

HHBC



Jonah:

Jonah Contrasted with Christ

Jonah 1:17 – 2:10

&

Matthew 12: 39-41



Jonah 1: 15-17

So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:1-10

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish, 2 and he said, “I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice. “For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

“So I said, ‘I have been expelled from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’ “Water encompassed me to the **point of death**. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head. “I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. “While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple. “Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness, But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD.” Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

Jonah's
'death/burial/resurrection'
contrasted to ***Christ's work:***



Crucified:

Thrown overboard



Buried:

In the belly of the fish



Raised:

Regurgitated onto beach





ANOTHER 'TYPE' IN BOOK OF JONAH:

3) Jonah = Israel:

- a) Israel: chosen and set apart by God, made a covenant people, and commissioned to represent His glory, and bring His salvation message to the world.
- b) Jonah: was appointed by God to bring salvation to the gentile Ninevites...
- c) Both Israel & Jonah: failed in the mission
- d) Just as Jonah was preserved in the belly of the fish, and should have died, so as Israel: preserved by Red Sea escape— then preserved throughout 3,000+ years of exile, dispersion and attempts to annihilate their race...
- e) Just as Jonah feared again and again that he was at the end of his physical life— so Israel has been brought to despair of national existence again and again: in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2006, 2023 . . . (*Independence; Suez crisis; 6-Day war; Yom Kippor war; Lebanon war; Lebanon war II; Oct. 7th war*)
- f) Plus: Palestinian Intifadas I and II.
- g) Both are preserved even in the midst of chastening.

ADAPTED FROM: 'THE MINOR PROPHETS; CHAS. L. FEINBERG, P. 142, MOODY PRESS, 1951



The Matthew passage:

Matthew 12: 38-41

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.



Jonah' mission:

- a. Ordained: as a prophet (young age like Samuel?) / *Sam. 3*
- b. Commissioned by God: to preach: 'Go to Ninevah'
- c. Is Tried: by the mariners, found guilty
- d. Thrown overboard ('dies')
- e. Imprisoned in the belly of the fish
- f. Expunged back to dry land from fish's belly
- g. Preaches the Bad News to the world (Ninevah)
- h. Extremely successful: 650,000 – 1M people saved? (considering there were 120,000 children)

The Lord Jesus Christ' mission:

- a. Commissioned: as Savior by God at Eternal Covenant (*Heb. 13:20*)
- b. Ordained: by God by a descending spirit/dove
- c. Preaches: the Good News to Israel and the world
- d. Is Tried: by the Jews and Pontius Pilate, found innocent
- e. Dies on the Cross
- f. Buried in a tomb
- g. Risen again from the tomb
- h. Monumentally successful: gospel spreads through world



4) Jonah & Christ comparison: *SIGNS*

Jonah was sent to Ninevah as a sign, somehow there was one or a few heralds sent ahead of him after he was expunged by the fish

- a) Could it be that these heralds said something to the effect of: *‘in just a matter of days, when you see the Hebrew prophet proclaiming destruction in the streets... TAKE HEED! This is the sign you will be destroyed...’*
- b) The Ninevites were somehow primed and ready to receive the **sign: *Jonah walking their streets proclaiming judgment***
- c) The Assyrians worshiped Dagon (the fish god) . . . “Oannes” (if you put an “I” before the name- it spells **”Jonah”** in the N.T. ... And “Oannes” was a name for one of the incarnations of Dagon (Opt Cit. Fineberg, p. 144)
- d) Could it be that the Ninevites heard about Jonah being in the belly of a fish and then ‘brought back to life’ from such?



ONE MORE 'TYPE' IN BOOK OF JONAH:

Let's Revisit: "Did Jonah really die?" . . .

From Miles's lesson last week: the answer was clearly 'no' . . . And from the text itself, Jonah says he was at the "point of death";

J. Vernon McGee's defense is compelling, that Jonah really did physically die...

https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/mcgee_j_vernon/english/jon/jonah.cfm#Jonah_2_1

But: there is a **wonderful middle ground** between the two views: this other view comes from the writings of J.B. Stoney— it begins: (*see if you can see **what** the alternate view is*)

Jonah was a servant who will not do the Lord's will, Well, says the Lord, I will bring him down to death; I will bring him down to where he cannot do one single thing; nothing but death before him and death, too, with a bad conscience. Then Jonah prays to God, and says, "I am cast out of thy sight, yet I will look toward thy holy temple."

And now Jonah comes up again, having learned death upon himself.

J.B.S.: MINISTRY No. 2 - PG. 63; BILLINGS & SONS LTD. GUILDERFORD AND LONDON 1966



ONE MORE 'TYPE' IN BOOK OF JONAH:

Jonah comes up, but he is not soft. “But many a devoted man is like Jonah when he comes up; he is full of God’s work, but he is not soft. He must be softened. God will soften me here; I have a double death to learn.

Now Jonah rests under the gourd, and finds his consolation in it, and his affections drawn out towards it; and God says, ‘I have drawn out your affections, now I will take it all away.’ Jonah is a plain, honest man, and he says, *I do well to be angry.*

And it is ever thus. It is a double death- double suffering; one connected with circumstances; the other with the person. When you are suffering from sickness it has a different effect upon you from what it has when you are suffering in your surroundings. It is like Gideon’s fleece; at one time death only on the individual; at another, death all around us. It is a terrible thing to have to learn that we can survive the death of everything here; but then death has come in, not to bring this out, but that it may cast you upon God. This is the virtue of it, and death has come in that it may bring it out.

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ONE MORE 'TYPE' IN BOOK OF JONAH:

We often find that many who have really turned to the Lord, who believe in Jesus, are not happy. They are not in the enjoyment of salvation, and it is important to see what is the cause of this. The reason of it is, that though they are truly converted, as we say, yet they have never learned what is between the sinner and God. That is where the great lack in souls is.

Here is Jonah; he was a prophet, and yet he has to learn in a very painful way the nature of the distance between God and himself- a sinner. It was will; he would not do what the Lord had told him to do. God told him to go to Nineveh, but he preferred his own will to God's will. He did not do anything very wrong in a human way, in a moral point of view, but he did not obey the instructions which the Lord gave him. And what was at the bottom of that?

His own will.

J.B.S.: MINISTRY No. 6 - PG. 172; BILLINGS & SONS LTD. GUILDERFORD AND LONDON 1966



ONE MORE 'TYPE' IN BOOK OF JONAH:

Will is the real cause of the restlessness and of the absence of full joy in souls. They do not really see that their whole nature is contrary to God, and had to be removed in the cross. Jonah has to be cast out of the ship into the sea to learn what his will would bring him to. I suppose everyone here knows the story. Read chapter 2 and see what he went through in learning that solemn lesson. Figuratively he passed through death, for death is the only way to get clear of will.

He entered the reality of death, and thus we get him in the whale's belly, alive without a will. If you want a striking illustration of a man alive without a will you get it in Jonah in the whale's belly. He was alive, but wholly at the the will and control of another. That is the only true place of happiness for a believer, to be without a will of his own. Jonah was moved at the will of another

OP. CIT.: J.B.S.: MINISTRY NO. 6 - BILLINGS & SONS LTD. GUILDERFORD AND LONDON 1966



CONCLUSION:

THE 'ONE MORE TYPE' IN BOOK OF JONAH RELATED TO CHRIST IS:

Our death, burial and resurrection with Him . . .

A pre-figurement of [ROMANS 6](#)