

Jonah

CHAPTER 1

Verses 12-15: "And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee. So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into

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the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.” Here Jonah serves as a type of Christ in that he is a substitute sacrifice. Had they not thrown Jonah overboard the whole ship would have sank. Had Jesus not been sacrificed, the whole human race would end up in Hell. Also the mention of “innocent blood” is interesting in light of Matthew 27:4.

CHAPTER 2

Verses 1-10: The whole chapter deals with Jonah in the whale’s belly, which Jesus said is a type of His death and resurrection: **“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”** (Mat. 12:40) The similarities are the three days and nights, the mention of “hell” (see Psalm 16:9-10), the “waves” passing over Jonah picturing Christ’s baptism in God’s wrath (Mat. 20:22-23), the weeds around Jonah’s head like Christ’s crown of thorns, and Jonah being brought up “from corruption” like Jesus was (Psa. 16:9-10).

CHAPTER 3

Verses 4-5, 10: **“And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them . . . And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.”** Here Jonah pictures Christ in the sense that he was a faithful prophet who brought many to repentance. Jesus even made this comparison in Matthew 12:41: **“The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.”**

CHAPTER 4

Verse 11: **“And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?”** Here God extends mercy to people based on the fact that they lack discernment and live in ignorance. This was the very basis for Jesus’ prayer on the cross: **“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”** (Luke 23:34)