**Jonah’s “Submarine” Ride**

***Jonah 2:1-10***

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Introduction: This Book of Jonah reveals to us the character of God. Though consisting of just 48 verses, the name of God occurs more than 40 times. God demonstrates His compassion, not only for a decadent people but also for a disobedient prophet. Thus God is revealed as Savior (by His saving compassion), as Sovereign (by His sovereign control), & as Speaker (by His searching conviction). This morning we noted Jonah’s disobedience as we saw him conniving in the ship. We observed that Jonah’s disobedience indicated not only his insensitivity to the will of God but also his insensitivity to the welfare of others. Our sin always affects more than just us. God’s sovereignty was demonstrated by His sending the storm, directing the lot, & preparing the fish. And we witnessed God’s compassion as He spared the lives & saved the souls of the sailors on that ship headed to Tarshish. Consider with me tonight Jonah confessing in the fish (or his distress), as we see the substance & the subsequence of his prayer. Note that the chastening hand of God should lead to the confessing heart of man.

 II. Jonah’s **confessing** in the fish > his distress – chapter 2

 [Note that Jonah is saved from drowning with “split-second” timing.]

 A. The substance of his prayer (2:1-8)

 1. It was **sincere**:

 a. His affliction sends him to praying (:1-6) >

 (1) Affliction is often sent by God to the backslidden or disobedient believer in

 order to restore him to right living & serving (God’s graciousness).

 (2) Psalm 119:67, *“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now* *have I kept thy*

 *word.”* Psalm 119:71, *“It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I*

 *might learn thy statutes.”* [N.T. parallels? Hebrews 12:4-11; II Cor. 12:1-10.]

b. His confessing leads him to praising (:6b-8) >

 (1) *“...Yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God.”* -

 prayer of faith for his future deliverance.

 (2) *“...My prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.”* - Jonah looks toward

 that place where God (Who fills both heaven & earth) has chosen to manifest

 Himself to men on earth & reconcile them to Himself.

 2. It was **Scriptural**:

 a. His prayer is saturated with references from the Psalms. Could you formulate such a

 prayer?

 b. His prayer reflects the seriousness of his circumstances as well as the state of mind

 of one in complete dependence upon God. “By faith Jonah sees his deliverance granted &

 thanks God for it before it is actually accomplished” (Feinberg).

 B. The subsequence of his prayer (:9-10)

 1. His **obedience** to the will of God:

 a. His voice of “singing” >

 (1) The acknowledgment of his gratitude - not the appeasement of a god.

 (2) Psalm 50:14, 23, *“Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the*

 *Most High” - “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth*

 *his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.”*

 b. His vow of serving >

 (1) Compare the reaction of the sailors in 1:16, *“...offered a sacrifice unto the Lord,*

 *and made vows,”* with the response of Jonah here, *“...I will pay that that I have*

 *vowed.”*

 (2) Consider how God likens the acts of those new heathen converts to that which

 now Jonah offers to indicate their devotion to God is the same.

 2. His **deliverance** from the “servant” of God:

 a. The sovereign command of the Lord >

 (1) Compare God’s previous command of the wind (1:4).

 (2) Consider God’s “nature servants” always obey.

 b. The submissive conduct of the fish >

 (1) What a rebuke for the disobedient prophet to evidence the immediate response

 of the fish. “Would to God that we all, as servants of the living God in Christ, were as

 willing to obey each word from God as were the wind, storm, & the fish” (Feinberg).

 (2) What a relief for the disobedient prophet to “surface” upon the dry ground. The fish

 vomited Jonah up; a backslidden prophet makes even a fish sick to its stomach!

Conclusion: We leave Jonah tonight safe on the shore of Palestine. Having initially resisted the call of God on his life, he has now repented & is about to be re-commissioned. What lessons are there for us in this part of Jonah’s life? Spiritual disobedience leads to severe chastening (chapter 1), for the writer to the Hebrews states, *“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?* (Hebrews 12:7). God’s chastening leads to Jonah’s confessing. So, too, the chastening hand of God’s affliction should lead us to confess our sin & find His forgiveness (I John 1:9; Hebrews 12:11). Recall the words of the Psalmist who said, *“It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes”* (Psalm 119:71). God’s chastening & Jonah’s confessing also indicate our need of continuing in the Word of God. Having a heart saturated with God’s Word as our comfort & companion sustains us in our time of need. Such continuing in the Word of God will leads us to singing & serving, as we praise our God & promise anew our service to Him. And again, we learn the lesson of God’s controlling the affairs on earth, demonstrated by His sovereignty over His creation, specifically here over one creature, the *“great fish.”* Such sovereign control ought to convict, challenge, as well as comfort those who submit to the One who works all things together for His glory & for our good. Will you & I hear & heed these lessons of chastening, confessing, continuing, & controlling?