

## **Jonah 1:1-4, 17**

<sup>1</sup>Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

<sup>2</sup>Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

<sup>3</sup>But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

<sup>17</sup>Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

## **Jonah 2:1-4, 10**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

<sup>2</sup>And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and* thou heardest my voice.

<sup>3</sup>For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

<sup>4</sup>Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

<sup>10</sup>And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land*.

## **Jonah 3:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

<sup>2</sup>Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

<sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

<sup>4</sup>And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

<sup>5</sup>So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

## Subject: Arrestment for Reinvestment

Jonah, a prophet of Israel, Contemporaries with the prophets Hosea and Amos, exercised his ministry very early in the reign of King Jeroboam II., around 785-745 B.C. Jonah was specifically directed to go and preach repentance to the enemy, Pagan city of Nineveh. **NINEVEH** (*Nihn' uh vuhh*) was the greatest of the capitals of the ancient Assyrian Empire, located on the left bank of the Tigris in northeastern Mesopotamia (Iraq today).

Jonah was upset with God's instructions because he knew of God's graciousness, God's mercifulness, God's slowness to anger, God's great kindness, and that if Nineveh repented, God would forgive the residents of Nineveh of their sins.

Therefore, Jonah tried to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and God arrested him in the belly of a great fish three days and three nights. As God had invested something in Jonah, He has also invested something in each of us, which enables us, and which He expects for us to use to carry out His instructions.

Unfortunately, we often redirect that investment into what we want to do or not do and God has to make an arrest, so that he can reinvest, His interest. This Arrestment for Reinvestment, occurred in Jonah's life. After being arrested, what is the reinvestment we find working in Jonah's life? We find a reinvestment in reflection, protection, and direction.

### 1. Reflection – Ch. 1:3, Ch 2:1-4, 7-9.

Jonah's reflections turn from bitterness, self-direction, and independence from the Lord's presence, to reflections of helplessness and dependence on the Lord's presence. After God arrested him and reinvested his reflections, Jonah said, "I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple."

### 2. Protection—Ch. 2:10.

In his self-directed independence, Jonah boarded a ship in Joppa heading to Tarshish (the farthest limits of his known world, trying to flee the presence of God). He attempted to flee for refuge to Tarshish, away from the presence of God.

When our reflection is not right, we often flee to the wrong places for protection. As he was fleeing to Tarshish, he sought refuge in the lower galley of the ship, but

that did not protect him from the Lord's presence, for the Lord caused a storm to threaten the ship. Jonah was so determined to flee the Lord's presence that he told the men of the ship to throw him overboard so that he could drown.

That did not work either, because as soon as he was thrown overboard, God arrested him in the belly of the fish. It was then and only then that Jonah realized his only protection is in the presence of the Lord. Even when he was trying to destroy his own life, God gave him protection from drowning in the belly of the fish.

When Jonah realized that God was his only source of protection, God caused the fish to vomit him out onto the protection of dry land. If you feel that things are so bad in your life that you have to destroy it, please understand that things can never be that bad. You only need the right reflection and you will quickly discover that God is present and give you protection as he did Jonah.

3. Direction—Chapter 3, Verse 1-5, says:

<sup>1</sup>And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. <sup>4</sup>And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. <sup>5</sup>So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

This time when the word of the Lord came to Jonah, he went in the right direction. He went to Nineveh as initially invested with God's word to preach repentance to that city. The journey to Nineveh was normally three days but now energized by God, Jonah did it in one day. When our reflection is in the right direction, a hard journey becomes easy, a long journey becomes short, a heavy burden becomes light, long restless nights become restful, and peace is found in the midst of pain. When we are going in the right direction, we are not going against the current of the Holy Spirit, but we are flowing with the current and allowing Him to carry us.

Jesus was arrested also. Not for His sake but for ours, so we could be reinvested and made right with God. He was arrested so we could be reinvested as the children of God. He was arrested so we could be reinvested in God's kingdom and work.

Jesus said in **Matthew 12:40**: <sup>40</sup>For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus being totally innocent was arrested, tried, and crucified to death. He suffered this to pay the penalty for our sin so we could stand righteous before God.

Prayer: Father bless me that I be responsible for what you have invested in me. Bless my reflections to be dependent on your presence. Help me to look toward thy holy temple. Help me to not flee to the wrong places for protection, but realized that you are my only source of protection, and flee to you. Help me go in the right direction with that you have invested in me. Amen.

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