**WHAT AN AWESOME GOD WE SERVE**

**SCRIPTURE READING… JONAH 1,2**

[**Psalm 47:2**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+47:2&version=TLB) **For the Lord, the God above all gods, is awesome beyond words; he is the great King of all the earth. (living bible)**

[**Exodus 15:11**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+15:11&version=TLB)

**Who else is like the Lord among the gods? Who is glorious in holiness like him? Who is so awesome in splendor, A wonder-working God? (living bible)**

[**Psalm 77:14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+77:14&version=TLB)

**You are the God of miracles and wonders! You still demonstrate your awesome power**. **(living bible)**

SONGS….”Our God is an Awesome God”

 “Awesome”

Prayer……

Introduction…There are a lot of stories in the bible which demonstrate God’s Awesomeness. God spoke into the vast of darkness and said let there be light, then proceeded to create everything that exists, including man from the dust of the earth and later created woman from the side of Adam, all this in 6 days. The taking of Enoch into heaven alive, bringing his prophet Elijah into heaven in a chariot of fire, the dethroning of Pharaoh through Moses, The Parting of the Red Sea, The liberation of the Jewish People, The destruction of earth by a great flood and the saving of mankind through Noah, The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, The speaking through a donkey to the Prophet Balaam, The knocking down of the walls of Jericho, The miracle of fish caught by the Apostles, The feeding of the 5000 with a boys lunch, The walking on water then speaking to the water and winds and causing them to calm down, The Raising of Lazarus from the dead, and all the healings while present on the earth , and the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, to give us the joy of salvation we all enjoy, can cause us all to shout

**…..!!!!!”OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD.!!!!**

BELOVED, GOD CALLS US ALL TO DUTY and there is one story in the bible that really lets us know that he is an AWESOME GOD!!!

1. It is a great honor and privilege to be called by God to accomplish His mission. In Jonah chapters 1& 2, we see the honour God put upon Jonah, in giving him a commission to go and prophesy against Nineveh.
2. *The name Jonah* signifies *a dove*, a proper name for all God’s prophets, and all his people, who ought to be wise as serpents but *harmless as doves*,
3. Jonah’s father’s name was *Amittai—meaning My truth*; letting us know that all of God’s people should be children of truth. And the truth should always be before us!!!
4. One thing about Johah was that as a prophet he knew the voice of God, and *the word of the Lord came to him and it was very clear.*
5. Beloved men’s words are but wind, but God’s words are substance and Jonah as I said had been acquainted with the *word of the Lord*, and knew his voice from that of a stranger so the orders were now given to him and it was , *Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city*, [Jonah 1:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.2).
6. Allow me to bring forth a brief history of Nineveh. Nineveh was at this time the metropolis of the Assyrian monarchy, it was an eminent and prominent city ([Gen. 10:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gen.10.11)), it was considered *a great city. It can be compared to the great city of NY, Las Vegas, and other sin cities.*
7. *Nineveh measured* forty-eight miles in distance.
8. It was also great in the number of its inhabitants, it was also, great in wealth, and great in power and dominion; it was the city that for some time *ruled over the kings of the earth*.
9. But, beloved what we must never forget is that great cities, as well as great men, are all under God’s complete government and judgment.
10. Although Nineveh was a great city, it was also known as a heathen city, without the knowledge and worship of the true God. How many great cities and great nations are there that *sit in darkness* and *in the valley of the shadow of death*! Beloved, This great city was a wicked city:
11. *Listen, Their wickedness had come up before* God and they sinned with *a high hand*. It is sad to think what a great deal of sin is committed in great cities, where there are many sinners who make others sin as well. That’s why the bible says…***come out from among them and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing thus sayest the Lord!!***
12. *Their wickedness had come up*, before the Lord, it had come up to a high degree, to the highest pitch, as that of Sodom and Gomorrah. [Gen. 18:20, 21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gen.18.20,Gen.18.21). Whom God destroyed!!
13. Therefore, Jonah had to go and *cry against it*; he must witness against their great wickedness and must warn them of the destruction that was coming upon them. God is coming forth against it, and he sends Jonah, to proclaim war against them, and to sound an alarm. God told Jonah to *Cry aloud, spare not the words*. He must not whisper his message in a corner but publish it off the roof tops and in the streets of Nineveh.
14. *He that hath ears let him hear* what God has to say by his prophet against that wicked city. Listen beloved When the cry of sin comes up before God the cry of vengeance comes out of God against the sinner.
15. “*Arise* quickly Johah; apply thyself to the business at hand with speed and courage, and the resolution that becomes a prophet; *arise, and go to Nineveh*.”
16. Beloved, those that God calls to go on God’s mission must rise and go, they must stir themselves to the work cut out for them by their God.
17. In the case of Johah, Jonah chose to dishonor God in refusing to obey his orders, and to go on the mission on which he was sent ([Jonah 1:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.3)):
18. *Jonah*, instead of rising to go to Nineveh, he chose to *rise up to flee to Tarshish* by way of Joppa and *the sea,* not bound for any particular port but thinking if I could only get away *from the presence of the Lord* and the task of going to Nineveh I’ll be alright. A terrible mistake!!!
19. So He felt if he could only do that, he didn’t care where he went, what Johah failed to understand like many of Gods children was that he could go anywhere he wanted to but not from under the eyes of God. “for the eyes of the Lord run to and from.” You can run but you sure can’t hide!!!
20. Jonah in himself refused to go to Nineveh to cry against it either because it was a long and dangerous journey, and a road he did not know, or because he was afraid his life was worth more than to go and deliver such a message to that great, ungrateful and potent city.
21. *What Jonah did was he relied and consulted with the arm of flesh and blood*. This is a serious problem in the life of a child of God!!!
22. *Jonah had serious problems he was afraid and feared for his life, but not only that* he was jealous for his country, and not willing that any other nation should share in the honour of divine revelation of his God; he feared it would be the beginning of the removal of the kingdom of God from the Jews to another nation. Satan was infiltrating his mind!!!
23. Jonah foresaw in the flesh that the Ninevites would probably repent, and God would forgive them and take them into favour, which would be a slap in the face upon the people of Israel, who had been so long a peculiar people to God.
24. He therefore went the way of Tarshish, Beloved listen up…..allow me to wise you up a little because…..The ready way is not always the right way. !!! **There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the way thereof is the way of destruction!!!!**
25. So, He found a ship in Joppa ready to go, and to set sail for Tarshish, and so he wasted no time he *paid the fare* and he did not care the cost he just wanted to get away from God and to a distance far *from the presence of the Lord*.
26. He went with the passengers, with the merchants, whoever they were that were going to Tarshish in the ship.
27. At this point Jonah, forgot his dignity as well as his duty, he went with them, and *went down* into the ship to go *with them to Tarshish*.
28. Beloved what we can see here in Johah is what becomes of men when God leaves them to themselves. What we need to learn is to *cease* from being to be too confident in ourselves or others in a time of trial; and remember, the scripture that says….. “*let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall*.”
29. When Jonah was on ship, and sailing for Tarshish, he felt himself safe enough; but did not realize he was convicted as a deserter from God by God Himself !!!
30. What an **Awesome God We Serve**, at this point God does something Awesome, He sends a pursuer after him, HE SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT, in the form of *a mighty storm in the sea*, [Jonah 1:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.4).
31. For those who don’t know, God’s Spirit is known in scriptures as a “Mighty Rushing Wind,” and also as Water with force and violence, God sent *a great wind into the sea*; even *stormy winds to fulfil his word*, The effect of this wind coupled with the sea became *a mighty storm*; that caused the waves to rise and become violent.
32. It is important for us to know that Sin brings storms and tempests into our soul and our lives, into the family, into churches and nations; it is a disquieting disturbing thing. The storm prevailed to such a degree that *the ship was likely to be broken in pieces*;
33. Something we need to also understand is that other ships were upon the same sea at the same time, but the ship in which Jonah was in was tossed more than any other and was in more danger than any other.
34. Beloved, this wind was sent after Jonah, to bring him back again to God in order to fulfil his duty; Today I say, count it a great mercy to be called home when we go astray, even if it be by way of a storm. Listen, one thing that is clearly evident is that Even The Winds and the Waters are more obedient to God than man!!!
35. The ship’s crew were alarmed by this mighty storm, but the person who should have had the most concern was very much unconcerned.
36. The men were affected with their danger, though it was not with them that God had this this great controversy.
37. The oldest and strongest of them began to tremble, being so scared that such a storm rose so suddenly they all began to seek refuge in their own god.
38. **Beloved,** God can strike terror upon the most daring, and make even *great men and chief captains* call for shelter from rocks and mountains.
39. They were so afraid that *every man cried unto his god*; this was the effect of their fear.
40. Beloved it is simply amazing how many will not turn to prayer until they are scared right into it. **Many wait until the storms of life prevail before they even think of praying to God !!**
41. The men in the ship cried *every man to his god*, the god of his country or city, or his own, this was a testimony against atheism that every man had a god and had the belief of a God. But we all know that there can be but one God, there is no need for any other. The only true God is especially to be prayed to when we are in distress and danger for **He is an Awesome God.!! The Bible says….***Call upon me in the time of trouble. Isa. any afflicted*? Isa. any frightened? *Let him pray*.
42. *Man loves to say Help thyself and God will help thee*. They started to throw everything *in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load*, *Skin for skin*, and *all that a man has, will he give for it*.
43. [Jonah 1:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.6). The *ship-master came to Johah*, ***What meanest thou, O sleeper*?** and ordered him to get up, both to *pray for life* and to *prepare for death*; Beloved **Too many who are called out by God in the church have fallen asleep while many perish!!!**
44. Beloved, men by their sin and folly diminish themselves and make themselves look absolutely foolish.
45. *The shipmaster told Jonah Arise, call upon thy God*; we are here crying every man to his god, why dost not thou get up and cry to thine? Art not thou equally concerned with the rest of us??
46. What the shipmaster was saying was this…**While there is still life there is hope, and while there is hope there is room for prayer.** He suggested also that it was God only that could execute their deliverance, and it must come from his power and his mercy.
47. Jonah is found out to be the cause of the storm.
48. The men in the boat distressed by the storm concluded it was a messenger of divine justice sent to arrest one of those that was in that ship, as having been guilty of some enormous crime.
49. Their voice came forth saying “*no doubt one of us is a murderer* who is now *pursued* by the *vengeance of the sea*, and it is for his sake that we all suffer.
50. They all agreed and came to an agreement… *Let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause the evil is upon us*.
51. None of them suspected himself, or said, **Lord; *is it I*?** But they suspected one another and would find out who it was.
52. These men desired to know the person that was the dead weight in their ship, the accursed thing, that one man might *die for the people* and that the whole ship *might not be lost*;
53. So, The *lot fell upon Jonah*,
54. The storm is sent after Jonah, because God has work for him to do, and it is sent to fetch him back to it.
55. Note, God has many ways of bringing to light those who run from Him to come back to Him!!
56. . God’s right hand will find out all his servants that desert him,; yea, though they flee to the uttermost parts of the sea, or go down to the sides of the ship. God will find them!!!
57. So Jonah was brought under examination “*Tell us, we pray thee*, what is the matter?” Two things they enquire of him,
58. Whether he would himself say he was the person for whose sake the storm was sent
59. They enquired concerning his calling: *What is thy occupation*? “Art thou, a sorcerer, a student in whichcraft? Hast thou been conjuring for this wind?
60. They continued to enquire concerning his country. One asked, *Whence comest thou*? Another, asked, *What is thy country*? A third asked “*Of what people art thou*? Art thou of the Chaldeans,” that were noted for divination, “or of the Arabians,” that were noted for stealing?
61. In answer to their interrogation Jonah finally comes forth and makes his declaration,
62. He tells them he is *a Hebrew* ([Jonah 1:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.9)), not only of the nation of Israel, but of their religion, which they received from their fathers.
63. *What is thy occupation*? In answer to that he tells them “ **I *fear the Lord Jehovah”***; that is the God I worship, the God I pray to, even *the God of heaven*, the sovereign Lord of all, that has *made the sea and the dry land* and has command of both.
64. When they enquired concerning his crime, for which he is now persecuted, He stated that he ***fled from the presence of the Lord*,** that he was there running away from his duty, and the storm was sent to bring him back.
65. Beloved we should all have reason to think that he told them this with sorrow and shame, justifying God and condemning himself and letting the men on the ship know what an “AWESOME GOD JEHOVAH “is, who sent such a messenger as this storm after a runaway servant.
66. *The men were exceedingly afraid*, for they perceived, That God was angry, even that the God that made *the sea and the dry land*. They concluded that the storm came from the hand of an offended GOD and therefore they have reason to fear it will go hard with them.
67. *Beloved* “If a prophet of the Lord be severely punished for one offence, what will become of us that have been guilty of so many, great, and heinous offences?” the scripture says “If *the righteous be* thus *scarcely saved*, *where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear*?
68. They said to him, **“*Why hast thou done this*?** If thou fearest the God that *made the sea and the dry land*, what made you become such a fool as to think thou could flee from his presence? “*Why hast thou done this to us*?” they were actually asking…“Why have you involved us in this persecution and prosecution?”
69. They enquired of Jonah himself what he thought they must do with him ([Jonah 1:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.11)): *What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm to us*? They perceived that Jonah is a prophet of the Lord, and therefore will not do anything, without consulting him.
70. *So Jonah says…Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea*., and assured them that then the *sea would be calm*. The reason he gives is, *For I know that because of me this great storm is upon you.*
71. Jonah here is a type of Christ, the Application here is that he *gives his life a ransom for many*; but with this material difference, that the storm that Jonah gave himself up to calm was of his own raising, but the storm which Christ gave himself up to calm was of our raising. Yet, as Jonah delivered himself up to be cast into a raging sea that it might be calm, so did our Lord Jesus, when he died that we might live.
72. When they found it necessary to cast Jonah into the sea they first prayed to God that the guilt of his blood might not lie upon them, nor be laid to their charge.
73. [Jonah 1:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.5). They prayed to the *God of Israel* *alone*. ***We beseech thee, O Lord! we beseech thee, lay not upon us innocent blood*.**
74. *Let not our hand be upon him*.
75. The Israelites were at this time killing the prophets for doing their duty for he had said, ***Touch not my anointed, and do my prophets no harm*;** it is at your peril if you do.
76. “Lord, they said , “*let us not perish for this man’s life*.
77. Having eradicated the guilt they dreaded, they proceeded to continue with the execution.
78. ([Jonah 1:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.15)): *They took up Jonah*, and *cast him forth into the sea*. They cast him out of their ship, out of their company, and cast him into the sea, a raging stormy sea, that cried, **“Give up, give up; surrender the traitor, or expect no peace.**
79. Note, many don’t know what ruin they run upon that run away from God. “***Woe unto them! for they have fled from me*.”**
80. The throwing of Jonah into the sea immediately put an end to the storm. The sea has what it came for, and therefore rests contended; it *ceases from her raging assault*. It was an instance of the sovereign power of God that he can soon turn the storm into a calm,immediately!!!
81. Many of us go through some storms ourselves, but have you ever wondered why the storms of life have come your way???
82. **BELOVED, OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!!!!**
83. The men on the ship were now more confirmed in their belief that Jonah’s God was the only true God ([Jonah 1:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah.1.16)): *Then the men feared the Lord with a great fear*, they were possessed with a deep zeal for the God of Israel, and came to a resolution that they would worship him only, From that moment on; for *there is no other God that can* destroy, that *can deliver, this way!!!*
84. When they saw the power of this **Awesome God** in raising and laying down the storm, when they saw his justice upon Jonah his own servant, and when they saw his goodness to them in saving them from the brink of ruin, ***then they feared the Lord*,**” [Jer. 5:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jer.5.22).
85. I only wonder what will it take to cause you to fear…**The Awesome God We Serve”**
86. Though Jonah flees from the presence of the Lord, and seems to fall into his avenging hands, God has more work for him to do, and therefore *prepared a great* ***Uber Taxi*** *in the form of a great fish to swallow up Jonah* one of the largest sorts of whales was in complete obedience to God!!!
87. Beloved, God has command of all the creatures, and can make any of them serve his purpose of mercy to his people.
88. Beloved, Let us *stand still and see this salvation of the Lord*, and admire his power.

IN CONCLUSION….

1. It was the Lord’s mercies that Jonah was not consumed. The fish swallowed up Jonah, not to devour him, but to protect him for Jonah was alive and well *in the belly of the fish three days and three nights*, not consumed by the heat of the animal, not suffocated or in need of air. Even the sea weed in the belly of the whale, didn’t bother him though it was all over him, all the water in the belly of the whale would not suffocate him the enzymes and juices that devour all things in its belly were held in check ,BY OUR AWESOME GOD!!!!
2. Finally in complete obedience to Our Awesome God, The Whale delivered Jonah to the shores of Nineveh and he went on to become a successful preacher to Nineveh. Everyone in Nineveh came to Jehovah God…The Awesome God we serve!!!
3. Jonah is in scripture is An illustrious type of Christ, who was buried and rose again according to the scriptures ([1 Cor. 15:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Cor.15.4)), for *as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly, so was the Son of man three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*, [Matt. 12:40](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt.12.40).
4. Jonah’s burial was a figure of Christ’s. God prepared Jonah’s grave, so he did Christ’s, when it was long before ordained that he should *make his grave with the rich*, [Isa. 53:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isa.53.9).

Beloved this message is for those who don’t understand that you can’t run from God, and He is saying to all …stop your running and disobedience for the God we Serve …IS TO BE FEARED FOR HE …..

**IS AN AWESOME GOD!!!**

**Call on Minister Gayleen.. to close in prayer…**