

The main points again...

Can we skip Jonah 2?

We all need some whalebelly time...

‘Prayer is an unnatural activity. From birth we have been learning the rules of self-reliance and struggle to cultivate self-sufficiency. Prayer flies in the face of these deep-seated values. It is an assault on human autonomy, and an indictment of independent living. To people in the fast lane, determined to make it on their own, prayer is an embarrassing intrusion’

- Bill Hybels, *Too Busy not to Pray*

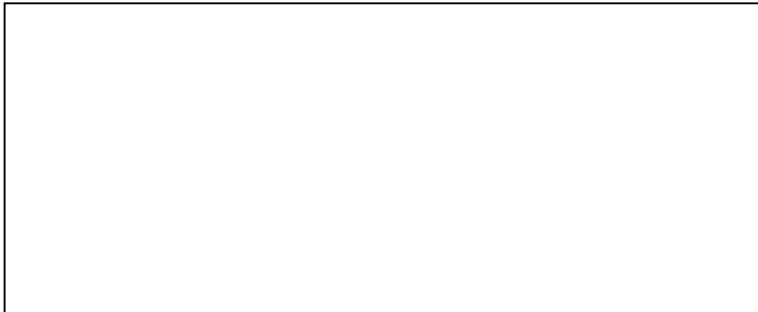
The prayer of Jonah?

OR a psalm with some reference to the fact that Jonah prayed?

A psalm celebrating God as sovereign creator...  
Judge and Saviour...

Jonah thrown into the sea...Whodunnit?  
Sailors...Jonah...God?

God's sea, God's whale, God's Jonah



The predicament of being banished from the sight of God  
(Cf. Genesis 3.24)

The response of looking to God

Jonah snatched from death by the God who is able to save completely (Cf. Hebrews 7.25)

Jonah's at best stumbling prayer AND God's great love

God on my side?

Those who cling to worthless idols  
forfeit God's love for them.

They followed worthless idols  
and became worthless themselves. Jer 2.5

"My people have committed two sins:  
They have forsaken me,  
the spring of living water,  
and have dug their own cisterns,  
broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Jer 2.13

The Greater Jonah...

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:  
Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

Phils 2.5-8

So what...

Read Jonah 2 again out loud.

What difference does it make to our understanding of the story and also the meaning of the book that these verses are included?

Read the Bill Hybels quote overleaf.

Do you agree with his observations about prayer in the world today?

What type of writing do you think Jonah 2.2-9 is?

This is usually referred to as Jonah's prayer from the whale: is that right?

Jonah 2.3 states, *You hurled me into the deep*

Who do you think the 'you' here refers to?

The sailors of chapter 1, Jonah [cf. 1.12], God?

Who is responsible for Jonah's predicament? Does the passage imply there is purpose in the whale's belly?

The only section of vv.2-9 that sounds like Jonah's prayer is v.4

Look at Deut 31.16-18; Ps 69.16-18; 88.13-15; Jeremiah 33.4-6; Gen 3.24 and Mark 15.33-34

What does it mean to be banished from God's sight?

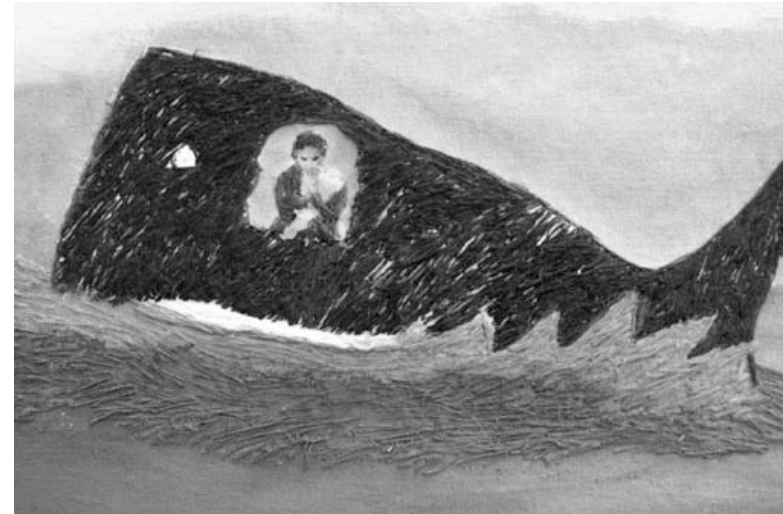
How does Jonah respond? How should we? Cf. Jeremiah 29.13

How should the observation 'Salvation comes from the Lord' affect our living and our praying?

Read Jonah 2.8. See also Jeremiah 2, especially v.5 and 13  
Discuss what these verses might say to us today...

Close by reading together Philippians 2.5-11, reflecting on this in the light of Jonah 2 and praying

Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> 2008



# Fishy Faith

## -Jonah 2

**Devoted to Christ, people, mission**