"VOICES – THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT"

JONAH: THE PRAYER OF JONAH **SEPTEMBER 30, 2018**

In the Bible, prophets were MESSENGERS of God

"The Bible asserts that God prepared his prophets for a very specific ministry. They brought the divine word to people who desperately needed to hear it." Bill T. Arnold

The Essence of Their Message

- A call to **REPENT** = move away from sin
- A promise of **SALVATION** = move toward God

"The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: 'Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.' But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD."
JONAH 1:1-3a

GOD SAID **GO** – JONAH SAID **NO** = **IMMEDIATELY!**

- Jonah was a prophet **ON THE RUN**

  ***"Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD."* JONAH 1:3**

- Jonah was a **PRAYER-LESS** prophet

  ***"Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives."* JONAH 1:6**

Observations on Prayer from the Belly of a Fish

1. We can **CALL** on God and He will **ANSWER**

   ***"Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish. He said, 'I cried out to the LORD in my great trouble, and he answered me.'"* JONAH 2:1-2a**

   ***"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."* HEBREWS 4:16**

2. When we need Him **MOST** and deserve Him **LEAST**, God is **THERE** for us

   ***"'I called to you from the land of the dead, and Lord, you heard me!'"* JONAH 2:2b**

   ***"Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning."* LAMENTATIONS 3:23**

3. God often works in **PHASES**

   ***"Now the LORD had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights… As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord. And my earnest prayer went out to you."* JONAH 1:17; 2:7**

   a. To get our full **ATTENTION**

      ***"You threw me into the ocean depths, and I sank down to the heart of the sea. The mighty waters engulfed me; I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves. Then I said, 'O LORD, you have driven me from your presence. Yet I will look once more toward your holy Temple. I sank beneath the waves, and the waters closed over me. Seaweed wrapped itself around my head. I sank down to the very roots of the mountains. I was imprisoned in the earth, whose gates lock shut forever. But you, O LORD my God, snatched me from the jaws of death!"* JONAH 2:3-6**

   b. To get our full **AFFECTION**

      ***"As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple."* JONAH 2:7**

   c. To get our full **APPRECIATION**

      ***"Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God's mercies. But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the Lord alone."* JONAH 2:8-9a**

4. **SALVATION** comes from the Lord!

   ***"'For my salvation comes from the Lord alone.' Then the Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach."* JONAH 2:9b-10**

   ***"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."* EPHESIANS 2:8**

[All Scripture references from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted]