

Mark XVI. 14.

**GROUND**

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**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN  
SURPRISED EVEN WHEN  
YOU EXPECTED?**











The background features a large, stylized blue fish silhouette, possibly a whale, swimming upwards. The fish is composed of two main parts: a darker blue upper section and a lighter blue lower section. The entire background is decorated with wavy, horizontal lines in various shades of blue, creating a textured, water-like effect.

JONAH



**WHAT UNIQUE  
CONTRIBUTION DOES  
THIS TEXT MAKE TO  
OUR FAITH?**



# THE BOOK OF JONAH

- ★ Unlike any other prophetic book
- ★ No direct pronouncement for Israel
- ★ Long discussion about genre
- ★ Some scholars see it as historic
- ★ Others challenge it as highly improbable



**GOD CALLS - PROPHET FLEES**

**SAILORS FAITHFUL - JONAH'S NOT**

**ONLY SOLUTION OVERBOARD?**

**SWALLOWED BY A FISH**

**NINEVEH MOST RUTHLESS ENEMY**

**KING REPENTS ON A RUMOR?**

**BEASTS WEAR SACKCLOTH**

**GOD GROWS AND KILLS PLANT IN A DAY**



# **THE FANTASTICAL**

## **(FISH STORY)**

Historical?

Mythical?

Satirical?



# THE BOOK OF JONAH

Gentiles

Chapter 1 - SAILORS

Chapter 3 - NINEVITES

Prayers

Chapter 2 - RELENTS

Chapter 4 - CRITIQUES



# METHOD



# HERMENEUTIC

## Interpretation

“What does it mean?”



# EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

- 1) **Literal**
- 2) **Allegorical (spiritual)**
- 3) **Tropological (moral)**
- 4) **Anagogical ("ascent" - afterlife)**



# MODERN METHODS

Historical-critical

Narratological

Contextual

Semiotics



A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

**MATTHEW 12:39**



## THE SIGN OF JONAH

Matthew

**Jonah** - three days in fish

**Jesus** - three days in earth

Luke

**Jonah** - to the Ninevites

**Jesus** - to his generation



This shows us the way in wh<sup>ch</sup> we must deal  
unbelief in ourselves, & in others. It is  
I should be treated as such. Jesus w<sup>h</sup> not  
upbraided had not this been the case.

In the case before us they had repeated  
testimonies, from the brethren, & backed by  
his own words, yet we have even one  
guilt for Jesus' name to be risen & yet doubt

to be raised from the dead.

Suppose I were told I should have a son

who would be a great man, & yet I should

not believe it, & yet I should have a son

who would be a great man, & yet I should

# STORY



The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish.

**JONAH 1:1-3**





Ionians Dorians  
Other Greek peoples  
Phoenicians

See also pages 18/19, 20, 26/27, 30/31.

Scale 1:20,000,000





Carchemish

Nineveh

Aleppo

Hamath

Tyre

Gath-hepher

Joppa



Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and  
such a violent storm arose that the ship  
threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid  
and each cried out to his own god.

**JONAH 1:4-5**







March XVI. 14

# WHERE'S JONAH?



*Mark VII. 14 /*  
*This shows us the way in wh we must deal*  
*unbelief in ourselves, & in others. It is*  
*shown as needed as such. Jesus*  
*unaided had not the case.*  
*In the case before us they had repeated*  
*the same thing.*  
*He says we have even*  
*to go to the very heart of the matter.*

“Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us?”

He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.

**JONAH 1:8-9**



So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm."

**JONAH 1:11-12**



Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard,  
and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men  
greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a  
sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

**JONAH 1:15-16**



Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow  
Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three  
days and three nights.

**JONAH 1:17**



Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

**JONAH 3:1**



Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

**JONAH 4:4**



The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed,  
and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on  
sackcloth.

When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he  
rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered  
himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

**JONAH 3:5-6**



But the Lord replied,

“Is it right for you to be angry?”

**JONAH 4:4**







This shows us the way in wh we must deal  
unbelief in ourselves, & in others. It is  
I should be treated as such. Jesus w<sup>o</sup> not  
upbraided had not this been the case.

But God said to Jonah,

“Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

**JONAH 4:9**



This shows us the way in which we must deal  
unbelief in ourselves, & in others. It is  
I should be treated as such. Jesus at first  
unperceived had not this been the case.

In the case before us they had repeated

**"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."**

his own words, yet he has even more  
guilt for having him to be risen & yet doubt  
the resurrection. I wish I were dead.  
I wish I were dead. I wish I were dead.  
I wish I were dead. I wish I were dead.

**JONAH 4:9**



But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

**JONAH 4:10-11**



## THE BIG IDEA

By hook or by crook,  
God's will be done.



March XVI. 14

# WHAT DOES THIS

# "SIGN" MEAN FOR US?

1. *Chrysomelidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 2. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 3. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 4. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 5. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 6. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 7. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 8. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 9. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)  
 10. *Curculionidae* (Colorado potato beetle)



This shows us the way in wh<sup>ch</sup> we must deal  
unbelief in ourselves, & in others. It is  
I should be treated as such. Jesus w<sup>h</sup> not  
upbraided had not this been the case.

# 1) WE ARE INADEQUATE

his own words yet he has even more  
guilt for Jesus has risen & yet daily  
to be with us daily in us  
I have said I do not know how to  
be with him



















This shows us the way in wh<sup>ch</sup> we must deal  
unbelief in ourselves, & in others. It is  
I should be treated as such. Jesus w<sup>h</sup> not  
upbraided had not this been the case.

**1) WE ARE INADEQUATE**

**2) GOD IS SUPERLATIVE**



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