

The Book of JONAH

WILL you answer the Lord,
Answer His still small voice?
Will you do what He is bidding,
Or will you run away to hide?
Will you answer the shipmaster?
“Sleeper, tell me why do you sleep?”
Will you answer the tempest,
Or the enclosing deep?
Will you trust in the sailors,
Or will you trust in the sails?
Oh, will you answer the Lord,
Out of the belly of the scales?

JONAH 1

¹Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it;

For their wickedness has come up before Me.”

³But Jonah rose up to flee from the presence of God to Tarshish.

He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish;

So he paid the fare and down into it he went, To go with them to Tarshish, from the Lord’s presence.

⁴But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea,

And there was a mighty tempest on the sea So that the ship was all but broken.

⁵Then the mariners were afraid; And every man cried out to his god, And threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, To lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship; he had lain down and was fast asleep.

⁶So the shipmaster came to him, and said, “What do you mean, O sleeper?”

A storm is raging in the spirit

How can you afford to sleep?

“Arise, call on your God!

Perhaps your God will consider us, So that we may not perish.”

⁷And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots,

That we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us.”

So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸Then they said to him, “Please tell us!

For whose cause is this trouble upon us?

What is your occupation? And where did you come from?

What is your country? Of what people are you?”

⁹So he said to them, “I am a Hebrew; And I fear the Lord, the God of heaven,

Who made the sea and the dry land.”

¹⁰Then the men were exceedingly afraid, And they said to him,

“Why have you done this?”

For they knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord,

Because he had told them.

¹¹Then they said to him,

“What shall we do to you,

That the sea may be calm to us?”

For the sea was very tempestuous all around.

¹²And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,

Then the sea will become calm for you,

For I know that this great tempest is because of me.”

¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to return to land,

But they could not,

Despite their good intentions,

For the sea continued to become more tempestuous against them.

¹⁴Therefore they cried out to the Lord and said, “We pray, O Lord,

Please do not let us perish for this man’s life, And do not lay on us this innocent blood;

For, O Lord, as it pleased You, so have You done.”

¹⁵So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea,

And the sea ceased from its raging.

¹⁶Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, And offered a sacrifice to Him and took vows.

¹⁷Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.

And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

CWDS Bible Quotes

- 1. You may avoid and evade the command to Go by running, hiding, ignoring, or simply disobeying, but you cannot avoid or ignore your call to answer to God.*
- 2. Extraordinary turmoil in your life may be God attempting to get your attention; acknowledge Him.*
- 3. You run from the presence of God because you do not have the presence of mind to know you are running in and towards the presence you run from.*
- 4. You may pay your fare but you can never pay your way, nor can you pave your way to a fair and safe journey; safety is of the Lord.*
- 5. Self-righteousness puts us to sleep in the presence of the storms of life raging around us. Have you ever considered that you may have the answer to the storms others are facing?*
- 6. Storms brewing in your life may be a direct result of the people you associate with and take into your boat.*

7. *How do you reconcile believing in God and yet refusing to submit to Him; it is as inexplicable as surviving three days in the stomach of a fish.*
8. *Never attempt to be the saving grace of sinners, they will sink your ship; commit them to the Lord.*
9. *When you run from the purposes of God for your life, God will put you in impossible situations to take you back to a practical setting; you flee in a ship, God will place you in a fish to take you back to land.*

PRAYER POINTS

- My King and my God, help me to run to You and run after Your word, but never to rationalize Your command and run away from Your call. Amen.
- Let the spirit of wisdom in the knowledge of God fall upon me; help me never to experience the futility of challenging Your word or disobeying You. Amen.
- Our Father God, shake the comfort of all those who are at ease in the church; let the spirit of every child of God be uncomfortable in the immoral storms brewing all around us, in the name of Jesus.
- Holy Father, let every person in my life that is the cause of turmoil and storms, be exposed and removed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- My Father God, I refuse to be a port of rest and refuge for people running from You; I refuse to help them knowingly or inadvertently; I will instead point them to Your mercy, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Let my faith in God manifest in my complete obedience to Him. Amen.
- Almighty God, I will embrace Your purpose for my life and my destiny, in the name of Jesus.

**O JONAH, where are you now?
In the belly of a fish!
Will you cry out to your Master,
Or sit down, bemoan, languish?
“Ah, I cried out from hell’s depth;
There the Lord heard my voice,
For the fish heard the voice of the Strong
And vomited me out, upon dry land”**

JONAH 2

¹Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish.

²And he said:

¹I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction,

And he answered me.

Out of the belly of hell I cried,

And, Lord, You heard my voice.

For You cast me into the deep,

Into the heart of the seas,

³“The floods surrounded me;

All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

⁴Then I said, ‘I am cast out of Your sight;

I will look again towards Your holy temple.’

⁵“The waters surrounded me even to my soul;

The deep closed around me;

Weeds were wrapped about my head.

⁶“I went down to the bottom of the mountains;

The earth with her bars trapped me in forever;
Yet You have brought up my life from corruption,

O Lord, my God.

⁷When my soul fainted within me,

I remembered the Lord;

And my prayer went up to You,

Into Your holy temple.

⁸“Those who regard worthless vanities,

Forsake their own Mercy,

⁹But I will sacrifice to You

With the voice of thanksgiving;

I will pay that which I have vowed.

Salvation is of the Lord.”

And the Lord spoke to the fish,

And it vomited Jonah out on dry land.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *When you find you have absolutely nowhere else to run, run into the loving arms of a waiting God.*
2. *When you can't dig yourself out, dig-in in prayer; when there are no doors, God is an open door in every situation.*
3. *If it is not happening seek God; your impossible situation is ready to vomit you out if you are ready to vomit out your resistance to God.*
4. *If you feel the Lord has forsaken you, consider, have you forsaken Him? If you feel you have lost His affection, perhaps He is just trying to get your attention.*
5. *The grace of your continued survival in your impossible situation (fish belly) should boost your faith for a complete breakthrough.*
6. *You still have a reason to be thankful in the gut of your bad situation. It is much better to be surrounded by seaweed in the belly of a fish than to be digested by the fish.*
7. *See God in your experiences and understand why others need to seek God and to experience Him.*
8. *Be ready to share your experiences and you will get opportunities.*
9. *There is a difference with being healed and being made whole; your bad situation will swallow you permanently if you swallow your testimony; it will spit you out if you will proclaim it.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Most wonderful God, I turn to You now; I delight to do Your will O God. Amen.
- Father I refuse to proceed in my own wisdom; I look to You, O Lord, for answers and escape. Amen.
- Forgive me of all my sins O God; let all my resistance to you crumble at the foot of the cross. Amen.
- Lord Jesus, I thank You that I am persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed; My situation has captured but not digested me; I have reason to be thankful and to believe. Amen.
- Merciful Father, give me the urgency of spirit to tell the good news to this generation and to point them away from Your terrors. Amen.
- Father, help me never to lose sight of all the opportunities that presents itself to share the good news. Make me a magnet for opportunities and help me to respond well, in the name of Jesus.
- Father, make my tongue like the pen of a ready

writer; I will testify. Amen.

A SECOND time I heard it,
It was then one time too many;
When I heard the voice of the Lord again,
I went down in a rush!
“Overthrown, within forty days,” I cried,
And saw the king’s humble reply;
I saw how fast he got in line;
He did not need a second time!
But then, I knew in this heart of mine,
He’d never have had a second time!

JONAH 3

¹And the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,
²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city; And preach to it the message that I tell you.”
³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, According to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, A journey of three days away,
⁴And Jonah began to enter into the city on the first day.
*What greater motivation than an experience of hell,
 When you have a light to shine!*
 Then he cried out, and said,
 “Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”
⁵So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, And put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.
⁶Then word came to the king of Nineveh; And he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe,
 Covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.,
⁷And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,
 “Let neither man nor beast,
 Herd nor flock, taste anything;
 Do not let them eat or drink water,
⁸But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth,
 And let them cry mightily to God.
 Let every one turn from his evil way,
 And from the violence that is in his hands.
⁹“Who can tell if God will relent,
 And turn away from His fierce anger,
 So we do not perish?”
¹⁰And God saw their works that they had turned from their evil way,
 And God relented from the destruction that He declared He would bring upon them,
 And He did not do it.
*When you hear God, will you respond forthrightly,
 Or do you need a second time?*

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. It is fortunate to hear the voice of God a second time but it is unfortunate that you need a second

- time. Wisdom says never place your destiny in the hands of good fortune.
2. You know you have a great relationship with God when you hear Him accurately the first time; He knows He has a great relationship with you when you respond promptly, the first time.
3. Your reaction to God’s word will determine your attraction of God’s word and His heart to you.
4. Never wait until you experience hell to go and tell it, never wait until your light is cut off to shine your light; yet there is no greater motivation to warn people of hell and outer darkness than your own experiences.
5. When you resist God you commit many to sin. Go tell it; your voice has the power of conviction others need to hear.
6. The only right response to God is immediate repentance; cast your crown in order to maintain your throne, you must get low in order to stay high.
7. Widespread sin in a nation calls for national repentance led from the highest seat of influence.
8. Never wait on your leader to move before you make a personal response to national sin; the move of the people will compel the leader.
9. Judgment of a nation affects everything and every person in that nation. The animals may never understand their look of penitence but God will acknowledge your understanding of the scope and urgency.
10. Never exhaust grace; this moment is the right moment for repentance, God can be reached.

PRAYER POINTS

- My Father in heaven, let the power in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ purge my spiritual senses and make me hear You accurately the first time, in the name of Jesus.
- Father, I will obey You without question or debate and with immediacy, so that You will find me a good recipient for Your word. Amen.
- Most High God, I am willing to go without known provision; I am willing to go even when it is not comfortable; I will invest my resources and my time in the gospel. Amen.
- Lord Jesus, I refuse to be responsible for the blood of the many I could have reached in my lifetime; I will proclaim it. Amen.
- Let the power in the blood of Jesus stir the hearts of leaders and drive nations to their knees before You. Amen.
- Father God, let the fear of You fall upon nations and let the call to repentance never be marginalized. Amen.

OJONAH, whoever you are,
Who can’t perceive the depths of the thoughts of the Lord,
One who himself was fed from God’s grace
But cannot see the Lord, cannot see Him in every face!
O Jonah, angry and proud,
So you are up; let them stay down.
It may take the grass, worm, wind and the hot sun
To teach an object lesson to an angry man!

¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became very angry.

²So he complained to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord God, Was not this what I said when I was still in my country?"

That is why I fled to Tarshish.

For I know that You are a gracious, merciful God,
Slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness.

One who relents from doing harm.

³Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me.

For it is better to die than to live!"

⁴Then the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

To put pride above human lives!

⁵So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city.

There he made himself a booth and sat under it in the shade

So that he might see what would become of the city.

To see if God would hurt his pride!

⁶And the Lord prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah,

That it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery.

So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

⁷But as morning dawned the next day, God prepared a worm, and it damaged the plant that it withered.

O Jonah, there's a worm eating your pride away!

⁸And it came to pass then,

That God prepared a vehement east wind;
And the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint.

He wished that he would die, and he said, "It is better to die than to live!"

⁹Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

Jonah replied, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death, O Lord!"

¹⁰But the Lord said, "You have pity on a plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow,

Which came up in one night and perished in one night.

¹¹And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city,

In which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons

Who cannot discern between their right hand and their left,

And much livestock?"

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *It is best to agree with God than to agree with the wicked intent of the devil to corrupt completely in order to completely destroy.*
2. *If you have received mercy then extend mercy; so you may enjoy continued mercy. If you are beneficiaries of God's grace then be gracious. If you have been delivered from hell then do whatever it takes to deliver others.*
3. *It is to your disgrace if you fail to extend His grace. Let the goodness of God amaze you, not offend you, let it exite you and not incite you.*
4. *It is best to agree with God than to argue with God.*
5. *When the goodness of God extended to a nation is subject to the heart of man, it hardly gets beyond him; instead it is squashed or marginalized or treated with little regard or importance.*
6. *Your 'Jonah type' unwillingness to reach others is displayed in your lack of urgency and attitude toward witnessing.*
7. *You may never sit down waiting for judgment with keen oversight but you may have moved on without extending the grace of salvation to others.*
8. *God will use an object lesson to restore your objectivity where His passionate love has not transcended your obstinacy.*
9. *What does it take for you to learn the heart of God towards men and to extend it: The storms He delivered you from? Your impossible situations turned around? Your hells that spat you out? The cross of Calvary?*
10. *It is futile to teach God your ways rather than to learn His ways. God does not care for sin but He cares passionately about sinners and about their repentance.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Lord Jesus, I agree with Your loving-kindness and Your mercy extended to the most undeserving. I was one of them but while I was still in sin You died for me. Amen.
- O God my Father, my heart cries out for a merciful spirit so I too will obtain mercy, in the name of Jesus.
- Most High God, You are such a good, good Father; I stand amazed at Your loving heart towards us every day. Amen.
- Loving and forgiving God, I will be proactive about seeing men turn away from the wrath that is upon them into Your loving arms waiting to redeem them, Amen.
- Father, let the power of love that was displayed on the cross sink into my spirit and move me to compassion for sinners. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I will be a soulwinner and not one to condemn men to death by inaction, in the name of Jesus.
- Teach me Your ways O Lord; show me Your heart and I will pursue it. Amen.