

Old Testament Survey

Jonah



When you just don't want to

Recap

- ❑ God called Jonah to go to Nineveh
- ❑ Jonah says “NO” and runs away on a ship
- ❑ God sends a storm to rock the ship
- ❑ Jonah is thrown overboard



Main Point

Expect the unexpected, but then expect to be moved



**Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah,
and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and
three nights.**

Jonah 1: 17 NIV



The Unexpected

- ❑ Don't miss the point of the fish
- ❑ God SAVED Jonah with the fish
- ❑ God's love operates in a world He also controls



Caramel

Hazelnut

Apple
Pie



Champagne

God Does The Unexpected

- ❑ God saves us
- ❑ Not by the belly of a fish, but by a man on a cross
- ❑ Jesus saved us with humility, grace, and love



From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

Jonah 2: 1-2 NIV



You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple. The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head

Jonah 2: 3-5 NIV



To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit. “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.”

Jonah 2: 6-7 NIV



Jonah's Prayer of Thanksgiving

- ❑ Jonah says “thank you”
- ❑ He realized his mistake and asked God to save him





Say Thank You

- ❑ Think about what God has pulled you up from
- ❑ Think about how God loves you
- ❑ God loves you when you don't think you're lovable
- ❑ Write God a thank you note



“Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’” And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 2: 8-10 NIV



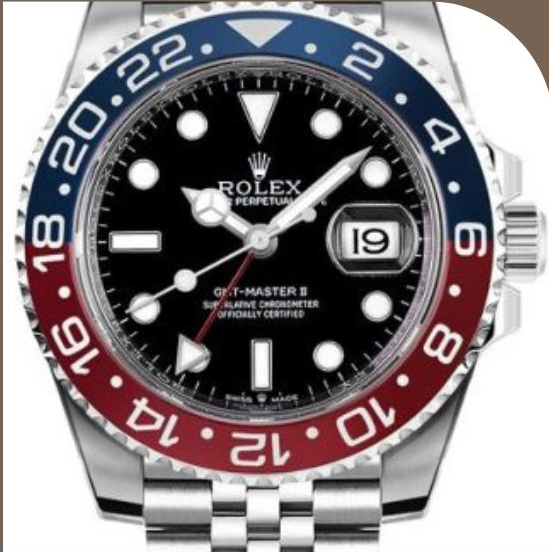
God is The Real Thing

- ❑ Idol worship does nothing
- ❑ Godly worship comes with love, salvation, protection...
- ❑ Jonah has a personal salvation experience



Realest?

Fakeest?



Fakes Are Worthless

- ❑ We make things into idols
 - ❑ Money, stuff, fame
- ❑ We try to fill ourselves with these things
- ❑ None of these can fix emptiness



God's House

- ❑ Sacrifice self fulfillment for Godly fulfillment
- ❑ Be where God's presence is constant
- ❑ We don't have to search for something to fill us



Wrap Up

- ❑ Let God blow your mind
- ❑ Say thank you
- ❑ Be constantly filled by God
- ❑ Expect the unexpected, then expect to be moved



Audio file

[Expect the Unexpected Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

So kind of bring up a valid thing like our like our do you want to know the spreads ahead of time but then you're? Not actually surprised. So we just want to get to where it is. Again, I'm not as surprised guy. I'm like, man, don't don't surprise me. Just tell me what's going on. I'd like to know the. I like to know what's happening, but surprise is if they're done the way they're supposed to be our supposed to be unexpected. Right. So kind of going to the the. Present idea, right? Like if you know what's in the present, it's expected. It's not unexpected. It's not a surprise, right? So it's supposed to be unexpected. And today, we're going to look at how God does unexpected things. We're in week two of our series on Jonah, which is about. And when you just don't want to, we'll recap this really quick, but the the whole story and Jonah doesn't happen. If Jonah wants to do what God tells him to do, it doesn't happen in the same way, so God calls Jonah a prophet, to go to a very bad place called Ninevah. He wants him to preach against the evil things that are going on the wickedness. Mean Ninevah, now, as you can tell by I just said with the title of it, Jonah doesn't want to do it, he says. Heck no. He runs away. He boards a ship to sail in the complete opposite direction. We showed a map last week. They could not be more opposite directions as he's on the ship. A terrible storm comes and the sailors eventually to feel like to save themselves. Throw Jonah overboard. This stops the storm. It seems as though the sailors will be fine. And in essence, when you throw Jonah overboard into the sea, the expectation is he's going. To die there. That God is still involved in our story and God is going to do something unexpected. So what I would say with God is expect the unexpected, but then expect to be moved. Expect the unexpected. Then expect to be moved. That's what I want us to think about today. So we're going to see the unexpected thing God does, and then we're going to take a look at how it moves. Jonah and how we can be moved in that same way. So we are going to look at Jonah, it's going to be the last verse of chapter one. Then all of chapter 2. As always, it'll be up here, behind me. It's also bookmarked there in the Bibles on your table. Let's start with just chapter one, verse 17, the final. Years of chapter one, it says this now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish. Three days and three nights, we're going to stop there. I'm going to start here with this just for a minute and talk about. Was the fish real? Because I feel like anytime I've heard about this story, that's kind of the the question, a lot of people have is this actually happen? Like is this fish real? So I tried to look into it a little bit and basically the answer is 2 camps. Either it could be or it totally wasn't. You get the people that will say it totally wasn't. Jonah is literary fiction, basically meaning it's told more like a parable, which makes the story still totally valid. And the message. Still very important, Jesus teaches in parables, and we're going to do parables over the summer. Actually here at hometown, so it could be like that. Others say it's. It is probably historically accurate. It could be this could have happened. The fish could have been real. He could have survived for three days. So if you were hoping for a clear cut answer on yes, the fish is real. No, it wasn't. You're not getting that from me. And here's part of the reason. If we get caught up on the reality of the fish, we miss the point of the fish, whether the fish is real or not isn't the point. And I've gotten caught up in this because I think often, OK, there's this massive fish, and my son loves sea creatures. So he's like rattling off which ones it could have been. And he's got, like, this historical kids

Bible. Like, it could have been this. And it could have swallowed him. So I see the fish is, like, super scary and. The fish was going to kill Jonah. But God didn't save Jonah from the fish. God saved Jonah with the fish. Like, look at the words here. And I had to do this as I was. Reading it the. Lord provided the fish right. God sends this fish. He's the saving mechanism in our story. The fish isn't scary. The storm is what's scary and what was going to get Jonah. The fish actually saves him. It's sent by God. Some of the translations will say appointed by God, like the fish is acting on God's behalf. Why? Because God controls the sea, which we saw with calming the storm and also every. Thing in it. So we see more of God's sovereignty and God's control and God's grace by saving Jonah. Jonah is destined for what he would say is eternal separation from God. He ran from God. He's separated. And he deserves it. This is what the world might expect. That you said no, you ran away. It's done. But God does what the world might not. And I like it because God operates within the world that he also controls. God controls everything in the world, but he's right here in it. He's not just a domineering CEO who sits up in the penthouse suite of the office building watching his little minions down on the 1st floor work. He's down there in the 1st and 2nd floor cubicles working. As well. So God's a part of it. Operates within there. So he saves Jonah, he shows his love, his grace, his power, and it's all over the place, even what we might not expect. I did something unexpected this week I did. I bought my wife a box of chocolates. Totally unexpected. She came home. She like chocolates. This is great. That's so sweet. You're so nice. And I let that sit for a couple minutes and then said going to be honest, 80% of the reason I bought these was for a sermon illustration. Wasn't just because I was trying to be nice. I'm sitting here thinking what is something where we expect the unexpected think. About a filled chocolate. Here we go. Right. These are ones. These are from, by the way. Local Verona chocolatier candinas. Delicious, by the way. What we're supposed to do, right? Bite into a filled. Chocolate and you're expecting a flavor, but you're not sure what you're going to get. Is it gonna be caramel hazelnut apple pie? We had a ginger one herb. You're not sure what you're going to get. You might get some random flavor. You're expecting something different or unexpected? God, does the unexpected. With us, even when we start to expect him to do. It he saves. Us and you might think, well, OK and no God, I know about God, I expect him. To save me, that's the God I know. And we should believe that. And I believe that. But think about the craziness of it. Go to Jonah, look at our story. God tells him to do something. He straight up ignored him, tried to run away and tried to run and hide. But God saves him with a big old fish. This doesn't make sense. We wouldn't expect someone to save someone else who completely turns their back on them, but that's what God does. We sin, we struggle, we do things God doesn't want us to do, yet he still has saved us. What we might expect is for God to say, OK, you want to walk away, then walk. Away. Fine, you're gone. But he doesn't do that. But he doesn't save us with the belly of a fish. He did it with the man on the cross. He did it with. Jesus and Jesus did it in an even more unexpected way. Jesus had to take on everything that was going on in the world and our sin and our shame and. Our suffering, and he didn't do it. By anger or by force, or by a violent uprising, and taking things over in that way, he didn't come to Earth and say it is time. To mess it up. He didn't do that. He came by humility, by grace and with love. And he took their sins. He took her. Screw ups and he saved us from where they were going to lead us to eternal separation from God and not being able to be with him or in his presence. It doesn't happen to us because by God's grace he pulls us up to him. Sometimes there's an expectation in the world that people should get what they deserve. We sometimes think of that in the in the justice system or something like that. And also that people should give out what's deserved. But guys, not like other people. God's not like us. He does the unexpected and he saves us. And because he does it time and time again, we come to expect him to keep doing the unexpected. So God does this for Jonah. And as I

said, when God does the unexpected. We should expect. To be moved. So what does Jonah do? What does it move Jonah to do? Let's read Chapter 2 verses one through 7 to see what's happening from Jonah. From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, he said in my distress, I called to the Lord, and he answered. Me from deep in the realm of. The dead I called for help. You listened to my cry. You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the Seas, and the currents swirled about me, all your waves and Breakers swept over me. I said I've been banished from your sight, yet I will look again toward your holy temple, the engulfing waters threatened me, and the deep surrounded me. Seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains is a. Think down the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, you brought my life up from the pit when my life was ebbing away. I remembered you, Lord. My prayers rose to you, to your holy temple. Will stop there, Jonah. Praise from inside the fish he knows. Now he gets it. The fish saved him. So he prays, and what he does is he. Says thank you. This is known as a prayer of Thanksgiving. He's afraid of being abandoned by God to the realm of the dead, where God doesn't live, banished from God's sight. He's got to think this is God's storm. This is God's punishment. I'm never getting back there. He ran. He hid from God. And maybe he's feeling like. God's like. Alright, fine. See you later. You're out. He's on the brink. Of being locked in the world of the dead. The ancient view. On the world of the dead was almost said it was a place that had bars and bolts and everything over the doors and the windows, and you could not get out once you were confined there and God wasn't there. He separated from God and in essence that's what he was trying to do in chapter one. He was trying to get away and go to a place where God might not be. And now he realizes I screwed up. I made a mistake and he is determined to look back to God. He knows he can't save himself. But God can and God did. So Jonah says. Thank you. It sounds so simple. Thank you. We need to say thank you in our own lives, right. Thank you. Cards are a big thing. I like tracing the history of things. So I did it with thank you cards, right. Some people will trace thank you cards all the way back to Chinese and Egyptian cultures. When they wrote notes of good luck on papyrus. And then in the 1400s, Europeans started exchanging greeting cards with family and friends, and then, in good old 1856, was a German immigrant. Ohh, his last name was praying and I'm going to mispronounce the first name so I'm not going to do it but he brought it to United States from Germany and now we have thank you cards here. I had to write. Thank you. I remember it very explicitly. After high school graduation, everything that I got as a gift was written. Down and my mom sat a massive stack of thank you cards on the breakfast bar and said before you go do anything, you're doing 15 of those today. So here it is, dear Aunt Dawn and Uncle Chris, thank you for coming to my party and for the gift of money. I'll use it to buy textbooks, and I'm sure all of it went for textbooks once I was in college.

It did.

Every no. The cool thing is aunt and Uncle Chris went. To care they've been. Like don't use it for books. They're cool aunt and uncle. Some people expect to think you know when they give a gift, but we should be willing and want to give them to say thank you. God saved us. That's a gift. And that should move us to say thank you. Right. He does something amazing for us. Something unexpected, something we don't deserve. It should follow. That we say thank you that we show gratitude. So think about what God's pulled you back from first. The struggles. The danger, the hard times once he pulled you back up, picked you up. From now he wants us to come to him in those times and he wants to save us. Hebrews 4:16 says let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. God wants to help us and save us. In those times, so approach him and ask him for help like Jonah did, and thank him for helping you through it. I also want you to think

about how God loves us. And how he loves us in spite of things that he maybe doesn't always like think about Jonah rebelled. God doesn't like that Jonah rebelled. But God loved Jonah, so I was thinking about rebellion. And it's always this word of, like, outright rebelled. But I have behavior in my life that would be rebelling too. And mine is more. Attitude and pride. This is one that will get me being honest. Be like I don't want to help with that. I don't want to change my plans or ideas because mine are really good and I'm not. That flexible, I don't want to do it. And I get in. This mode. And it's not a good attitude, Stacy. And I've started to define this with the word spicy. Jeff gets spicy. This is one part grouchy, one part annoyed, one part exhausted equals Jeff being spicy. This is not a good mode, but God loves me when I'm spicy. He doesn't love the webbing or the seeds inside that spicy pepper, which what makes it spicy, but he. Loves me. And he still loves you and you're your own version of spicy. Call it whatever you want. Feel free to use spicy. I didn't trademark that. If you want to use it, by all means do it. But it's just these modes when you might look at the person in the mirror and think, Dang, they're hard to love. And is it not a great feeling? It sucks, but it happens to all of us. We'll get there and be like I've done things I shouldn't have done. I'm in this place, but we have to remember that God loves us in spite of all that. Even through it. So saying thank you for me, I've found that saying thank you helps me get out of that spicy mode. Right. That's like, the sour cream to the spice. It's the cooling agent. It actually helps. And some of us have a hard time saying thank you and I get it. I do. Maybe it's because it's hard to admit. That God does still love us in spite of all those things. So it's hard to say. Thank you, because we're admitting that he still does it. I know I get caught up in thinking God knows how grateful I am, right? I've told him before, right. It's got to be this one blanket. Thing that I've said. He still appreciates and wants us to say it, to verbalize it, and I want to help you with that a little bit. There are thank you cards on your table. I want you to take them this week and actually write or draw or whatever your way is something saying thank you to God. Take those. I would encourage you to actually. Use it. It's not homework. I'm not going to. Check on it, but I would encourage you to do it. Show and tell God how much gratitude you have for him. That was what Jonah's prayer was about, he says. Thank you. He was moved to say thank you and he was also moved for one other. Thing to read the rest of Jonah 2 here versus 8 through 10 to see. He says those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you what I have vowed. I will make good. I will say salvation comes from the Lord and the Lord commanded the fish and it vomited Jonah on to dry land. Jonah starts talking about people that worship idols. Idol worship was a big thing back in the Bible. Especially Old Testament. You'll hear a lot about. Doubt it. Basically, he's saying idols don't do anything. There is no point. These idols. He's like they they don't love these people that worship them, they can't save them. They can't really do anything. And in tough times, the people that worship them are going. To realize it. And then they'll just turn away from that. Idol because it doesn't work in chapter one. Last week, if you were here, so the sailors pray to their gods during the storm. The storm kept raging. The riddles can do anything. Contrast that with God. God calmed the storm. The worship of God. God does love. God does save God, does protect, and God helps. He's there and Jonah is remembering this through this party. He's moved to remember how big and how real. God is then he promises to fulfill his obligation and commitment to God, which is worship and praise, and he gives this very personal realization that God is the true source of salvation. Jonah saying I. Lived it. I should have died in that storm. But through the belly of the fish, I. Was saved by God. So Jonah lived it, right? And that salvation prompts or even obligates worship and praise to God. And then finally, God speaks and the fish spits Joan out onto dry land. And we're lucky for this story that the fish didn't pull a Jonah and actually listened to God and spit him out. Because as who knows what happens to Jonah? But Jonah shares his experience, he's moved to share his experience

about how real God is, how big God is, and how worthless the replacement could be, right? He's basically saying you can't counterfeit God. It won't work. Counterfeit objects are out there. Right. One of the big ones is. Watches like I have a. Slide, yeah. It's the realist, which is the fakest. I was on a trip when I was in 8th grade to Washington DC, and as you're walking around, I've ever been there. You got the street vendors and they're all about selling fake oakleys sunglasses. Those were the thing back in the day and fake Rolexes, right, we're all we're going to be cool. Buy this fake Rolexes. We care. It's 10 bucks. It was great. But the whole idea of the counterfeit is. They look really good and it might seem. Good for a. While, but they're not quite the same, one of those might break a little easier. Might die quicker, not work as well, or if you've ever had less than great jewelry, it might leave marks on your skin or something like. That the knock off the counterfeit, it's never as good. It's the real thing, by the way. The green one over there is the real one. I looked up the pictures. Problem is when you Google those you see the price and it's not even cool. Some are real, some are fake. Jonas starts this section talking about idols. In essence, fake gods, knockoffs, and how worthless they are. We should be moved to get rid of these knockoffs in our. Own lives? Fake idols? And we may not have them in the same sense that Jonah is thinking of them, where they might have been statues or or objects or things like that, or emblems that we worship. But idols are really just things that. We put in place of God. That we give more attention to than God, that maybe we rely on more than God when God should be up here in our lives and you get pushed down the pecking order. Those are the idols in our lives. We might not be actively trying to replace God, but God gets pushed down in terms of how important he really is. And we can make a lot of things and do an idle money is a big. It can consume us. We want it. We only try to get more of it items, right? A big collection makes us important. Action figures, figurines, sports card, clothes, shoes. It doesn't matter all this stuff we can turn into idols. Fame or notoriety? Thinking people know me and think I'm a big deal. I need more. Of that, we can turn all these things. And then knock off gods. When I wrapped my head around these, I tried to put them all together. It was that. What we're really trying to do with these idols, or or knock offs or whatever we want to call them. So we're trying to fill ourselves on our own because we're trying to have self fulfillment. When we feel like there's something missing or there's a void, we try to fill ourselves with it. And it might. All these things on their own might be fine. More money? Might make your life a little bit easier. Might means you could have more fun or do more stuff by all means. Go make more money and that's great. Or no more people knowing me thinking I'm awesome, that's great. It's good you can have people know you and think you're great. You can have stuff. I don't think that's the. But if we put our focus and love into them, we're going to be disappointed when they don't focus on us and love us right back. We're trying to fill ourselves with something that can't fill us or fix something with the wrong solution. Joella over the last three or four weeks. Daughter who's 3? Has been coming to Stacy and I will say my finger hurts. My finger hurts. I wanna go. Ohh, your finger. We're looking at. It looks fine. She's like I need a Princess. What she's saying is she needs a Princess Band-Aid. She's Princess band AIDS and she just wants to wear the Princess. Band-Aid. And we're trying to explain to her. Joel, if your finger is not actually cut and bleeding, the Band-Aid will not help at all. You're literally putting a solution on something that doesn't work now trying to explain that to a three-year old. Is just a task that doesn't happen. But this is kind of what fake idols do. It's putting something. On a problem that doesn't work right, these items won't fill us right if we have. A bruised finger or a broken finger, the Band-Aid isn't going to help. That's what it's we're trying to do with these. So what I. Think we need to do is sacrifice that self fulfillment for godly fulfillment. Think about as if you're always living in God's house constantly now, not in the way of my house. My rules that you know, strength you down kind of authoritative thing, but in the way of God's

presence is always there. It's always over us in a helpful or gracious and loving way. Yeah, he wants obedience. And for us to. Tell him. But he's always there to constantly fill us every minute in that house allows us to be filled by his love, his grace, and his mercy. Think about walking into a house that is constantly filled with the smell of fresh baked cookies and it just takes you over that aroma. It's so sweet. It's perfect. It's always there. It just smells awesome. Outside of that is just false. It doesn't. You might smell a little bit, but then it goes away. But in that house you always get it. Keep that in mind. We remember what Jonah did. That God is the only source of salvation. God gave that. That's the house we want to be in his presence, his fulfillment all the time. We should be moved to make that our priority in our lives. And in that house, when we think about it like that, there's so much freedom to move. It's not a house that confines us. There's so much freedom in living with God because he's the one that fills us. We're not chained to things that won't do us any good. We're attached to something greater and. We don't have to keep searching for what's going to fill us because. It's right there. The joy and the peace that comes in God's house is constantly filling us. So he saved us and he fills us and we have to be moved to remember that and push away the knock offs and come back to God the real thing. So we should expect the unexpected, right? God's going to be God. Let him blow your mind with how awesome he is. Let him do it, we expect. Him to, but we don't know what he's going to do, so expect the unexpected. But then say thank you use that thank you card or do it in another way but say thank you somehow to God he deserves to be thanked. And I think. He expects that kind of devotion and gratitude from us and then remember to live in his house all the time. Be filled. Be surrounded, be overtaken by God, right. It's even better than that constant cookie smell in the house. It's so much better to have that constantly fulfillments from God. So expect the unexpected but then expect it to move you and move in the. Way he pushes you. Let's pray. Got to thank you for the story from Jonah. Got to thank you that first up that you saved Jonah got it and that you saved us. God, I pray that we would remember to be thankful that it wouldn't be something that we just assume you know. Or that's something we take for granted that we would every day remember to be thankful for you for saving us, for being with us, for having your presence and your peace and your love around us. God, I pray that we would be. Move to push back on anything we're putting in place of you, whether we call them idols or knockoffs or anything but God, the things that take our devotion and our reliance and our dependence on you away pray that we would push those down and bring you. Back up. I pray that you. Be really clear about what those things are in any of our lives, and he would give us the strength and the presence to do to to get rid of those and just to come back to you. So God again, we thank you for saving us. We thank you. For being there with us through it. All your name Amen.