

INTRODUCTION

If Jonah had been obedient to the LORD his God from the get go, all we will be left with in the book of 44 verses will be 10 verses (chapter 1:1-2 and Chapter 3:3-10). But in Gods kindness, we see that he saw it fit to put this account in scripture not to paint the picture of Jonah as a bad man or a disobedient prophet (which he was) but more so to highlight his goodness and grace to a person/people undeserving of Grace. We are reminded in scripture “that these things happened to them as an example, and was written down for our instruction” 1 Cor 10:11. Bare in mind again that God is the main character in this story. Not the fish or Jonah. This section covers the prayer of Jonah in the water and while he was in the belly of the fish (Ch 1:17). It concludes with Jonah’s submission through repentance saying “Salvation is of the LORD”

READ CHAPTER JONAH 1:17- 2:1-10

1. God, the cause of Jonahs Distress (1:17-2:1-6a)

Jonah was in a situation of defiance against God to the point where he thought that he’d rather die than be obedient to God... but when met with the reality of death he prays.

- a) In what way do you see that these verses relate (or apply) to you?
- b) What should be the believer’s disposition in distressing situations?
- c) Why does God allow distressing situations in believers’ lives?

2. God, the deliverer from Jonahs distress (CH 2:6b-9a)

- a) Looking at Jonahs response in these verses, what do we learn about how to respond to God?
- b) What’s the cause of apathetic worship? (Discuss)

3. God, the conqueror of Jonah’s defiance. (ch 2:9b-10)

Jonah exclaims that “salvation is of the LORD!” The statement points to the sovereignty of God in salvation and the exclusivity of God in salvation...

- a) Discuss how God might choose to use unlikely means to save the least deserving of people.

CONCLUSION

The whole section primarily deals with Jonahs experience in distress. In the end he came to the conclusion that God wanted him to come to. “Salvation is of the LORD”. The same goes for us as well, when we go through corrective situations which might take the form of distress or chastening, let’s remember who’s behind it and learn to submit ourselves to the process of his grace.

PRAYER

- Pray that the LORD will grant the ability to repent through distressing situations.
- Thank the LORD that he is always in control.
- Pray for continual grace through distressful situations