

**The Book of Incarnations!**  
**Part 4: Text from Jonah**  
***Slide Notations***

**“Incarnation”**

All Scripture is given by *inspiration of God*, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, *that the man of God may be fresh and complete, thoroughly equipped to finish out every good work.* **2T3.16,17**

The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes! We’re telling you that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: The infinite Life of God Himself took shape before us. We saw it, we heard it, and now we’re telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Our motive for writing is simple: We want you to enjoy it, too, this life of God. **1J.1,2,3**

Grace and peace be multiplied to you *thru the knowledge of God and of Jesus*, who according to His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, *thru the knowledge of Him* who called us to His glory and virtue, thru which is given us *great and precious promises* to partake in the divine nature having escaped the corruption in this world! **2P1.2-4**

**The whole reason that God sent Jesus and gave us His Spirit and left us His word was so that His kingdom could come alive for us!**

**There can be nothing unwanted, boring, or too hard in this offer of experiencing the life of God, with Him!**

**And the front door to this kingdom experience is the written Word of God!**

**Jonah 1-4** The Word of the Lord came to Jonah... “Go to Nineveh and cry out against it because their sin has reached heaven. But Jonah booked passage to get as far away as he could from the presence of the Lord. Then the Lord sent out a great wind and the ship was in danger of being broken up out at sea. And the sailors prayed to their gods and did everything seasoned sailors do to survive but Jonah slept in the hold of the ship... When nothing was working, they cast lots to see whose fault it was that this evil had come upon them and the lot fell to Jonah! “Who are you? Where are you from? Who are your people?” And he said, ‘I am a Hebrew and I fear the Lord who made everything.’ Then they were all afraid! “Why did you run from Him and why did you involve us? Tell us what we need to do to fix this!” Jonah said, ‘the only way is to throw me overboard!’ That wasn’t an option, so the men tried rowing harder toward the shore but they could not! Then they cried out to Jonah’s God, “Lord, don’t take our lives for this man’s death...” and they picked up Jonah and threw him over the side and the sea went calm! Then the men feared God exceedingly and offered Him a sacrifice and made vows to Him. But Jonah didn’t die because God had prepared a great fish to swallow him up... for three days and nights Jonah was in the belly of the fish before Jonah cried out to God. And when he acknowledged his sin and turned his heart toward God again, the Lord spoke to the fish and it spit him out on dry land! And the Lord said to Jonah, “go to Nineveh and cry out against it with the words I give you!” And he did, for three days he said what God said, and the people heard, repented and proclaimed a fast and God saw them and turned back from the destruction of their city! But it displeased Jonah... and he said, ‘isn’t this exactly what I said you would do, forgive them? Why don’t you just kill me!’ And the Lord asked him, “are you right in being angry? Isn’t it right that I should spare this great number of people who have listened and turned from their sin?”

**Jonah's story is told so graphically that it leaves an impression on our minds that the scenes unfolded before us!**

### **The Inspiration...**

**Leaves us with the impression of the longsuffering of God w/people He loves!** Jonah was enjoying the very grace he wanted withheld from Nineveh! His sin compelling him to run/so illogical! His heart deceiving him, and God takes action to chasten and deliver him! "He prepared a great fish!" How much of our suffering is willful sin and thinking *God will relent?* *Men in the ship* could have been collateral damage! NOT WITH GOD! Caring, they regarded Jonah's life! They regarded "God"/He saved them! *Nineveh* deserves to be destroyed but God not willing w/o one last approach!

**Testimony of the great lengths God will go to save the unsaved!** Lots of work to get a message delivered to Nineveh! No one else to send? Revival in Iraq/Syria (*and its roots are still there!*) Uses Jonah's sin to secure us all! Entire failure open before us/instruct! He does not forsake men who forsake Him!

**It demonstrates the way God works all things together for good, His powers over nature and the destiny of His own!** When God intersects our lives, it overflows with the supernatural! Storm so violent/wakes us in sin! Uses unlikely messengers/attention! Pathway so imaginative/unbelievable!

### **Incarnation...**

**We don't get to tell God what we will and won't do... Unless we are willing to suffer the consequences!** Spoiled child, rebellious slave. Subjected to the system of disobedience and judgment/vs. grace and mercy! The sea is where he fled/should've died! God's grace prepared the fish! It is absurd to think we can run from God!

**Our sin can, and does, have profound affects (more consequences) on others!** Those guys lost everything they had! The owner suffered loss of cargo/equipment. The sailors filled with fear/anxiety/pain! Other ships in the area/same! *That's all on Jonah!* **The devil profits from our disobedience!** New spin on "Love your neighbor!"

**"Family" Asides** Breaking 2<sup>nd</sup> half of laws of "Love..." always affects others... How many suffer from someone's financial irresponsibility? How many suffer from someone's irresponsible behavior? How many generations yet to suffer from modeling a lifestyle of sin?

**Lose the attitude on who God saves!** "God desires that all men would be saved!" Jonah was motivated by prejudice! They weren't Jews! But he was, and wasn't going to step down into the "mix!" (OT/NT problem!) And they weren't nice people! Unsaved and treacherous! Jonah didn't want God to look soft/weak!

**If incarnation of God's kingdom is anything it is an incarnation for everyone! That means we have to go, distractions aside, and deliver the word of redemption to anyone with ears!**