

JONAH THE PROPHET

References:

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Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General:

Specific:

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- 3.
- 4.

Instructions:

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Bible Verse:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

(Romans 8:28)

Lesson:

Jonah The Prophet

1. All things work together for good:

Saint Paul the apostle said, "...all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28); we have also learnt this from the book of Jonah. Even the things which appear to be the source of toil and affliction work together for good. The great fish that swallowed Jonah was also the reason for a great blessing. It was a safe submarine that carried Jonah and brought him near

the place of his service. This great fish was also able to teach Jonah to pray, for we find Jonah, who did not bow to God in the ship, praying inside the belly of the great fish, making vows to God, speaking faithfully, and leaving the great fish to carry out God's Will which he had previously disobeyed. Do not be afraid if you are swallowed by a great fish one day. Perhaps this great fish has been sent to you by God, Who has prepared it for your sake in order to grant you a special blessing. Therefore, remember the words of the Bible, "all things work together for good..."

Indeed, for those who love God, all things work together for them for good. All things do not work together for good for all people. Tribulations come to many people and they grumble, murmur, complain and blaspheme. However, when tribulation comes to a person who loves the Lord, he thinks: 'What is the blessing that the Lord wishes for me from behind this tribulation?' In this way, all things work together for good for him. There is a beautiful comforting verse at the beginning of the book of Genesis, at the end of the story of creation, in which the Divine Inspiration says: "Then God saw every thing that He had made, and indeed it was very good." (Genesis 1:31)

2. God's Kindness:

God was kind with the gentile mariners and accepted their prayers as He accepted thereafter the prayers of Cornelius the gentile. By His acceptance of the prayers of the non-believers, He transformed them to believers. Likewise, He was with them in the casting of lots and guided them to the right name, finally calming the sea and rescuing them.

As He was kind with the mariners, He was also kind with Nineveh. At the mere repentance of this sinful city that deserved destruction, "God repented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it." (3:10) He forgot all of its old sins and it became before Him as white as snow, until Jonah was angry with God 's kindness. The Lord treated Jonah with the same kindness with which he was angry. There is no doubt that God was kind with Jonah, who disobeyed His orders, escaped from Him, not giving importance to the salvation of 12,000 people and became rightly angry, even to death (4:9).

3. God always works and succeeds in His work:

Do not think that God's rest on the seventh day means that He stopped work, for the Lord Jesus Christ says, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." (John 5:17).

In the book of Jonah we find that God worked for the sake of three purposes: the salvation of the people of Nineveh, the salvation of the mariners and the salvation of Jonah himself. God placed before Him a map of the place: here is Jonah, here is the sea and the ship, here is the great fish, here is the worm, here is the sun. He then gave His orders as a wise leader. "Move, great fish; you will find a ship between Joppa and Tarshish, stop there, open your mouth and be ready. Arise, sea and waves, strike the ship until it nearly overturns. Arise worm and eat the plant, and you, vehement east wind, become inflamed with the sun's heat and strike the head of Jonah. " All of these devices worked for the sake of the action of salvation and God was successful in His work despite all the human obstacles. He was able to save everyone with His love and wisdom.

Conclusion:

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