

**SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017**  
**THEME – SURVEYING THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD’S LOVE**  
**UNIT III – THE EXTENT OF GOD’S LOVE**

**“GOD’S LOVING GRACE IS IMMEASURABLE TOWARDS HIS CHILDREN AND HIS ENEMIES...THE JONAH STORY- (PART II) (PRAYER HEARD FROM THE DEPTHS)”**



**Sunday School Lesson No. XI – May 14, 2017**  
**Presented by Rev. Frank Davis, III Pastor-Teacher**

<b>Lesson Text:</b>	<b>Jonah 2:1-10</b>
<b>Required Biblical Reading:</b>	<b>Jonah Chapters 1–4</b>
<b>Motto Text:</b>	<b>Jonah 2:9 (NLT), “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.”</b>
<b>Reliable Resources:</b>	<b>Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; The Runaway Prophet Jonah by David Jeremiah; Expository Outlines by Warren Wiersbe; Life Application Bible Notes; The Outline Bible by Dr. H. L. Willmington</b>

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue the message of God to Jonah, who was to speak it to the Ninevites, we left him drowning in a fish’s belly in the depths of the sea. But why? Because he tried to resign his prophetic office and leave God, rather than obey the Lord and fulfill his mission. Chapter one reminds us that a whole ship of sinners was at risk to lose their lives because of Jonah’s disobedience and rebellion against God. Does that describe your life?

But God’s loving grace would not allow His Word to go forth and return void! Jonah instructed the sea captain and the sailors to cast him into the sea hoping that he would drown and appease God’s angry waves and torrential sea. But God had another idea! After the terrified sailors threw Jonah overboard, the sea ceased, the scared sailors found peace and lifted honor and worship to Jonah’s God, and Jonah had a thanksgiving prayer meeting in the midst of the fish’s belly!

Now let us focus on the loving, immeasurable grace of God for not only His children, but also the souls of His enemies, as He leads Jonah, His backslidden prophet, back to do His will.

**Anticipated Power Points:**

- **Jonah’s Rebellion brought Anguish but God gave Him Loving Grace. Jonah 2:1-6**
- **Jonah Remembers and Addresses God, Seeking His Loving Grace. Jonah 2:7-8**
- **Jonah Receives an Acquittal because of God’s Loving Grace. Jonah 2:9-10**

Now remember this beloved...God’s loving grace was exemplified by the great fish He created and used to deliver Jonah. Dr. David Jeremiah declares in his study guide called “The Runaway Prophet...Jonah”, verses 3-6 of Ch. 2: “God prepared the Great Fish to:

- (1) Rescue Jonah from Drowning” (Remember Romans 11:29: God would not choose another preacher. What God’s hand has chosen will come to pass!)
- (2) “Return Jonah to Nineveh.”
- (3) “Recommission Jonah for Service” (After 3 days in God’s intensive training, he was ready).
- (4) “Reach Jonah’s Heart” (He prayed again!).

## LESSON OUTLINE

### **“GOD’S LOVING GRACE IS IMMEASURABLE TOWARDS HIS CHILDREN AND HIS ENEMIES...THE JONAH STORY- (PART II)”**

#### **I. Jonah’s Rebellion brought Anguish but God Gave Him Loving Grace. Jonah 2:1-6**

The man who sought to escape God’s presence seems that he almost had! Yet not so, because there is no place where God’s presence escapes His children. Psalm 139:7-12 (NLT):

*“7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. <sup>11</sup> I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—<sup>12</sup> but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.”*

##### **A. Jonah finally prays. vv. 1-2**

(All the sinner sailors prayed to all kinds of deities in chapter one including the true God they did not know! Jonah 1:5, 6, 14, 15)

##### **B. Jehovah heard Jonah’s feeble cry! Jonah 2:2**

##### **C. Jonah describes his experience within the fish, it was certain death! vv. 3-5**

##### **D. Jonah then speaks of God’s delivering grace. v. 6**

#### **II. Jonah Remembers and Addresses God, Seeking His Loving Grace. Jonah 2:7-8**

As Jonah saw death approaching in the watery depths, he cried out to God in earnest prayer. As any true Jew, he envisioned the Temple and prayer, remembering God’s promise to Solomon at its dedication. II Chronicles 7:12-16, NLT says: *“<sup>12</sup> Then one night the LORD appeared to Solomon and said, “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices. <sup>13</sup> At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. <sup>14</sup> Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. <sup>15</sup> My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. <sup>16</sup> For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.”* Jonah remembers God’s faithful Word and amazing loving grace.

#### **III. Jonah Receives an Acquittal because of God’s Loving Grace. Jonah 2:9-10**

Frank Pass of Union Gospel Press writes: “Jonah responded with thanksgiving and a promise to fulfill his vow to God, recognizing that *‘Salvation is of the Lord.’* The scene concludes with the Lord directing the fish to the coastline, where Jonah was vomited onto the shore... Having experienced both God’s disciplinary love and His protective love, Jonah was now better prepared to obey and serve Him.”

## CLOSING

Thank God that **His Loving Grace is Immeasurable towards His Children and His Enemies Past** did not end with the Jonah story, because when we were too mean to live and not fit to die, *“God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans 5:8. Beloved, like Jonah, *“I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more. But the Master (Jesus) of the sea, heard my despairing cry. From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.”* Why? Because Jesus’ Love Lifted Me! He died, was buried, and early the third day, He arose! Remember: **“God’s Loving Grace is Immeasurable Towards His Children and His Enemies...The Jonah Story (Part II)”** can be your personal testimony with Jesus today!

---

**Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite City, LA**

**Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179**

**Phone: (504) 486-7876**

**Website: [www.thestudyhour.com](http://www.thestudyhour.com)**

**TV Broadcast: WHNO TV 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**



**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**May 21, 2017**

**Jonah 3:1-10**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.**