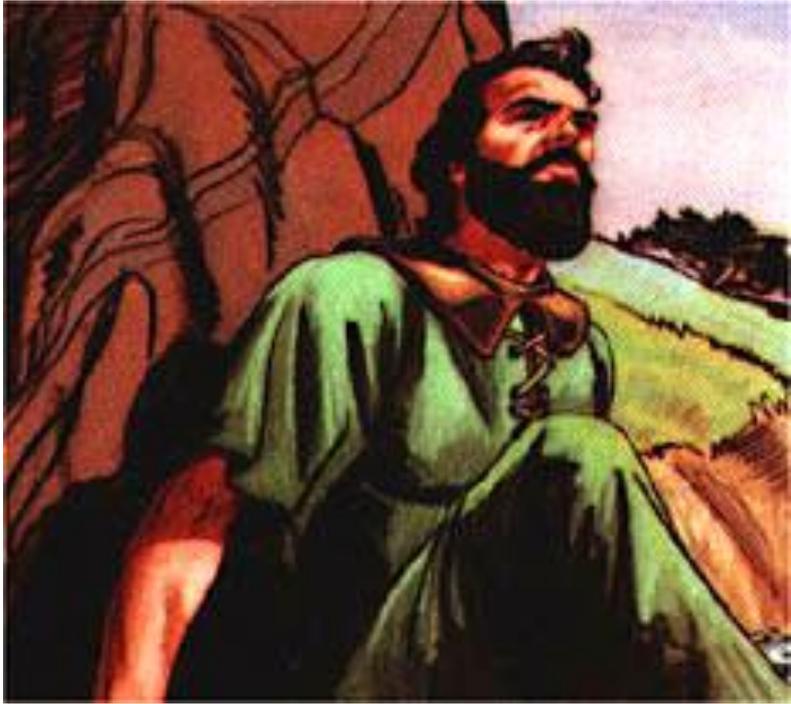


An illustration of the biblical story of Jonah. In the foreground, a man in a green tunic and red sandals lies face down on a sandy beach. In the middle ground, a large, dark, whale-like creature is breaching the water, with its head and tail visible above the surface. The background shows a vast, blue sea under a pale sky, with distant, reddish-brown mountains on the horizon. The text 'Jonah and the Great Fish' is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow font.

Jonah and the Great Fish



- Jonah was a prophet of God. God told him to go to a city called Nineveh.
- The people there were wicked. God told Jonah to tell the people to repent.

- Jonah did not obey God. Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. He did not want to tell the people to repent.

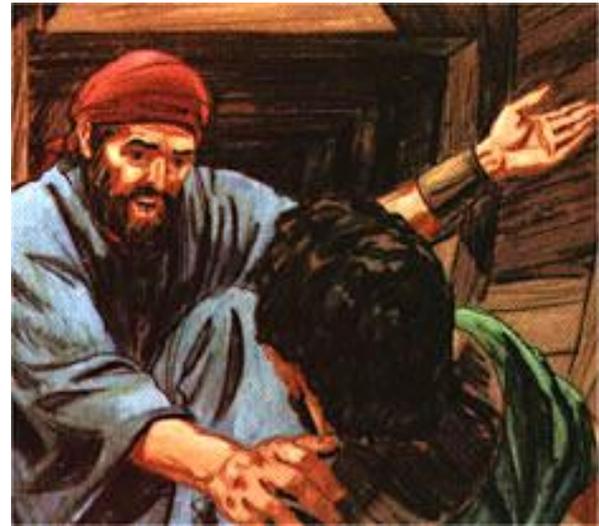
- He got on a ship. The ship was sailing to another city.





- God sent a bad storm. The wind blew hard. The men on the ship were afraid it would sink.

- The captain of the ship went to Jonah. Jonah was sleeping. The captain woke him. He told Jonah to pray and ask God to help them.



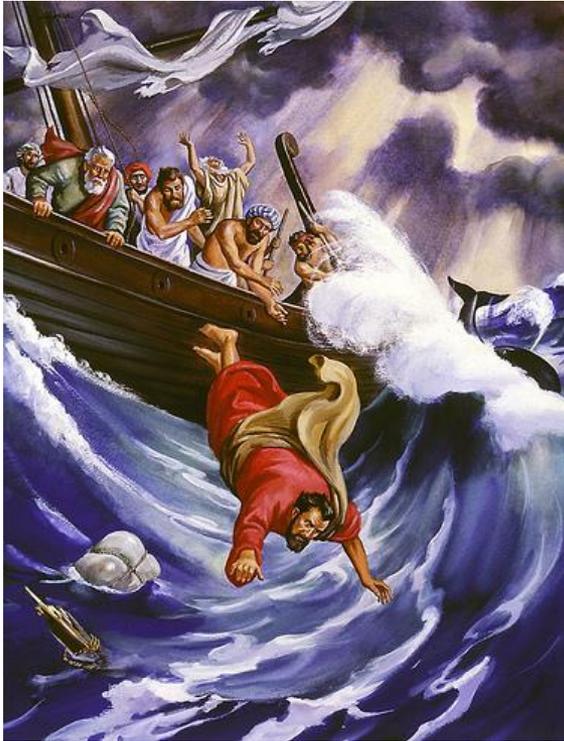


- The men thought the storm came because Jonah was on the ship. They wanted the storm to stop.

- They asked Jonah what they should do.
- Jonah told them to throw him into the water.



- He knew God sent the storm because of him. He had not obeyed God.



- The men did not want to throw Jonah into the water. But they knew the storm would stop if they did.

- So they threw him into the water. The storm stopped.



- God sent a great fish. The fish swallowed Jonah. Jonah was in the fish for three days and three nights.

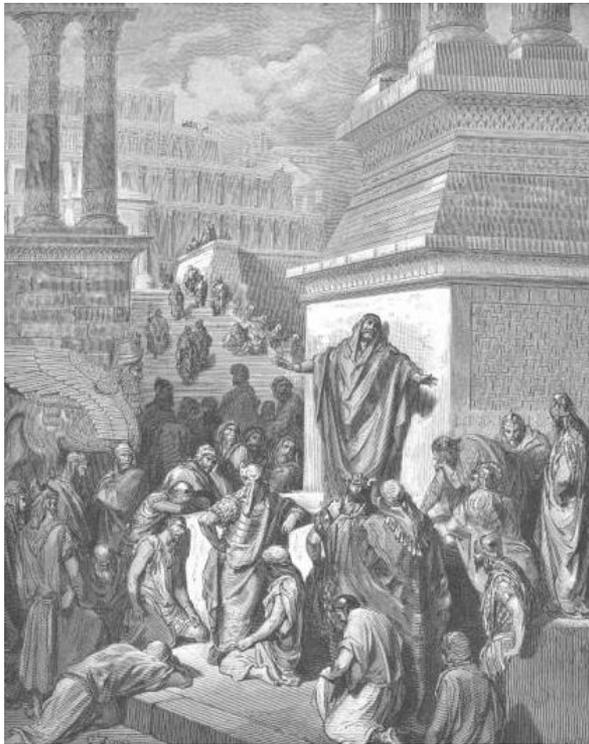


- Jonah prayed to God. He repented. He said he was sorry he had run away. He promised to obey God.



- The fish put Jonah out on dry land.
- Again God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. He said to tell the people to repent.

- This time Jonah obeyed God. He went to Nineveh and told the people to repent.



- If they would not repent, Nineveh would be destroyed.



- The people repented and stopped being wicked.

- They fasted and prayed. God did not destroy Nineveh.



Jonah is a great story about obedience to God, but is there more that God wants us to understand?

...now for “the rest of the story”

God prepared and sent to Jonah a set of physical elements which He controlled.

God revealed through these physical elements the truth and character of God upon which Jonah could reflect (mirrors).

Mirror # 1

Jonah 1:4

⁴ But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

New King James Version (NKJV)

A storm – I Am God and I Am in control not man

Amos 4:13

¹³ For behold,
He who forms mountains,
And **creates the wind**,
Who declares to man what his thought *is*,
And makes the morning darkness,
Who treads the high places of the earth—
The LORD God of hosts *is* His name.

New King James Version (NKJV)

A storm – I Am God and I Am in control not man

Job 37:14-15

¹⁴ “Listen to this, Job;

stop and consider God’s wonders.

¹⁵ Do you know how **God controls the clouds
and makes his lightning flash?**

New International Version (NIV)

A storm – I Am God and I Am in control not man

- Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?
 - The Ninevites were a wicked and cruel conquering people
 - Did Jonah merely need to love his enemy or was it something deeper?
 - Bottom line, Jonah was choosing whom God would allow to repent and be acceptable to God.
 - Jonah had set himself up as the judge. He wanted to be in control as if he was God.

No one but God is in control.

Isaiah 14:13-15

¹³ For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’

¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.

New King James Version (NKJV)

Mirror #2

Jonah 2:3-5

³ For You cast me into the deep,
Into the heart of the seas,
And the floods surrounded me;
All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight;
Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

⁵ The waters surrounded me, *even* to my soul;
The deep closed around me;

Weeds were wrapped around my head.

New King James Version (NKJV)

**A seaweed blindfold – Taking away
one's sight in order to truly see**

Psalm 146:8

**⁸ The LORD opens *the eyes of* the blind;
The LORD raises those who are bowed down;
The LORD loves the righteous.**

New King James Version (NKJV)

A seaweed blindfold – Taking away one's sight in order to truly see

Isaiah 42:16

¹⁶ I will bring **the blind** by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them.

New King James Version (NKJV)

A seaweed blindfold – Taking away one's sight in order to truly see

- What was Jonah failing to see in himself?
 - Selfishness and Conceit?
 - Deserving of his salvation?
 - Judgmental?

Humbly put others before self

Philippians 2:3

³ ***Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.***

New King James Version (NKJV)

Beholden to God for our salvation

2 Corinthians 3:4-5

⁴ And we have such trust through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are **sufficient of ourselves** to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, **but our sufficiency is from God,**

New King James Version (NKJV)

Humbly correct ourselves before judging others

Matthew 7:1-5

7 “Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³ And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye?

⁵ Hypocrite! **First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.**

New King James Version (NKJV)

Mirror #3

Jonah 1:17

¹⁷ Now **the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.** And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

New King James Version (NKJV)

A great fish – separated from the living, life
and salvation are gifts from God

Ecclesiastes 7:1-3

7 A good name *is* better than precious ointment,
And **the day of death** than the day of one's birth;

² Better to go to the house of mourning
Than to go to the house of feasting,

For that *is* the end of all men;

And the living will take *it* to heart.

³ Sorrow *is* better than laughter,
For by a sad countenance the heart is made better.

New King James Version (NKJV)

A great fish – separated from the living, life and salvation are gifts from God

- What was missing from Jonah's understanding?
 - Thankfulness for his life and the gift of salvation
 - Humility and contentment

A great fish – separated from the living, life
and salvation are gifts from God

Psalm 68:19-20

¹⁹ Blessed *be* the Lord,
Who daily loads us *with benefits*,
The God of our salvation! Selah

²⁰ **Our God *is* the God of salvation;**
And to GOD the Lord *belong* escapes from
death.

New King James Version (NKJV)

A great fish – separated from the living, life and salvation are gifts from God

- While in the belly of the big fish Jonah admitted to this key conclusion
- Jonah 2:7-9
 - ⁷ “When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went *up* to You, Into Your holy temple. ⁸ “Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own mercy. ⁹ But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. **Salvation is of the LORD.**”
- But, did he really get it?
- See what comes next...

Jonah 4:1-4

¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ²So he prayed to the LORD, and said, “Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. ³Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live!”

⁴Then the LORD said, “*Is it* right for you to be angry?”

New King James Version (NKJV)

Jonah was displeased with what he saw in God's mirrors

- Jonah became angry
- Rather than choosing to change his attitude toward the Ninevites, he wanted to die
- God challenged his anger and sent two more mirrors

Mirror #4

Jonah 4:5-6

⁵ So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. ⁶ **And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.**

New King James Version (NKJV)

A leafy plant – all possessions are gifts from God

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

¹² I know that nothing *is* better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, ¹³ and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—**it *is* the gift of God.**

New King James Version (NKJV)

A leafy plant – all possessions are gifts from God

- Was Jonah truly grateful to God for all he had?
- Was Jonah really grateful for his salvation which was from the Lord?

Just like the Land of Canaan, we neither built, nor dug, nor planted our salvation

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

¹⁰ “So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, **to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,** ¹¹ **houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant— when you have eaten and are full—** ¹² ***then* beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.**

New King James Version (NKJV)

Our salvation is the gift of God

Ephesians 2:7-9

⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*** ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

New King James Version (NKJV)

Mirror #5

Jonah 4:7

⁷ But as morning dawned the next day **God** **prepared a worm**, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.

New King James Version (NKJV)

A worm – God gives both good and adversity

Job 2:9-10

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. **Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?**” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

New King James Version (NKJV)

Jonah 4:8-9

⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "*It is better for me to die than to live.*"

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "*Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?*"

And he said, "*It is right for me to be angry, even to death!*"

New King James Version (NKJV)

Jonah 4:10

¹⁰ But the LORD said, “You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?”

New King James Version (NKJV)

God reveals the application of his message found in these physical elements

- Even after persuading Nineveh to repent, Jonah set up camp east of the city presumably to see if God would destroy it
- Jonah was thankful and had pity on the plant for which he did not labor, gained in one night, and lost in one night
- But Jonah could not see why God would pity 120,000 innocent children and livestock that would be destroyed, if Jonah had his way

How did Jonah ultimately respond to what he saw in God's mirrors?

- **A storm** – I Am God and I Am in control not man
- **A seaweed blindfold** – taking away one's sight in order to truly see
- **A great fish** – separated from the living, life and salvation are gifts from God
- **A leafy plant** – all possessions are gifts from God
- **A worm** – God gives both good and adversity

How do I respond to what I see in the mirror of Gods word?

James 1:22-25

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is **like a man observing his natural face in a mirror**; ²⁴ for he observes himself, **goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.** ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but **a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

New King James Version (NKJV)