

**Date:** 9 Oct 2022

**Scripture Passage:** Jonah 2:1-10

**Title:** Salvation is of the LORD

## **Introduction**

- Jonah tried running away from God. He was an experienced preacher, but was likely undergoing a crisis of faith. He was not able to reconcile God's covenant with Israel and mercy extended to the wicked Ninevites.
- Jonah was thrown overboard and swallowed up by a big fish. The 3 days & 3 nights in the belly of the fish is a sign of Christ's death & resurrection (Matt. 12:40). God used the event to save the mariners who in turn worshipped Jehovah and made vows (1:16).
- This message is about salvation that is found in Jesus Christ who died and rose to make atonement for sin.

## **Atonement for sin is needed (v 1-4)**

- The Lord was merciful. God was there from the beginning. He was in control of all things, including the storm. Even the fish was prepared by the Lord (1:17). When Jonah was in the belly of the fish, he prayed and cried out to God. Salvation is by grace, from beginning to end. God takes the initiative, without which there is no hope. We did not accept Christ, it was Christ who accepted us.
- Jonah was genuinely repentant. He cried out to the Lord and acknowledged that it was his fault, and that his circumstances were a judgement from the Lord (3). The Lord answered him (1b). When we pray, it ought to be genuine from the heart. True repentance to be distinguished from worldly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10).

## **Atonement is by Christ's death alone (v 5-6)**

- Jonah was as good as dead. The description in v6 shows his awareness that he was as good as dead. There was no possibility of escape. He was at the bottom when he sought atonement from God. "O LORD" are words reflecting reverence & worship. "My God" are words of gratitude and adoration. While Jonah's deliverance is by the mercy of God, the means was Christ's atoning death. Jonah looked, by faith, to the holy temple in Jerusalem (v4b). His life was brought up from the pit (v6b), to point us to Christ's resurrection (Matt. 12:40). Christ has accomplished the work of salvation on the cross, while the sinner must come to Him by faith.

## **Atonement is accompanied by new life (v 7-10)**

- Jonah's response of faith is prayer. He was trusting in the atoning work of Christ, shown by burnt offerings in the temple (v 4 & 7). It is Jehovah who shows His mercy in Christ. Jonah experienced the deliverance of God and it led him to thanksgiving and commitment to the Lord (1:16). The deeper the sense of gratitude, the clearer the commitment. The clearer the sense of gratitude, the deeper the commitment. What about us today? What thanksgiving and commitment there will be when we know from what depth of sin we were saved! The Lord spoke, and it was done (v 10). The Lord may be trusted as we pray. Do we pray in faith?
- Atonement for sins made by Christ, who died & rose for His people. Hear His call today. Come!