

Title: Jonah 180 II – the God who saves
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A book of repentance. 180. Written 750BC, yet it has a message still relevant for us all. It carries a message for every Christian, a message for the modern day Church and also a message to every unbeliever in the world.

Jo - the Super prophet

“Finally a prophet with a positive message!”

The God who pursues

Jonah 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.”*

Jonah 1:15-17 ¹⁵ *So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.* ¹⁶ *Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows.* ¹⁷ *Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

The Lord had prepared: God made a plan.

Stubborn hearts

Luke 11:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.*

****Even the miraculous will not persuade those with hard hearts.**

Evil generation - God doesn't divide people between good and bad, but between *humble and proud*. They were evil, because they were proud and stubborn.

"Show us a sign!" they say. No other sign but the sign of Jonah the prophet. *What sign is that? **Over 500 people saw Jesus just before He ascended into heaven.

The power of the storm – either make you bitter or better

Jonah 2:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ *Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.* ² *And he said: “I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, and He answered me. “Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice.*

Because of my affliction: The proud do not turn to God. The proud are too blind to realise they are dying. Yet affliction is a powerful tool in the hands of God to turn us to Him, to cause our hearts to become humble before Him.

The Great Disappearing act

Jonah 2:3–4 (NKJV) ³ *For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.* ⁴ *Then I said, ‘I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.’*

Biggest mistake people make: “First try to sort out my life before I can come to God”. ***shower?** do you wash yourself before you get into the shower?

Going overboard

Jonah 2:5 (NKJV) ⁵ *The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head.*

*Being overboard – **Spitwad and Slimeball love darkness. They hate the light. *Anything kept in the dark, gives them power over your life.* **Process of destruction! Bring it to the light. Confess.

Game over – it is forever

Jonah 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶ *I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me **forever**; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God.*

Obstacles – a block to God's love

Jonah 2:8 (ESV) ⁸ *Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.*

Why am I not experiencing God's amazing love? Often because of obstacles in our hearts.

Idols? What are you putting your trust in, other than God? What distracts you? What has got a hold of your heart, more than the love of God?

Salvation is of the Lord

Jonah 2:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ *But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.* ¹⁰ *So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*