her Bars Was About Me For Ever!"
  - He Was Trapped!
    - He Couldn't Go Up! He Couldn't Get Out!
    - Jonah Felt The Weight Of The World Upon Him!
  - And He Believed That It Would Last For Ever!
    - He Had Been Thrown Into The Deepest, Darkest Dungeon!
      - The Doors Have Slammed Shut All Around Him!
      - And Any Key Had Been Thrown Away!
- This Was The Plight Of Jonah's Judgment!
  - This Is What He Remembered!
    - And This Is How He Felt – As "There Was But A Breath Between Him And Death!" (Barnes)
  - If You Are Going Through A Trial / Test In Your Life:
    - Sometimes, You Need To Remember What You Faced Before Jesus Saved You!
  - Whatever:
    - Dungeon You Feel You Are In – Nothing Compares To What You Faced:
      - When You Were Apart From God!
      - When You Were Unsaved & Facing The Judgment Of God!
- **IE:** Sometimes Students Won't Study For A Test, Because They Think It Will Be Easy! But To Do Well On Any Test, You Need To Take It Seriously!
  - Do You Remember Your Plight?
    - Do You Remember What The Lord Saved You From? It Was Serious!
  - This Is The Best Way To Prepare For:
    - The Tests You Will Face In Your Life!

## 2. ***Do You Remember Your Placement?***

- After Jonah Describes What He Felt Was His Final Judgment:
  - He Remembers What The Lord Did For Him!
    - And How He Rescued Him & Saved Him From His Dungeon In The Sea!
  - 2:6b - "Yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God!"
    - Even When All Seemed Hopeless, The Lord Rescued Him & Saved Him!
      - How?
      - By The Fish He Was Now In!
  - Look At What The Lord Did For Jonah!
- From The Depths:
  - Jonah Was "Brought Up!"
  - Jonah Was As Far Down As He Could Possible Go!
    - And There Was No Way For Him To Get Back Up To Where He Needed To Be, On His Own!
  - Only The Lord Could Help Jonah Now!
    - And He Did!
    - He "Brought Up" Jonah!
      - Not Yet To The Surface Of The Water!
      - Not Yet To The Dry Land!
      - Remember: He's Still In The Fish!
  - But Now, After 3 Days & 3 Nights:
    - Jonah Finally Realizes That God Sent The Fish:
      - Not To Destroy Him!
      - But To Deliver Him!
      - And To Raise Him Up! Also Placed:

- From Death:
  - Jonah Was Given "Life!"
  - When The Seaweed Was Around His Head:
    - Jonah Believed He Was As Good As Dead!
  - But God Stepped In:
    - And Rescued Him & Revived Him!
    - **IE:** Like A Lifeguard Rescuing Someone Who Is Drowning! Resuscitating Someone With A Life-Giving Breath Of Air! Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home In Dixon Illinois - Served As Lifeguard During The Summers - Saved Several!
- From A Dungeon:
  - Jonah Was Brought Up From "Corruption!"
    - Also Often Translated "Pit" & Even "Destruction!"
  - This Is What Jonah Was Facing:
    - But God Himself, By Means Of That Fish:
      - Rescued Jonah & Revived Jonah!
      - Not Just In Body, But In His Soul!
  - Because As Jonah Is Remembering All Of This:
    - He Says To The Lord:
      - "O LORD My God!"
- This Was The Placement Of Jonah!
  - When God Rescued Him!
    - And This Is How He Felt!
  - It May Have Taken Him A Few Days:
    - But He Eventually Realized That God Was In That Fish With Him!
  - If You Are Going Through A Trial / Test In Your Life:
    - You Need To Remember How God Has Saved You!
      - And Where He Has Placed You!
  - You No Longer Have To Fear:
    - Whatever Depth / Death / Dungeon You Face!
    - Because God Himself, Through Jesus Christ:
      - Has Brought You Up!
  - If You Are A Christian:
    - You Can Say With David In Psalm 40:2 - "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings!"
- Do You Remember Your Placement?
  - Do You Remember How The Lord Saved You?
  - This Is The Best Way To Prepare For:
    - The Tests You Will Face In Your Life!

### 3. ***Do You Remember Your Provider?***

- In 2:7 - In True Poetic Fashion - Jonah Looks Back Once Again:
  - To How He Felt In That Watery Dungeon!
    - And What He Did Just Before God Rescued Him With That Great Fish!
  - "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD!"
    - Jonah Remembered That The Lord Could Provide What He Needed At That Time!
- The Lord Alone Can Provide Real Hope!
  - We Need To Remember This!
    - Jonah Says - "When My Soul Fainted Within Me!"
    - Who Could He Turn To For Real Hope?
      - Noone Else Could See Him!
      - Noone Else Knew Where He Was!
  - Jonah Believed That He Was Completely:
    - Forgotten & Forsaken By The Lord!
      - Remember 2:4 - "Then I Said, I Am Cast Out Of Thy Sight!"
  - What Did Jonah Do?
    - 2:7 - "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD!"
      - The Lord Alone Could Provide Real Hope! Also:
- The Lord Alone Can Provide Real Help!

- This Is Why Jonah “Remembered” Him!
  - And Thought About Him!
  - And Then Cried Out To Him!
- This Was The Provider For Jonah!
  - The Lord Himself!
    - And He Cried Out To The Lord In Faith!
      - Even At The Last Possible Moment Of His Life!
  - Because He Believed That The Lord Alone:
    - Could Provide Him With The Hope:
      - He Needed!
    - And Would Provide Him With The Help:
      - He Needed!
    - And, Of Course, Jonah Delivered Him With A Great Fish!
  - If You Are Going Through A Trial / Test In Your Life:
    - You Need To Remember Who It Is That Saves You!
      - The Lord! And Him Alone!
    - He Is The Great Provider!
      - He Alone Can Provide The Real Hope You Need During Your Tests!
      - He Alone Can Provide The Real Help You Need During Your Tests!
  - So - Remember The Lord!
    - When Your Soul Faints Within You!
      - Remember The Lord!
- Do You Remember Your Provider?
  - Do You Remember Who Alone Can Save?
  - This Is The Best Way To Prepare For:
    - The Tests You Will Face In Your Life!

#### **4. *Do You Remember Your Plea?***

- Your Prayer - When You Cried Out To The Lord For Deliverance?
  - Jonah Sure Did!
    - Also In 2:7 - “And my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple!”
  - Remember - This Prayer Was Not A Long, Drawn Out Prayer!
    - No - It Was Simply A Cry!
    - 2:2 - “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!”
- Jonah’s Plea Came To A Person!
  - “My Prayer Came In Unto Thee!”
    - His Prayer Of Faith Was Heard By The Lord!
  - Even Though Jonah Felt Like He Had Been “Cast Out!”
    - Yet Now, His Prayer “Came In Unto” The Lord!
    - He Was Not Cast Out!
      - He Was Not Forsaken!
      - He Was Not Forgotten!
  - And God Himself Will Hear You:
    - When You Come To Him With Your Prayers!
    - And With Your Cries!
- Jonah’s Plea Came To A Place!
  - “Into Thine Holy Temple!”
    - Although Jonah Was Nowhere Near Jerusalem, Where Solomon’s Temple For The Lord Had Been Built!
      - Jonah Was Able To Enter the Very Presence Of God Through Prayer!
- This Was Jonah’s Plea!
  - A Prayer & A Cry To The Lord!
    - Because He Remembered Him!
  - And If You Are Going Through A Trial / Test In Your Life:
    - You Need To Remember That You Too:
      - Can Go To The Lord In Prayer!
    - “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you!” (1 Peter 5:7)

- Do You Remember Your Plea?
  - Do You Remember How You Can Go To The Lord:
    - Whenever You Need Him?
- This Is The Best Way To Prepare For:
  - The Tests You Will Face In Your Life!

**Conclusion:**

1. What We Saw In Jonah's Prayer-Poem Today:
  - Is That Its Like Jonah Is Giving His Testimony In Church!
    - He Was Not Only Telling The Lord All This In His Prayer!
      - But He Is Telling It To Us As Well!
  - Jonah Is Recounting & Retelling:
    - How God Delivered Him Through That Fish!
  - In Fact:
    - This Is One Of The Best Ways To Praise The Lord!
      - To Tell The Lord & Others About Him!
    - As David Does In Psalm 77:11-12 - "I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. / I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings!"
2. What Will You Remember:
  - When You Go Through A Trial Or A Test In Your Life?
    - Will You Remember The Lord?
  - Remember Your Plight:
    - And What God Has Saved You From!
  - Remember Your Placement:
    - And What God Has Saved You To!
  - Remember Your Provider:
    - Just As Jesus Christ Provided You With Salvation!
      - Jesus Christ Alone Can Provide The Real Hope & Help You Need In Any Trial Or Test You Face!
  - And Remember Your Plea:
    - Remember How You Cried Out To The Lord In The Past:
      - And He Heard You And Answered You!
  - And Remember To Cry Out To The Lord Again!
    - For This Is The Best Way To Prepare For:
      - The Tests You Will Face In Your Life!
3. Remember The Lord!

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