

Jonah 1.17-2.10

Who ya Gonna Call?

Jonah - NAME MEANS = DOVE, flew far away from God

Called by God > Preach to Nineveh // Instead Travel to Tarshish / Spain?

RAN from God – Tried to LEAVE God FAR Behind > WISH Came True

When the gods wish to punish us they answer our prayers. Oscar Wilde

1. Miracle OF the Fish

Today Anti-Supernatural Bias CHANT: “If miraculous, then unhistorical”

Fish Swallowing Man/ Entire City Repenting / Plant Growing Overnight NOT!!

Use E-mail -- do not understand how message travels world in seconds

FLUSH Toilet in my APT – Don’t know WHERE it Goes? Don’t Want to!

OUR OPINION AND EXPERIENCE IS NOT STANDARD OF TRUTH

TRUE, FACTUAL STORY -- HISTORY NOT MYTH – GREAT FISH!

Nothing in Writing of Book Suggests Fiction or Myth – presented as FACT

Do we INTERPRET Bible LITERALLY? – NOT ALWAYS

Interpret it WAY the LITERATURE was WRITTEN > AUTHOR’S INTENT

“...the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands”

Isaiah 55.12

NOT Told what KEY the MOUNTAINS will SING IN or Whether

The TREES are Wearing MITTENS? **FIGURE of Speech**

ALL CREATION Gives PRAISE to its MAKER and GOD

Jesus: ““Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.” John 10.7

NOT a PIECE of WOOD – 2 METERS High / 1.75 METERS WIDE

AUTHOR of TELEPHONE DIRECTORY > Expects Absolutely Literal Interp

IF you get the NUMBERS WRONG – You will NOT CONNECT with Someone

BIBLE collection of Writings – 66 Books by 40 Authors written 1000 year Span
 THAT in itself is GREATEST MIRACLE – Unity of Theme and MESSAGE
 Within Collection of Books – POETRY, PROPHECY, HISTORY, LAW
 Necessary REQUIREMENT for Proper INTERPRETATION is Identify Style

THIS Section of JONAH > MOSTLY POETRY // Like Book of PSALMS

MOST of JONAH > Historical names and places “Jonah son of Amittai”

“great city of Nineveh” “port of Joppa” “city of Tarshish” ALL ON THE MAP

Matter-of-fact description v.17 “And the LORD appointed a great fish...”

NO ATTEMPT TO CONVINCING OR PERSUADE READER

Fish mentioned briefly in just 3 verses

NO EXAGGERATION – How BIG was FISH – How MANY People in Nineveh

MOST IMPORTANT PROOF - WITNESS OF JESUS

Man who NEVER LIED / Even Enemies could NOT find Fault w/ Him

GOD IN HUMAN FLESH – INCARNATION OF TRUTH AND WISDOM

Jesus: “Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites...The men of Nineveh...repented at the preaching of Jonah”
 Luke 11.30,32

Jesus: “For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
 Matthew 12.40

What difference does it make if Jonah was not historical but fictional? The main effect is that if Jonah was not a real person the force of Jesus' appeal to his experience would have been considerably weakened....Jesus based His sign of the prophet Jonah on the historicity of Jonah and his experience in the fish, which Jesus' contemporaries took literally.
 Thomas Constable

JESUS BELIEVED JONAH – AND THE FISH – AS HISTORICAL FACT

It must be the most criticized fish that ever swam in the Mediterranean. One sometimes hopes that there may be provision made for fish to speak in heaven, so that this poor creature can have the opportunity to answer its critics! Sinclair Ferguson

We HERE Should ALL KNOW TRAVEL IN BELLY of FISH is POSSIBLE
HOT, STICKY, & CROWDED – JUST LIKE A BUS IN BEIJING

LIKE ALL OF LIFE – MATTER OF FAITH – ULTIMATE LOYALTY

UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY PROFESSOR – Ph.d. in Evolution

Young Christian went to talk with her “Why do you believe in Evolution?”

Theories of Darwin – why? – Archeological finds – why? – carbon dating – why? ----- I BELIEVE IT BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT --- Faith Commitment

I BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE – MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

I BELIEVE IN RESURRECTION OF JESUS FROM THE GRAVE

I BELIEVE JONAH WAS SWALLOWED BY A GREAT FISH

I BELIEVE IN THE MIRACLE OF THE FISH – Best of All Miracle IN Fish!

2. Miracle IN the Fish

Men have been looking so hard at the great fish that they have failed to see the great God.
G. Campbell Morgan

JONAH FOUND GOD’S MERCY IN THE MIDST OF HIS MISERY

MIRACLE IN FISH – Jonah’s CHANGE of HEART – WORK of GRACE

a. Man in Panic

1) Sinking

Believer who FORSOOK God –Paid the Way- Went Down – Way, Way, Down!

“he went down to Joppa” Jonah 1.3

“he went down below deck” Jonah 1.5

“they threw him overboard” Jonah 1.15

v. 3 For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

vs. 5,6 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains.

Situation is HELPLESS and HOPELESS > Falling to Bottom of the Sea

TERRIFYING Words: SURROUNDED, CLOSED IN, WRAPPED his Head

Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick...For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9.12,13

SAVED – Word from SWIMMING Pool > DROWNING, DESPERATE Man!

2) Separation – DEATH means SEPARATION > 3 Kinds of Death in Bible

v. 4 I said, 'I am driven away from your sight...'

v. 7 my life was fainting away...

When Jonah was turning his back on God, it did not bother him at all that God was thus abandoned by him. But suddenly, when Jonah was thrown overboard to his death, he found himself in a position of apparently being abandoned by God, and he did not like this at all. James Boice

a) Spiritual Death > Occurred in GARDEN of EDEN > ATE Forbidden Fruit

FELLOWSHIP Broken / HARMONY btwn God & Man turned to HIDING

God: "Where are you Adam?" **Spiritually Dead** > Adam still LIVED to 930!

b) Physical Death > Separation of BODY & SPIRIT > LIFELESS CORPSE

BODY Remains like a SHELL > Looks like US > NOBODY Home > GONE!

c) Eternal Death > a.k.a. The SECOND Death > Terrible, Horrible, Forever

Spirit & Resurrection Body (ALL Get) Forever SEPARATED from HOLY God

When you RUN AWAY from God & THEN REALIZE ONLY God can Save...

Who ya Gonna Call?

3) Sheol > for Jonah DEATH was NOT ANIHILATION

v. 2 “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried...”

SHEOL – OT Place where WICKED Remain until their FINAL Judgment

v. 6 “I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.”

Jonah views the underworld as having a gate which was locked secure by bolts and bars: there could be no escaping from it...It is not annihilation in death that Jonah fears here, but rather the prospect of being abandoned in Sheol, and consequently separated thereafter from God. Desmond Alexander

Modern Church > Discussion PERHAPS Unbelievers DIE and Life OVER

Some Teach – NO Eternal HELL – No Place of TORMENT, Endless Suffering

Might WISH that were TRUE – My Own Loved Ones waiting for HELL

In the water and then in the great fish, he learned what hell was like, and it was there in his misery that he repented and turned to God again. James Boice

CLEAR Teaching of Bible – HELL is Real, Eternal, Forever, Horrible

JESUS talked MORE about HELL than Heaven > WARN World from Going!

JUST & RIGHTEOUS Punishment for REJECTION of God’s MERCY in Christ

b. Man in Prayer

Jesus “When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray” Mt 6.6

Jonah’s PRAYER CLOSET – TOMB OF BLUBBER – No Interruptions

GOOD MODEL of PRAYER – Thankful, Biblical, Repentant, Confident

1) Thankful Prayer

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Thankful in all things – even Fishy Smells

v. 9 “song of thanksgiving” ECHO off Insides of Belly of Fish Improved Sound,
Like Singing in the SHOWER

Paul and Silas had this hope in a Philippian jail as they Prayed and SANG

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had this hope as they walked with Jesus in
Nebuchadnezzar’s raging fire

Abraham had this hope as he looked for a permanent city to come

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Paul, Silas, Jonah – COMMON LOT
THEY HAD NO IDEA WHAT WOULD COME NEXT – DEATH??
ALL HAD SAME GUARANTEE – GOD HOLDS THEM & FUTURE

HAVE WE BECOME TOO CONCERNED TO KNOW FUTURE
AND NOT CONFIDENT ENOUGH THAT GOD HOLDS US & FUTURE
WE KNOW JONAH GOT OUT OF FISH – HE DID NOT KNOW it THEN

BASIS OF THANKSGIVING WAS NOT PHYSICAL DELIVERANCE
BASIS WAS GOD’S SALVATION – 2.9 “Salvation comes from the Lord”
GRACE DOES NOT FAIL even WHEN THERE’S NO EVIDENCE FOR IT
Old Gospel Hymn “this world is not my home, I am only passing through”
BECAUSE WE ARE IN CHRIST – Forever, Eternally, Inseparably

“My dear friends, we are now God’s children, but it is not yet clear what we shall
become. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, because
we shall see him as he really is. Everyone who has this hope in Christ keeps
himself pure, just as Christ is pure.” 1 John 3.2,3

2) Biblical Prayer GIGO Principle – positive and negative

POSITIVE – Good Things IN / Good Things OUT ///

NEGATIVE – Garbage IN / Garbage OUT

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22.6

WELL LOVE VERSE AMONG BELIEVING PARENTS –

NOT GUARANTEE THAT CHILD WILL BE SAVED

PICTURE TREE BEING SHAPED - Young SAPLING TO MIGHTY OAK

Patterns made in early growing years - most often followed in later years

Jonah was GOOD JEWISH BOY –no doubt a Synagogue Kid– Son of LAW SCHOOL OF PROPHETS – studied and memorized the Scriptures

HEBREW PRAYER BOOK – PSALM- PRAYER SOUNDS LIKE ONE

QUOTES FROM PSALMS - Jonah had recited these in worship many times

WHEN YOU SQUEEZED JONAH – SCRIPTURE CAME OUT – also 4.2

“Prayer is asking God for what He has already promised” Martin Luther

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRAYER OF JONAH AND THE SAILORS

Both offered in Faith – ONE a Biblically educated FAITH

REASON for Sermons – this is God’s Ultimate Truth / for Salvation and Life

SAILORS – “call on your god, MAYBE he will take notice of us” Jonah 1.6

v. 2 “I called to the Lord and He answered, I called for help, and you listened”

KNOWS the God he CALLS because he KNOW His Promises of His WORD

NOT THE “MAN UPSTAIRS” / NOT NAME OF GOD OF THE BIBLE

VAIN NAME – BREAKS 3rd Commandment – God’s Name in Vain

KNOW BIBLE – NAMES OF GOD– PROMISES - SOLID PRAYER

GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO BELIEVING PARENTS

Fill your children with Word of God – living and eternal, life-giving Word

FAMILY DEVOTIONS – some excellent examples – ours not great
 Psalms, Proverbs, all of NT – Starting back again – Read briefly and pray
 PATTERN of KINGDOM LIVING: Bible, Prayer, Worship, Following Christ

BEST CHANCE OF RAISING A KINGDOM CITIZEN

3) Repentant Prayer

Repentance is TURNING AROUND – Literal and Spiritual for Jonah
 Turned around from Nineveh to Tarshish / GOD TURNED HIM BACK

TURNED FROM STUBBORNESS TO SUBMISSION

HONESTLY FACED THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF CHOICES

v. 2 “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.”

v. 4 ‘I am driven away from your sight...’

v. 5 “The waters closed in over me to take my life”

v. 6 “I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever”

BOTTOM OF SEA / WORLD OF THE DEAD / INESCAPABLE

Terrible FREEDOM of MAN – he can Reject God / In TRUTH his Only Desire

“None is righteous, no, not one no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside “No one who seeks God, no one who does good, not even one”

Romans 3.10-12

HELL > Man’s CHOICE / Total Separation from God / Tragic RESULT

ALL Goodness, Light, Life come from God --- Leave God for utter darkness

Jonah had to throw himself on God alone – NO GUARANTEES

Better to be in God’s Hands – Even in Judgment – than be SEPARATED

v. 8 “Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.”

Jonah was IDOLATOR - Idea about God – Not the Biblical view of God

Jonah's GOD was ONLY FOR THE JEWS – NOT FOR NINEVITES
 IDOLATRY IS RAMPANT EVEN IN THE CHURCH

Last Verse of 1 John “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” 1 John 5.21

UNBIBLICAL IDEAS ABOUT WHO GOD IS – Miracle man, Mr. Fix-IT
 Christians walking around claiming things that God never promised!!

Only way to know true God is through Jesus – only way know Jesus – Bible
 TRUE REPENTANCE – NOT ASK FOR ANYTHING – NO “get me out!”

4) Confident Prayer

TRUE REPENTANCE BRINGS FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Confident – NOT in Circumstances -- In God – In Solid Hands of God

WHEN GO SO LOW – CANNOT LOOK ANYWHERE BUT UP

vs. 4,7 ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple...When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

Even this NORTHERNER from ISRAEL realized TRUE TEMPLE of God

Located in SOUTHERN Kingdom of JUDAH > Capital City of JERUSALEM

When KING SOLOMON Dedicated TEMPLE he PRAYED:

Listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place...If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy...if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their enemies...then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you... 1 Kings 8.30,46-50

TODAY as NEW Covenant Believers Look to TEMPLE not made with HANDS
 TEMPLE that was DESTROYED > THREE Days LATER was RISEN to LIFE
 TEMPLE > MEETING Place of God and MAN / Meet God in JESUS CHRIST
 JESUS is ETERNAL TEMPLE of God > BUILT into Him by FAITH

LOOK to HIM – PRAY to Him - FIND MERCY and FORGIVENESS in HIM

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.
Psalm 34.6

5) God Centered

So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea Jonah 1.15

v. 3 For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas...

Reveals UNSEEN HAND OF GOD behind the work of MAN'S HANDS

BIBLICAL PICTURE OF WATER – always POSITIVE and NEGATIVE

RED SEA – Drowned the Egyptians / Pathway of Salvation to Israelites

BAPTISM – Down into water of Death to Sin / Lifting up to Newness of Life

JONAH – water that DROWNS became the waters of DELIVERANCE

KEY DIFFERENCE – Only FAITH IN GOD – Changes Symbol into Reality

Jonah came to God not as Good Jew or Godly Prophet – COMMON SINNER

v. 9 “Salvation belongs to the LORD!” – not Heritage, Works, Theology, Church

NOW – HAVING GONE WAY DOWN – DOWN, DOWN, DOWN

v. 9 “I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!” what I have vowed I will make good”

RESTORED to PLEDGE of Faith & Obedience / HE WILL GO AND PREACH

God lets Jonah experience judgment...peril in the belly of the fish and the threat of death....God wants Jonah to learn that his life is totally in the hands of God. But he also wants Jonah to realize that, above all else, the Sovereign of life is very gracious...It is almost impossible for us to comprehend the “breadth and length and height and depth” of God’s love for the world in Jesus Christ. That love “surpasses knowledge.” But perhaps the charming little story of Jonah can aid us toward that comprehension.
Elizabeth Achtemeier

ELIZABETH GETS IT! > ALL of Scripture is POINTING to Jesus Christ

JESUS CHRIST WENT WAY DOWN – DOWN, DOWN TO THE CROSS

He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death – his death on a cross...
Philippians 2.8

JESUS WENT TO HELL TO BRING MANY SONS TO GLORY

JONAH: STORY of SALVATION / JESUS IS SOURCE OF SALVATION

“Salvation is from the Lord – the Lord Jesus Christ”

“Salvation is to be found through him alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us”
Acts 4.12

For this reason God has raised him to the highest place above and given him the name that is greater than any other name.
Philippians 2.9

COME TO JESUS – MIRACLE OF GRACE WILL BE DONE IN YOU

Jonah 1.17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying, “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. 3 For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. 4 Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’ 5 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head 6 at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. 7 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. 8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. 9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!” 10 And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Websites that consider the Great Fish of Jonah:

http://www.whitcombministries.org/documents/Defending_the_Bible.pdf

<http://www.pastormatthew.net/blog09/?p=1817>

<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/jonah.pdf>

<http://www.city-data.com/forum/religion-philosophy/1431232-does-reading-bible-cause-people-leave-18.html>