

# SALVATION BELONGS TO GOD

MERCY - GRACE - VIOLENCE - ANGER

IN THE BOOK OF JONAH

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

<sup>1</sup> But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. <sup>3</sup> Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."  
<sup>4</sup> But the Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ...

**JONAH 3:10, 4:1-11**

<sup>5</sup> Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup> But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." ...

**JONAH 3:10, 4:1-11**

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

<sup>10</sup> But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup> And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

**JONAH 3:10, 4:1-11**



***“prepared”***



**What happens  
when Jonah  
meets God?**

# 1. Jonah gets angry

**1. Jonah gets angry**

**2. God gets compassionate**

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**3. We get challenged**

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**2. God gets compassionate**

**3. We get challenged**

**“...I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”**

**JONAH 4:9**

“We all know now that this  
love becomes a demon when  
it becomes a god.”

**CS Lewis**  
*The Four Loves*

“reject half the high poetry and  
half the heroic action [humanity]  
has achieved.”

**CS Lewis**  
*The Four Loves*

“We cannot even keep Christ’s  
lament over Jerusalem [where] he  
too exhibits love for his country.”

**CS Lewis**  
*The Four Loves*

“a particular attitude to our  
country’s past...the great deeds  
of our ancestors.”

**CS Lewis**  
*The Four Loves*

“Well, yes. But in England it’s true.”

**CS Lewis**  
*The Four Loves*

Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god...to worship...is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure, and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before [your loved ones] finally plant you. ...

**David Foster Wallace**  
*This is Water*

Worship power, and you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.

Look, the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they are evil or sinful; it is that they're unconscious. They are default settings.”

**David Foster Wallace**  
*This is Water*



“Something will eat you alive.”

**David Foster Wallace**

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2. God gets compassionate

3. We get challenged

Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.

**JONAH 4:5**

Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort...

**JONAH 4:6**

...and Jonah was very  
happy about the plant.

**JONAH 4:6**

But at dawn the next day God  
provided a worm, which chewed  
the plant so that it withered...

**JONAH 4:7**

When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

**JONAH 4:7**

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

**JONAH 4:9**

But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh...”

**JONAH 4:10-11**

***Concern*** means to have pity on, to feel emotionally connected to something.

**“who cannot tell their right  
hand from their left.”**

**JONAH 4:11**

**1. Jonah gets angry**

**2. God gets compassionate**

**3. We get challenged**

And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

**JONAH 4:11**

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