

Jonah and the Christ

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

- ✠ To understand the similarities and the differences between Jonah the prophet and Jesus our Lord.

Key verses

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

Introduction:

- The book of Jonah is one of the small prophets books, was written around the year 750 BC.
- You can find the name of Jonah the prophet in 2Kin 14:25.
- Nineveh means the place of the god “Nin” who was worshiped at that place. It is now a city called El-Mousel in Iraq.

Jonah and Jesus Christ

Jonah	Christ
His name means “Dove” which is the sign of peace.	He is the King of peace (Is 9:6)
God sent Jonah to the people of Nineveh so that they will repent for their sins.	God sent His only Son Jesus to ask men to repent for their sins so that God will forgive them
Jonah did not accept the mission, and disobeyed God. He rejected it and fled from it.	Christ accepted the Father’s message and gladly accomplished it. He obeyed the Father till the death of the cross.
Jonah, in the beginning, refused to serve Nineveh and its people.	Christ came and preached the Gospel and the Kingdom of God for everyone; Jews and Gentiles.
Jonah got on the ship and slept a sound sleep. This is the sleep of the conscience and avoiding thinking about responsibility, the problem and the consequences. He was about to drown but for his repentance inside the belly of the fish where God’s mercy reached him.	Christ got on a ship and slept because He was tired and exhausted from the numerous services and from staying awake praying for a long time at night.
Passengers on the ship awoke Jonah in anger and fury. They admonished him saying “Why are you asleep? Get up and call upon your God”.	The disciples woke Jesus up and said,” Teacher, don’t you care that we are about to perish?”

Jonah and the Christ

<p>A mighty tempest came upon the ship where Jonah was. It was so violent that the ship was likely to break up and sink. The storm never stopped until Jonah was cast into the sea.</p>	<p>A mighty tempest came upon the ship where Jesus was. The disciples screamed with fear but He commanded the sea and the wind and there was a great calm because He is holy and without sin.</p>
<p>He was thrown into the water by his own will</p>	<p>He was crucified by His own will.</p>
<p>He was thrown into the sea (water)</p>	<p>We accept all the power of the cross through baptism (water)</p>
<p>Jonah continued to descend lower and lower because of his disobedience. He went down to Joppa then he went down to a ship then he went down to the depth of the sea then he went down into the belly of the whale. He said in his prayers that he went down to the bottom of the abyss and that he was about to perish but for his confession of his error and his repentance he was saved.</p>	<p>Christ, of His own free will, came down from high Heaven until He reached “the depth of the earth”. He descended into Hades through the cross. He accepted this for our salvation and to give freedom to those in captivity, therefore,” God (the Father) raised Him and gave Him the name that is greater than any other name. So, in honour of the name of Christ, all beings in Heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees”. (Phil2: 5-10)</p>
<p>Jonah stayed in the belly of the whale for three days and came out alive by means of a miracle.</p>	<p>The miracle of Jonah is a symbol of the death of Christ and His resurrection after three days with His own authority. (John 2: 18-19)</p>
<p>There is an opinion says that he is the son of the widow of Zarephath, who was dead and Elijah the prophet raised him up.</p>	<p>He was dead and resurrected again</p>
<p>The message of Jonah succeeded 100%. All the people of Nineveh repented under the leadership of their king. They fasted and prayed asking for mercy and forgiveness.</p>	<p>Strangely, the message of Christ who is greater than Jonah was met with rejection and ingratitude from the leadership of the head priests of the Jews.</p>
<p>A Second Chance: God gave Jonah a Second chance to obey Him, after he came out of the fish, and this second time Jonah did go!</p>	<p>Jesus is the Lord of the Second chances, If we confess our sins; He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)</p>



Glory is to God, forever. Amen.