

A Whale of a (TRUE) Tale (Jonah 1:17–2:10)

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INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

NEW EXPOSITION

God appoints fish; swallows Jonah 3 days/nites (1:17)

1. Jesus treats this as historically true; so should we:
For 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)
2. The word *fish* is *dāḡ*, allowing *whale, fish, shark*, etc.
Genesis 1:21, 26 render this same word as *sea creatures*.
3. The term *appointed* (*mānâ*) allows for this to be a one-of-a-kind creature especially for this occasion.
- 4 Historic cases of whalers living post-whale-swallowing.

3 days & 3 nights is idiom for *on the 3rd day*. If so, Jesus **2** died (per Mat 12:40) on a Friday in a year when Passover was Friday. If not, He died in a year when Passover was Wednesday or Thursday. The following shows that *x days & x nights = on the xth day*.

3 days in jail = released on the 3rd day (Gen 42:17-18)

Fasting 3 days, but eating on the 3rd day (1 Sam 30:12-13)

Not fighting 7 days = fighting on the 7th day (1 Kgs 20:29)

Coming after 3 days = coming on the 3rd day (2 Chr 10:5)

Fasting for 3 days & going on the 3rd day (Esther 4:16—5:1)

God answered Jonah's in-belly prayer for help (2:1-2)

(In-belly) He thanks God for rescue from sea by the fish

Jonah knows that God was gracious to him (cf. 4:1)

Jonah says he was cast to the sea for disobeying (2:3)

Tho in-belly, Jonah says he will see the Temple (2:4) 3

Tangled in seaweed at bottoms of mountains, Jonah is barred from escape, but the Lord delivers him 2:5-7)

Jonah describes his own death

Jesus refers to Jonah's (death and) raising

Matthew 12³⁹ *But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For 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."*

Many say that the sign of Jonah = preaching, but that does not fit verse 40.

Israelite idolaters forsake their covenant-keeper God (2:8)

The word for *mercy* is *hesed* (covenant loyalty)

Both Jonah & Israel had lost sight of God's *hesed*

Jonah vowed a praise sacrifice, for sparing him (2:9) 4

Leviticus 7:11-18 describes the praise sacrifice

One who perceived God's deliverance could vow to praise God (i.e., to pay for a sacrifice, which would be eaten with a group, in which the person would tell of the Lord's deliverance).

Leviticus 7¹⁶ But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offers his sacrifice; but on the next day the remainder of it also may be eaten; ¹⁷ the remainder of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day must be burned with fire. ¹⁸

And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering is eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, nor shall it be imputed to him; it shall be an abomination to him who offers it, and the person who eats of it shall bear guilt.

Heb 13:15 calls *sacrifice of praise* legitimate, *even now*.

The Lord made the fish spit Jonah onto dry land (2:10)

Jonah did not deserve to live (after rebellion), but God was gracious

God let Jonah live, despite knowing what Jonah would do in chapters 3–4

God let the northern kingdom continue, despite knowing its many idolaters had forsaken their God of *hesed*

Conclusion