WHEN I'M COMPASSED ABOUT WITH FLOODS
(Jonah 2:4-9)

I. Look again to the temple (vs. 4).
A. Jonah had gotten himself into this mess.
   1. It was his sin that led to God's punishment of hi.
   2. He was the one that ran away from God.
B. At some point in the belly of the fish, Jonah came to realize that he was not going to die there.
   1. When that realization came about, he decided that he needed to be right with God.
   2. Verse 2 tells us that he cried out and God heard him.
C. After having obtained forgiveness, there was a desire to look to the temple.
   1. The temple was the place of worship for a Jew.
   2. He expressed a desire to worship God in the midst of a flood.
D. Worship of God by a heart that is seeking God, whether in pain or repentance, is a great soother of woes.
   1. In this case, Jonah knew he needed to worship God.
   2. Do you remember what Paul and Silas were doing in the middle of a flood life brought on them?
   3. A good Christian family not to long ago lost their father and grandfather.
      a. The day he died the family was gathered in his room crying and being very emotional as many would.
      b. After a while, one of the men of the family got the family to sing songs of praise to God.
      c. After this the crying stopped and they enjoyed a time of praise and worship together in the midst of death.
E. When things are going wrong in life, whether caused by us or not, worshiping God is a source of great comfort in the midst of a flood.

II. Pray to God (vs. 7).
A. When things looked grim for Jonah, he prayed to God.
   1. Again, this was his own fault.
   2. However, he had presence of mind to take his problems and penitent spirit to God.
B. We are to be a people of prayer.
   1. Jesus taught His followers to pray and not give up (Luke 18:1).
   2. We are to cast our cares upon God(1 Peter 5:7).
C. Again, remember Paul and Silas.
D. We sing songs about the necessity of prayer.
E. We pay it lip service, but are we truly giving heed to its power?
F. Our Father wants us to pray to Him (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
   1. Jesus is involved in our prayer life, praying through Him as our Mediator.
   2. The Holy Spirit is involved in our prayer life, as we studied in our
adult Bible class this morning.
3. All three members of the Godhead are involved in our prayers.
4. This shows us how much the Godhead wants to be involved in our lives.
G. When storms come, we are to go to God with them.
1. If we cause the storm, it is through prayer that we repent and confess our sins (Acts 8:22).
2. If life has caused the storm, it is to God we are to turn through prayer for help.
H. Jonah was there in the belly of the fish, with sea weed wrapped around him praying to God.
I. We ought to be people who follow the words of Paul and be instant in prayer (Romans 12:12).
1. If we think there is a problem, we ought to be praying.
2. Then, if there is no problem, we ought to be praying telling God thank you for there not being a problem.

III. Pay what we’ve vowed (vs. 9).
A. Under the Mosaic Law, there were sacrifices of thanksgiving to be offered to God.
1. Leviticus 7 and 22 talk about these offerings.
2. Psalm 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.
B. Jonah promised to pay what he had vowed.
1. He would also need to offer sacrifices of atonement.
2. He had sinned and now promised to pay what he had vowed.
C. When a storm of life comes that we have caused, through repentance, we need to remember that we left off keeping a vow we had made and that needs to change.
1. When we were baptized, we vowed we would live for God, putting our will under His.
2. Repentance, is a remembering of that vow, an acknowledgment that the vow was broken and a decision to turn back to the keeping of that vow.
D. When storms not of our causing come, we need to remember the vow we made and continue to pay to God what we owe Him.
1. Storms of life are not causes for defeats of faith.
2. They are times when rededication to and strengthening of the vows to God should be made.
E. We serve a great God who wants us to make it safe through storms.
F. Living faithfully for Him or coming back to Him during those storms allow us to do just that.