

THE SIGN OF THE DOVE

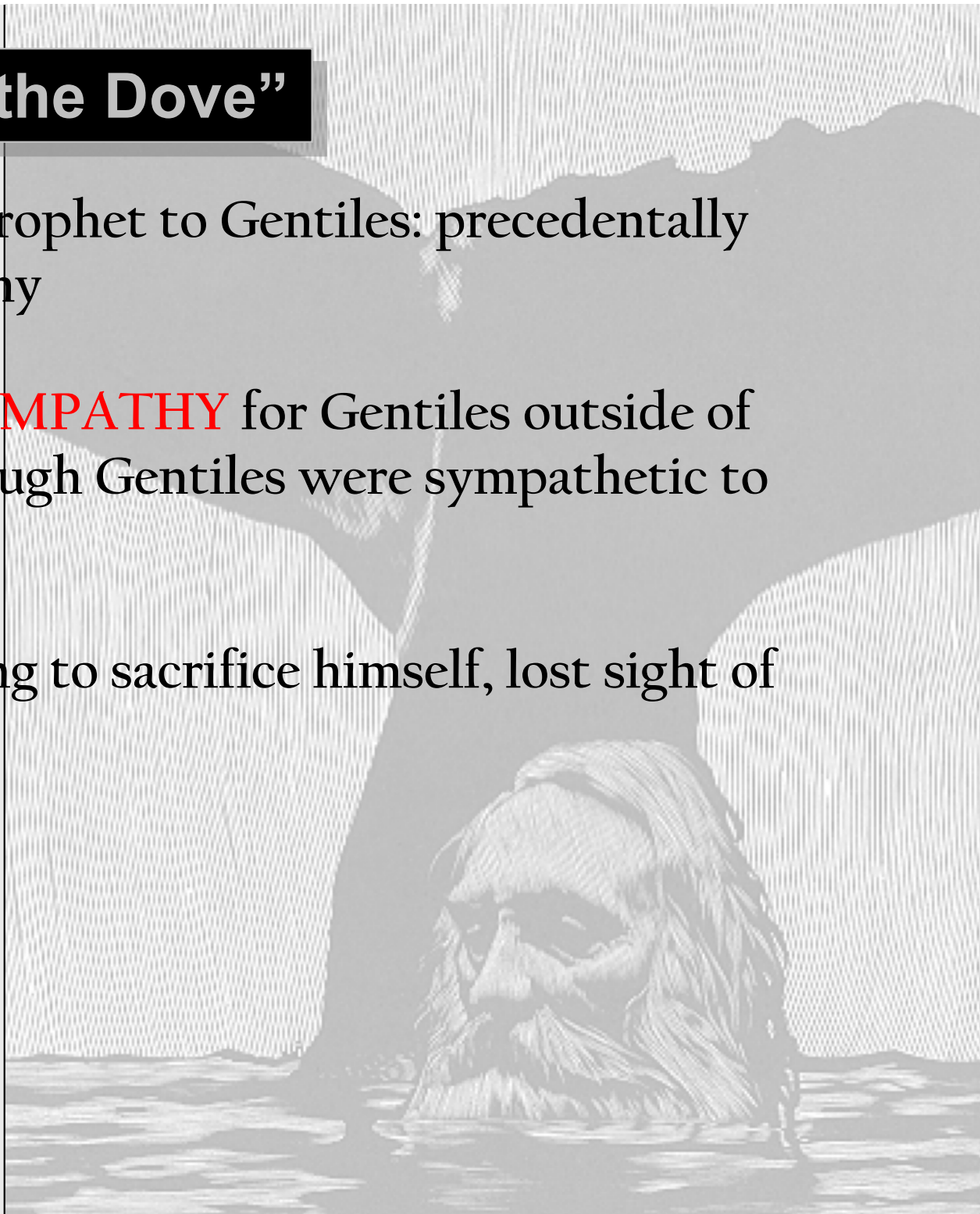


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The Education of the Psalms

Threads: “Flight of the Dove”

- Jonah precedential prophet to Gentiles: precedentially called to save the enemy
- Jonah’s 1st sin: no **SYMPATHY** for Gentiles outside of God’s mercy, even though Gentiles were sympathetic to his plight!
- Jonah’s 2nd sin: wrong to sacrifice himself, lost sight of God’s **MERCY**



Jonah's Prayer: Order of Service

Old Testament Israel

1 Gentile sailors pray to their gods

Jonah 1:5

2 Sailors instruct Jonah to call on his God

Jonah 1:6

3 Gentile sailors pray to Israel's God

Jonah 1:14

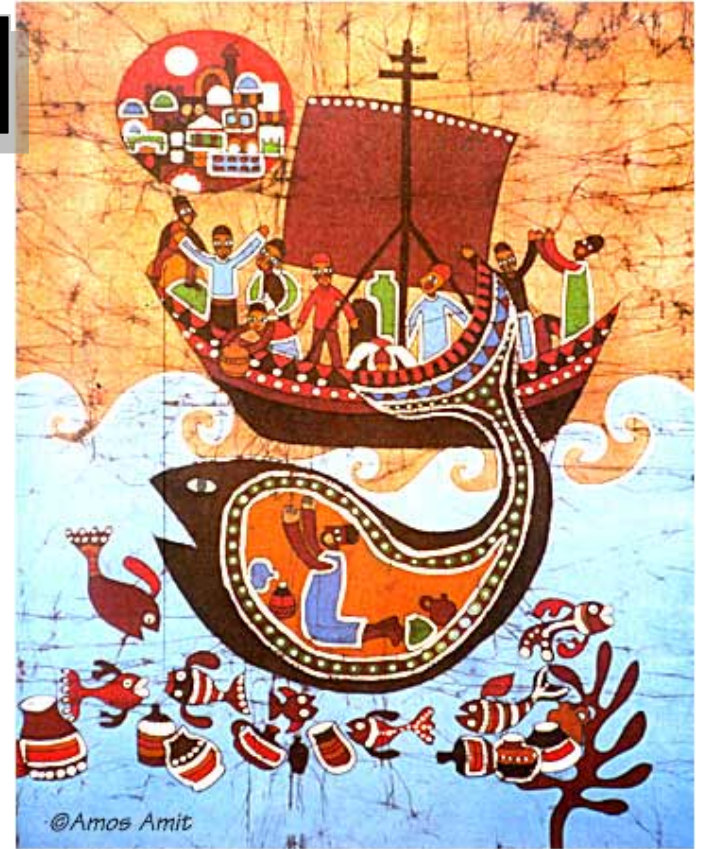
4 Jonah prays to Israel's God **Jonah 2:1**

New Testament Israel

“the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you... and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did.” Mt 21:32

Challenge: Contemporary (spiritual) Israel...?

Are we the first to engender spiritual discussion?



Jonah's Prayer: The Big Picture

A stunning revelation, through two obvious facts

1. Jonah's prayer offers God thanks for being saved
2. Jonah has not been saved

Jonah

'Presumptuous' Prayer

Jonah is not giving thanks for the salvation he has received, but for the salvation he trusts he will receive.

Usual sequence: Trial; Prayer; Deliverance; Thanksgiving

Lesson: We can – should! – presume upon God's goodness!

Do we thank God for bringing His kingdom?

Jonah's Prayer: Fine Detail

9 statements -
Every one a quote
from the Psalms!

So what?

3 Days' effort
Knew his Bible

Can Discover a
Hidden Prayer
in subtext!

<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Context</i>
2:2	18:6	18:25-27
2:3	88:7	88:3-5,13-14
	42:7	
2:4	5:7	5:3-4
2:5	116:3	116:1-2
	69:2	69:15-16
2:6	68:22	68:13
	30:3	30:1-12
2:7	18:6	18:16,19
	116:4	116:8-9
2:8	31:6	31:5-8
2:9	116:13-14	116:12-19
2:9	37:39	37:7-11,29



Education of the Psalms

In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. **Jonah 2:2**

In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice. **Psa 18:6**

Psalm 18

Fascinatingly relevant context

David writes **Ps 18** when literally 'exhausted' **2 Sam 21:15**

Jonah recognizes his culpability

"To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd. You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty." **Psa 18:25-27**

Education of the Psalms

*You hurled me into the deep,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about
me; all your waves and breakers
swept over me. **Jonah 2:3***

*Your wrath lies heavily
upon me; you have
overwhelmed me with all
your waves... all your
waves and breakers
have swept over me.
Psa 88:7; 42:7*

Psalm 88

*“my life draws near the grave... I am set apart with the
dead” **Psa 88:3-5***

Jonah cannot see any response from God to his prayer

*“But I cry to you for help, O Lord; in the morning my
prayer comes before you. Why, O Lord, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?” **Psa 88:13-14***

Education of the Psalms

I said, “I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.” **Jonah 2:4**

But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple. **Psa 5:7**

Psalm 5

But Jonah waits hopefully for an answer...

“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”

Psa 5:3

...because he knows the character of his God

“You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil”

Psa 5:4

Education of the Psalms

*The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. **Jonah 2:5***

*I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me... The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me. **Psa 69:2; 116:3***

Finally, Jonah Sees Mercy!...

Psalms 116, 69

*“I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for **mercy**. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.” **Psa 116:1-2***

...& Calls God to Act from His Mercy

*“Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me. Answer me, O Lord, out of the goodness of your love; in your great **mercy** turn to me.” **Psa 69:15-16***

Education of the Psalms

*To the roots of the mountains
I sank down; the earth
beneath barred me in forever.
But you brought my life up
from the pit, O Lord my God.
Jonah 2:6*

*The Lord says... I will bring
them from the depths of
the sea... O Lord, you
brought me up from the
grave; you spared me from
going down into the pit.
Psa 68:22; 30:3*

Psalms 68, 30

Mercy: The Dove Sheathed with Gold

*“the wings of my dove [Heb: Jonah] are sheathed with
silver, its feathers with shining gold.” Psa 68:13*

- Jonah sees that he is sheathed with gold
- The Temple was sheathed with gold *1 Kin 6-7*
- *Psalms 30* is the Dedication of the Temple!

Jonah sees HE is the Temple; declares he is open for business!!

Education of the Psalms

When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

Jonah 2:7

I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice... I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, save me!" **Psa 18:6; 116:4**

Psalms 18, 116

Mercy – Jonah sees he will be restored to life...

"For you, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living." **Psa 116:8-9**

...by being pulled out of deep waters

"He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters... He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me." **Psa 18:16,19**

Education of the Psalms

*Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. **Jonah 2:8***

*I hate those who cling to worthless idols; I trust in the Lord. **Psa 31:6***

Psalm 31

*“I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. You have not handed me over to the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place.” **Psa 31:7-8***

Jonah's Own Contribution

- Recognises **MERCY** for himself!
- Displays **SYMPATHY** for others!

Jonah has reversed his behaviour:

his sins are now completely forgiven, because he has left them

Education of the Psalms

*But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. **Jonah 2:9***

*I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people... **Psa 116:13-14***

Psalm 116

Jonah knows that he must 'walk the walk'

"How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?... O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains. I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord"

Psa 116:12,16-19

Education of the Psalms

***Salvation comes from
the Lord. **Jonah 2:9*****

***The salvation of the
righteous comes from
the Lord. **Psa 37:39*****

Psalm 37

At last: Salvation. Both in the moment...

***“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy
safe pasture.” **Psa 37:3*****

...and forever!

***“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him... For
evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will
inherit the land. A little while, and the wicked will be no
more; though you look for them, they will not be found. But
the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace ...the
righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever.”***

*****Psa 37:7-11,29*****

Revealing the Hidden Prayer

Quote's Context

1 *Psa 18:25-27*

2 *Psa 88:3-5*

Psa 88:13-14

3 *Psa 5:3*

Psa 5:4

4 *Psa 116:1-2*

Psa 69:15-16

5 *Psa 68:13*

Psa 30

6 *Psa 18:16,19*

Psa 116:8-9

7 *Psa 31:5-7*

Jonah's Addition

8 *Psa 116:12-19*

9 *Psa 37:7-11*

Psa 37:29

The 'Hidden' Prayer

God brings the haughty low,
thus I lie with the dead.

My morning prayer is unanswered,
so I must wait - expectantly!

God is good,
so He hears my cry for mercy
and His mercy will act to save me!

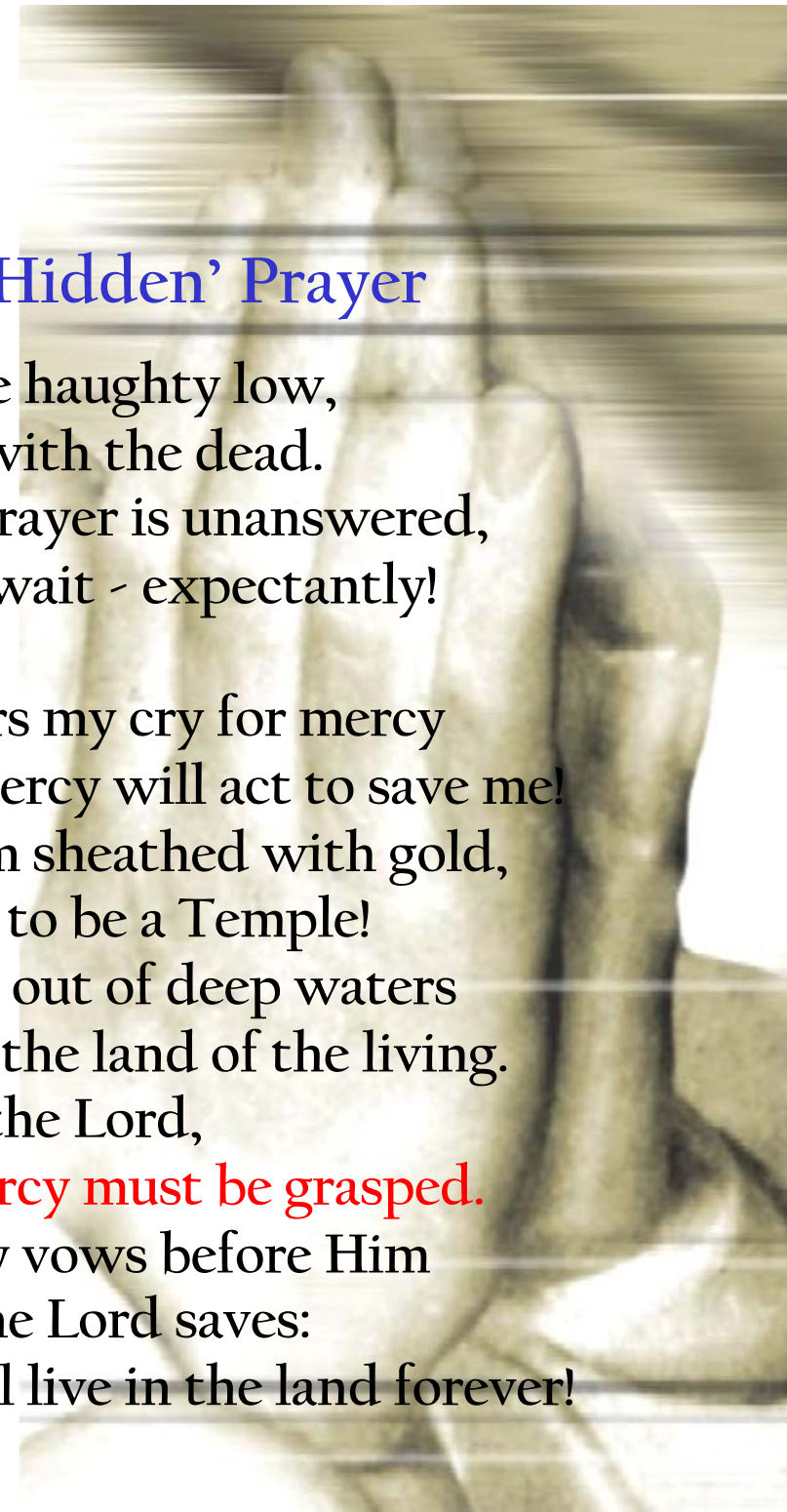
I [the dove] am sheathed with gold,
dedicated to be a Temple!

So I am drawn out of deep waters
and set in the land of the living.

I will trust in the Lord,
whose mercy must be grasped.

I will fulfill my vows before Him
because the Lord saves:

His people will live in the land forever!



Conclusion: “The Education of the Psalms”

- Jonah reversed both sins: prayer revealed perception of God’s **MERCY** and **SYMPATHY** for those outside it
- Jonah demonstrated immense faith in thanking God for a blessing that had not even arrived!
- If Jonah can learn from the Psalms, so should we!
- Jonah learned his calling was to BE God’s Temple
- Bible study is brilliantly rewarding: it is fascinating to see sub-textual messages

