

Not Merely a Children’s Story

Pictures of Jonah’s time in the whale

We Are in A Worse Situation Than You Think

A picture of the human condition

Jonah is being punished for his disobedience with presumed death, “you threw me”

He is “driven away from your sight” – compare to Genesis 3:24

The wages of sin is death

An extended drowning metaphor comprises the majority of the poem

1. Cast into the deep → Jonah is far underwater
2. The flood surrounded me → Jonah can’t get away
3. The water enveloped me to my throat (the word for life in the Hebrew is same word for the throat with which you breathe) → Jonah is unable to breathe because water is in the way
4. Weeds were wrapped around my head → He is experiencing the physical sensation of being trapped
5. At the roots of the mountains → Jonah is at the bottom of the sea.
6. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever → Jonah is in the place of the dead
7. Yet you brought my life up from the pit → Jonah experienced “the pit” which is literally the grave or the realm of the dead in the OT, and yet he was also rescued.

Did Jonah actually die?

We Have a Greater Hope Than You Realized

Three days is a biblical pattern of death and life

Genesis 1

Day 2 – God creates a lifeless sky and water

Day 3 – God creates lifeless land

Day 5 – God creates life in the sky and sea

Day 6 – God creates life on the land

Genesis 22:3-4

“And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.”

Exodus 19:9-16

The phrase “third day” is mentioned four times! God enters into a covenant with Israel, and they receive their new identity. It is new life given to a oppressed and dying people.

Hosea 6:2

“After two days he will revive us, after three days he will raise us up.”

The sign of Jonah

Luke 11:30 “For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.”

Mark 9:31 “[Jesus] was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”

The Gospels mention the third day 21 times!

How You Get the Hope

You cry out!

Salvation is by faith

True faith is recognizing you deserve death, but seeing that God has saved you undeservedly.

How the Hope Grows You

Jonah serves as a counterexample, not as a person to copy. Specifically, his view of God and others is deeply hypocritical and ironic.

When you reflect on your salvation, it will make you love God more.

When you reflect on your salvation, it will make you love people.

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Jonah is punished for his disobeying God, and his punishment is death. Look up Romans 2:12, Romans 6:23, and Genesis 2:17. What does the Bible say about the consequences for sinning and disobeying God?
2. How is Jonah’s salvation on the third day a picture of God’s redemptive plan?
3. How does Jonah serve as a counterexample for us?
4. Why is reflecting on your salvation important? How can it make you love God and love others more?