



...but **GOD**

JONAH 1:17, 2:10

“But God” Scriptures

- **Psalm 73:26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- **Genesis 50:20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

“But God” Scriptures

- **Acts 2:23-24** 23 But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. 24 But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.
- **Jonah 1:17** But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

“But God” Scriptures

- **Luke 15:1-2 NLT** 1 Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. 2 This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

“But God” Scriptures

- **Luke 15:3-6 NLT** 3 So Jesus told them this story: 4 “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. 6 When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’”

“But God” Scriptures

- The religious leaders were talking about Jewish people who had sinned too much in their opinion
- They had gone too far to even be considered Jewish
- They were not worthy of Jesus’ time or theirs
- If Jesus was really who He claimed, He would know this and them

“But God” Scriptures

- That raises the questions
 - How far is too far for God’s love?
 - How far is too far for God to reach out to us?
 - How far is too far for God to give up on His children?
 - Was Moses too far on the backside of the mountain?
 - Was David too far with Bathsheba?
 - Was Peter too far denying Christ?

“But God” Scriptures

- David said it best in **Psalms 139:7-8, 11-12 NLT** 7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. 11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.

“But God” Scriptures

- What if your rebellion takes you to the bottom of the deepest, darkest sea, will God find you there?
 - Will God hear you from there?
 - Will He respond to you from there?
 - Will He throw up His hand and say, “What’s the use”?

“But God” Scriptures

- The answer is found in the book of Jonah
- **Jonah 1:17, 2:10 NLT** 1:17 Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. 2:10 Then the Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

There has been far too much energy and words trying to determine what fish this was

- There has been far too much energy and words to determine if it was even possible for Jonah to survive
- Scripture does not tell us thus is really doesn't matter
- God could have created this creature for such a moment as this

What matters is God omniscience and omnipotence

- Omniscience - God's knows everything, He knows the future, the past, and everything that is going on at this moment
 - **Psalms 147:5 NIV** Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit (infinite).
 - **Psalms 139:16 NLT** You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

What matters is God omniscience and omnipotence

- Omniscience - God's knows everything, He knows the future, the past, and everything that is going on at this moment
 - God knew where Jonah was going to be at precisely this time and what He would need

What matters is God omniscience and omnipotence

- Omnipotent - having unlimited power; able to do anything
 - **Luke 1:37 ESV** For nothing will be impossible with God.
 - God instructed a massive sea beast to be at this exact place and time to serve Him

You will also miss God's grace and provision even when it is our sin that brings it down on ourselves

- Why is Jonah here?
 - His own sinful rebellion against God
- Why is God here?
 - He is seeking His sheep that has gone astray

God provided the perfect transport for Jonah at his greatest time of need

- God had willed and designed you to be born and he used your biological mother and father to transport you here
- **Psalms 139:13 AMP** For You formed my innermost parts; You knit me [together] in my mother's womb.
 - This is why we are to honor them and God by how we live
 - Even if they don't seem to deserve it

God provided the perfect transport for Jonah at his greatest time of need

- Jonah was in great need as he was sinking to the lowest depth of the sea
 - The only thing he had time to pray for was help as he was dying
 - There was nothing Jonah could do for himself

God provided the perfect transport for Jonah at his greatest time of need

- There was no way for him to imagine God would do anything
- But He knew God could and in the deep circumstances of his rebellion Jonah reached out to God
- Jonah did not know what he needed but God did, and God knew when Jonah would need it
- Jonah needed mercy and grace, the same thing he was refusing to announce to Nineveh

God provided the perfect transport for Jonah at his greatest time of need

- You must admit, God does not suffer from a lack of imagination in our times of need
 - Jonah didn't need a ship – never reach the surface in time
 - He didn't need more strength or larger lungs
 - He didn't need fame or fortune or any of the other things we strive for

God provided the perfect transport for Jonah at his greatest time of need

- He needed a massive sea creature to scoop him up and transport him to dry land and that is exactly what God provided
- Either God kept Jonah alive in the fish or resurrected him when he was vomited up
- It does not matter, God provided as only God can and will

God provided the perfect transport for Jonah at his greatest time of need

- God already knows what you will need to be His servant
- He already has a transport for you through whatever circumstance you find yourself
- No matter how you got there
- That is why we never need to fear, God is already there and ready for your every need

God provided a way for Jonah to pass through His wrath

- What is the difference between anger and wrath?
 - Anger is a feeling or emotion that stirs strong desires within us
 - Wrath is anger turned loose into action

God provided a way for Jonah to pass through His wrath

- Does God get angry at His people?
 - Yes, but there is also a difference between Godly discipline and Godly condemnation
 - God's punitive anger — that is, his punishing or condemning anger — is completely absorbed by Christ when he died
 - God may still be angry and displeased and grieved toward his beloved children in a disciplinary sense rather than a condemning sense

God provided a way for Jonah to pass through His wrath

- **Ephesians 4:30 NLT** And do not bring sorrow (grieve) to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.
- John Piper, "He does hate sin. I mean, we're not going to gloss over that. God hates sin, including mine — my regenerate, John Piper sinning. God hates sin, not only because it dishonors him, but because it damages me. Sin damages us, Christians."

God provided a way for Jonah to pass through His wrath

- Jonah is here because he sinned grievously against God
- **Jonah 1:4 NLT** 4 But the Lord hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart.
- But please notice, God provided a way for Jonah to pass through His wrath to do or become what He intended
- This is all grace
 - Undeserved, unearned, unmerited favor or goodwill from God

God provided a way for Jonah to pass through His wrath

- Jonah was in God's wrath, but the destruction or condemnation of it did not linger on him
- We have this promise as a born-again child of God
- **Romans 8:1 NLT** So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

God provided a way for Jonah to pass through His wrath

- God never looks upon us with contempt because he's always for us, never against us
- He is always ready to restore us and will bring us unfailingly to an eternity where there will be no grieving him, no quenching him, no displeasing him anymore
- But until then

God has provided a transport for us to pass through His coming wrath upon mankind

- **Romans 2:5 NLT** But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
- **Isaiah 13:9 NLT** For see, the day of the Lord is coming—the terrible day of his fury and fierce anger. The land will be made desolate, and all the sinners destroyed with it.

God has provided a transport for us to pass through His coming wrath upon mankind

- **Romans 1:18-19 NIV** 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

God has provided a transport for us to pass through His coming wrath upon mankind

- Just like in the days of Noah, God is moving toward a day when His righteous judgement will come upon unrepentant mankind
- It is called the great and terrible day of the Lord and we cannot even imagine
- Hollywood cannot come close to catching the horror and terror of this time

God has provided a transport for us to pass through His coming wrath upon mankind

- It begins with a period called “The Tribulation”
- It will culminate with Jesus taking His place on earth as “King of kings and Lord of lords”
- This would terrify me except I know God has once again provided a transport though this time of wrath

God has provided a transport for us to pass through His coming wrath upon mankind

- **Isaiah 53:5-6 NLT** 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins (*wrath*) of us all.

God has provided a transport for us to pass through His coming wrath upon mankind

- **John 3:36 NIV** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.
- **Romans 5: 9 NLT** And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

God has provided a transport for us to pass through His coming wrath upon mankind

- **1st Thessalonians 5:9-11 NLT** 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

God has provided a transport for us to pass through His coming wrath upon mankind

- Just like in the days of Noah
 - Those who passed through the door of the arc was saved from the wrath of God, everyone else perished
- Those who pass through the cross of Jesus are eternally saved from the wrath to come
 - Everyone who rejects the cross will perish eternally

The most important question for you to answer before taking your last breath is this

Which side of the cross do you find yourself today?



...but **GOD**

JONAH 1:17, 2:10