

**WCBC ENGLISH WORSHIP SERVICE - MAY 26, 2019**

**TOPIC:** TWELVE OT PRAYERS THAT CONNECT

Sermon 8: *A Prayer Of Distress!*

**TEXT:** Jonah 2:1-10

**INTRO:** Background Of The Book Of Jonah

**I. JONAH ACKNOWLEDGED GOD ANSWERS PRAYER:**

**vv.1-2**

1. When he "called" to the Lord for rescue - v.2
2. When he realized that his life was in serious danger - vv.3-7
  - A. For the most part, we Christians "remember" our God only when we are in crisis(ses)!
  - B. For the most part, we Christians "remember" our God only when we are in crisis(ses), and this makes us deal seriously with Him, especially, in our prayer life! - Matt. 14:30

**II. JONAH ACKNOWLEDGED GOD AS LIFESAVER:**

**vv.5,6b**

Note: Here, Jonah acknowledges his helplessness and hopelessness to save himself from sure death!

- A Drowning Boy!

1. It was God who brought him out of a near-death experience - v.5
2. It was God who brought him out of a near-death experience and "back to life" - v.6b

- The Rev. John G. Paton!

**III. JONAH ACKNOWLEDGED GOD'S GRACIOUSNESS:**

**vv.8-9**

1. Jonah shows that those who worship "worthless idols" miss out on the grace of God - v.8 cf. Psalm 115:2-8
2. Jonah notes that God's grace results in salvation! -v.9b

**CONCLUSION:** Our God will always be there for us in times of distress!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Men Swallowed By Whales & Survived!**

"Numerous cases have been reported in more recent times of men who have survived the ordeal of being swallowed by a whale.

The *Princeton Theological Review* (Oct., 1927) tells of two incidents, one in 1758, and the other in 1771, in which a man was swallowed by a whale and vomited thereafter with only minor injuries.

One of the most striking instances comes from Francis Fox, *Sixty Three Years Of Engineering* (pp. 298-300), who reports that this incident was carefully investigated by two scientists (one of whom was M. DeParville, the scientific editor of the *Journal Des Debats* in Paris). In February, 1891, the whaling ship, *Star of The East*, was in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands, and the lookout sighted a large sperm whale three miles away. Two boats were lowered, and in a short time, one of the harpooners was enabled to spear the creature. The second boat also attacked the whale, but was then upset by a lash of its tail, so that its crew fell into the sea. One of them was drowned, but the other, James Bartley, simply disappeared without a trace. After the whale was killed, the crew set to work with axes and spades removing the blubber. They worked all day and part of the night. The next day, they attached some tackle to the stomach, which was hoisted on deck. The sailors were startled by something in it which gave spasmodic signs of life, and inside was found the missing sailor, doubled up and unconscious. He was laid on the deck and treated to a bath of sea water, which soon revived him. At the end of the third week, he had entirely recovered from the shock, and resumed his duties. His face and neck and hands were bleached to a deadly whiteness, and took on the appearance of parchment. Bartley affirms that he would possibly have lived inside his house of flesh until he starved, for he lost his senses through fright and not through lack of air." - *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, p. 302.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Verse For Today**

***"In my distress I called to the LORD, and He answered me!"***  
- Jonah 2:2

**Food For Thought**

"When you have nothing left but God, then for the first time you become aware that God is enough!"- Maude Royden