

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

## SERMON OUTLINE

By James M. Duncan, Pastor

AUGUST 26, 2018

SERIES#4 - UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF JONAH

### “THE PREACHER ON THE RUN - And Advanced Biblical Correction”

#### Jonah 1:17; 2:1-10

Every fisherman is known for their tales. When fishermen catch a big fish, they tend to exaggerate the size and story of how they caught the fish. (AMEN!) It seems every time they tell the story the fish gets a little bit bigger. The battle gets a little bit tougher and the glory gets a little bit greater.

Jonah didn't tell about the big one that he caught, but about the big one that caught him. Here - **We are reminded of the great folly of Jonah, the great fish for Jonah, and the great Father of Jonah.** This text teaches us about some facts about God's discipline.

#### I. THE DILEMMA OF DISOBEDIENCE 1:17

##### A. *The CONTROL of the Circumstances V. 17a*

God was in control of the winds, the water, the weather, the waves, and the whale.

The word translated '*prepared*' literally means “appointed” or “assigned”. Jesus believed that the fish swallowed Jonah and I believe Jesus. I want you to turn with to **Matthew 12:38-40. God prepared the fish for Jonah. It was a designer fish that had Jonah's name written all over it.**

##### B. *The CONDITION of the Circumstances V-17b*

Numerous stories of men being swallowed alive by whales—and surviving the ordeal - have been validated. For example, the story of **James Bartley** who was on the whaling ship *Star of the East* near the Falkland Islands.

The Lord Jesus referred to Jonah's ordeal as a type of His death, burial, and resurrection in Matthew 12:40. The likelihood is that Jonah died in the belly of the fish and was miraculously resurrected at the end of the third night is something we should carefully consider. Many have never ever considered **the fact that Jonah might have died in the Great Fish.** A man who was miraculously kept alive for three days and three nights does not seem to be an exact parallel of the Lord, who was dead and buried for three days and three nights from Matthew 12:40. Probably Jonah uttered his prayer just before he lost consciousness.

Jonah was in a great dilemma because of his disobedience. To Jonah, dying in the belly of a fish was unpleasant, but going to Nineveh to preach to the lost was also unpleasant. In chapter 1:17, we've noticed the **DILEMMA OF THE DISOBEDIENT.** In the first nine verse of chapter two we notice

#### II. THE DESPAIR OF THE DISOBEDIENT Vs.1-9

##### A. *Brings a Prayer to God Vs. 1-7*

##### 1. *The PLACE of Prayer V.1, 2b*

Jonah's prayer came from the belly of the fish. **Johnny Hunt said, “The belly of the fish is not a happy place to live, but it's a healthy place to learn.”** That's a good word!

Jonah's despair could have driven him further away from God, but we learn in verse one that his despair drove him to God.

From Jonah's perspective, he was in the place of the dead. Jonah calls the place “**Hell**” and the Word is literally “**Sheol**” used in the NKJV. Now “**Sheol**” means “grave” or “death”. Listen to what **J. Vernon McGee** wrote:

In verse 1 and in verse 2b, we've seen the **place of prayer.** In the first part of verse 2 we see:

##### 2. *The PURPOSE of the Prayer V-2a*

**Warren Wiersbe** wrote, “*His prayer was born out of affliction, not affection. He cried out to God because he was in danger, not because he delighted in the Lord.*” The purpose of this prayer was to get immediate relief from the circumstances.

“**Affliction**” here means “trouble, anguish, distress.” Jonah desired to be saved out of the fish for personal relief not for faithful obedience. When we go to God in prayer we need to search our hearts to make sure we pray to Him in the right way and for the right reasons.

Jonah's despair drove him to prayer, has yours? Are you in a dilemma today because of your disobedience? Are you in God's school of correction? Are you learning from your time in class?