

## Communion Meditation – Jonah

Jonah 1.17 (read 1 to 17)

“God Preserves Jonah”

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Recap from Last Week

- Sailors & Jonah presumed Jonah would die when tossed overboard
- Sailors worked to preserve Jonah’s life / Yet Jonah chose death
- God alone saw beyond the storm / God alone knew His plan
- Neither the sailor’s fears, nor Jonah’s hopes, were realized that day
- God preserved Jonah’s life in a most miraculous way
- I wouldn’t go so far as to say God saved Jonah that day / preserved

### v17a ~ “**Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah**”

- The **NKJV** refers to this sea creature as a “**great fish**” / not “**whale**”
- But **KJV** used term “**whale**” here and in several other places
- **NASB** uses “**sea monster**” when Jesus quotes the Jonah text
- Different terms ~ “**great fish**” / “**sea monster**” / “**sea creature**” / “**whale**”
  - Skeptics point to using term whales or big fish as an error
- But terms differ based on translation choices
  - **Job 40 - 41** describes dinosaurs and dragons (“**behemoth**” / “**leviathan**”)
  - Anybody without prejudice sees here a dinosaur and a dragon

### v17b ~ “**And Jonah was in the belly of the fish 3 days and 3 nights**”

- Next time we’ll look at Jonah’s 3 days in the “**great fish**”
- Today let’s look at Jesus’ references to Jonah
- **Read Mt 12.38-41** / Scribes and Pharisees want a sign
  - “**the sign of the prophet Jonah**”
    - Jesus was crucified and entombed / No one believed He’d return to life
    - Jonah was swallowed by a “**great fish**” / No one believed he’d return
  - “**something greater than Jonah is here**”
    - Jesus referred to the Ninevites response to Jonah’s preaching
    - Though greater than Jonah, He’s encountering little repentance & faith

**Jonah was a type of Christ because he was entombed in the great deep for 3 days  
Jonah was surprised by this / Whereas Jesus could prophecy of it c/Himself  
Our God knows the plans He has for us / the storms we’ll face in life**