



Redemption Bible Study #3

You Can Run But You Can't Hide

The Redemption of Jonah

THE STORY

Jonah 1:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out against it, because their wickedness has come up before Me.” ³But Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship that was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and boarded it to go with them to Tarshish away from the presence of the LORD.

Like Jonah, I had been running from God. Jonah had just begun to run after God called him to go to Nineveh... I had begun to run right after accepting Christ into my life as a boy. God brought Jonah to his knees when he had a great fish swallow him at sea. God brought me to my knees on a mountain in the Northwest Territories of Canada. I wasn't swallowed up by a great fish, but instead a great bear attempted to swallow me there on the mountain.

Jonah ran from God and God dealt with him in a most severe way. He was all but killed by the fish and then spit up on shore. In the belly of the fish Jonah prayed to God.

“I called out of my distress to the LORD, and He answered me.
I called for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.” (Jonah 2:2)

After the bear attacked me on the mountain I was lifted by helicopter to the nearest medical facility. As I flew through the valley I called out in my distress to the Lord and He answered me as He did Jonah.

Jonah's story is much more than what we are taught as young children. Even most adults that attend church, if you asked them about Jonah, they would know the story of Jonah and the big fish, beyond that most wouldn't know the running away and redemption story that plays out over and over again in a short time in Jonah's life. Let's take a look at God's amazing redemption of a rebellious man.