

In the first chapter of the book, Jonah finds himself attempting to flee the presence of the Lord, running futilely in the opposite direction he was directed to go. In his rebellion, the Lord sends a tempest and eventually Jonah is thrown into the sea where a giant fish is appointed to swallow him. What follows in the second chapter reads less like a historical narrative and more like a psalm of thanksgiving.

Jonah 2:1-10

Jonah's Prayer

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

God's presence in our lives is not always noticed. We are easily distracted and seldom cognizant of His work and wonder. In His infinite grace and mercy He has his ways of showing us His presence or plan. In revealing His plans to us, He sometimes will strongly guide us in the direction He would have us go, all to bring about His greater purposes.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW often do you find your plans in conflict with God's plans?

WHAT circumstances have you faced that caused you to reject (or realign) to the Lord's plans for your life?

WHEN you've rebelled from God's plans, how have you respond to His correction?

WHAT is the difference between compliance and contrition, when it comes to the Lord's direction in your life?

Jonah 2:1-10

Jonah's Prayer

Read Jonah 2:1-10

OBSERVATION

Where does Jonah pray from in vs. 1?

As Jonah prayerfully recalls his prayer, where is he in vs. 2-3?

How does Jonah describe his situation in vs. 3-6?

At what point does Jonah remember the Lord, according to vs. 7?

Where does Jonah say he looked in vs. 4 and again in vs. 7?

What contrast is mentioned in vs. 8?

In vs. 9, what does Jonah say he *will* do?

INTERPRETATION

As you consider vs. 1-2 (the tense of the verses and the location from which Jonah prays) how many prayers seem to be referenced?

What is Sheol? Consider 1 Samuel 2:6, Job 7:9-10, and Psalm 6:5 for reference.

Why does Jonah seem to fix his eyes on the Lord's holy temple (vs. 4, 7)? What insight does Psalm 18:6 and 1 Kings 8:27-30 give?

As the passage ends, Jonah makes a future promise to the Lord (vs. 9). Is that what the Lord wants from Jonah, ultimately? Consider David's words in Psalm 51:10, 16-17 for insight.

What seems to be lacking in Jonah's prayer? What does he not say that should God long to hear? See 1 John 1:9.

In Matthew 12 the Pharisees and Scribes challenge Jesus and his authority. What do they desire in vs. 38-41, specifically and how does Jesus respond? What is the connection to this passage in Jonah?

How was Jonah more compliant than he was contrite? What do we see in Jonah 3:4 and chapter 4 that gives insight to where his heart may have been in regards to the matter?

APPLICATION

When it comes to God's work throughout your life, where would you say you've been compliant? Where have you been contrite? What would you say were the reasons for each? How were they both "achieved"?