

THE SIGN OF

JONAH



THE SIGN OF JONAH

MISCELLANEOUS DISCOURSES

www.foodfornewcreature.com

“A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah. And he lift them and departed”

MATTHEW 16:4

Beloved brethren this is a very **PECULIAR** verse to us.....and a very familiar one too...and specially this little expression used by Jesus which he refers to as –



“the sign of the prophet Jonah”

Here we see Jesus doing **TWO** things –



1. He compares **himself to the prophet Jonah** – where Jonah is a **TYPE**, to his being the **ANTITYPE** (**Matthew 12:41**) and...



2. Then he compares his **own LAST experiences** of death to *“the three days and three nights”* in the fish's belly. (**Matthew 12:40**)

Now we all have heard many talks and discourses on this theme text...and we specially note that the second matter we have here mentioned has even become a matter of **SOME CONTROVERSY** over the years among the brethren.

Some claim that if Jesus words were to be fulfilled then he must remain **DEAD**and in the **GRAVE** for –



“the three days and three nights”

Yes !! They look for **THREE FULL** days and nights !

This has led to claims that Our Lord **DID NOT** actually die on....**Friday**, but rather on **Thursday**...and the Gethsemane experiences and **HIS ARREST** was on **WEDNESDAY NIGHT !**



WHAT can we say to all this?



Ah! That is to be our **STUDY** today!

To begin with we see and are informed by many that this **RECORD** of Jonah and...his experiences in the fish's belly are considered to be



UNREALISTIC

and.... even....

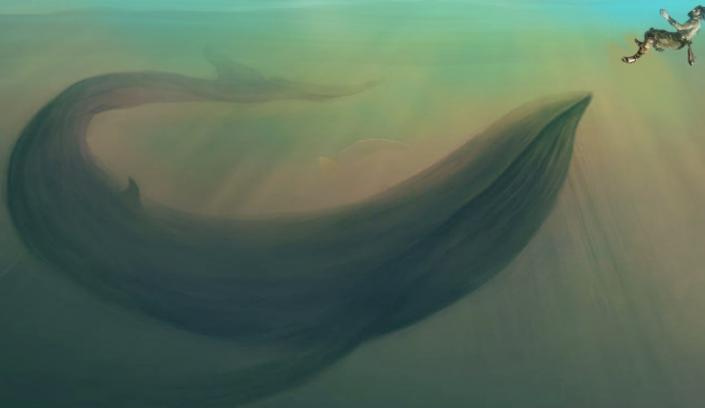


MYTHICAL!!

Ah! Yes! **Let us now read from –**

Jonah 1:17

***“Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah.
And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three nights”***



Ah! It seems almost, unbelievable!

But we are to remember it is God's Word!



And His word... “is truth” !!

Then **again we read in –**

Jonah 2:10

***“And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomitted out
Jonah upon the dry land”***



Another astonishing matter! Now these testimonies of the scriptures tell us of the **POWER** of God in this matter....while giving us very little details of **HOW** this was actually accomplished.



For instance.... what kind of fish has a mouth **LARGE** enough to swallow a man and yet **NOT** hurt him?

For many years there were no answers to these questions as man had **VERY LITTLE** knowledge of the fish of the oceans and seas.

But today as we live in God's Kingdom in its **INVISIBLE PHASE**...when “*knowledge shall increase*” (Daniel 12:4) ...we have **ACCESS** to this kind of information through....

THE TELEVISION

(Animal Planet / Discovery / National Geographic television channels)

and....

THE INTERNET

(through Google search and other search engines)

And on enquiring we find that the **LARGEST FISH** alive..... seems to have many things to fit this **DESCRIPTION**



It is called THE WHALE SHARK!



- ➡ It can grow to **40 – 50** feet in length (14-15mts)
- ➡ It weighs **20** tons or **20,000kgs** or **45,000 pounds**.
- ➡ Its mouth opens **5 feet** wide



Yes ! Big enough to swallow a man !!!

Its mouth contains **3000 tiny teeth** of **1/4 inch size** which it does not have much use of.... because it eats **small fish** such as **plankton, including krill, fish eggs, red crab larvae and small squids.....** through a method called **FILTER FEEDING**.

(Please notice.... that in the picture above, those **3000 teeth** are not even visible !!!)

This means it swallows a lot of little fish and water and then filters out the water through its gills..... and the tiny little fish passes into the belly!



IT IS TOTALLY HARMLESS TO HUMANS!

.....and can be swimming next to a human and will do absolutely nothing!

- ➡ Its outer skin is **3.9inches thick !**
- ➡ And it lives **100-150** years
- ➡ They are found in all oceans near the equator andare **NOT found** in the Mediterranean Sea.

And the journey from **JOPPA** to **TARSHISH** is inside the Mediterranean Sea near the coast of Israel !

Thus this **further confirms the scripture** we read in –

*Jonah 1:17**“Now the LORD had prepared a great fish....”*

This word “*prepared*” is **Strong's # 4487** which is
“manah” in Hebrew and means **“to tell”**,
“to appoint” or **“to assign”**

This clearly tells us that the **LORD** by His great power
 brought this great fish from the **Atlantic Ocean**
waters...to the Mediterranean Sea for this PURPOSE!



A STRONG POSSIBILITY and SUGGESTION
indeed!

There is a further thought about the **“belly”** mentioned
 here.. It is the word **“meah” Strong's # 4578** which
 means **“inward parts”** or **“internal organs”** or
“to be soft”.

We have read that this whale shark is a **“filter feeder”**
 who swallows a lot of water with the little fish it eats
 and then filters out the water through the gills.



Could Jonah have been HIDDEN near these gills?

Well,..... ?? !

Further we read that in this process of filter feeding and
 passing the water through the gills the whale shark is
 seen to **cough**.

Could this be the way Jonah was finally
vomited out?

Ah! Certainly,.... much food for thought!

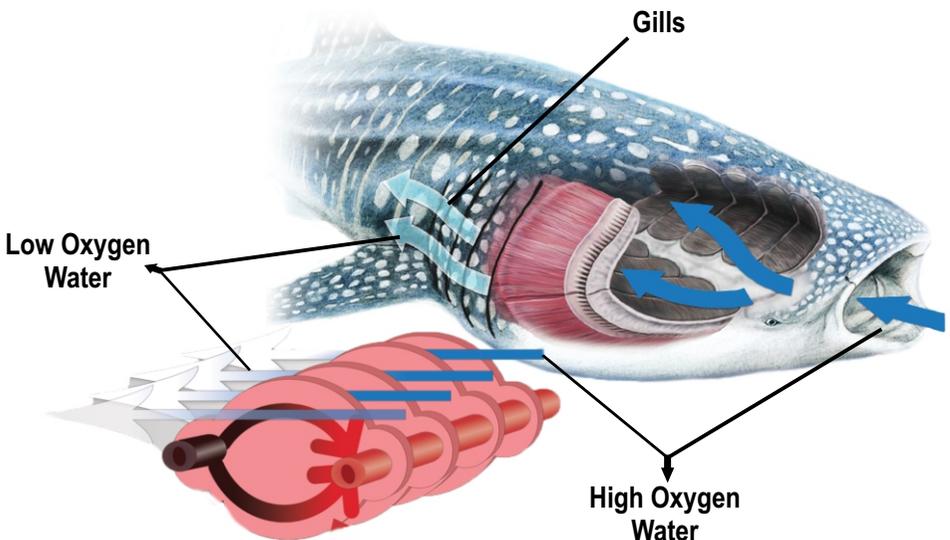
Oh! There are **SO MANY THINGS** that we do **NOT**
 understand!

- How did Jonah **breathe** for those 3 days and 3 nights?
- How did he **drink water**fresh water?
- What did he **eat** for those days and nights?
- If he had indeed gone into the fish's belly or stomach..... would not the **fish's digestive juices** and acids affect him?
- Or,.... did the fish **NOT eat** for 3 days and nights.....was it **fasting**?

We have some **SUGGESTIONS** though to make based on our present knowledge concerning the Whale Shark.....

➡ Concerning **HOW** Jonah could have breathed!

The whale shark has a **VERY UNIQUE** breathing system called **“BUCCOLIC BREATHING”**. It does not need to breathe oxygen from the air, but..... rather **extracts oxygen from water (H₂O)** through a process in its gills.



Realizing that Jonah would need to get a regular supply of oxygen to breathe and stay alive, **perhaps Jonah was in a SPACE near the gills** of this large fish where oxygen being produced from the water was in the air (the inside of the fish) and thus enable Jonah to get the oxygen he needed to **breathe!!**

(Remember! A human being without receiving oxygen for 3 minutes,..... begins to die!)

 **Concerning how Jonah got FRESH water to drink!**

Yes! This is **another need of Jonah to keep alive!**

He surely could NOT drink the salt water of the oceans! So knowing that a human being will die if he does not drink water for **3-4 days**, how did Jonah get a measure of **drinking water (fresh water)** to keep alive?

A study and reading of **Jonah 2:3,5** and **6** would seem to point to the phrase that might point to us the answer-

-  ***“in the midst of the seas” (vs 3-KJV)***
-  ***“into the heart of the sea” (vs 3-ASV)***
-  ***“into the very heart of the seas” (vs-3-NIV)***

This we suggest is a reference to the **FRESH WATER rivers** that flow in the midst of the salt water oceans! And perhaps more specifically in the case of the Mediterranean sea where **JONAH** entered the whale!

(Reference- www.marineinsight.com and article entitled- “Is there a river under the sea?” cites many undersea rivers discovered in Mexico and under the Black sea in the Mediterranean sea and still further places by scientists. The study of this phenomena is still in the beginning stages!)

So it is possible that to enable **JONAH** to get some supply of fresh water during these “**three days**” the whole shark might have swum into these fresh water rivers or lakes!



Very little that we KNOW for a fact....but nevertheless food for thought and consideration!!



But we do **BELIEVE**.... for our Lord Jesus **CERTIFIED** this matter when He spoke of it in the Gospels as recorded in –

Matthew 12:39-41

“But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 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. 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.”

and again in -

Luke 11:29-30/32

“And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet.

For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.”

***Vs -32** - “The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.”*

Well....so much can be said for the **REALNESS** and **GENUINENESS** of this very **ASTONISHING** story that is recorded!!

Now let us turn to that familiar scripture in –

Romans 15:4

*“For whatsoever things were written afore time were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have **HOPE**”*

Ah, Yes! We must now look to the **story of Jonah** and its details....to learn **WHAT** is the...



SPIRITUAL MESSAGE in this Old Testament record?

As we look into the **REPRINTS** we find one reprint devoted to a **TYPICAL STUDY** of the Book of Jonah by a **Bro KIH LGREN** in **R3568**.

It is interesting and provides some points.....though **NOT** all for our lesson today.

For today the **FOCUS** of our lesson is going to be **NOT** the whole book of Jonah but rather **that part** of the Book of Jonah that Our Lord Jesus drew attention to,.... **in the below words!**

Yes! **Matthew 12:40** and **Matthew 12:41 (PLEASE READ)**

Matthew 12:40

“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.”

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.”

What would this **COMPARISON** of

“three days and three nights in the fish's belly”

have to do with....

“the three days and three nights the Son of Man would be in the heart of the earth” ?

As we have earlier seen, the focus for many about this matter for long, was on the **EXACTNESS of the period of time involved!**

And finding Jesus was in the **GRAVE** from Friday 3pm toearly morning Sunday..... they have realized this is **NOT** a period of **EXACTLY** *“three days and three nights”*:



.....And thus the confusion of suggestions.....of Him having died on a **THURSDAY !**



But.....is this TRUE ??

All one must do is carefully observe the **WORDS**
of the Master!

Matthew 12:40

“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. ”

Ah! He compares the period of **TIME**.... *“in the belly of the great fish”*....**TO**....the **Son of Man** being... *“in the heart of the earth”*

Notice! This *“heart of the earth”* does **NOT** refer to **BURIAL**.... as in those days the method of burial was **NOT** in the **GROUND**....but rather....**IN CAVES** or **SEPULCHRES!**



So **WHAT** would this *“heart of the earth”* mean?

We would suggest this refers **to the words of Our Lord** in -

Matthew 20:18-19

“....and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death ...and the third day He shall rise again”

Yes! it refers to the **PROCESS** of him being put to **death** by *“the heart of the earth”* which in turn refers to the **CENTRAL PART** of....the **VISIBLE HUMAN RULERSHIP** in Israel then –

THE **RELIGIOUS** and **POLITICAL** elements

➤ Yes! **CAIAPHAS & ANNAS**

and

➤ **HEROD & PONTIUS PILATE**

Oh! Yes, the Lord would be “*in the hands*” of these, as they would NOT only **TRY** him and **CONDEMN** him to death..... but would use all means to **ENSURE** and **KEEP** him dead as we read in -



Matthew 27:62-66

***“....so they went and made the sepulcher sure,
sealing the stone, and setting a watch”***

Yes! the “*Son of Man*” was **INDEED** “*in the heart
of the earth*”



Isn't it clear dear brethren ?

Now when we come to the **TIME PERIOD** of “*three days and three nights*” let us look at the **FACTS** as we read from –

Luke 22:45-47

“And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.”

Yes! This is after “*Gethsemane*”and which would have been the **NIGHT** of Thursday



Was it **BEFORE** midnight or..... **after** midnight?

Our thought is that it was **AFTER** midnight.....making it effectively **FRIDAY** when the Lord was delivered into the hands of his captors!



And that does make **THREE** nights –

1. **Thursday / Friday NIGHT**
2. **Friday / Saturday NIGHT**
3. **Saturday / Sunday NIGHT**

And these do make up **3 days** too –



Friday / Saturday / Part of Sunday.

(See CHARTin the next page)

THE SIGN OF JONAH!

"....and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah 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" -- **MATTHEW 12 : 39,40**



DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly....."

"earth" (VISIBLE HUMAN RULERSHIP SYSTEMS)

JEWISH TIME

THREE DAYS

- FRI - 1am to 6pm
- FRI - 6pm to 6pm SAT
- SAT - 6pm to 5am SUN

THREE NIGHTS

- THURS / FRI NIGHT
- FRI / SAT NIGHT
- SAT / SUN NIGHT

SOCIAL SYSTEMS



"betrayed to the chief priests and the scribes"

CAIAPHAS / ANNAS
(HIGH PRIESTS)

RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS

"....and shall deliver him to the gentiles"

HEROD / PONTIUS PILATE
(ROME GOVERNMENT)

CIVIL SYSTEMS



FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

WORLD TIME

THREE DAYS

- FRI - 1am to 12 midnight
- SAT - 12am to 12 midnight
- SUN - 12am to 5am

THREE NIGHTS

- THURS / FRI NIGHT
- FRI / SAT NIGHT
- SAT / SUN NIGHT

"heart of the earth"

DAY # 1

DAY # 2

DAY # 3

APRIL 2nd, 3rd 33 AD

- THU - AFTER 6pm to 8pm PASSOVER
- THU - 8:30pm - REACHES GETSEMANE
- THU - 9:00pm - 12am- PRAYER & ANGEL APPEARS AT END OF ARREST (JOHN 18: 12,13)

APRIL 4th 33 AD

Remains in the tomb the whole day

APRIL 5th 33 AD

Jesus resurrected at about 5am

"....so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"

"Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death, And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify Him: and the third day He shall rise again" **MATTHEW 20:18,19**

But is the **PERIOD of TIME** of “*three days and three nights*” the **REAL FOCUS** of the Lord's words when comparing his **EXPERIENCES** to that of Jonah
“in the belly of the fish” ??

If you turn to the **BIBLICAL COMMENTS** and **pg 71** for **Matthew 12:40**. we read **Bro Russell** referring to this matter as -

“typifying the last part of the fifth, all of the sixth and the first part of the seventh thousand year day, in which the body of Christ was to be in the prison house of death”

He further refers to this matter in **R2888** and **R3568**

Yes! Bro Russell shows us how the **LITERAL** period of the Lord's being in death [parts of three days]
TYPIFIED.....

the period of time in 1000 year days,

 **or... His “day” calculation that....HIS BODY [The church] would remain dead !!**

While this is a **WONDERFUL truth** concerning the Lord's comparison of his experiences with Jonah's being “*in the belly of the fish*”.....**yet there is a further thought** which we would like to share....!

And for that let us now turn to -

Matthew 12:38,39

“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:”

Notice that the Pharisees were seeking a “*sign*” to prove that Jesus was indeed....from **GOD!**

And Jesus replies the only “*sign*” that would be given would be



“the sign of the prophet Jonas”



So **WHAT** would this “*sign*” be?

Well,**we suggest** that the **FOCUS** of Our Lord here was to show that –



.....just as it was **ASTONISHING** to see how, Jonah who was in the fish's belly, **in a condition IMPOSSIBLE to be alive in....and as good as dead....**but yet cast out **ALIVE** on the “*third day*” from the “*belly of the fish*”.



.....so too the Son of Man who was **put to death....** and all care was taken **to ensure he was kept dead....** and remained dead
(Matthew 27:62-66)....

ASTONISHINGLY was cast out **ALIVE**.



....on the “third day” !

Yes! The “sign” is the going into death and yet coming out ALIVE!

Ah! Yes! The OVERCOMING OF DEATH !!

The “*sign of the prophet Jonas*” showed in TYPE this absolute awesome MATTER displaying the great power of God and establishing the credentials of Jesus as..... **HIS SERVANT!**

Now someone may ask....has the ANTITYPE to this “*sign of Jonas*” been fulfilled?

Ah! To **understand the answer to this question**....we must go back to the book of Jonah and study some details therein.



1. Firstly Nineveh was a **GENTILE** city...and not part of Israel. They were **NOT** worshipers of the God of Israel.(It is said that they really worshiped a FISH GOD and the reason for their **IMMEDIATE REPENTANCE** and receiving of the message of Jonah the prophet was because this testimony of Jonah coming out of the great fish's mouth with this message **CONVINCED** the Ninevites that he carried a message **from their God/DAGON himself!**



This God's name was “Dagon” and **he was half man and half fish.**

(Check “Google search” for **DAGON – FISH GOD** for more details)

Some may wonder why God should use this apparently **IGNORANT DECEPTIVE BELIEF** of the Ninevites to show us a lesson. But this is NOT the first time he did this.

We read of another such incident in –

Matthew 2:1,2

“...behold, there came wise men from, the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him”

Yes! The “*star*” that led them to Bethlehem. These were **Persians – followers of the prophet Zarathustra**, the founder of Zoroastrianism, who incidentally was initially a disciple of **JEREMIAH**.

God used their belief in “**star gazing**”.....to show them a “*star*” to lead to the child Jesus.

(Bro Russell comments on this in **BIBLICAL COMMENTS** Pg 3 for **Matthew 2:2**)

It was an “astrological sign” from God for them to understand – may be a comet it has been suggested!

So too God gave a :-

 **UNDERSTANDABLE SIGN** to the people of Nineveh in that His messenger Jonah came out...or was seen to come out of the mouth of the great **FISH!**

 **2. Secondly**, we read of Nineveh in **Jonah 3:3** -
“...now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days journey.”

This could be having **an important significance** which we will now look into.

 **3. Thirdly** we read of Nineveh again in **Jonah 4:11**
- “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,...”

Here further details are given of Nineveh. What could be the significance?

 **4. Lastly** we read of a matter in **Jonah 3:1** -
“and the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time saying...”

NOW....let us come to what all these details **SIGNIFY** and....to the **ANSWER** of when “*the sign of Jonah*” in **ANTITYPE** shall be fulfilled?

The first **3** details about Nineveh perfectly show that “the great city” signifies the **WORLD OF MANKIND** who...are **NOW gentiles** and **KNOW NOT GOD**.

The reference to –

 “*the great city*”

.....would perhaps represent that the world of mankind are the **prospective “GOVERNMENT OF EARTH”** now under development as we read in –

 *Revelation 22:5*

“...and thy shall reign forever and ever”

Then in the **second** and **third detail** of Nineveh is a further confirmation of its representing the world as we see that the reference to Nineveh in **Jonah 3:3** as -

 “*...an exceeding great city of three days journey*”

What would this represent?

We would suggest this is a further defined reference to the world of mankind as the prospective....

 **GOVERNMENT OF EARTH**

whose developmental journey is over “*three days*” or

 **THREE PERIODS OF TIME**
or **THE THREE WORLDS**

For don't we read that the completion of the **CREATION** of perfect race of human beings is at the very end of the millennium in –

I Corinthians 15:26

“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death”

Further in **Jonah 4:11** we **read something interesting** –

“...that great city wherein are more than six score thousand persons...”



This is a figure of 120,000!!

It symbolizes or is symbolic of something concerning of the world! It surely is **NOT** the literal number of mankind!



Then what would it be?

**It is a great TRUTH spoken SYMBOLICALLY...
using numbers as SYMBOLS!**

➡ The number of human imperfection condition is....6

➡ The number for COMPLETENESS in the earth
is....10

(Refer **Zechariah 8:23** referring to all mankind.....
and

Matthew 25:1 referring to the “*virgins*” from all
Christendom)

Now these two numbers as symbols are used to
display the **WHOLE OF MANKIND.**

This is a reference to the whole of mankind in **TWO segments.**

Yes!

(Before Christ)

6 X 10 X10 X10 X10

60,000

and

(After Christ)

6 X 10 X10 X10 X10

60,000

➤ = 1,20,000



Yes! The **10 in four parts** represents the four directions of earth where people are inhabited.

Thus this represents a **COMPLETENESS** of **MANKIND** in their present **IMPERFECT CONDITION** spread over **TWO TIME PERIODS!**

Yes! Nineveh does indeed represent the world of mankind!!

Now in the fourth detail of Nineveh we learn in -

Jonah 3:1

“and the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time.”

This we suggest represents **to events of the SECOND COMING.**

Indeed the world does **REPENT** at the second coming of the Lord.

As we read in –

Psalms 22:27, 28

“All the ends of the world shall remembers and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.”

Notice the word – *“all”* !!

But, remember this happens **ONLY AFTER** Jonah is vomited out of the belly of the fish after *“three days”*

And this we well know is a representation in type of the **FIRST RESURRECTION** after the second coming.

And it will be then that the ANTITYPE of the “sign of Jonah” will be fulfilled before the whole world of mankind.

To understand this matter **CLEARER** and **BETTER** we now go to the second reference of Our Lord to Jonah in -

Matthew 12:41

“...and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here”

Yes! Jesus here COMPARES Himself to Jonah and claims to be an **ANTITYPE!!**



How one may ask?

Well, we have already studied *“the sign of Jonah”* which

typified his own, **DEATH** and **RESURRECTION**
from the dead!

But there is a **FURTHER** and **DEEPER** meaning to
the “*sign of Jonah*” and its time period of “*three days and
three nights*”.

This we saw in the Biblical comments has been
suggested to represent the.....



parts of three **ONE THOUSAND YEAR DAYS** in
which the “**BODY OF CHRIST**” remains “**dead**” **IN
CHRIST !!** (Colossians 3:3).

Yes! Dear brethren, we see now that the
ANTITYPICAL PICTURE or the.....“*greater than
Jonas*” that the Lord was referring to is the **FACT** that
in the **EXPERIENCE** of Jonah in the fish’s belly for
“*three days and three nights*”

BOTH



JONAH THE FISH

....find their **ANTITYPE** in the Lord!

Ah! You may ask how?

That is what we are now going to see....



1. “*Jonah*” **typified Jesus** in the literal period of
“*three days and three nights*”....as we have already
studied earlier in this lesson.

➡ 2. But in a **secondary picture** where the **TIME PERIOD** of “*three days and three nights*” is **SYMBOLIC** of the Gospel Age then “*Jonah*” represents the **CHURCH**...while the great fish **represents Christ Jesus!**



Is it hard to believe?

No, it isn't!! Remember how Jonah....was as good as dead in that period....of being in the fish's belly?

Does **NOT** that represent the church in **FAITHFUL CONSECRATION** “*of being dead*” now?

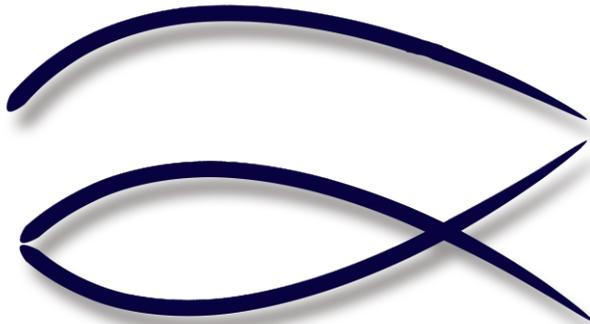
Yes! Turn to Colossians 3:3 -

“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God”

Yes! It is **SO CLEAR!**

But what would surprise some here is **HOW DOES** the “*great fish*” **represent Jesus ??**

Well....if one makes some enquiry of **EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH BELIEF** and **PRACTICES**....one will be **GREATLY SURPRISED** to know that the **SYMBOL** of **CHRISTIANITY** then was **NOT** the cross but rather.....a **FISH !!**



In an effort to EXPLAIN the “WHY” of this matter we find in a website search, under the keywords-
“The History of the Christian Fish symbol”
there is what is called...

 **“The GREEK CONNECTION”**

 **And what would that mean?**

Well.....there are **TWO** parts to this “Greek connection”!

The **FIRST**.....is found in the Greek word for fish which is ...

 **"ICHTHYS"**

This Greek word contains 5 Greek letters...which in turn are the **BEGINNING LETTERS** of 5 words to sum up the Christian fait declaration in those days.

Let us see how -

Letter breakup	Greek letter	Greek word	English words
I	Iota	ISOUS	JESUS
Ch	Chi	CHRISTOS	CHRIST
TH	Theta	THEOS	OF GOD
Y	Upsilon	YEOS	SON
S	Sigma	SOTER	SAVIOUR

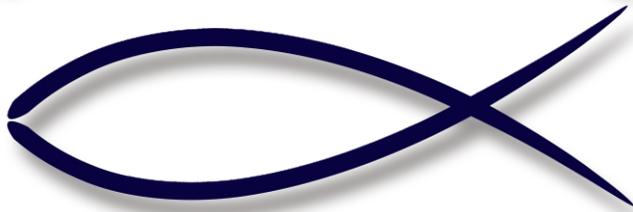
 **Yes! “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour!!**

 Isn't that **ASTONISHING** ??

The Greek letters are -

ΙΧΘΥΣ

Now to the **SECOND**.... “Greek Connection” for the **FISH** symbol.... and that is the **FIRST LETTER**.... or **ALPHA**.... which Jesus used to refer to Himself in **Revelation 1:8** and **22:13**....**is also in the shape of a FISH!!**



A little aside here.... is that in the early church this symbol of the fish was also used as an **EFFECTIVE IDENTIFICATION SYMBOL**.... to identify a fellow Christian!

The fish symbol was drawn with **TWO** overlapping **ARCS!**

Thus when one arc was drawn...the drawing of the second arc.....completed the **FISH SYMBOL**.....and **IDENTIFIED** a fellow Christian!!

Yes! While the “Greek Connection” gives a wonderful explanation to this matter of the **FISH** as the early church Christian symbol....that the **REAL** and

DEEPER REASON for that was....the **FULFILLMENT** of “*the greater than Jonas*” showing **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST to be that “great fish”!**

May we conclude the matter with **STIRRING PICTURES** of how the “great fish” actually **TYPIFIED** Our Lord.

PICTURE # 1

This **WHALE SHARK** is the **LARGEST FISH** alive.....attaining to sizes of 40ft or 14-15 meters..... and very **LITTLE DETAILS** of it and its lifestyle was known..... till very recently, when by fixing radar instruments, details are being understood now.



And **WHAT** does this picturise?

It picturises the great “*Word*”....the **GRANDEST** of **ALL** God’s creations...and of whom **GREAT DETAILS** of His Heavenly glory was NOT known in much detail until very recently in



.....**THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA**
(Revelation 3:14)

Yes! It was only Bro Russell, guided by the **RETURNED** Lord, who brought forth those details in the **FIFTH Volume** -



“The Atonement between God and man”.



PICTURE # 2

Now in spite of its great and gigantic size this fish is totally **HARMLESS** and has **TINY TEETH**...and further its normal habitat being in the Equatorial waters (near the Equator)...it had to travel a **GREAT DISTANCE** to do God's will!

Ah! This **again picturises Our Lord**...of whom it is written in-

Hebrews 7:26

“For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”



And Jesus **speaks of himself** in -

Matthew 11:29

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

Yes! His **WONDERFUL CHARACTER**, despite his great power and glory.

And..... did he **NOT** come from **FAR** to do God's will as this fish ??

Ah! Yes! Even from **HEAVEN** itself and..... the **SPIRITUAL realms and nature !**



PICTURE # 3

The great fish we see contained Jonah **WITHIN ITS BODY** “*three days*”..... and then vomited Jonah out **ALIVE**.....on the third day!

Ah! Yes! This too is a **BEAUTIFUL PICTURE** of **the church** who throughout the Gospel Age are..... “*in Him*” as we read in -

Ephesians 1:4

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”

and...

Philippians 3:9

“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”

...and again in...

II Thessalonians 1:12

“That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Yes! The privilege to be “**DEAD**” with Him and.... “*in Him*” as we read again in -

Romans 6:3

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into

Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”

And... the “*vomiting out*” on the “*third day*”represents the **FIRST RESURRECTION** when Jesus brings the church ...to **LIFE** as we read in -

John 6:44

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Additionally we would like to add here....

that just as “*Jonah*” was perhaps kept **ALIVE** and able to breathe the life giving **OXYGEN**, via the “**BUCCOLIC breathing**” system of this fish extracting the oxygen from the water, **it manifests a matter to us!**

➤ And that is, ...if the “*great fish*” be Jesus and “*Jonah*” represents the CHURCH, who are “*in Him*” during the whole gospel age; this **MIRACULOUS** supply of oxygen that provides **LIFE** in a situation and circumstances that meant sure death is a beautiful picture of the **NEW CREATION** and its **DEATH** in the “*flesh*” andits being made alive in the “*spirit*”

Yes! Through **CONSECRATION** and **SPIRIT BEGETTAL** the “*flesh*” or “*mind*” or **SPIRIT NATURE** is ...quickened to life!

(Colossians 3:3 / 2 Corinthians 5:17 / Romans 12:1)

Now this new **SPIRITUAL LIFE** which the church received “*in Him*” is beautifully shown here in the

OXYGEN, provided by the “*great fish*” in the “**BUCCOLIC BREATHING**” method of extracting the oxygen from the water which in turn represents how the Lord Jesus provides to his church the **WORD OF TRUTH** to quicken and sustain this **SPIRITUAL LIFE** (John 6:63 / “*the two pence*” of the parable of the Good Samaritan..... in Luke 10:35).

And on the third day “**Jonah being vomited out**” of the “*great fish*” fitly represents the **FIRST RESURRECTION** and this spiritual life attaining to its **FULNESS** - Spirit birth. (John 3:8).

Now in our “*blessed*” and enlightened “*eyes of understanding*” we see that this **ANTITYPICAL** “*vomiting out*” by “*the great fish*” is.....

ALREADY BEGUN and..... IN PROCESS NOW!



Ah! Yes! **Since April 1878...!**

And...very soooooon..... the **ANTITYPICAL** Jonah... will go to the **ANTITYPICAL NINEVEH** with the “**word of the LORD**”...and they will **REPENT** and **HUMBLE** themselves !

Ah! The time is fast nearing for the **MANIFESTATION** of the “**VISIBLE PHASE**” of the Kingdom in.....

Israel!

Meanwhile **WHAT** is our **LESSON** in all this dear brethren?

Well...in this book of Jonah we saw *“the great fish”* doing God’s will...

...and in the **4th chapter vs -9-** we see *“a worm”* doing God’s will!

Yes! And what about...**YOU** dear brethren ?

➤ **ARE YOU DOING GOD’S WILL?**

➤ **ARE YOU FAITHFULLY DEAD?**

➤ **ARE YOU INSIDE “THE BELLY” OF THAT GREAT FISH??**



Ah! Think about it!

Becauseif you **ARE**, then you too will soon experience the **WONDER** of being *“vomited out”*.....and being **PART** of the **FIRST RESURRECTION**.....and part of **‘the new heaven’** which will witness the **“word of God”** to the whole world....and thus bringing them to repentance!



Yes! **THE ANTITYPE** of the *“Niniveh”* picture!

“May the Lord add His Blessings to the understanding of His Holy Words”

AMEN.



For any questions; for your views and to give your opinion please call



9845604342

BIBLE STUDENTS
Food for New Creature

