



# Lessons From A Great Fish

Once, a man named Jonah *disobeyed* God.

God sent him to a great city called Nineveh. Jonah had been a free man, going about his way, but once God sent him on the mission and he disobeyed, he was in trouble.

When God speaks to you, you had better listen. Disobeying God has serious consequences. The judgement of God is about to fall on all who are *disobedient*. 1 Samuel 12:15 states: **“But if you will not listen to (obey) the voice of Jehovah, (the only true and living God) but rebel against the command of Jehovah, then the hand of Jehovah shall be against you...”**

Jonah tried to run away from God but he could not get away. David lived long before Jonah and he said in Psalm 139:7: **“Where shall I flee from Your presence...?”** because he knew that no one can hide from God.

Jonah had money in his pocket so he paid his passage and took off for a different city altogether. Yes, he was going to Tarshish: but God had a surprise waiting for him. God who had created the heavens and the earth sent out a great hurricane and the ship in which Jonah was travelling was in trouble.

My friend, if you have never surrendered your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, you too are in great trouble. You are facing the judgement of a holy God who hates evil (disobedience to God is evil), and the consequence is to be cast out of God's Presence for ever into a place which is always dark, always burning, and impossible to escape.

My friend, the shipmen did all that they could to save him but Jonah told them that the only solution to the problem was to cast him into the sea.

When Jonah was cast into the sea, an amazing thing happened: immediately the sea calmed. What a miracle! Only God can calm the sea. Miraculously also, a great fish swallowed Jonah. There he was in the belly of the great fish. I am afraid that it was very much like being in hell and Jonah compared it to that very place. He said: **“Out of the belly of hell cried I”** (Jonah 2:2c).

I want to tell you, my friend, if you were in Jonah's place in the belly of the great fish, you too would agree that it's always dark, always burning and impossible to escape.

So, Jonah did the only thing he could do. He prayed to the true and living God: the God of the Bible; the God who is a Saviour-God.

My friend you had better cry to the True and Living God now. Cry to Him for mercy. Cry to Him for salvation. If you are ever in danger you need to be saved. Let me tell you, you are in the gravest danger of all, the danger of God's eternal judgement. Jonah declared **“Salvation is of Jehovah”** (Jonah 2:9). Note, dear friend, salvation is not of this person or that person, but only of the True and Living God, the God of the Bible.

Jonah cried to Him and God heard him and answered him. **“And Jehovah spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out on the dry land”** (Jonah 2:10)

What a miracle. God who had created the Fish spoke to His creature and the dumb beast obeyed. Will you obey God at this very moment? Will you cry to Him for mercy and forgiveness from your many acts of disobedience, wilfulness and wrong?

**“And it shall come to pass, ... whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Acts 2:21).

No. 3

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Scriptures generally from *The Modern King James Version*

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