

P320

Grace Notes Radio Program 11:30 AM

SERIES: Jonah

THEME: It's all about Grace

**SONGS: I've never been out of His care
Grace**

INTRO: There has been much debate over whether the story of Jonah is true or just an allegory. Regardless of your stance, 2 Timothy 3:16 says that ALL Scripture is inspired by God and is PROFITABLE for our training. Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek will begin a series on the book of Jonah. You'll find this to be NO fish story - rather one that's alive with lessons we can learn and apply so don't miss a single broadcast.

I wholeheartedly believe the book of Jonah to be true for several reasons. According to 2 Kings 14:25, Jonah was an accredited prophet who lived during the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel in 793-753 BC. The name of his father and his hometown are also given. Jesus, Himself, referred to Jonah in Luke 11:30 as the one who was a sign to the Ninevites. If Jonah had been a fictitious character, it's highly unlikely that any of these facts would have been recorded.

The question in peoples' mind, though, is "Did Jonah really live in the belly of a fish for three days?" I found that at least one reliable account exists of a man who was swallowed by a sperm whale and later found, alive, in the whale's stomach. But even more important to consider, though, is the fact that if God created AND sustains the universe, AND raised Christ from the dead, (which he did) He surely can make a fish that can safely house Jonah and deliver him up again.

So, having said all this, let's get right into the text. Jonah 1, verses 1-2 say...

**The word of the Lord came to Jonah,
son of Amittai, (Am-it-tah-ee)**

"Go to the great city of Ninevah and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

It doesn't say specifically how the word came to Jonah, but in Old Testament times God conveyed his thoughts and will to His prophets, either directly, or through visions, dreams and signs in nature. A

prophet was someone called by God to call out to others. Jonah was a prophet. God had a message for him to deliver to the evil Ninevites.

The text says that Ninevah's wickedness had 'come up before' God. To 'come up' shows the ascent of an OUTCRY. We find this often in Scripture. For example, in Genesis 4:10, the Lord spoke to Cain after he killed his brother saying...

Listen! Your brother's blood CRIES out to me from the ground.

Exodus 2:23 says that during the Israelites' enslavement by the Egyptians, their cry for help went up to God. In Genesis 19:13 the angels who spoke to Abraham about Sodom and Gomorrah said that the OUTCRY to the Lord against its people was so great that He had sent them to destroy it. The word 'cry' here means an anguished shout or yell. Perhaps righteous Lot was praying about this evil – if not him, surely Abraham. The point is – someone was praying.

There is no doubt that God hears and responds to the injustices that are done and the cries of His people. Psalm 34:15 and 17 say...

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ear is attentive to their cry...The righteous cry out & the Lord hears them.

Psalm 9:12 says...He does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.

Yes, God sees all and knows all. He is sovereign, yet He chooses to act based on prayer. The cry came up SO God's word came down. The Israelites were once again being oppressed, this time by the pagan Assyrians. Though the Israelites had not been worshipping God as they should, they were still His children. He responded when they cried for help, the same way we do for our children, even when they're wayward.

We, too, are God's children if we've received Jesus Christ as our Savior. God sees US as righteous because of the blood Jesus shed on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. And even though we may step out of God's will at times, we, like Israel, will find that when we cry out to God for help, He will answer, because we're never out of His care.

******* WRITER: Phil Johnson**

***** I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT ** LENGTH: 3:18**

*The eyes of God are upon me,
He sees everything I do.
The arms of God are around me,
They keep me safe and secure.*

*And He knows where I am
Every hour of every day
He knows each thought I think
He knows each word that I might say.
And although there've been times
I've been out of His will
I've never been out of His care.*

*This changing world alarms me,
With war, with sin, with strife.
But my loving Father charms me,
With joy, with peace, and with life.*

*And He knows where I am
Every hour of every day
He knows each thought I think
He knows each word that I might say.
And although there've been times
I've been out of His will
I've never been out of His care.
I've never been out of His care.*

Ninevah was the capital of Assyria. They were long standing enemies of Israel. In their attacks they ravaged the countryside & carried away captives, reaping havoc wherever they went. The prophet Nahum had this to say concerning Ninevah in chapter 3:1-3...

Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims! The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots! Charging cavalry, lashing swords and glittering spears! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses -- all because of the wanton lust of a harlot, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft.

**If the Ninevites were so horrible, why didn't God just wipe them out?
For the same reason He doesn't zap us for our sins. God is not willing
that any should perish but that ALL should come to repentance. GOD
HAS CONCERN FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. He wants everyone to have
an opportunity to turn to Him - He desires to show His mercy and
grace...to ALL!**

**But you say, "I'm not as bad as they were? They don't deserve to be
forgiven." It's not a matter of deserving. None of us deserves God's
Grace. Ephesians 2:8-9 says...**

**For by GRACE are you saved through faith, and that not of
yourselves, it is the GIFT of God. Not of works, lest any man should
boast.**

**We're all IMPRISONED by our sin, UNABLE TO CHANGE, until we
accept God's grace. God has a message for all mankind. The Son of
Man is come to SEEK and to SAVE that which was LOST! Are you
enslaved by your sin? Come to Jesus and receive His grace.**

******* WRITERS: DAVIS, RAYMOND CHARLES JR / FURR, PAMELA / HAUN, WAYNE**

***** GRACE *** LENGTH: 4:36**

**I was in prison, locked up in chains
Sin held me captive to sorrow and pain
Years of frustrations as love passed me by
Until the Master heard my hearts cry**

CHROUS

**For grace marvelous grace,
I needed grace to pardon and make me whole
Grace marvelous grace - flows from above
With infinite love -marvelous grace**

**I was downhearted I was broken inside
Praying for mercy with nowhere to hide
There was a solace searching for me
Grace everflowing that set my soul free
repeat CHORUS**

**I am forgiven -I am redeemed
A brand new creation**

He saved me and gave me a reason to sing

Grace, Grace - God's Grace

Grace that will pardon and cleanse within

Grace, Grace - God's Grace

Grace that is greater than all our sins

For Grace, marvelous grace

Flows from above with infinite love

Marvelous Grace

**We pray you've been blessed by this program. If so, please
write and tell us at..**

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**Join us on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song
of praise!**