

JONAH 2:1-6 Notes:

When we left Jonah in chapter 1, we left him in the belly of the fish. We have every reason to believe that's the end of the story. We should hear from him no more. Either he would be destroyed in the waters of the sea or he would be consumed in the bowels of that leviathan (The word leviathan means a sea monster mentioned in [Job 41:19, 21](#) – “*out of those mouths go burning lamps, and sparks of fire, and whose breath kindles coals.*” Leviathan means any huge marine animal, such as a whale.

In Chapter 2, *GOD HEARS FROM JONAH. HE IS PRAYING.* In Chapter 3 *NINEVEH HEARS FROM JONAH. HE IS PREACHING.*

1. The great distress and danger that he was in is mentioned in [Jonah 2:2, 3, 5 & 6](#) (read).
2. The despair he was almost reduced to is described in [Jonah 2:4](#).
3. Encouragement in a deplorable condition is presented in [Jonah 2:4, & 7](#).
4. Jonah's assurance in God's favor is found in [Jonah 2:6, 7](#).
5. Jonah gives warning and instruction to others ([Jonah 2:8](#)).
6. Praise and glory all given to God ([Jonah 2:9](#)).
7. Jonah's deliverance-the Lord did it ([Jonah 2:10](#)).

JONAH PRAYED. His prayer chapel was a smelly, damp, dark, dingy dungeon.

Note:

1. *When* he prayed:
 - When he was in trouble – God was displeased.
 - When he was in affliction.
 - When he was humbled and softened in heart.
 - When he realized true need.
 - When doing the will of God became more important.

JONAH 2:1-6 Notes: (Continued)

2. *Where* he prayed:

Where was he?

- He was in the stomach of the fish; note the scripture: *“I will that men pray everywhere”*. Heaven is equally accessible from any part of the earth, including the sea.
- Can you really pray in confinement when the belly of the fish was his prison? Oh Yes!
- Even though this fish became a closed and dark dungeon to Jonah, he walked in liberty in his mind in Prayer and communion to God.
- Men may shut us out from communion with one another, but *not* from fellowship with God.

3. *To whom* did He Pray? *“To the Lord His God.”* He has been fleeing, but now sees the folly of it. The way back to the one from whom he was fleeing is through Prayer. Oh, how wonderful is the mercy of God.

4. Substance of Prayer – Jonah afterwards reflected upon the *content* of his prayer:

(1) He saw the earnestness of his Prayer: *“I cried, by reason of my affliction, unto the Lord.”* Many, who do not pray in prosperity, pray earnestly in affliction. Is affliction really good for us? Jonah describes this condition as *“Out of the belly of hell and the grave, cried I.”*

(2) The fish might well be called the *GRAVE*.

(3) Jonah saw his deplorable condition in the belly of hell. Jonah was saying in [verse 3](#) that the mariners did not really cast him here—*OH GOD-YOU DID IT! “Thou hast cast me into the deep.”*

It was awful – *“the floods compassed me about.”* – *“The waters closed in over me”* – *“The deep was round about me.”* – *“Weeds were wrapped about my head.”*

AT THIS POINT, WHO CAN BE TRUSTED TO HELP? IS THIS A “NO WATER SITUATION”?

IT IS A TOO MUCH WATER SITUATION? OR A NO WATER SITUATION WITH TOO MUCH WATER? TO GET OUT OF THIS PRISON (THE FISH), AND BE CAST OVERBOARD WOULD BE INTO MORE WATER!! DEEP WATER!!!

JONAH 2:1-6 Notes: (Continued)

5. REMEMBER:

Many times God's children are encompassed with the floods of affliction; troubles that are very forcible and violent. Jonah quotes [Psalm 42:7](#) – *“All thy billows and thy waves passed over me”*. He was saying, “I know that the path I travel is not an un-trodden journey. David walked that way-If others fail, and recover, I, too, have *HOPE! BUT ONLY IN THE LORD.*”

[Jonah 2:6](#) – This passage reveals that Jonah *“went down to the land whose bars closed upon him”* he thought *“forever”*. Everything seemed closed, shut, barred, and locked!

- Everything was now bolted against him.
- He was cut off—helpless, hopeless!
- Is this the end? Is this all?
- Is the physical existence case of Jonah being consummated?
- Comfortable enjoyments-joyful expectations seem now to be a thing of the past.
- What about Job on the dunghill? Joseph in the Pit? David in the cave?

The worse thing that Jonah could think of concerning his situation was: “I am cast out from thy presence” ([Jonah 2:4](#)). At one time, he was running from his presence. NOW he is saying, *“There is nothing worse than to be cast out of His presence.”*

WHAT HE DESPERATELY WANTED NOW; HE WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM EARLIER! THE ONLY WAY OUT---IS UP!!!

[Psalm 27:13](#) – David *“would have fainted if he had not believed.”* Jonah said: *“I will look again toward thy holy temple...”*

[2 Corinthians 4:8, 9](#) – *“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed.”*