

# JONAH'S PRAYER

*jonah 2*



## SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Phil went over Jonah's prayer in the belly of the great fish that God had prepared for him. Although his prayer may sound poetic and give off an impression of religious piety, it is simply a religious prayer. Every line out of his prayer comes from one of the psalms, and there is a lack of confession and remorse. It's frightening to see how well versed this prophet can be and how religious his prayers can be when his heart is so removed from the heart of God. We are no different. We are more like Jonah than we care to admit.

However, God is not discouraged by our wretchedness and will continue to work through us even in the midst of our religiosity. If we will turn to Him, He is faithful to work in us.

Even though Jonah's prayer is religious, it does not mean God will not use it as a prophetic encouragement for people. We see how it was a prophetic encouragement for the Jews during their exile in Babylon as they also were in the "belly of the beast." Ultimately, this prayer is a prophetic encouragement for all of humanity because of the prophetic declaration at the end of his prayer - Salvation belongs to the Lord. Salvation belongs to Jesus.



## OUTLINE

1

### JONAH'S RELIGIOUS PRAYER

Though Jonah's prayer is full of flowery language and religiously pious words, it is lacking in remorse and confession. It is, ultimately, a religious prayer. This goes to show that all of us can put on a religious mask and appear godly in our words and actions when deep down we are struggling and not doing well. We must be careful to have a soft heart towards God so that He can confront the offensive and rebellious ways within us.

2

### PROPHETIC ENCOURAGEMENT

This 'religious' prayer is still used as a prophetic encouragement for many people. For the Jews who were in exile in Babylon, they identified with Jonah. They too were in the 'belly of the beast' (Babylon) and seemed to be drowning as their enemies were safe. Nevertheless, they put their hope in the Lord who would deliver them once more.

This is a prophetic encouragement not just for the Jews, but for all of humanity, because the Lord is not just going to deliver the Jews from Babylon, but all of humanity from the grips of sin and death!



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Do you recall a time when you encountered God's divine love? How did it change you or draw you out from a place of sin?

2

Share a time when your actions didn't reflect your heart. How often does your public outer influence take priority over than your inner heart?

3

Read through Psalm 139. What core thoughts/questions come up as we prepare to pray this psalm and internalize its message?

4

Do you feel like you're in a pit in life right now? What is God doing? Or, do you feel the nation is being swallowed up right now? What is God doing right now?

5

How does Jonah's proclamation, "Salvation comes from the Lord" give us hope during our current circumstances and for the future?



## BIG IDEA

The last statement that Jonah prays is a prophetic one that ought to remind us that salvation belongs to the Lord (Jesus). No matter what circumstance we may be in - in good health or bad, in plenty or lack, in freedom or bondage, we can have an eternal hope because of what Jesus has done. He will come and deliver us from the 'pit of sheol' because He has