



In Jonah 2, we enter a very messy part of the story. He has just been cast overboard, by his own approval, for the salvation of the mariners who are left on the ship alive. He is then swallowed up by a great fish and taken into the \_\_\_\_\_ sea (v. 3). We will now see two great controversies of Jonah's story. Was Jonah swallowed by a great fish or by a whale...and did he die or did he yet remain alive inside of this creature? Religious people bicker about both questions (Matt. 23:23-24) and the lost world uses these controversies to disregard all the truth of the Bible. Is there a purpose to Bible controversy and can we know the truth?

## THE CONTROVERSY OF JONAH – Jonah 1:17-2:7

### 1. **Controversy #1:** Was it a great fish or a whale that swallowed Jonah? – v. 1:17, 2:10; Matt. 12:40

- God created aquatic life on day four of creation specifically mentioning the great whales He had \_\_\_\_\_ – 1:17; Gen. 1:21-23.
- God summarizes all aquatic life as \_\_\_\_\_ just a few verses later – Gen. 1:26, 28.
- The great fish was a \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus specified it was – Rom. 11:33-34; 1 Cor. 2:16.
- Some use apparent contradictions in the Bible to claim that the Bible is flawed, but God uses them to \_\_\_\_\_ people out – Ezek. 14:1-5, 9; Is. 28:9-14; Matt. 13:10-13; 1 Cor. 1:27-29.

### 2. **Controversy #2:** Was Jonah alive or did he die inside this creature?

- Some of this passage seems to indicate he was \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 1-2, 4, 7.
  - Some of this passage seems to indicate he was \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 2-3, 5-7.
- Belly of hell...Bottom of the mountains* (v. 2, 6; Deut. 32:22; Acts 2:31; Eph. 4:9-10) =
- Brought up from* \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6; Acts 2:27, 31; 13:36-37; 1 Cor. 15:53-54) =
- Earth's bars about me* \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6; Matt. 16:18; Rev. 1:18) =
- It is possible to be dead and yet \_\_\_\_\_ – Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Job 19:25-27.

### 3. God is not afraid of nor surprised by controversy

- God gives truth and the devil stirs up controversy about it – Gen. 3:1-5; Jn. 1:9, 8:31-32, 17:17.
- God's truth \_\_\_\_\_ controversy – Is. 34:8; Jer. 25:31; Hos. 4:1; 1 Ki. 18:21; Rev. 21:8.
- Jonah 2 is a controversial part of the story because it is the most powerful miraculous \_\_\_\_\_ of what was to happen to the Lord Jesus Christ – Matt. 12:39-40; 1 Tim. 3:16.