



## **The Book of JONAH** **“Know Your Calling!”**

Date: 800 B.C.

Theme: *Salvation for Mankind*

Type: *Christ’s Resurrection & outpouring of the Holy Spirit for SALVATION!*

> **Who is JONAH (his name means a dove)?** - The prophet who was first swallowed by a great fish before he obeyed God's command to preach repentance to the Assyrian city of Nineveh. Jonah was not always a reluctant spokesman for the Lord. He is apparently the same prophet who predicted the remarkable expansion of Israel's territory during the reign of Jeroboam II (ruled about 793 B.C. - 753 B.C.; 2 Kings 14:25). This passage indicates that Jonah, the son of Amittai, was from Gath Hopher, a town in Zebulun in the northern kingdom of Israel.

- Jesus Himself taught the story of Jonah as real and in correlation to His death and resurrection - Matthew 12:39–41- *Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." 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. 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. The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. Also, Luke 11:29–30.*

- The late Henry Morris, Creation Scientist writes, “One cannot deny the factuality of Jonah's experience, therefore, without charging the Lord Jesus Christ with either deception or ignorance, either of which is equivalent to denying His deity.”

> **God’s six miracles in The Book of Jonah:**

#1 - *'The Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest' (Jonah 1:4),*

#2 - *'The Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah' (Jonah 1:17),*

#3 - *'The Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land' (Jonah 2:10),*

#4 - *'The Lord God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah' (Jonah 4:6),*

#5 - *'God prepared a worm...and it smote the gourd that it withered'* (Jonah 4:7),

#6 - *'God prepared a vehement east wind...'* (Jonah 4:8).

- **The life of JONAH is discovered in each chapter:**

- CHAPTER ONE - Jonah, the DISOBEDIENT Prophet
- CHAPTER TWO – Jonah, the DEEPLY Spiritual Man
- CHAPTER THREE – Jonah, Special DELIVERY
- CHAPTER FOUR – Jonah, the DISCIPLE

> The moral of the story, or shall we say history: *“I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.”*

**Chapter 1 - Jonah’s Rebellion/God’s Intervention**

(v1-2) **“Arise, go to Nineveh cry out against it for their wickedness!”**

(v3) **Jonah flees from the presence of the LORD.**

(v4-7) **You cannot run from God!**

(v8) **The World Cries Out!**

> **Four keys in knowing your calling:**

#1 - *“Whose cause?”- John 3:16*

#2 - *Our “occupation?” – 2 Corinthians 5:20*

#3 - *“Where do we come from?” – 1 Peter 2:11,12*

#4 - *“What is your country?” - Philippians 3:20*

#5 - *“What people are you?” – 1 Peter 2:9,10*

(v9-17) **Jesus confirms Jonah (resurrection) - Matthew 12:38-41**

(Moving to New Testament Greek, and the verse under discussion in this article (Matthew 12:40), did Christ refer to the great fish of Jonah as a “whale”? Matthew records that Jesus employed the Greek term *ketos* to refer to Jonah’s sea creature. The Septuagint translators used the same term in their rendering of Jonah 1:17. Greek lexicographers are decisive on the meaning of this word. The highly respected Greek scholars Arndt and Gingrich offer only one definition for *ketos*— “sea-monster” (1957, p. 432). The dictionary that was designed for use with the United Bible Societies’ prestigious Greek New Testament text (*A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*) defined *ketos* as “large sea creature” (Newman, 1971, p. 100). Thayer listed three terms— “sea-monster, whale, huge fish” (1901, p. 346), with the reference to “whale” being merely one possibility among many others within the broader sense of the term.

## > Chapter 2 - "The Power of Prayer"

(v1) Jonah PRAYED to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.

> Prayer - Acceptable prayer must be sincere (Heb 10:22), offered with reverence and godly fear, with a humble sense of our own insignificance as creatures and of our own unworthiness as sinners, with earnest importunity, and with unhesitating submission to the divine will. Prayer must also be offered in the faith that God is, and is the hearer and answerer of prayer, and that he will fulfil his word, "*Ask, and ye shall receive*" (Matt 7:7,8; 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 14:13,14), and in *the name of Christ* (16:23,24; 15:16; Eph 2:18; 5:20; Col 3:17; 1 Peter 2:5).

(v2) Notice Jonah said, "*my affliction*" - Jonah reaps what he has sown! (1 John 1:9-10)

Observe: "He (God) answered me" – God is gracious!  
"You (God) heard my voice" – God is merciful!

(v3) In the New Testament: Matthew 8:18-27 (Call on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and peace!)

(v4) "*I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple*" – Jonah displays FAITH in God by looking toward the holy temple.

- Today we look to Jesus! - Hebrews 12:1-2 - *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

(v5-6) Jesus brings up life from the pit! (Luke 7:11-17; 8:40-56; John Ch. 11)

(v7-8) Caste aside your idols, lest you caste aside God's mercy! (In the New Testament the term idolatry is used to designate covetousness (Matt 6:24; Luke 16:13; Col 3:5; Eph 5:5.)

(v9) Jonah yields the fruit of a repentant man, (1) "*I will sacrifice to You*"; (2) "*with the voice of thanksgiving*"; (3) "*I will pay what I have vowed*"; (4) "Salvation is of the LORD." (SALVATION - This doctrine of salvation reached its fulfillment in the death of Christ on our behalf. Jesus' mission was to save the world from sin and the wrath of God (Matt 1:21; John 12:47; Rom 5:9). During His earthly ministry, salvation was brought to us by His presence and the power of faith

**(Luke 19:9-10). Now, our salvation is based on His death and resurrection (Mark 10:25). The salvation that comes through Christ may be described in three tenses: past, present, and future. When a person believes in Christ, he is saved (Acts 16:31). But we are also in the process of being saved from the power of sin (Rom 8:13; Phil 2:12). Finally, we shall be saved from the very presence of sin (Rom 13:11; Titus 2:12-13). God releases into our lives today the power of Christ's resurrection (Rom 6:4) and allows us a foretaste of our future life as His children (2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:14). Our experience of salvation will be complete when Christ returns (Heb 9:28) and the kingdom of God is fully revealed (Matt 13:41-43.) (From Nelson's Bible Dictionary)**

**(v10) There's good vomit and bad vomit, this is good vomit! Bad vomit is found in Revelation 3:14-22.**