

Salvation is of the Lord

Jonah, Part III

Jonah 2:1-3:3a

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An Outline of Jonah

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| 1:1-3 | <i>Jonah Disobeys God</i> |
| 1:4-17 | <i>God Pursues Jonah</i> |
| 2:1-10 | <i>Jonah Turns to God</i> |
| 3:1-4 | <i>Jonah Obeyes God</i> |
| 3:5-10 | <i>God Delivers Nineveh</i> |
| 4:1-11 | <i>Jonah Complains Against God</i> |

I. Introduction

To *turn in faith to the Lord Jesus* is to *turn away from the sin* that distorts and destroys us – this is true when He first converts us to faith in Jesus, but it is also true throughout our lives as God sanctifies us, delivering us from our remaining sin and conforming us to the image of Jesus. God’s salvation always manifests itself in _____ and *faith* – turning *from sin to Christ*.

II. The Humbled Prophet

⁶*Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.* (Is 55:6-7)

A. Introduction (1-2a)

B. Jonah’s Prayer for Deliverance (2b-7)

J.I. Packer once wrote that, “*On his knees, every Christian is a _____.*” When we pray, we don’t hem and haw; we don’t hedge God’s sovereign control; we regularly pray for Him to intervene in our own and others’ lives. And this is what we witness in Jonah’s prayer. God is the sovereign Lord. So Jonah prays that God would rescue him and God graciously answers.

C. Jonah’s Vow of Faithfulness (8-9)

Jonah’s experience of God’s merciful salvation then evokes from him a vow of faithfulness (8-9). The phrase behind “*worthless idols*” is actually “*empty nothings*.” Hence, those who worship idols “*forsake their own Mercy*” (8b). They forsake the only One who can deliver them from their afflictions and their troubles. There is only one Savior – Jesus Christ. “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

Jonah’s vow serves as a direct rebuke of Israel. Israel in Jonah’s day was in widespread rebellion against God. As God declared through the prophet Hosea:

⁴*“O [Israel], what shall I do to you?... For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, And like the early dew it goes away. ⁵Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth. ⁶For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. ⁷But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; There they dealt treacherously with Me.”* (Hos 6:4-7)

God had disciplined Israel, predicting devastation through the prophets, summoning them back to faithfulness. But *like _____*, Israel *transgressed the covenant*; they were unfaithful to God. The only way out of their downward spiral into death was by looking up to the Lord and offering the sacrifice of praise.

D. Conclusion (10)

E. Renewed Calling (3:1-3a)

III. The Fruits of Salvation

A. Seeking God's Presence (cf. Ps 51:11; 1 Jn 1:5-10)

When God is at work, the first thing that we will do, the first fruit of God's salvation, is that we will cry out to God. We will seek God's face. Because we have been made in the image of God, we routinely cry out to God when we get in trouble. And God is merciful. He often hears these cries for help – even from those who do not currently know His Name. So when Naaman the Syrian was struck with leprosy and cried out for help, God healed him through the ministry of Elisha the prophet and brought him to a living faith (2 Kgs 5). God is a God of mercy and compassion.

To seek God's presence truly, however, we must also flee from our _____. If we are holding onto our sin and claiming that we are getting closer to God or returning to God, then we are lying to ourselves and others.

⁵This is the message which we have heard from [Jesus] and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (1 Jn 1:5-10)

B. Returning to God's Word (cf. Pss. 3, 5, 16, 18, 31, 42, 50, 69, 88, 120; Mt 4:1ff)

When God is truly at work, then we will begin to rejoice in God's promises and to tremble at His threats. We will not show contempt for His Word but will embrace it as life and light; His promises will be our very great treasure; His threats our rear guard.

⁶⁷Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word... ⁷¹It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes... ⁸¹My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word. ⁸²My eyes fail from searching Your word, Saying, "When will You comfort me?" ⁸³For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, Yet I do not forget Your statutes... Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life. (Ps 119:67, 71, 81-83, 92-93)

C. Embracing God's Calling

Finally, God restores Jonah to his calling. God puts Jonah to work once again. Yes, Jonah rebelled against God and turned away from God's word. Yes, Jonah fled from God's presence rather than preach to Nineveh. Yes, Jonah abandoned his prophetic calling. But *salvation is of the Lord*. God has rescued Jonah and renews his calling.

IV. Conclusion