

Jonah's Prayer

Jonah 1:17 – 2:11

by Don Falkos

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Jonah found himself in the water. Trying to avoid the responsibilities the Lord had given him, he had attempted suicide at the hands of the sailors, provoking them to throw him overboard. But the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.

When I was in trouble, Lord, I called to you, and you answered me. I was as good as dead, but you heard my cry for help.

You are the one who threw me into the sea. The waves were crashing over my head as I sank into the depths. I thought, "Lord, you have thrown me away. Will I ever again see your holy Temple?"

I was nearly drowned as I sank deeper and deeper. Then I got tangled in seaweed. I was at the very bottom of the sea. I knew I was done for. But you, O Lord my God, saved me from death. When my life was slipping away, I remembered you, Lord. And my earnest prayer reached you in your holy Temple.

Those who trust in worthless idols turn away from all your love and mercy. But I will worship you, O God, with shouts of praise. I will offer sacrifices to you, O Lord. It's you I trust, and I will keep my promises. You are my salvation.

And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.