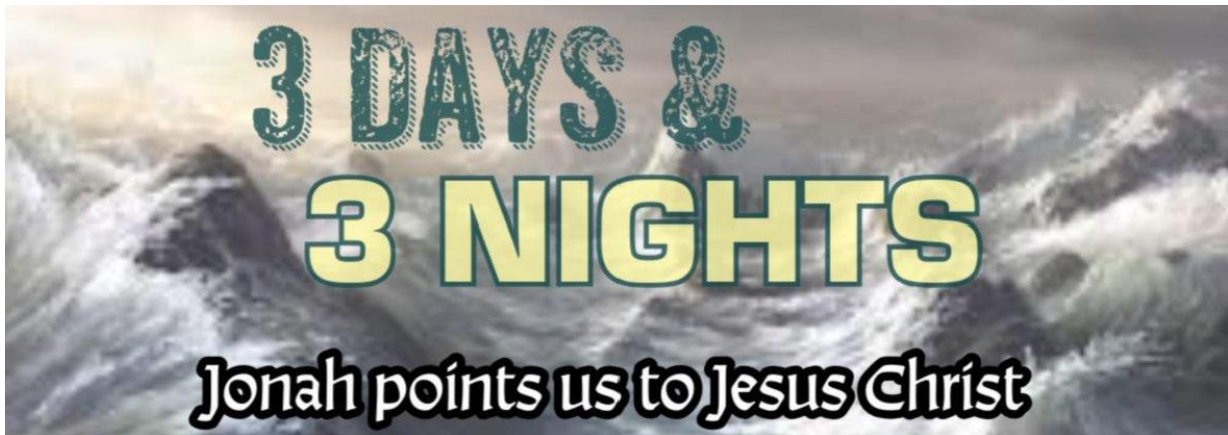


Jesus said... *“Search the scriptures...they are they which testify of me.”* (John 5:39)



## INTRODUCTION

The account of Jonah is a fairly familiar one. God told Jonah to go preach to the city of Nineveh. Jonah refused, and, “...rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD;” (Jonah 1:3) Jonah boards a ship and falls asleep, “But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea...” (Jonah 1:4) The men then wake up Jonah, and he tells them everything. Jonah tells them to throw him overboard (willing to die rather than to get right), and, left with no other choice, they do, “...and the sea ceased from her raging.” (Jonah 1:5) Little did Jonah know, however, what God had “prepared” next.

**Text:** Jonah 1:17 to 2:10

### 1. The Historical Account and Application

- 1:17, Jonah was swallowed by a whale.
  - Whale - created with fish, but as a separate creature. (Science catches up with the Bible every now and then.) Genesis 1:20-23. Lamentations 4:3 shows that Jeremiah knew about “sea monsters” that we would call “mammals”. And Jonah 1:17 says, “Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. “Great” can mean large, but it has other meanings, such as this (from the Webster’s 1828), “a term of comparison, denoting more magnitude or extension than something else, or beyond what is usual” A Biblical example is found in 2 Kings 4:8, where we find a “great women”. She was different than others. In Genesis 1, we were already told that whales were different than fish. This “great fish” is something different than others! Look at what Christ, the Creator said in Matthew 12:40. That should settle the matter, Amen!
- 2:1, Jonah’s body was in the belly of the whale, but his soul was somewhere else, because he died in the whale’s belly.
- 2:2-6, The Bible says that Jonah’s soul was in hell. (Hell is down, in the center of the earth, under your feet right now.) Somewhere through all of this, Jonah prayed (v.1), and made a vow (v.9).
- 2:9, Jonah was brought up “from corruption”, indicating that his body had already started to corrupt while in the whale’s belly.
- 2:10, Jonah was brought back up on “dry land”. He was raised from the dead in the flesh, went and preached to the people of Nineveh, and they repented, Amen!

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## 2. The Prophetic (and Doctrinal) Application - **Matthew 12:38 to 41** (Luke 11:29-32; Matt. 16:1-4)

- The only sign given was that, “...of the prophet Jonas.” (Matt. 11:39)
- Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose again in His physical body! But, He said that He would, “...be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Matt. 12:40)
- That is somewhere besides the tomb, which is not, “...the heart of the earth...”, just as the whale’s belly was not hell.
- So, what happened in those, “...three days and three nights...”?
- Jonah was in hell. (Jonah 2:2)
- Christ was, “...in the heart of the earth.” (Matt.12:40)
- Man is a body, soul, and spirit. At death, “...the wages of sin...” (Rom. 6:23), man’s body goes to the grave (Gen. 3:19); his spirit returns to “...God who gave it.” (Ecc. 12:7; 3:21); and his soul spends eternity in heaven if he’s saved (John 3:16; 14:6) or in hell if he’s lost (Rev. 20:15)
- Christ died, “...the wages of sin...” - our sin, on the cross. His body was buried in the tomb (John 19:38-42); He commended His spirit to God the Father (Luke 12:46); and His soul went to, “...the heart of the earth.” (Psalm 16:10)
- In the garden, Christ said, “...My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death:” (Matt. 26:38. On the cross, Christ did not just take on our sin, He became sin for us. (2 Cor. 5:21)
- The lost sinner loses his soul. (Mark 8:36-37; 9:43-44, 46, 48) Christ was likened to, “...the serpent in the wilderness.” (John 3:14-15) Christ took the place of the lost sinner on the cross. (Psalm 22:1, 6)
- What happened to His soul? (Psalm 16:10) Notice the “Holy One”, a prophecy of Christ!
- He became our offering! Isaiah 53:1-12, “...when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...” (Eph. 5:1-2) Christ made the complete sacrifice for sin, and satisfied the full wrath of God on a lost sinner. This is how salvation is provided!
- [For a further study of what else Christ did in those three day and three nights, see the following verses - Eph. 4:8-10; Matt. 12:20; Rom. 6:10; 1 Pet. 3:19-20; Jonah 2:2; Matt. 16:18; Luke 16:23-26; 1 Pet. 4:4; 2 Cor. 12:4; Rev. 1:18.]
- Christ died with, and was buried with our sin, but on the third day, He gloriously arose without sin or corruption! AMEN! (Acts 2:22-28)
  - Jonah arose “from corruption”; Christ arose without seeing corruption!
  - Jonah arose and many were saved; Christ arose and all can be saved! (Rom. 10:9-13)
  - Jonah arose alone; Christ arose and, “...let captivity captive.” (Eph. 4:8)
  - Jonah arose after being surrounded by the bars of the earth; Christ arose with the keys! (Rev. 1:17-18)
- The Gospel contains the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ! (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 10:9-10)
- And, because of what Christ did, one day our corruptible body (like Jonah’s) will, “...put on incorruption,” (like Christ’s body)! Amen! (1 Cor. 15:50-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 John 3:1-3)

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### 3. The Practical (Personal) Application - How does this apply to me?

- We have rest. God is satisfied with Christ’s sacrifice, and you can add nothing to it. If you’re saved, you’re secure! (Is. 53:11)
- We have every reason to live for the Lord and serve Him! (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- We should thank Him every single day. (Heb. 13:15)
- We can go on. (Heb. 12:1-3)
- We should witness. (Acts 1:8)
- We should look for His appearing. (Titus 2:11-14)
- We should repent.
  - If you’re saved, you should remember your First Love! Fall in love again with the Christ Who endured all of that for you. Thank Him with your life. (Rev. 2:1-7)
  - If you’re lost, “...repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:15) The Gospel, “...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures:” (1 Cor. 15:3-4) How could you refuse an offer from the Christ Who did this for you? (Rom. 5:6-8) If you refuse it, you will face the wrath of God on your sins against Him! (John 3:36)

### **Closing: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

For your consideration: The phrase, “...three days and three nights...” occurs three times in the Bible. In Jonah, in Matthew (about Christ), and in 1 Samuel 30:11-15. There we find...a type of us, those who are saved? We see an Egyptian man, left behind, and spared by David.

- He was an Egyptian, of this world. (Eph. 2:1-3; John 8:44)
- He was brought to David, we were brought to Christ. (2 Cor. 5:20)
- He was fed, a type of receiving God’s words. (Matt. 4:4)
- “...his spirit came again to him:”; “And you hath he quickened...” (Eph. 2:1-10)
- He was a walking dead man, because, “...he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights.” We were dead in our trespasses and sins before we heard the words of God! (Rom. 10:14-17)
- Spiritually, we are risen with Christ! (Rom. 6:1-6)
- David pointed out what he was, and he had to admit to it. (Rom. 3:23; Rev. 20:15)
- He did everything the world told him to, but then they left him for dead. (2 Cor. 4:3-4)
- The man asks two things - Will you let me live? And will you promise not to send me back to my old master? This is a type of repentance, he wanted to live, and not go back to his old master, amen! (Mark 1:15; 2 Cor. 5:17)
- David made him a promise on those two requests. (John 3:16)
- This man took David at his word! (John 6:47; Acts 16:31)