

“LOOK WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN”**JONAH 1:4****INTRODUCTION**

“BUT THE LORD SENT OUT A GREAT WIND INTO THE SEA, AND THERE WAS A MIGHTY TEMPEST IN THE SEA, SO THAT THE SHIP WAS LIKE TO BE BROKEN.”

THE BOOK OF JONAH IS ONE OF THE PRE-EXILE BOOKS

ALL THE BOOKS OF THE MINOR PROPHETS ARE DIVIDED INTO ONE OF TWO CATEGORIES. THEY ARE EITHER PRE OR POST-EXILE BOOKS.

BY THAT I MEAN THAT THEY WERE WRITTEN EITHER BEFORE THE BABYLONIAN EXILE OR AFTER THE BABYLONIAN EXILE.

JONAH IS ONE OF THE PRE-EXILE BOOKS. HE MINISTERED AND PROPHESED BEFORE THE EXILE INTO BABYLON.

JONAH IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE MISSIONARY PROPHET.

HE IS THE FIRST ISREALIC PROPHET THAT IS CALLED TO GO TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY TO PROPHECY.

SO HE WAS A MISSIONARY PROPHET, SENT TO A PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT HIS PEOPLE, TO PROCLAIM THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THIS MAN JONAH WAS SENT TO THE CITY OF NINEVEH.

GOD CALLED HIM AND TOLD HIM TO GO TO THAT CITY AND TELL THEM THAT IN FORTY DAYS, JUDGMENT WILL BEFALL THEM.

NINEVEH WAS THE CAPITOL OF ASSYRIA.

JONAH PROPHESED DURING THE REIGN OF JEROBOAM II.

IT WAS A TIME OF GREAT PROSPERITY IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.

IT WAS A TIME WHEN THINGS SEEMED TO BE GOING WELL.

JEROBOAM II WAS THE 14TH KING OF ISRAEL AND REIGNED FOR 41 YEARS (793-753 B.C.)

JEROBOAM WAS THE SON AND SUCCESSOR OF JOASH.

HE WAS THE GRANDSON OF JEROBOAM “DID EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD” 2 KIN. 14:24.

IT WAS DURING HIS REIGN THAT JONAH MINISTERED.

JONAH, PRIOR TO HIS CALL TO NINEVEH WAS AN OUTSTANDING PROPHET.

IN II KINGS 14:25, WE LEARN THAT JONAH PROPHESED TO JEROBOAM, AND TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD HAVE VICTORY OVER SYRIA, AND THAT HE WOULD RECAPTURE THE LAND THAT SYRIA HAD TAKEN AWAY FROM ISRAEL.

AND SOMETIMES AFTER THIS TREMENDOUS PROPHECY, AND JONAH HAVING ESTABLISHED HIMSELF IN ISRAEL AS AN ACCREDITED PROPHET, GOD GAVE JONAH ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT.

NOTICE RIGHT HERE, THAT GOD DOES NOT CALL US TO STAY AT ONE SPOT OR AT ONE LEVEL FOREVER.

THE CALL OF GOD HAS MANY LEVELS.

JONAH PROPHESED IN ISRAEL AND ALL KNEW HIM TO BE A GREAT PROPHET IN ISRAEL.

GOD SAID, GET UP AND GO TO NINEVEH AND TELL THEM THAT UNLESS THEY REPENT, JUDGMENT IS COMING.

JONAH HAD A PROBLEM. JONAH WAS A PROPHET. AS A PROPHET HE KNEW THAT NINEVEH WOULD ULTIMATELY CAPTURE AND DESTROY ISRAEL.

AS A PROPHET HE HAD **SIGHT, INSIGHT AND FORESIGHT**.

WITH SIGHT HE SAW, WITH INSIGHT HE UNDERSTOOD, AND WITH FORESIGHT, HE COULD PREDICT THE FUTURE.

SO IT WAS CLEAR TO JONAH THAT NINEVEH WOULD ULTIMATELY CONQUEROR ISRAEL, AND NINEVEH DID.

KNOWING THAT THIS NATION WOULD DESTROY HIS NATION HE CHOSE NOT TO GO TO THEM WITH THE WORD OF THE LORD.

HE RATHER HAVE THEM PERISH, THUS SECURING HIS NATION.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT WHEN GOD TOLD HIM TO ARISE AND GO TO NINEVEH, HE AROSE BUT HE DID NOT GO TO NINEVEH, HE WENT TO TARSHISH.

HE DECIDED TO GO TO TARSHISH.

NINEVEH WAS IN THE NORTH; TARSHISH WAS IN THE WEST.

WHEN GOD CALLED JONAH HE AROSE AND WENT DOWN TO JOPPA AND BOARDED A SHIP. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT HE BOUGHT A TICKET TO GO TO TARSHISH.

HE GOT ABOARD THE SHIP AND WENT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SHIP AND WENT TO SLEEP.

WHILE JONAH WAS ASLEEP, SOMETHING HAPPENED.

- LISTEN, GOD CALLS AND GIVES ASSIGNMENTS, YET SOME PEOPLE INSIST ON DOING WHAT THEY WANT TO DO.

JONAH WAS ASLEEP IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SHIP AND HE KNEW HE HAD GOTTEN AWAY AND WAS DOING WHAT HE WANTED TO DO.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD PREPARED SOME THINGS FOR HIM.

JONAH RAN AND HID IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SHIP AND WENT TO SLEEP.

AND WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING, THE FIRST CHAPTER VS. 4, WE FIND THAT GOD PREPARED A SPECIAL **WIND**.

THE WIND BEGAN TO BLOW AND THE SHIP COULD NOT GO.

IT WAS NOT AN ORDINARY WIND, IT WAS A SPECIAL WIND PREPARED BY GOD.

THE SECOND THING THAT THIS PASSAGE TELLS US THAT GOD PREPARED IS IN VS. 17, GOD PREPARED A SPECIAL **FISH**.

GOD CAN SEND A WIND TO GET YOU AND A FISH TO HOLD YOU.

CHAPTER 4 VS. 6 TELLS US THAT GOD PREPARED A SPECIAL **GOURD**.

AND IN THE 7TH VS. OF THAT 4TH CHAPTER, GOD PREPARED A SPECIAL **WORM**.

SO THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF JONAH WE SEE GOD PREPARING SPECIAL THINGS TO GET YOU TO DO HIS WILL.

WHEN GOD WANTS YOU TO DO SOMETHING, WHETHER YOU DO IT WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY, HE'LL PREPARE SOME THINGS TO HELP YOU ALONG.

JONAH THOUGHT HE WAS GETTING AWAY AND GOD PREPARED A SPECIAL WIND AND SAID, GO GET HIM.

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO MOVE, IF YOU ARE NOT MAKING ANY PROGRESS, PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING AGAINST GOD AND THE WIND IS HOLDING YOU.

FROM A STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURE WE FIND THAT GOD HAS ALWAYS USED THE WIND TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL.

WHEN ISRAEL LEFT CANNAN AND THEY CAME TO THE RED SEA AND THEY COULD NOT GO ACROSS.

GOD PREPARED THE EAST WIND AND IT BLOW AND AS IT BLEW THE SEA WAS DIVIDED AND ISRAEL WENT ACROSS ON DRY GROUND.

GOD HAS ALWAYS USED THE WIND.

WHEN ISRAEL WANTED FOOD AND THEY WANTED FLESH,
THEY WANTED QUAIL, GOD AGAIN PREPARED THE EAST WIND.

AND THE WIND BLEW AND WHEN THE WIND EMPTIED ITS
CONTENTS IN THE CAMP, QUIALS FELL ALL OVER THE CAMP

GOD USED THE WIND TO DO HIS WILL.

IN THE SCRIPTURE THE WORD WIND IN THE HEBREW **RUWACH**
AND IN THE GREEK, **PNEUMA**, IT ALWAYS MEANS SPIRIT.

SO WHILE HE WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY, GOD PREPARED A
SPECIAL WIND; A SPECIAL MOVING OF THE SPIRIT AND THE
SHIP COULD NOT GO.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT THE MARINERS CAST LOTS AND THE
LOT FELL UPON JONAH.

IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM, JONAH IS ASLEEP, AN
UNNATURAL SLEEP.

PEOPLE TRY TO GET AWAY FROM GOD AND THEY FALL INTO
AN UNNATURAL SLEEP.

IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM, HE 'S SLEEPING.

EVERYBODY ELSE IN DESPAIR, AND HE'S SLEEPING.

HE WAS AWAKENED OUT OF HIS UNNATURAL SLEEP AND WAS
TOLD, "CALL UPON YOUR GOD."

THE MARINERS ASKED HIM FOUR QUESTIONS: -- WHO ARE
YOU? FROM WHAT PEOPLE ARE YOU? WHAT IS YOUR
OCCUPATION? AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

SO JONAH TOLD THEM WHO HE WAS AND WHAT HE HAD DONE
AND THAT HE WAS FLEEING FROM THE LORD AND THEY
ASKED HIM, WHY DO YOU DO THIS?

IS THERE A JONAH IN THE HOUSE TODAY?

ARE YOU RUNNING FROM WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO?

SOMEBODY IN HERE HAS AN ASSIGNMENT AND YOU ARE TRYING TO RUN AWAY.

GOD HAS LET YOU KNOW WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO AND YOU ARE RUNNING – AWAY – THE OTHER WAY.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL LISTEN AND OBEY, OR GOD WILL PREPARE A WIND FOR YOU, OR A FISH FOR YOU, OR A GOURD FOR YOU, OR A WORM.

BUT THE WILL AND THE PURPOSE OF GOD WILL BE DONE, WHETHER YOU DO IT WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY, IT WILL BE DONE.

IF YOU ONLY DO IT THE LAST 60 SECONDS BEFORE YOU DIE, IT WILL BE DONE.

THE WILL OF THE LORD IS YEA AND AMEN.

YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT JONAH TOLD THEM THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS MESS IS TO CAST ME OVER BOARD, AND THEY DID.

JUST MAY BE THERE IS SOME STUFF IN YOUR LIFE THAT'S GOT TO GO.

PERHAPS THE REASON THAT YOU ARE NOT MOVING IS THAT YOU GOT SOMEBODY ON BOARD THAT'S GOT TO GO.

YOU WILL NOT MOVE OR MAKE ANY PROGRESS UNTIL YOU THROW THEM OVER BOARD.

THEY GOT TO GO.

AND WHEN THEY CAST JONAH OVER BOARD, WE LEARN IN THE SECOND CHAPTER, THAT THE FISH DID NOT SWALLOW JONAH IMMEDIATELY.

WE LEARN IN CHAPTER 2 THAT WHEN THEY CAST JONAH OVER BOARD, JONAH WENT FLOATING.

IT SAYS THAT HE WENT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN AND THAT THE WEEDS AND THE GRASS IN THE SEA COVERED HIM.

THEY WERE IN THE MIDST OF A VIOLENT STORM, AND ALL THE SEA MASS WAS DISTURBED AND DISLODGED AND WHEN JONAH WENT DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA IT COVERED HIM.

AT THIS POINT, LIBERAL SCHOLARS LAUGH AT THE BIBLE.

THEY SAY, HOW CAN A MAN, CAST INTO THE SEA, IF HE WAS NOT SWALLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE FISH, OR EVEN IF HE WAS SWALLOWED BY THE FISH, HOW COULD HE SURVIVE IN THE SEA OR THE FISH'S STOMACH.

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH OXYGEN THERE FOR HIM TO STAY ALIVE.

I WOULD LIKE TO POSE ANOTHER QUESTION. HOW CAN AN UNBORN BABY SURVIVE IN HIS MOTHER'S WOMB?

HE GETS NO AIR FROM THE OUTSIDE EITHER.

YET, GOD IN HIS WISDOM, CONVEIVED THE MEANS OF PRESERVING THAT CHILD IN ITS EMBRYONIC AND POST EMBRYONIC FORMS.

THAT BEING SO; GOD COULD PRESERVE JONAH FLOATING ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.

IF GOD CAN'T PRESERVE JONAH IN A FISH'S BELLY, THEN HE IS NOT GOD.

WE NEED TO RELAEASE GOD IN OUR MINDS.

IN OUR MINDS, WE SEE GOD AS AN ABSENTEE LANDLORD.

HE MAKES HIS CREATIONS AND ABDICATES AND LEAVES IT TO ITS OWN WILL.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT GOD MADE EVERYTHING AND HE MADE LAWS TO GOVERN THEM, BUT HE CAN INTERRUPT AT ANY JUNCTURE.

HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE WILL, BECAUSE HE IS GOD.

AND UNTIL WE COME TO TERMS THAT GOD CAN DO WHAT HE WILL, WHEN HE WILLS, HOW HE WILLS, WHERE HE WILLS WE WILL NEVER KNOW OR ACCEPT THE WILL OF GOD AND WE WILL NEVER EXPERIENCE THE SUPERNATURAL.

DISBELIEF HAS SHACKLED THE CHURCH AND THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS.

WE NO LONGER BELIEVE THE SUPERNATURAL.

GOD CAN DO WONDERFUL THINGS WITH A PERSON WHO BELIEVES.

GOD WILL DO SUPERNATURAL THINGS WITH A CHURCH THAT BELIEVES.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HERE IS THE BIBLICAL WITNESS, JONAH WAS THROWN OVER BOARD AND GOD PRESERVED HIM ALIVE.

I THINK I CAN GET A WITNESS RIGHT HERE

THERE IS SOMEBODY HERE RIGHT NOW WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD, BUT YOU ARE ALIVE, NOT BECAUSE YOU WERE LUCKY.

YOU WERE CAUGHT IN A SITUATION THAT YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF BUT YOU GOT OUT. NOT BECAUSE YOU WERE LUCKY.

STOP SAYING THAT. YOU ARE ALIVE BECAUSE GOD PRESERVED YOU.

YOU GOT OUT BECAUSE GOD BROUGHT YOU OUT.

GOD PREPARED A FISH AND GOD COMMISSIONED THE FISH TO SWALLOW UP JONAH.

THE LIBERALS SAY THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE AND CAN'T HAPPEN.

THE HOWEVER, YOU WILL AGREE THAT A MAN CAN MAKE A SUBMARINE THAT CAN HOLD MEN FOR MONTHS.

IF A MAN CAN MAKE A SUBMARINE TO HOLD MEN FOR MONTHS THEN GOD CAN MAKE A FISH TO HOLD A MAN FOR THREE DAYS.

UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND THAT GOD CAN DO EVERYTHING THEN YOU CAN'T RECEIVE ANYTHING. YOU GOT THAT?

“HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT GOD IS, AND THAT IS THE REWARD OF THEM THAT DILIGETLY SEEK HIM.”

FIRST, YOU MUST BELIEVE SOMETHING ABOUT THE PERSON OF GOD. THEN AND ONLY THEN CAN YOU RECEIVE OF HIS PROVISION.

CHAPTER TWO TELLS US THAT IN THE BELLY OF THE FISH JONAH BEGAN TO PRAY.

YOU CAN PRAY AND CRY TO GOD FROM ANYWHERE.

AND THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THIS, I OFFER YOU THIS.

I WILL NOT TELL YOU WHAT THEOLOGIANS HAVE SAID ABOUT IT.

I'M NOT INTERESTED AT THIS POINT IN WHAT THE SCHOLARS HAVE TO SAY,

BUT I OFFER YOU THIS.

JESUS SAID, “AS JONAH WAS IN THE BELLY OF THE FISH FOR THREE DAYS AND FOR THREE NIGHTS, SO SHALL THE SON OF MAN BE IN THE BELLY OF THE EARTH.

IF JESUS QUOTED IT, IT AUTHENTICATES IT FOR ME.

CHAPTER 2 VS. 1, "THEN JONAH PRAYED UNTO THE LORD HIS GOD OUT OF THE FISH'S BELLY."

HE PRAYED TO JEHOVAH HIS ELOHIM FROM INSIDE THE FISH.

HE PRAYED TO JEHOVAH, THE SELF EXISTING GOD.

JEHOVAH IS THE GOD WHO IS SELF CONTAINED AND IN HIM IS EVERYTHING HE NEEDS.

JONAH PRAYED TO HIM.

NOTICE, THIS JEHOVAH, THIS SELF CONTAINED GOD IS JONAH'S ELOHIM.

THE ONE THAT HE WAS FLEEING FROM, HE CRIED TO HIM.

THE GOD WHOSE PRESENCE HE SHUNNED, HE NOW SOUGHT.

THE THING THAT YOU THINK YOU ARE RUNNING FROM, WHEN LIFE WHIPS YOU, YOU WILL LOOK FOR IT.

WHAT WAS IT THAT CHANGED JONAH'S ATTITUDE AND DISPOSTION?

HE WAS RUNNING FROM GOD AND NOW HE SOUGHT GOD. YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS? IT WAS THE WIND.

SOME FOLK LAUGH AT US IN THE CHURCH. THEY SAY WE ARE CRAZY.

THEY SAY WE ACT SO SILLY, WORSHIPPING, JUMPING AND RUNNING AND SHOUTING AND PRAISING AND DANCING.

JUST WAIT A WHILE. LET LIFE BEAT ON THEM AND LET THE WIND WORK ON THEM AND THEN IT WILL BE SO THAT THEY CAN'T WAIT TO GET HERE TO SHOUT AND RUN AND DANCE.

WHEN JEHOVAH IS YOUR DELIVERER, YOU WILL PRAISE HIM.

JONAH THOUGHT HE WAS RUNNING FROM GOD, BUT HE STARTED PRAYING TO HIM.

LOOK AT WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN.

BE CAREFUL HOW YOU BOAST. TAKE CARE HOW YOU CARRY ON. LIFE HAS TOO MANY STRANGE TWISTS TO IT.

THE STUFF THAT YOU SAY YOU WILL NEVER DO; LIFE HAS A WAY OF MAKING YOU EAT EVERY WORD.

DON'T SAY I'M NOT A SHOUTER. DON'T SAY YOU WILL NEVER RUN AROUND THE CHURCH.

BABY, DON'T SAY I'M TOO SOPHISTICATED TO DANCE AND THROW UP MY HANDS, DON'T SAY THAT.

I'VE SEEN SO MANY FOLK RIGHT IN HERE HAVE TO TAKE IT BACK AND TAKE IT BACK WITH JOY. (CAN I GET A WITNESS?)

DON'T THINK THAT YOU ARE TOO CUTE TO PRAISE HIM. JUST YOU WAIT.

DOES GOD NEED TO USE A WIND TO MAKE YOU PRAISE HIM?

DOES GOD NEED TO FEED YOU TO THE FISH IN ORDER TO FIX YOUR FAITH?

GOD IS GOING TO PREPARE SOME THINGS FOR YOU, AND SEND THEM AFTER YOU TO BRING YOU TO HIM.

GOD WAS NOT TRYING TO KILL JONAH. HE SIMPLY WANTED HIM TO GO TO NINEVEH.

GOD IS SAYING TO SOMEBODY HERE TODAY. I WANT YOU TO GO, AND IF I HAVE TO SCARE ALL THE STUFF OUT OF YOU, I'LL DO IT.

WHY DON'T YOU GO WITHOUT ME DOING IT?

YOU ARE GOING TO LIVE FOR GOD IF HE HAS TO BEAT IT IN YOU.

WHEN GOD PUTS SOME STUFF ON YOU, YOU'LL BE GLAD TO DO IT.

YOU WON'T WALK, YOU'LL RUN.

YOU'LL PAY HIM TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE.

JUST TAKE THIS THING OFF ME, I'LL GO.

MANY OF YOU ARE IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE THE WIND BLEW YOU IN.

YOU DID YOUR OWN THING.

YOU WENT YOUR OWN WAY.

YOU WENT AWAY FROM GOD.

BUT ONE DAY YOU WERE WHIPPED BY THE WIND AND THE WIND BLEW YOU IN HERE.

THAT'S WHY YOU RUN; THAT'S WHY YOU SHOUT.
THAT'S WHY YOU ACT SO CRAZY IN THE CHURCH, BECAUSE THE WIND BLEW YOU IN.

JUST LOOK AT WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN.

SO JONAH CRIES TO THE SELF EXISTENT ONE WHO IS MY ELOHIM.

ELOHIM IS THE CREATIVE NAME FOR GOD.

IT'S THE NAME USED WHEN GOD CREATES.

IN THE BEGINNING ELOHIM CREATED THE HEAVENS AND EARTH.

HERE WE HAVE JONAH PRAYING TO THE SELF EXISTENT ONE, THE ONE THAT NOBODY MADE BUT THE ONE THAT MADE EVERYBODY.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE WHIPPED BY THE WIND?

(I) THE FIRST THING THAT YO DO IS PRAY TO THE LORD RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.

(A) YOU CAN'T BLUFF YOUR WAY OUT OR TRY TO BE CUTE. BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE A LOT CUTER THAT YOU WHO AIN'T MAKING IT.

(1) SO WHEN YOU ARE IN A MESS, YOU PRAY.

(B) JONAH 2:4, "THEN I SAID , I AM CAST OUT OF THY SIGHT; YET I WILL LOOK AGAIN TOWARD THY HOLY TEMPLE."

(1) THIS VERSE TELLS US THAT HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED.

(2) HE SAID, "I'M OUT OF YOUR SIGHT."

(3) THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED ALL ALONG.

(4) BUT THE SAME VERSE SAYS, "I WILL LOOK AGAIN TOWARD THY HOLY TEMPLE.

(5) HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED, SO HE THOUGHT.

(C) IN THE FISH'S BELLY THERE WAS NO LIGHT.

(1) IT WAS RESTRICTIVE, NO ROOM TO MOVE AROUND.

(2) GOD TOLD THE FISH, JUST SWALLOW HIM, DON'T BITE HIM OR CHEW HIM.

(3) SWALLOW HIM WHOLE. I DON'T WANT HIM DEAD, I WANT HIM ALIVE.

(4) SWALLOW HIM AND HOLD HIM.

(5) THAT'S MY PRAYER FOR THE PERSON THAT IS FLEEING THEIR DESIGNED DUTY, THAT YOU BE SWALLOWED AND HELD, NOT KILLED.

- (II) SECOND THING – WHEN YOU ARE BEING WHIPPED BY THE WIND, RECALL THE PROMISES OF GOD.
- (A) JONAH RECALLED GOD’S PROMISE.
- (1) HE SAID, “I WILL LOOK AGAIN TO THY HOLY TEMPLE.”
 - (2) I DO NOT KNOW HOW JONAH FOUND OR KNEW THE WAY TOWARDS THE EAST.
 - (3) HOW COULD HE TELL EAST FROM THE FISH’S BELLY?
- (B) LOOK HERE, IN 1ST KINGS 8:30, GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH SOLOMON AT THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE.
- (1) PART OF THE CONVENANT IS THIS – “IF THESE PEOPLE FALL INTO TROUBLE, IF THEY ARE CAPTURED BY THEIR ENEMIES, IF THEY ARE CARRIED AWAY INTO A STRANGE LAND, IF PESTILENCE COMES UPON THEM, IF THEY ARE STRUCK WITH DISEASES, IF WHEREVER THEY ARE, IF THEY LOOK TOWARDS THIS HOUSE, I WILL HEAR THEIR PRAYERS AND DELIVER THEM FROM THEIR DISTRESSES.
 - (2) THAT’S THE COVENANT THAT GOD MADE.
 - (3) IF YOU CAN GET THERE, TO THE TEMPLE, THE CHURCH HOUSE.
 - (4) IF YOU ARE IN TROUBLE, GET TO THE TEMPLE.
 - (5) BUT IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SUCH THAT YOU CAN’T GET THERE, JUST LOOK TOWARDS THE TEMPLE AND I WILL HEAR YOUR PRAYER AND DELIVER YOU.
- (C) WHERE JONAH WAS, HE COULDN’T GET TO THE TEMPLE.

- (1) IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR JONAH TO GET TO THE TEMPLE; HE WAS IN THE FISH'S BELLY.
 - (2) SO THE BEST THAT HE COULD DO WAS TURN IN THE DIRECTION OF THE TEMPLE AN START PRAYING.
 - (3) AND AS HE PRAYED, GOD HEARD.
 - (4) WELL, BEFORE YOU CAN WORK YOUR WAY OUT OF YOUR MESS, THERE ARE SOME BASIC THINGS THAT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND.
 - (a) YOU GOT TO UNDERSTAND THE COVENANTS AND CONTRACTS THAT GOD HAS MADE.
 - (b) THAT'S WHY YOU GOT TO READ THE BIBLE AND KNOW THE WORD FOR YOURSELF.
 - (c) JONAH KNEW THE WORD.
 - (d) HE KNEW THAT GOD HAD A SPECIAL CONTRACT WITH HIS PEOPLE AND WITH HIS HOUSE, THAT IF YOU LOOK TOWARDS HIS HOUSE, HE'LL MOVE.
- (D) AGAIN, IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL, CHAPTER 6 VS. 10. THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT WHEN DANIEL KNEW THAT THE DECREE HAD BE SIGNED NOT TO PRAY TO ANY OTHER GOD OR MAN OTHER THAN KING DARIOUS, REMEMBER:
- (1) DANIEL KNEW. HE STILL WENT TO HIS QUARTERS AND GOT IN THE WINDOW AND PRAYED TOWARDS JERUSALEM.
 - (2) DANIEL WAS COMPLYING WITH THE CONVENANT.
 - (3) YOU HAD TO LOOK TOWARD THE TEMPLE, HIS WINDOW BEING OPENED.

- (4) DANIEL HAD NOTHING BETWEEN HIM AND THE TEMPLE.
 - (5) DANIEL PRAYED, AND GAVE THANKS, TODAH.
 - (6) IT LITERALLY MEANS TO LIFT YOUR HANDS AND CONFESS WHO AND WHAT GOD IS.
 - (7) IT ALSO MEANS TO RAISE YOUR HANDS AND SHAKE.
 - (8) WHEN YOU SEE PEOPLE WITH THEIR HANDS UP AND THEY ARE SHAKING. THEY ARE GIVING THEIR TODAH.
 - (9) DANIEL LIFTED HIS HANDS AND ROCKED BACK AND FORTH. THAT'S IT.
- (E) THEY ARRESTED DANIEL AND THEY PUT HIM IN THE LION'S DEN, - THEY THOUGHT:
- (1) IT WAS NOT DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN; IT WAS THE LIONS IN DANIEL'S DEN.
 - (2) IF YOU GIVE HIM TODAY, HE'LL TURN LIONS INTO PILLOWS.
 - (3) DANIEL PRAYED FIRST. HE DID NOT PRAY IN THE DEN.
 - (4) THIS LETS ME KNOW SOMETHING – YOU SHOULD PRAY BEFORE YOU EAT.
 - (5) IF YOU DO THAT YOU WILL HAVE A GOOD MEAL.
 - (6) BUT YOU SHOULD ALSO PRAY BEFORE SOMEBODY TRIES TO EAT YOU.
 - (7) IF YOU DO, THEN THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO HARM YOU.

- (8) DANIEL SAID, “LORD I THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD THAT THE LIONS WIL NOT RECEIVE FOR THE NOURISHMENT OF THEIR BODIES FOR CHRIST’S SAKE, AMEN.
- (9) HE LOOKED TOWARD THE TEMPLE AND PRAYED AND GAVE THANKS.
- (10) HE PRAYED AND REMEMBERED THE COVENANTS.
- (11) HE KEPT PRAYING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

(F) HOW DID HE KNOW THE DIRECTION OF THE TEMPLE FORM THE FISH’S BELLY?

- (1) I BELIEVE THAT HE JUST KEPT TURNING AND TWISTING AND PRAYING.
- (2) HE PRAYED THIS WAY AND TWISTED AGAIN AND PRAYED THAT WAY UNTIL HE FELT THE POWER; UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENED; UNTIL HE CONNECTED.
- (3) IF YOU ARE NOT CONNECTING; IF YOU ARE NOT GETTING THROUGH, JUST KEEP TWISTING AND PRAYNG.
- (4) TWIST AND PRAY. TWIST AND PRAY. TWIST AND PRAY. TWIST AND PRAY.
- (5) VERSE 7, “WHEN MY SOUL FAINTED WITHIN ME, I REMEMBERED THE LORD: AND MY PRAYER CAME IN UNTO THEE, INTO THINE HOLY TEMPLE.”

(III) THE THIRD POINT, JONAH SAID THAT WHEN MY SOUL FAINTED, I REMEMBERED THE LORD.

- (A) THAT’S IT. WHEN YOU ARE IN A MESS, WHEN BEING WHIPPED BY THE WIND, REMEMBER THE LORD.

- (1) WHEN THINGS GO WRONG WE SOMEHOW FORGET. THAT'S THE DEVIL.
 - (2) HE DOES AT LEAST TWO THINGS
 - (a) HE TRIES TO MAKE YOU FORGET WHAT GOD HAS DONE.
 - (b) AND HE TRIES TO AMPLIFY YOUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
 - (3) AS LONG AS THE DEVIL CAN MINIMIZE GOD AND AMPLIFY YOUR PROBLEM YOU ARE DEFEATED.
- (B) BUT LOOK AT JONAH, HE REMEMBERED GOD.
- (1) HE KNEW WHAT GOD COULD DO.
 - (2) DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT HE CAN DO? REMEMBER IT.
 - (3) IN THE MIDST OF HIS MESS, HE REMEMBERED GOD.
- (C) MIND YOU NOW, THIS WAS A MESS THAT JONAH BROUGHT UPON HIMSELF.
- (1) HIS, LIKE OURS, IS A SELF-MADE MESS.
 - (2) YOU KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE A MESS BEFORE YOU STARTED IT, BUT YOU DID IT ANYWAY.
 - (3) YOU SAW IT GETTING MESSY AND STAYED IN IT ANYWAY.
 - (4) SELF-MADE MESS.
 - (5) EVEN IN A SELF-MADE MESS, REMEMBER GOD.
- (D) THROWN OFF A SHIP IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD.

(1) SWALLOWED BY A FISH, HE SHOULD BE DEAD.

(2) IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT HE WAS ALIVE. HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD.

(E) SOME OF US HAVE LOOKED DEATH IN THE FACE.

(1) YOU ARE A MIRACLE.

(2) WHEN HIS SOUL FAINTED WITHIN HIM, HE REMEMBERED THE LORD.

(3) IN YOUR SITUATION, REMEMBER THE LORD.

(4) IN DESPAIR, REMEMBER THE LORD.

(5) JONAH RESTED IN GOD.

(6) WHEN YOU THINK IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK, REST ON GOD'S COVENANT.

(7) REST ON HIS PROMISE.

(8) JONAH JUST KEPT TWISTING AND SHOUTING HIS PRAYERS TOWARD THE TEMPLE.

(F) NOTICE THAT UP TILL THIS POINT, JONAH DID EVERYTHING BUT WORSHIP.

(1) HE PRAYED.

(2) HE RESTED IN THE COVENANT.

(3) HE LOOKED TOWARD THE TEMPLE.

(4) HE REMEMBERED WHAT GOD COULD DO.

(5) HE DID EVERYTHING BUT HE HAD NOT WORSHIPPED.

(6) NOW BELOVED, THERE IS POWER IN WORSHIP.

- (7) AND YOU MUST WORSHIP WHEREVER YOU ARE.
- (8) IF YOU ARE IN A MESS AND BEING WORKED ON BY THE WIND, AND YOU WORSHIP.
- (9) GOD WILL TURN YOUR MESS AROUND.
- (G) MESS CONTINUES TO BE MESS BECAUSE YOU REFUSE TO WORSHIP.
 - (1) BUT WHEN YOU WORSHIP, GOD WILL DO SOMETHING IN YOUR MIDST.
 - (2) AFTER YOU PRAY, AFTER YOU HONOR THE COVENANT, AFTER YOU LOOK TOWARD THE TEMPLE, THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE YOU MUST DO. YOU MUST WORSHIP.
 - (3) GIVE UP YOUR TODAH.
 - (4) IN BABYLON, GIVE UP YOUR TODAH.
 - (5) SLAVE... BROKE... EMBARRASSED... A CAPTIVE IN THE BELLY OF A FISH, GIVE UP YOUR TODAH.
 - (6) CHAPTER 2 VS. 9, "BUT I WILL SACRIFICE UNTO THEE WITH THE VOICE OF THANKSGIVING; I WILL PAY THAT THAT HAVE VOWED.
- (H) JONAH SENT UP HIS SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING. THAT'S WORSHIP.
- (IV) THAT'S THE FOURTH THING; YOU GOT TO WORSHIP.
 - (A) WHEN I OFFER THE SACRIFICE, I AM SPLATTERED WITH THE BLOOD.
 - (1) I HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF.
 - (2) THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT MAKE ME DO IT.

- (3) I MAKE ME DO IT.
- (4) THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT MAKE YOU RAISE UP YOUR HANDS.
- (5) YOU SPIRIT MAKES YOU LIFT YOUR HANDS.
- (6) I WILL OFFER MY SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING.
- (7) IT IS A CONSCIOUS ACTION ON YOUR PART.
- (8) IT IS NOT FEELING THE SPIRIT. IT'S A PLANNED RESPONSE ON MY PART.

(B) NOW, THE FISH'S BELLY WAS A RESTRICTED AREA.

- (1) THERE WAS NOT A LOT OF ROOM.
- (2) I DON'T KNOW HOW JONAH DID IT.
- (3) I DON'T KNOW HOW JONAH RAISED HIS HANDS IN THE FISH'S BELLY.
- (4) BUT JONAH SENT UP HIS SACRIFICE OF PRAISE FROM THE BELLY.

(C) THE BIBLE IS CLEAR WHAT WHEN YOU WORSHIP, THE WHOLE BODY IS INVOLVED IN IT.

- (1) YOU CAN'T WORSHIP GOD SITTING STILL. ESPECIALLY, IF YOU ARE IN A MESS AND THE WIND IS BLOWING AGAINST YOU.
- (2) DON'T YOU DARE SIT THERE AND TRY TO LOOK CUTE.
- (3) YOU BETTER GET IN ON IT.
- (4) USE YOUR WHOLE ANATOMY.
- (5) YOUR HANDS, YOUR FEET, YOUR EYES, YOUR LEGS... WORSHIP WITH YOUR ALL.

(D) WHEN JONAH GAVE THANKS TO GOD THINGS STARTED HAPPENING.

- (1) THE FISH STILL HAD HIM.
- (2) BUT WHEN JONAH LIFTED HIS HANDS, THE FISH HAD TO LET HIM GO.
- (3) WORSHIP YOUR WAY OUT OF A SITUATION.
- (4) WHEN YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE, WORSHIP.

(E) AFTER, HE GAVE THANKS, GOD SPOKE TO THE FISH.

- (1) THAT'S HOW HE MADE IT.
- (2) WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO WORSHIP. GIVE TODAH.
- (3) IF YOU WORSHIP, THE FISH CAN'T HOLD YOU.
- (4) IF YOU WORSHIP, THE WIND CAN'T WIN.
- (5) THE WAY OUT OF YOUR MESS IS TO RAISE YOUR HANDS AND GIVE GOD YOUR TODAH.
WORSHIP!!!