

**April 15 - Jonah 2 – In The Word Class at Bel Air
Dave and Nancy Worth**

The contents of Jonah 2 correspond in several ways to the contents in chapter 1:

The Sailors	
<u>1:4</u>	Crisis on the sea
<u>1:14</u>	Prayer to Yahweh
<u>1:15b</u>	Deliverance from the storm
<u>1:16</u>	Sacrifice and vows offered to God
The Prophet	
<u>2:3-6a</u>	Crisis in the sea
<u>2:2, 7</u>	Prayer to Yahweh
<u>2:6b</u>	Deliverance from drowning
<u>2:9</u>	Sacrifice and vows offered to God

Jonah's Prayer

“Jonah’s prayer is not spontaneously original self-expression. It is totally derivative. Jonah had been to school to learn to pray, and he prayed as he had been taught. His school was the Psalms... Not a word in the prayer is original. Jonah got every word – lock, stock, and barrel – out of his Psalms book.” *Under the Unpredictable Plant* by Eugene Peterson.

- “in my distress I called to the Lord and He answered me” from 18:6 and 120:1
- Sheol” from 18:4-5
- “from the depths of the grave” from 86:13
- “hurled me into the deep” from 88:6
- “all your waves and billows passed over me” from 42:7
- “I have been banished from your sight” from 31:22
- “from your presence” from 139:7
- “upon your holy temple” from 5:7
- “the waters closed in over me” from 69:2
- “my life from the pit” from 30:3
- “when my life was ebbing away I remembered you” from 77:11-12
- “my soul fainted within me” from 142:3
- “into your holy temple” from 11:4 and 18:6
- “with a song of thanksgiving” from 42:4
- “will sacrifice” from 50:14, 23
- “what I have vowed” from 116:14
- “deliverance belongs to the Lord” from 3:8

Questions to consider:

1. When have you been rescued from a difficult situation?
2. How has God pursued you when you have tried to avoid Him?
3. When have bad circumstances turned out for your good?
4. How can you thank the Lord right now for all the remarkable ways He has delivered you?

A Psalm of Thanksgiving NRSV

**Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying,
“I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.
³ You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.
⁴ Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight;
how^b shall I look again upon your holy temple?’
⁵ The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped around my head⁶ at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God.
⁷ As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord;
and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.
⁸ Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty.
⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!”
¹⁰ Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.**

Jonah 2 – The Message

Then Jonah prayed to his God from the belly of the fish.
He prayed: “In trouble, deep trouble, I prayed to God. He answered me.
From the belly of the grave I cried, ‘Help!’ You heard my cry.
You threw me into ocean’s depths, into a watery grave,
With ocean waves, ocean breakers crashing over me.
I said, ‘I’ve been thrown away, thrown out, out of your sight.
I’ll never again lay eyes on your Holy Temple.’
Ocean gripped me by the throat. The ancient Abyss grabbed me and held tight.
My head was all tangled in seaweed at the bottom of the sea where the mountains take root.
I was as far down as a body can go, and the gates were slamming shut behind me forever—
Yet you pulled me up from that grave alive, O God, my God!
When my life was slipping away, I remembered God,
And my prayer got through to you, made it all the way to your Holy Temple.
Those who worship hollow gods, god-frauds, walk away from their only true love.
But I’m worshipping you, God, calling out in thanksgiving!
And I’ll do what I promised I’d do! Salvation belongs to God!”
¹⁰Then God spoke to the fish, and it vomited up Jonah on the seashore.