

Jonah and the Three Fish



Jonah 1: 14 Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.” 15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.

Jonah 1: 16 At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

17 Now the Lord provided a huge **fish** to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Fish #1

The Fish from Hell

“Dag” (Jonah 1:17)

Great Fish
Genesis 1:26

“Tanin” (Great Fish)

Dragon/Sea Monster

Genesis 1:21





Revelation 13: The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

The “great fish” is an allusion to
God’s work of creation and
judgment.

It is the fish of salvation
disguised as a fish of trial.

It is the fish God uses when
a course correction is required.

Hebrews 12: 7 Endure hardship as discipline...! No discipline seems pleasant at the time, **but painful**. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

What the fish from hell wants:

Revelation

Fish #2

The Fish with a Womb for a View

Jonah 2: I From inside the **fish** Jonah
prayed to the Lord his God.

In Jonah 1:17, the fish is male.

In Jonah 2:1, the fish is female.

The transition from male to
female introduces a womb
signifying the work of new birth.

Matthew 12: 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the **belly (womb)** of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

What the fish second fish wants:

Transformation

James 1:15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, **gives birth to death.**

James 1:18 He (God) chose to **give us birth** through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

**Real transformation occurs when
good deeds are fruits not roots.**

Fish #3

A Fish Called Nineveh

Jonah 1: 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh

Jonah 1: 17 And the Lord designated a great fish to swallow Jonah.

Jonah 1: 17 Jonah was in the belly of the fish **three days** and three nights.

Jonah 3: 3 Nineveh was a very large city; it took **three days** to go through it.

“Nineveh” named for “Nina”

The River Goddess symbolized by
a fish.



God's work of transformation
changes us to
help bring salvation to others.

God allows trials that bring
revelation(fish 1)

Revelation must bring
transformation (fish 2)

Transformation results in salvation
for self/others (fish 3)

When God does this work in us,
the fourth fish is glorified.

Ἰησοῦς Χριστός Θεοῦ Υἱός Σωτήρ

ΙΧΘΥΣ (ICHTHUS)

Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior



Jonah's Problem:

He was humbled but not
transformed.

Will you let your trials humble you
or transform you for the sake of
others and Christ?

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