

Jonah 2 Sample Observations.

Based on the English Standard Version

Jonah 2:1. Title: Jonah prayed to the LORD from the belly of the fish.

Who? Jonah

What? Jonah prayed

To whom? To the LORD his God

Where? From the belly of the fish,

Jonah 2:2-7. Title: Jonah prayed to the LORD in his distress while drowning, and the LORD rescued him before he died.

2:2. What did Jonah do? Saying, “I called out to the LORD

What were his emotions? Out of my distress

What does this mean? This appears to be a prayer that Jonah prayed while in the midst of drowning.

What did the LORD do? And He answered me

2:3. What did Jonah do? I cried for help

From what place? from the depth of Sheol;¹

What did the LORD do? You heard my voice.

So what? It is almost never too late to pray to God and ask Him for help!

2:3. How did he get to the depth of Sheol?

For You had cast me into the deep

Where? Into the heart of the seas.

¹ Jonah 2:3. Sheol: *shē ōl'* ([7585](#)), “the place of the dead” ([JTB](#)).

How bad was it?

And the current engulfed me.

All your breakers and billows passed over me.

2:4. What was Jonah's reaction when he realized he was going to drown?

What did he say to the LORD? So I said, "I have been expelled from your sight."

What did he resolve? "Nevertheless, I will look again toward Your holy temple."²

2:5. What continued to happen to Jonah in the water?

Water encompassed me to the point of death.

What were Jonah's sensations?

The great deep engulfed me.

How far down was he? Weeds were wrapped around

2:6. How far down did Jonah go?

I descended to the roots of the mountains. (What does this mean?)

What did he conclude? The earth with its bars was around me forever,

What was his conclusion after he had been "saved" by being swallowed by the great fish? "But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD"

² Jonah 2:4. "I will look again toward Your holy temple." The background: 1 Kings 8:30. Solomon's prayer to God at the Dedication of the Temple:

30 Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

1 Kings 8:33-34

33 "When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy, [in Jonah's case, the Sea] because they have sinned against You, if they turn to You again and confess Your name and pray and make supplication to You in this house, 34 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.

2:7. How did the LORD save him?

When? "While my life was fainting away,"

What? "I remembered the LORD"

What happened? "And my prayer came to you

Where? Into Your holy temple

Jonah 2:8-9. Title: Jonah repented of his idolatry and resolved to thank God publicly and to keep the vow he has made.

2:8. What did Jonah conclude about himself and why he had fled?

How does he characterize himself? Those who pay regard to vain idols ³

What do they do (and what had he done)? Forsake their hope of steadfast love.

2:9. What promises did Jonah make while he was lying in the belly of the great fish?

What would he do? "But"

How? "With the voice of thanksgiving."

What? Will sacrifice to you;

What would he do in regard to his vow? "What I have vowed I will pay."

Question: What did Jonah vow? I believe he vowed that if the LORD would save him from the belly of the great fish, he would go to Nineveh and deliver to the people the message the LORD had asked him to give

Did he believe the LORD would rescue him? "Salvation belongs to the LORD!" (I would say, "Yes!")

³ Jonah 2:8: What were Jonah's vain idols? Personally, I think his idols were the people of his own nation. He wanted to preserve them more than obeying God and taking God's message of judgment (and potential forgiveness) to raw pagans (the Ninevites).

Jonah 2:10. Title: The LORD commanded the fish, and it obeyed and vomited Jonah upon dry land.

How did the LORD respond to Jonah's confession and vow of obedience? And the LORD spoke to the fish,

Did the fish obey the LORD? And it vomited Jonah out

Where? Upon the dry land. ⁴ By James T. Bartsch

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Last updated March 3, 2024

⁴ Jonah 2:10. Was the fish partly in and out of the water when it vomited Jonah on to the dry land? Possibly. But perhaps, more likely, the fish beached itself on the dry land and there vomited Jonah out. If so, the fish obediently gave up its life so that Jonah might live. We might say that the fish was more instantly obedient the LORD than Jonah was. Jonah got a second chance. I suspect the fish did not.