

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

Called by God – preach to Nineveh // Instead Travel to Tarshish / Spain

Believer who forsook God –paid the way- went down – way, way, down!

1.3 “he went down to Joppa”

1.5 “he went down below deck”

1.15 “they threw him overboard”

2.6 “to the roots of the mountains I sank down”

SPIRITUAL DOWNER EVEN WORSE What to do when you’re down?

1. Miracle OF the Fish 2. Miracle IN the Fish

A Great Fish – A Greater God

1. Miracle OF the Fish

Many Modern Readers – from the WEST – anti-supernatural bias
MODERN CHANT – “If miraculous, then unhistorical”

Fish swallowing man/ entire city repenting / plant growing up overnight –
IMPOSSIBLE!

OUR OPINION AND EXPERIENCE IS NOT STANDARD OF TRUTH
Use E-mail -- do not understand how message travels world in seconds

TRUE, FACTUAL STORY -- HISTORY NOT MYTH

– nothing in writing of book suggests fiction or myth – presented as FACT

- Historical names and places “Jonah son of Amittai”
“great city of Nineveh” “port of Joppa” “city of Tarshish” ON THE MAP

- Matter-of-fact description 1.17 “great fish to swallow Jonah”
NO ATTEMPT TO CONVINCING OR PERSUADE READER
Fish mentioned briefly in just 2 verses
NO EXAGGERATION – how big was fish – how many in Nineveh

SUPPORT OF JEWISH HISTORY –

culture extremely concerned for historical accuracy

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS – wrote in the First Century

“Since I have promised to give an exact account of our history, I have thought it necessary to recount what I have found written in the Hebrew books concerning the prophet Jonah”

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

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

Mt 12.40 “Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish

JESUS BELIEVED JONAH – AND THE FISH – AS HISTORICAL FACT

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA Research Center

Quoting from “Sign of the Prophet Jonah and Modern Confirmations”

SOME CRITICS believed fish = GREENLAND WHALE – LAUGHED!!
Throat so small it would choke on an Orange

SPERM WHALE – example, text only says “great fish”

Mouth – 7 meters long, 5 meters high, 3 meters wide

BIGGER THAN ROOMS OF MOST APARTMENTS IN ALMATY

Feed on Squid – Much larger than a man – Often swallow them Whole

INSIDE SPERM WHALE – uncomfortable, but survivable

“There would be air to breathe, of a sort. It is needed to keep the animal afloat. But there would be great heat, about 40 to 44 degrees Centigrade. Unpleasant contact with the animal’s gastric juices might easily affect the

skin, but the juices would not digest living matter; otherwise they would digest the walls of the creature's own stomach"

LIFE IN THE BELLY – JUST LIKE AN APARTMENT IN ALMATY

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

2. Miracle IN the Fish

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

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

REACTION TO TERRIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES Ex. Job and his wife

Lost children, home, property, and health

Wife – "Why don't you curse God and die"

Job – "The Lord gives, the Lord has taken away, blessed by name of God"

JONAH DID NOT CURSE GOD – BLESSED HIS NAME IN PRAYER

MODEL PRAYER – thankful, biblical, repentant, confident

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

a. Thankful Prayer

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Thankful in all things – even Fishy Smells

2.9 “song of thanksgiving” – echo off walls of belly of fish improved sound,
like singing in the shower

// Our Experience – in Christ and in this world

World passing away –we’re leaving this world– IS ALL WE KNOW NOW

Old Gospel Hymn “this world is not my home, I am only passing through”

So we are thankful and joyful even in the difficulties of this World

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

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 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 OF IT

GREAT MIRACLE OF SINNER REPENTING – GRACE - THANKFUL

b. 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

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

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

JONAH – 2.2 “I called to the Lord and He answered, I called for help, and you listened”

NOT JUST COSMIC BEING WHICH YOU HOPE IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE

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

TAKE BIBLE – READ FOR FEW MINUTES BEFORE DINNER

Psalms, Proverbs, all of NT – Starting back again – Read briefly and pray

PATTERN OF KINGDOM LIVING –

Scripture, prayer, worship, following Christ

BEST CHANCE OF RAISING A KINGDOM CITIZEN

CONCERN ABOUT CHRISTIAN WORKERS WHO DO NOT HAVE

ACTIVE CHURCH LIFE – teaching kids to have low value for the Church

c. 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

2.2 “from the depths of the grave / lit. SHEOL / place dead await Final Judgment

2.4 “I have been banished from your sight”

2.5 “the waters were at my throat”

2.6 “the earth beneath me barred me in forever” / “from THE PIT”

BOTTOM OF SEA / WORLD OF THE DEAD / INESCAPABLE

JONAH TURNED BACK ON GOD/ WENT OWN WAY/DID NOT CARE

NOW GOD SEEMS TO TURN AWAY FROM JONAH / Jonah is in Panic

TERIBLE FREEDOM OF MAN – he can reject God / his only desire
“No one who seeks God, no one who does good, not even one”

HELL – man’s desire / total separation from God, goodness, life, and light
Goodness, Light, Life come from God --- Leave God for utter darkness

REPENTANCE IS HONEST – many Christians are not honest
“oh, it is not that bad – I can handle it – God will give me a miracle”

Jonah had to throw himself on God alone – NO GUARANTEES

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

STEP FURTHER THAN HONESTY – ACTUALLY REPENT – TURN!
Some may know they have a big problem and not do anything about it

2.8 “those who cling to worthless idols” – JONAH WAS IDOLATOR

Jonah had an idea about God – Not the Biblical view of God

GOD IS ONLY FOR THE JEWS – NOT FOR NINEVITES

IDOLATRY IS RAMPANT EVEN IN THE CHURCH

1 John 5.21 “keep yourself from idols”

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 – DOES NOT ASK FOR ANYTHING – get me out!

d. 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

2.7 “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you Lord,
and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple”

God Centered

2.3 “you hurled me into the deep” //

1.15 “they took Jonah and threw him overboard”

CRITICS – Bible CONTRADICTS itself // FOOLISH CHARGE

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

“God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called by Him

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 – FAITH IN GOD – only thing that changes Symbol into Reality

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

2.9 “Salvation is from the Lord” – not heritage, works, theology, church

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

2.10 “what I have vowed I will make good” / HE WILL GO AND PREACH

STORY OF JONAH – PICTURE OF JESUS

HE WENT WAY DOWN – DOWN, DOWN TO THE CROSS

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

Mt 12.40 “Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will spend 3 days and nights in the depths of the earth”

JESUS WENT TO HELL TO BRING MANY SONS TO GLORY

JONAH IS STORY OF SALVATION –
JESUS IS SOURCE OF SALVATION

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

Acts 4.12 “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”

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

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