

- D) Jonah spends “three days and three nights” in the belly of the creature (1:17). Only after this time, does it begin to dawn on Jonah that God does not mean to kill Jonah, but means to save Jonah (and many others) from death!

2) A Faithful Response To God’s Salvation

- A) “Then...,” Jonah finally prays to God from the belly of the great fish (Jonah 2:1). The whole of chapter two is a prose-styled prayer of thanks from Jonah to God (2:2-9).
- B) Jonah chronologically recalls his near death experience in the watery deep (2:2-3), his expectation of death (2:4-6), his rescue and thanks for God’s salvation (2:6-8), and his vows of obedience to the LORD (2:9)

3) Salvation Is From The LORD

- A) Jonah’s “psalm of thanks” concludes with a triumphant statement of God’s salvation (2:9). Jonah thought God wanted to kill him, but in reality, God saved Jonah through miraculous circumstances for His perfect purposes!
- B) From all appearances, Jonah has been transformed by God through his time in the belly of the fish. God used terrifying circumstances and miraculous means to transform Jonah into a useful prophet.
- C) The great fish “vomits” up Jonah onto dry land (2:10), a seemingly new man. As is still true today, God does not save a man for himself only, but so that many will learn of God through each one God saves.
- D) With Jonah’s life preserved, the narrative begins “again,” as the attention of God’s salvation turns to the evil Assyrians of Nineveh (3:1ff).

In The Belly

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 11th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***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.”
~Jonah 2:7-9 (NASB)***

1) Into The Belly Of The Great Fish

- A) After being hurled overboard by the crew of the ship, the storm miraculously subsides, culminating in the salvation of the crew (Gentiles) of the ship (Jonah 1:15-16).
- B) God “appoints” (like an employee being directed by a superior) a “great fish” to swallow Jonah (1:17). Like the miracle of the storm, Jonah being swallowed up by the great fish is an amazing miracle!
- C) The “great fish” could have been one of any kind of sea creature capable of swallowing a man (e.g. Whale or Shark). The text is not technical (species specific), but conveys a really big ocean creature with a large stomach.

