

Rescued by God

Jonah 2:5-10

I. God rescues us from a motivation of
grace.

*Again and again he rescued them,
but they chose to rebel against him,
and they were finally destroyed by their
sin.*

*Even so, he pitied them in their distress
and listened to their cries.*

*He remembered his covenant with them
and relented because of his unfailing love.*

(Psalm 106:43-45)

I. God rescues us from a motivation of
grace.

II. God rescues us from situations that seem
hopeless.

*The waters closed in over me to take my
life;*

the deep surrounded me;

*weeds were wrapped about my head
at the roots of the mountains.*

I went down to the land

whose bars closed upon me forever

(vv.5-6)

*yet you brought up my life from the pit,
O Lord my God. (v.6b)*

*“I called out to the Lord, out of my distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice. (v.2)*

I. God rescues us from a motivation of grace.

II. God rescues us from situations that seem hopeless.

III. God rescues us in less than desirable ways at times.

“God answers our cries of distress in stages, not all of which are comfortable. . . . We can be fairly sure that when Jonah cried out to God, he did not say: "O God, put me in the belly of a fish for three days!" He probably said, "God save me . . . have mercy!"

“But God's answer came in stages. The belly of a fish hardly seems like salvation. But it was: Jonah is granted enough consciousness to realize he has been spared from drowning and that there is hope.

“He does not complain about his surroundings. He accepts God's first stage of salvation as a guarantee of dry land, and concludes his prayer in the fish's belly with the great affirmation, ‘Deliverance belongs to the Lord.’”

- John Piper

- I. God rescues us from a motivation of grace.
- II. God rescues us from situations that seem hopeless.
- III. God rescues us in less than desirable ways at times.
- IV. God rescues us for the purpose of renewing us and using us.

“The essence of idolatry . . . is anything that commands the central place in our lives, and to which we give the loyalty and devotion, which rightly belongs to God alone.

“For some people money is their god, and the pursuit of materialistic goals dominates their lives. . . . But we can make an idol of anything - sports, sex, drugs, politics, career, even home and family.”

“Idols will always let us down They will always fail to deliver in the long run on what they promise.”

- Peter Williams