

IF I COULD TALK TO THE ANIMALS #2
A WHALE OF A RIDE

Jonah 1 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.

2 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly. ² And he said: "I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, *And* You heard my voice.

¹⁰ So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry *land*.

Jesus affirms the story of Jonah and the fish.

Matthew 12 ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish,

One hundred years ago a sailor named James Bartley was swallowed by a sperm whale off the Falkland Islands. About thirty-six hours later his fellow sailors found him, unconscious but alive, inside the belly of the animal.

If the whale that swallowed Jonah could talk I wonder what he would say?

1. "Why can't men obey God like the rest of creation?"

- a. I obeyed the command of God to swallow Jonah
- b. Disobedience was why I was commanded to swallow Jonah.
All of creation does what it is created to do, why doesn't man?

2. "Disobedience brings chaos to everybody you deal with."

- a. The sea had its peace disturbed because of Jonah's disobedience.
- b. The sailors journey was disrupted because of
- c. My (the whale) peace was

Everyone is affected by your walk with God; they are blessed if you obey but if you disobey their peace is disturbed.

3. "You can't run far enough to get away from God's presence nor his will for your life."

David said in Psalms 139 ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make

my bed in hell, behold, *You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

4. “My mission was to take him to a place of repentance”

1. The discipline of God is always mixed with mercy.
He could have drowned but the fish was mercy.
2. The fish would put the “fear of God” in him.
3. The words of Jonah make it clear what he was feeling.

a. He was in distress- desperation 2:1

Jonah 2 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.² He said: “In my **distress** I called to the LORD , and he answered me.

b. He felt like he was in the grave 2:2

From the **depths of the grave** I called for help, and you listened to my cry.³ You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.

The word grave is....

7585 שַׁאֵל [*shâ'owl* , *shâol* / *sheh·ole* /] From 7592 ; TWOT 2303c ; GK 8619 ; 65 occurrences; AV translates as “grave” 31 times, “hell” 31 times, and “pit” three times. **1** sheol, underworld, grave, hell, pit. **1A the underworld.** **1B** Sheol—the OT designation for the **abode of the dead.** **1B1 place of no return.** **1B2** without praise of God. **1B3** wicked sent there for punishment. **1B4** righteous not abandoned to it. **1B5 of the place of exile (fig).** **1B6 of extreme degradation in sin.**

c. He had a fear of drowning

⁵ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head

d. He felt he was in this place forever v 6

⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the **earth beneath barred me in forever**

e. He felt like he was dying- v 7

7 “When my life was ebbing away

f. He felt like he had been separated from God

4 “I have been banished from your sight”

4. “Three days with a miserable man in your stomach will make you sick!”

To understand the feelings of the whale we must find a point of identification. We may tell the whale, “I understand what its like to have a man inside you”. The whale may counter by asking, “What if you had a whale living inside of you?”

Perhaps we can identify better if we would ask ourselves, “Who am I swallowing?”

We would say it this way, “I just can’t get him or her off my chest”. When you let someone get in your craw you will get sick.

These feelings brought him to prayer (calling out on God), repentance, and making vows.

¹⁰ So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it **vomited Jonah** onto dry *land*.

5. “I am your transportation back to point of God’s will”

Jonah 2 .. it vomited Jonah onto dry *land*.

3 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach....

When repentance comes you will be released from the prison of correction, the whale’s belly. You will find yourself back at the point of God’s last command. “Go to Nineveh”.

Is there a whale in your future? Are you in that place of misery?
Get back into the will of God!

