

# JONAH

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c Ministry of the Saviour

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## ***Local Man Claims to Have Heard from God***

A reliable source tells us of a man who says that he has heard from God. After investigating the story, here is what was found to be the case.

The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh that great city and cry against it for their wickedness has come up before me."

Jonah says that he really thinks that he has heard from God and God wants him to go to Nineveh to call them to repentance.

Nineveh is an enemy of Israel and is made up of a very cruel culture. One could not expect to bring such a message to these evil people and live. Will Jonah set out to Nineveh to face death in order to preach salvation to the evil gentiles? If he does, Jonah really heard from God, or he needs to be locked up until psychiatrists are invented.



*Jonah who claims to have had a word from God!*

## ***Local priest says he didn't hear any thing from God.***

The local priest was contacted today to determine if anyone else has heard this unusual request from God. The most honorable priest states that there is no chance that Jonah has heard from God because he has not and the High Priest has not heard from God on this matter. If God were going to talk to man, then certainly he would talk to the High Priest who would send an attending priest with the proper message. Not only is Jonah not a priest, he is not even of the tribe of Levi. It is the opinion of the church that the idea of going out to tell others of God is somewhat radical and not of God.

**The word of the Lord came to Jonah...**

### **inside...**

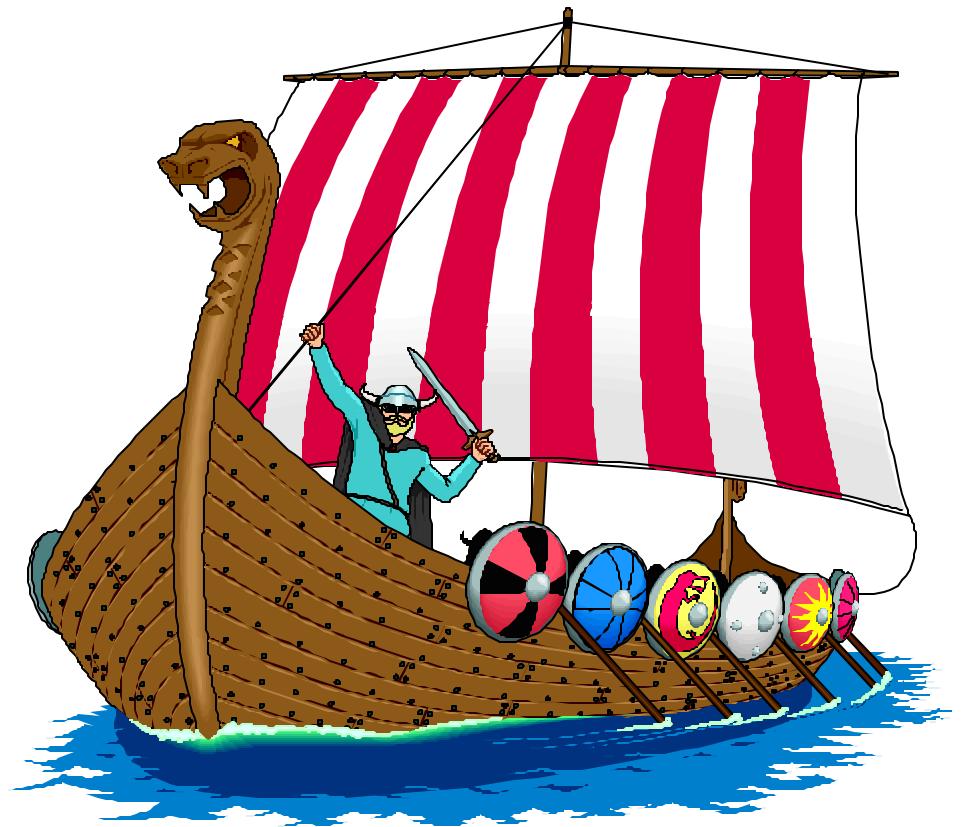
**Jonah flees town  
Jonah boards ship  
Jonah missing  
Jonah alive**

**Jonah preaches  
Nineveh saved  
Jonah and depression  
Message of the worm**

## ***Jonah leaves town - for Tarshish***

Jonah rose up early to go to Joppa where he paid a fare and boarded a ship bound for Tarshish. Now Tarshish is at the end of the earth in the opposite direction of from Nineveh. This is a very strange event that after proclaiming that he had heard from God that he should go to to save Nineveh, he went in the opposite direction and as far away as he could book passage. You must evaluate this for yourself, if you think that this man heard from God or not. But if a person is in the presence of God, would he run away from that presence to another place which is in the opposite direction from where God sent him? If you were in the presence of God, would you run away? Is there a Nineveh that God is sending you to? Are you running away or are you running to Nineveh? It seems to this reporter that if God wanted to really send someone to a place, it would be such an honorable thing that no one could say no. Look at the church, does not the priest always listen to God and proclaim His word for the people and the people are so ready to hear and dead the teaching of the priest that they live their lives as they are taught by the priest.

We have seen something very inconsistent in Jonah's actions and at this point it would seem to those of us



**Would a person run away from the presence of God?**

watching the situation unfold that it may be a case that he really did not hear from God but was not willing to admit that fact, so he decided to go to the ends of the earth to get away from those who would laugh at him for coming up with this crazy idea. When information is available concerning the voyage of this ship we will be the first to have the news for you about the journey and what Jonah does next. We watch with interest to see if Jonah will ever return home to his family.

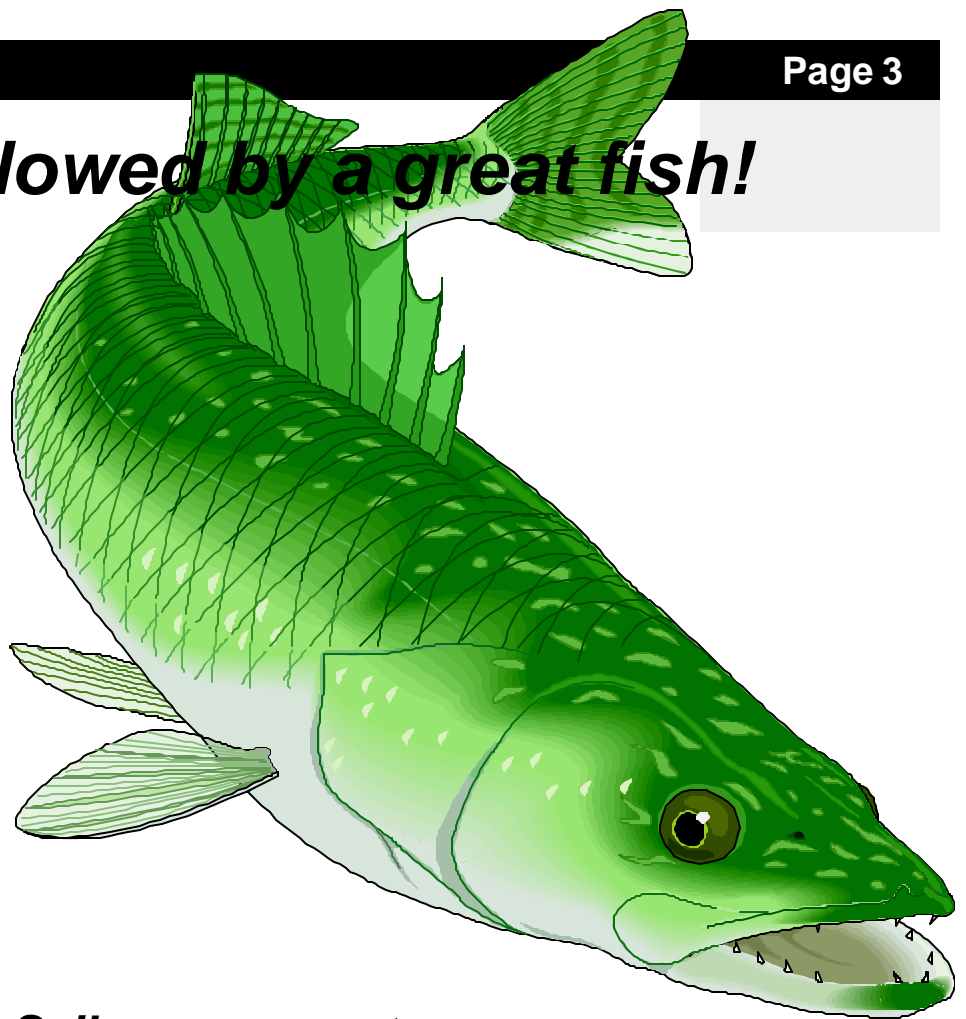
***Priest makes comments on Jonah's trip***

The local priest today issued a statement that it is the position of the church that if you want to hear from God, you need to come to the church and listen to the priest. After all how can you expect to hear from God if you are not in his house listening to his priest? When God wants you to hear something, he will send it to an authorized priest like me. If the people of Nineveh want to be saved, let them come here to church.

# ***Prophet swallowed by a great fish!***

The ship that carried Jonah away has returned to port having lost its cargo and Jonah is missing and presumed to be dead.

The Captain of the ship stated today that as soon as the ship was out in deep water, the Lord sent a great wind and the ship was tossed and in danger of breaking up when Jonah was found below sleeping. Men were crying out to God for salvation in the midst of the storm. Jonah told them that he was running away from God and that they should cast him overboard after casting lots and it fell on Jonah. As the ship began to break up, Jonah was cast into the sea and at that time, the sea ceased from raging and the wind stopped. No man on the ship had ever been on a ship in such a storm as we experienced that day. Then, in an instance the wind did stop and the water lay calm. It was the work of God. Every man knew that the God of Jonah was the one true and living God and had great fear and respect for him and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord and made vows for they surely knew that He had spared their lives on this day. Jonah had told the sailors to cast him over into the sea as a sacrifice that they might not die. A man with a heart like that must have known God! You can't run away from God can you?



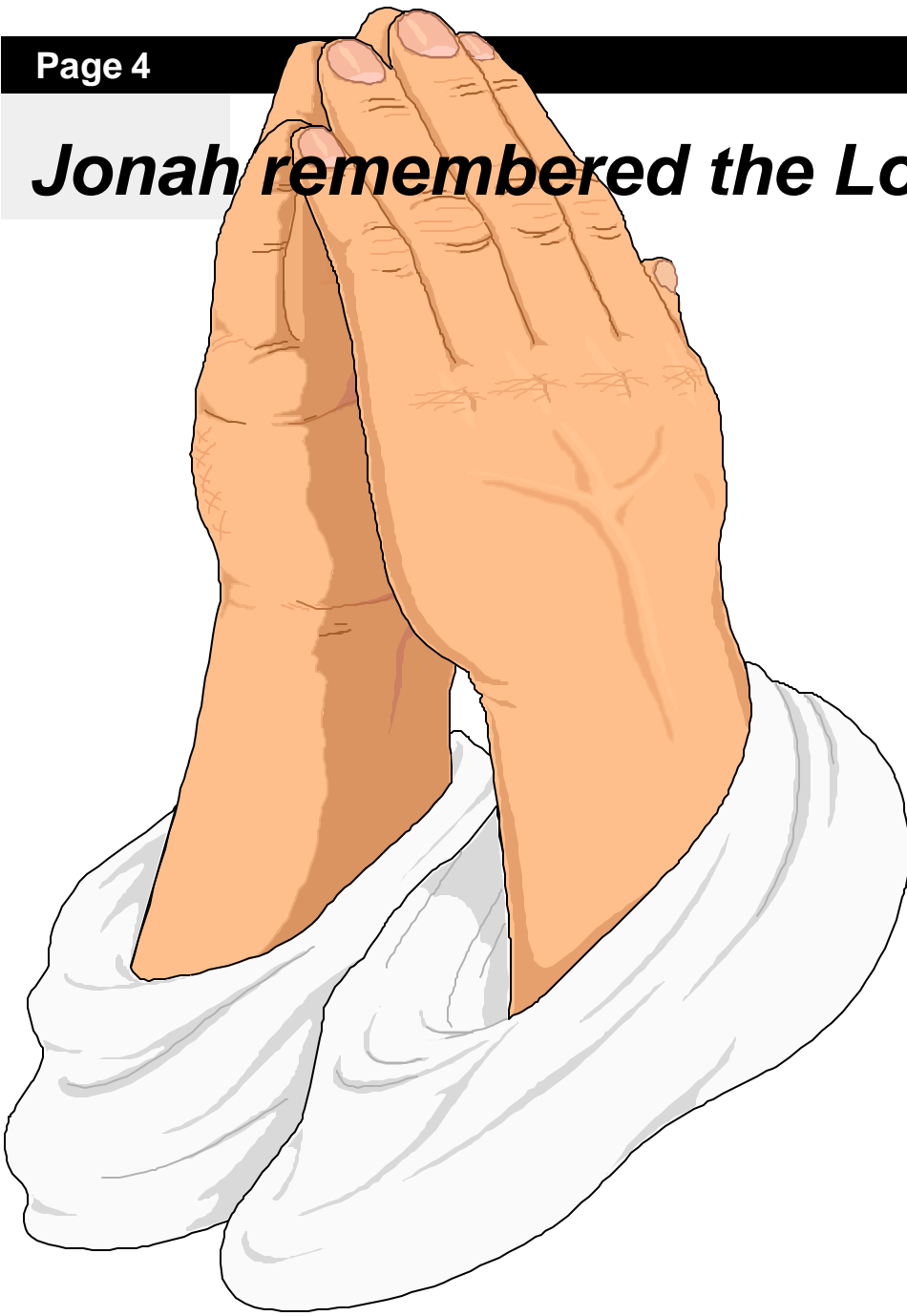
## ***Sailors see great fish swallow up Jonah***

Sailors reported that after Jonah was cast into the sea that they saw a great fish swallow up Jonah and disappear in the waters below. There was a feeling of disbelief and agony here today because of the pain that these men felt in throwing Jonah overboard in order to save themselves and having done so, seeing the man that had saved them eaten by a fish. Surely there must be a lesson in this for others. We see that one cannot run from God. It is futile to fight against God. We do not here understand why Jonah decided to run away from the task that God had given him to do, except that,

**YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM GOD CAN YOU?**

that was also a dangerous journey and for poor Jonah, it seems that there was no easy road through life. Could it be that doing God's purpose is more important than having an easy life? The mystery of this matter goes on. Did Jonah hear from God to be a missionary? Why did Jonah try to run away? Now if God really had a task for Jonah to do, why did he let a giant fish eat him? We will search for these answers in the coming days and be the first to let you know the unfolding story of one unusual man who thought that he heard from God.

# Jonah remembered the Lord !!!



## Line of events in this case...

- ? Word of God Came
- ? Jonah runs to Joppa
- ? Jonah flees to Tarshish
- ? God sent a great wind
- ? Jonah offered himself as a sacrifice to save the ship and sailors
- ? Storm was calmed
- ? God prepared a great fish that swallowed Jonah
- ? God heard Jonah's prayer from the tomb of the fish's belly
- ? Jonah had revival
- ? Jonah declared salvation is of the Lord
- ? Jonah was spared
- ? Jonah heard the word of the Lord the second time saying "Arise, go to Nineveh."
- ? Jonah went!
- ? Jonah preached
- ? People were saved
- ? Jonah was unhappy
- ? God prepared a gourd
- ? God prepared a worm
- ? God prepared a wind
- ? God deals with Jonah's hard heart

It is reported by a group of people on the northwest shore of the sea that a group of people saw a great fish approach the shore and vomited out a man covered with slime and seaweed. That man was Jonah. He related the story to them how he had been in the belly of the fish for three days and he remembered the Lord because of the affliction that he was in in the belly of the

fish. When there was no other hope, he remembered the Lord and prayed unto Him and God heard his prayer and caused the fish to vomit him out on dry land. The group watched as he praised God and shouted Salvation is of the Lord! It is like the one who was surely dead has come back to life and praised God for it. This is a remarkable turn of events that have unfolded here today.

**Jonah came from death in the belly of a fish to life on dry land and praising God. Says he is alive and is going to bring the message of salvation to the lost Gentiles.**

## Jonah traveling again...

When the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time after he was safe on the shore from his ship and fish experience, Jonah arose and went unto Nineveh. When the word of the Lord comes to anyone, it is time to rise up and run in the direction that God wants you to go in. When the Bible said that he arose and went, the next scene is in Niveneh where he

### **OTHERS WERE CALLED WITH JONAH**

When God calls a person, then he also calls a support group. There were others called to complete the ministry of Jonah. You are wondering now how can anyone know that for sure? I am so glad that you asked that. Let us look at the facts:

- ? The word of the Lord came to Jonah and he ran.
- ? No one else in all of God's chosen people heard him, not even the priests.
- ? In chapter one, God prepared or appointed :
  - a great wind
  - a great fish
  - He spoke to the fish
- ? Had people listened and been used by him, he would not have needed to use these other things.



followed God's Will. There was no time lost this time. Has anyone ever had a clearer picture of what God wanted them to do than Jonah had? When God tells you that you need to minister to someone then it is time to yield yourself to the will of God and not let other things take you off in a different direction than God would have you go.

When Jonah was called the second time to go, he stood in the slime and seaweed from being in the stomach of the fish for three days, and without washing off, he went. I am sure that he would not have stopped to wash this off because the only source of water was from the

sea and he knew that there was a fish out there big enough to eat him, he did not go back in that sea to wash off, he did what God told him to do.

When we understand that what God has for us to do is more important than anything else in our life, it is time to obey. Right now. The next time that God tells you to do something, think about Jonah before you run away. Whether you get eaten by a fish or just lose fellowship with God because of your disobedience, if you disobey, you lose every time.

**Focus on God and stay tuned in to him so that you hear his call...**

If you lose fellowship with God then as Adam experienced, you have lost the world's greatest privilege, that of speaking with and listening to God. You will notice that if you say no to the call of the Holy Spirit enough, you will not continue to hear Him.

Focus on God and stay tuned in to Him that you hear His call and then it is up to you to obey. If you do not chose to obey, you pay more than you ever wanted to pay.

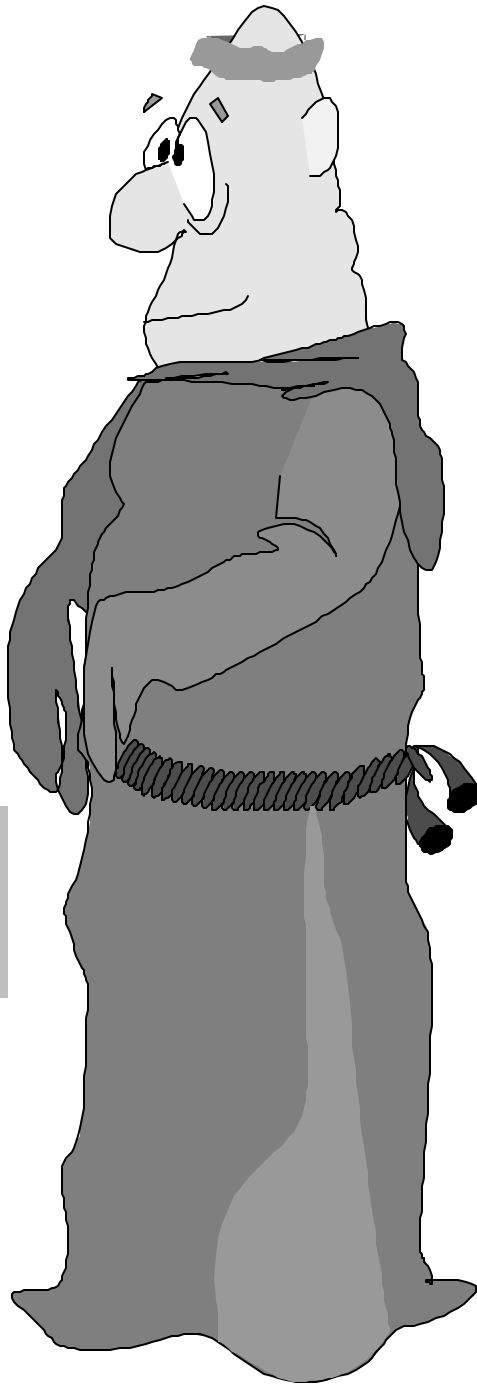
## Jonah Preaches 3 day Revival

In Nineveh there were lots of people, there were between 600,000 and 2,600,000 people, depending on the way the numbers are understood. What followed Jonah entering the city was a miracle! The people did not kill him, they listened to his message. For three days, Jonah preached the same message to the people of the city. The entire message was, "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown."

One of the greatest revivals of all times happened in the three days of preaching. The people believed God and proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth a symbol of putting

### When believers do God's will, he does the rest.

away the things of this earth and depending entirely on God. All of the people from the king down and all of the animals fasted before God and cried unto him. When God saw what they did, He repented of the evil that He was about to do them. That means that He was about to zap them but He changed His mind and did not. When you meet a Calvinist who teaches that prayer does not change the mind of God but only changes you, show him the book of Jonah because that idea is in conflict with the Holy



Word of God. God hears prayer and He answers them and He responds to them. Do not let the teachings of men cause you get off track, focus your mind on God and follow and obey Him in everything

that you do. God did change his mind because the people humbled themselves and prayed and sought to be in his presence. This violent mean society known for cruelty to the people that they conquered, repented before God and it was in good faith

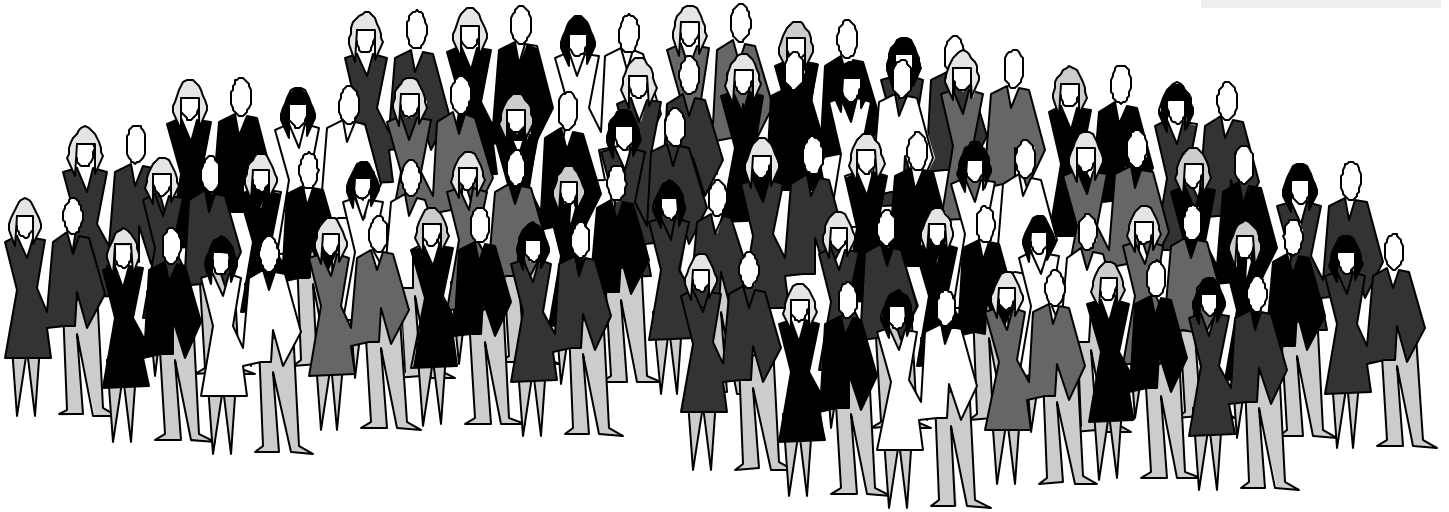
### Great Revivals come from God

All that it took to have revival was one man who had, through God's shaping, decided to do God's will. When believers do God's will, He does the rest! Will you save someone? Of course not, you cannot do that. You witness, God does the rest. If this world is to be won then there must be an obedient servant because that is what God works through. But man cannot even save himself, how can he save someone else? He can't. God does.

It is a great need that believers pray for this country to repent and turn to God for the wickedness of this nation rises up before him and is soon to be placed on the block for justice. I pray for mercy and not justice!

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face... The word does have the way of salvation in it.

# ***Masses come to God and Repent***



## ***Missing Support Group needed to minister to new believers.***

Every man, woman, and child in Nineveh repented and worshipped the true and living God! History tells us that some 400 years later, that Nineveh was overthrown. Had there been a loving prophet Jonah and his support group there to lead them into a deeper relationship with the Father, it could have been that they would have instilled in their children the love of God so that it would not have happened.

Churches today lose members through the back door or revolving door because there is not a mature loving believer to lead them into a deeper relationship with the Father. When loving believers meet the needs of the new and weak believers, it

that they are “set in” as strong members of the fellowship. Believers make the step from a new birth in Christ to a mature believer best if it is done in the presence of love extended from those who have walked with the Lord for some time. If you have 1 or 1,000,000 new members, you need the same number of believers able to help them in their new walk and love them into the Kingdom of God

What we need now is the same kind of miracle to happen through our land where God does a work for good in a physically, spiritually and morally disordered country. If you are already a believer, then you need to pray for the coming revival and you need to be ready to minister through the heart of love that you have been so richly blessed with through fellowship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jonah did what he felt that he had to do for God but

we see no love in his efforts so that he enjoyed the work to which he was called. Do not despise the work to which you were called. In the eyes of God, there is no small work

**If you are a believer, then you need to pray for...**

and there is no small salvation. If only one person had accepted Jesus as the Son of God, He would have still given his life so that that one could know salvation. That is the love that we must bring to the cruel world

Was Jonah excited that he had preached the world's greatest revival? No, he did not like this people and was sad that God did not wipe them from the face of the earth. In 3,000 years, people still have a problem with race. Will man never learn?

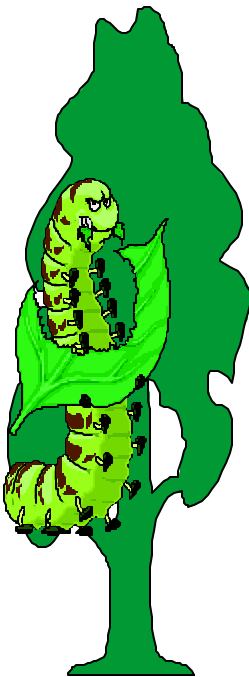
## God deals with Jonah's hard heart

Jonah, depressed to have just been an instrument in saving the Gentiles, went off to be alone and comfortable. He wished he could die. Satan always brings depression after you have accomplished something for God if you let him.

Notice this:

- ? God prepared (or appointed) a gourd
- ? God prepared (or appointed) a worm
- ? God prepared (or appointed) a vehement east wind and the sun to beat down

Do not ever think that God must depend on man to accomplish his will and his



### If God can use a worm then He can use you now

work.

Now if God can use a worm, then He can use you! How many people say that they cannot be used of God because they have no talents and have at least one more talent than a worm? The real problem in people not being used of God is their unwillingness to submit themselves to Him. When you give yourself to God, He will use you if you will yield to His leadership. If you are headed for the Tarshish of your life, turn to God before the storm comes. Obey that

you not have to suffer the pain of disobedience.

Jonah gave an early picture of what the work of Jesus would be like.

- ? He was sent by God
- ? He was willing to be sacrificed to save others
- ? He spent 3 days in a "wet grave"
- ? He was delivered from death to carry salvation to the Gentiles
- ? He saw the grace, mercy, long-suffering, and kindness of the Father

He also gave us a picture of a believer that tried to run away from the blessings of God. When people look at you and the things that you do to make up your life, which picture do they see, your disobedience or God's Love?

### God deals with believers'

There are 48 verses in the book of Jonah. His message was 1/2 verse long. There are 5 verses that report the revival of the people. The rest of the book is about God dealing with with his people to get one with not a very good attitude but at least obedient so that God could minister through that person.

**PRAY THAT YOU ARE OPEN FOR GOD TO WORK THROUGH YOU TODAY.**

Ministry of the Saviour  
12550 Plank Road  
Baker, La. 70714