

The title of this morning's sermon is, *"The Christ in Jonah – Part IV."*

On Sunday mornings we're working our way through Luke's Gospel verse-by-verse and we reached the account of Jesus calming the storm. Because of the similarities between this account and Jonah, we've been comparing Jesus and Jonah to see the different ways Jonah isn't just a type – but a sign – of Christ.

Up to this point we covered Jonah's death and burial:

- When he was thrown into the sea that paralleled Jesus' death.
- When he was three days and three nights in the fish that paralleled Jesus' burial.

And this morning we'll see Jonah come out of the fish, which parallels Jesus' resurrection.

If you look at the top of your bulletin it says...

Note: Lesson 1 and Lesson 2, Parts I-VIII are from the previous sermons.

Let's briefly review these lessons...

LESSON 1: THE OLD TESTAMENT IS ABOUT JESUS.

Heb 10:7 Jesus said, **"Behold, I have come – in the volume of the book (referring to the OT) IT IS WRITTEN OF ME."**

Jesus is revealed throughout the Old Testament in types and shadows that prefigured Him:

- **Heb 10:1** The Law (referring to the OT) was only **A SHADOW** of the good things to come not the **REALITIES** themselves. The realities are found in Christ!
- **Col 2:16-17** A festival or a new moon or Sabbaths...are **A SHADOW** of things to come, but the **SUBSTANCE** is of Christ.

And of all the types in the OT, Jonah is one of the strongest, b/c he's also identified as a **sign**...

Matt 12:39 [Jesus said], **"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH."**

Look at Lesson 2 to see the different ways Jonah is a type – or sign – of Jesus...

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH (PART I) LEFT JEWISH TERRITORY FOR GENTILE TERRITORY.

When Jonah and Jesus set out across the sea, they both left Jewish territory and headed to Gentile territory.

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH (PART II) EXPERIENCED A TERRIBLE STORM.

Pretty self-explanatory: they encountered storms that threatened to destroy the ships and drown the sailors.

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH (PART III) SLEPT DURING THE STORM.

Despite how terrible the storms were, both men were able to sleep soundly below deck...UNTIL the next part of Lesson 2...

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH (PART IV) WERE WOKEN BY SAILORS.

In both accounts when the sailors thought they would die they woke Jesus and Jonah.

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH (PART V) WERE WILLING TO LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR OTHERS.

In a moment of selflessness – that was very uncharacteristic of Jonah in the rest of the book – in **Jonah 1:12** he said, “**Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you.**”

Jonah basically told the sailors:

- *You have no other choice.*
- *There is only one way for you to survive.*
- *If you don't want to perish, then I must perish!*
- *If I lay down my life then you can live.*

So they threw Jonah overboard, and the parallel is the only way we can live eternally is if Jesus lays down His life for us.

The next part of Lesson 2...

LESSON 3: JESUS AND JONAH (PART VI) CALMED THE STORM.

Although in different ways, both Jesus and Jonah were responsible w/ calming storms.

And I see a parallel w/ the way Jesus calms the storm of God's wrath that's against us...

In Jonah's day the raging storm threatened to destroy the boat and the sailors in it. That storm pales in comparison to the storm of God's wrath that's against us b/c our sins. The idea is:

- When Jonah was thrown into the sea, he calmed the wrath of that storm.
- When Jesus was thrown into the sea of God's wrath, He calms the wrath that's against us.

As a result of that, look at the next part of Lesson 2...

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH (PART VII) WERE WITH MEN WHO CAME TO FEAR THE LORD.

When the storm was calmed the men in Jonah's boat and the disciples in Jesus' boat both came to fear the Lord. There are verses in both accounts making that point.

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH (PART VIII) WERE "BURIED" FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS.

Look at **Jonah 1:17**...

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.

You read this verse and you almost can't help but think of Christ. The language is so strong it's almost like God is trying to draw your mind to the NT where these same words are used for Christ.

Just remember though – so you can appreciate the greatness of God's Word – the Book of Jonah was written around 780 to 760BC...almost 800 years before Christ was buried for **three days and three nights**. So 8 centuries before Jesus was born – and 8 centuries before it ever entered the mind of man that God would have a Son who would die for our sins and be resurrected – God had this account w/ Jonah take place as a **sign** of what would later take place w/ Jesus.

Because Jonah is serving as such a strong type of Christ, you see strong burial language in **Jonah 2**. If you didn't know better, you'd almost think Jonah died! Look at **verse 2**

Jonah 2:2 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.**

This obviously isn't what we would expect Jonah to say. We would expect him to say **"Out of the belly of the FISH I cried."**

But he said he was in **Sheol** – in the NT this location is known as Hades – and this makes the typology w/ Christ very strong, b/c this is where Jesus went when He died for those days and nights between His death and resurrection.

I explained two weeks ago that **Sheol** or **Hades** is not heaven or hell; it's the temporary location or abode of the dead until people are resurrected and brought to their eternal homes in heaven or hell. In the Story of the Rich Man and Lazarus we learn **Sheol** or **Hades** contains two compartments: one of comfort and one of torment.

But now look at **Jonah 2:6**...

**6a I went down to the moorings of the mountains;
The earth with its bars *closed* behind me forever;**

You would expect Jonah to say the water **closed** behind him, but instead he says **earth**. This isn't the language of burial in the ocean; this is the language of burial in the earth.

And look at the next part...

**6b Yet You have brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD, my God.**

The **pit** is a synonym for **Sheol**, and Jonah expected to be **brought up** – or raised – from **the pit**. He's looking forward to His resurrection...just like Jesus looked forward to His resurrection!

Remember in **Acts 2:27** Jesus said...

Acts 2:27 You will not leave my soul in Hades (this is a quote of **Psa 16**, which says **Sheol** instead of **Hades**), **Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption**

So just like Jonah looked forward to his resurrection, Jesus looked forward to His resurrection.

And you can see Jonah's resurrection in **verse 10**...

Jonah 2:10 So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

And this brings us to the next part of Lesson 2...

LESSON 2: JESUS AND JONAH (PART IX) WERE RESURRECTED ON THE THIRD DAY.

Interestingly when Jesus said Jonah would be a sign of His resurrection, His listeners' minds would've went to Jonah being **vomited** – that's the word used – out of the fish. They would've pictured Jonah coming up out of the fish never be able to look at that event the same.

Let me tell you something particularly interesting about this...

There are two verses in the NT stating Jesus' resurrection on the third day was prophesied of in the OT:

- **Luke 24:46 [Jesus] said, "IT IS WRITTEN (meaning it was prophesied in the OT)...the Christ [would] suffer and RISE FROM THE DEAD THE THIRD DAY."**
- **1 Cor 15:4 [Jesus] was buried, and He rose again the third day ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.**

So both **Luke 24:46** and **1 Cor 15:4** state that it was prophesied in the OT the Messiah would be raised from the dead on the third day. This means we've moved from types and shadows to prophecy!

Here's the question...

Where in the OT did it prophesy the Messiah would be raised from the dead on the third day? We're talking about the resurrection of Christ – which along w/ the crucifixion itself – is the single most important event in history. This has to be one of the most important prophecies in Scripture, so where is it recorded?

Here's why you might not know...

It's not as clear as other prophecies. Many of the prophecies in the OT have a verse in the NT quoting them, identifying them as an OT prophecy. For example:

- **Matt 1:23** quotes **Isa 7:14** that the Messiah would be born of a virgin.
- **Matt 2:6** quotes **Micah 5:2** that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
- **John 13:18** quotes **Psa 41:9** that the Messiah would be betrayed by a close friend.

But if we didn't have these NT verses pointing out that these OT verses were prophecies, we wouldn't even know many of them were prophecies!

And when Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, there's no verse in the NT quoting an OT verses, so we can't say, "*Okay, this verse prophesied of that happening.*"

BUUUUT Jesus and Paul both said it WAS prophesied of in the OT, so again, the question is, "*Where???*"

There are three possible places in the OT that could've prophesied of Christ's resurrection on the third day and it could be any of these or all three of these...

First, there's Abraham and Isaac...

2,000 years before Jesus was crucified on Mount Moriah – which is Jerusalem is located – another father brought his son there to sacrifice him...and that father was Abraham.

Abraham got the command to sacrifice Isaac. That was the first day. They walked three days together to Mount Moriah, and...

Gen 22:4 ON THE THIRD DAY Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

These words **on the third day** aren't just referring to the day Abraham arrived at Moriah. They're referring to the day Abraham received Isaac back from the dead, b/c this is the day Abraham went up the mountain w/ Isaac and the Angel stopped him from going through w/ it.

Here's the idea...

Abraham got the command to sacrifice Isaac on the first day:

- Because Abraham was so committed to sacrificing Isaac it's like Isaac died to him on that first day.
- When the Angel stopped Abraham, he received his son **back from the dead**.

Just so you don't think this is my opinion, listen to this verse...

Heb 11:19 [Abraham] received [Isaac back], figuratively speaking, from the dead.

It says **figuratively** sense he didn't physically sacrifice him, but Abraham had reckoned him dead on that first day.

So when Abraham was stopped it really was like he received him back from the dead...and what day was that? When they reached Moriah on **the third day!** That was Isaac's resurrection.

So in **Gen 22:4** when you read, "**ON THE THIRD DAY Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off**" you're looking at one of the OT prophecies of Christ's resurrection on the **third day**...through Isaac's "resurrection."

Second, there's an interesting verse in Hosea 6...

The end of **Hosea 5** describes God "*executing*" Israel...

Hos 5:14 [God says], "I will be like a lion to [Israel]...I, even I, will tear *them* and go away; I will take *them* away, and no one shall rescue."

Hosea 5 describes God executing Israel and then **Hosea 6** describes God raising Israel from the dead on the third day...

Hosea 6:2 After two days He will revive us; ON THE THIRD DAY HE WILL RAISE US UP, That we may live in His sight.

This could be a reference to Christ's resurrection on the third day.

Then the third – and probably strongest and clearest – is Jonah's "resurrection" from the fish.

The type w/ Jonah could go a little further, but I want to say this next part more loosely...

Please look at **Jonah 3:4**...

Jonah 3:4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

If you write in your bible you might circle the words **forty days** and write "Acts 1:3."

Acts 1:3 [Jesus] presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during FORTY DAYS and SPEAKING OF THE THINGS PERTAINING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

For **forty days** after Jesus' resurrection He appeared to many witnesses as He spoke about the kingdom of God.

So here's the possible typology:

- The people of Nineveh needed to hear from Jonah. Their salvation depended on it.
- Following Jesus' resurrection, people needed to see Him, hear His message, and believe. Their salvation depended on it. Without the resurrection there's no Gospel, b/c the Gospel is that Jesus has victory over sin and death.

And let me be clear about one more interesting detail...

- After Jonah's "resurrection" he wasn't sent to anyone and everyone: he was sent to the Ninevites. He was sent to a specific people chosen by God.
- After Jesus' resurrection, He wasn't sent to anyone and everyone. He was sent to specific people chosen by God. Listen to this...

Acts 10:40 God raised [[Jesus] up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 NOT TO ALL THE PEOPLE, BUT TO WITNESSES CHOSEN BEFORE BY GOD, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

So Jonah and Jesus both had specific people to reach after their resurrections.

And w/ that we conclude our discussion of the similarities between Jesus and Jonah!

But now we need to have another important discussion...

I told you before that types never live up to the reality; they always fall short. If they didn't, they wouldn't be the type—they'd be the reality itself!

So we're going to discuss how Jonah falls short...and we should do this, b/c in **Matt 12:41** and **Luke 11:32** Jesus said, "**a greater than Jonah is here.**"

Jesus said He's greater than Jonah, so let's discuss how He's greater...

First, I want to show you something interesting about the Book of Jonah...

Every book in Scripture is unique in different ways, and one thing that makes Jonah unique is it's a book filled w/ obedience. Yes, you heard me correctly! The Book of Jonah is filled w/ obedience. You see one example of obedience after another.

Let me show you...

- **1:4 But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea...** The wind obeyed God.
- **15 So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.** The sailors obeyed God.
- **1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.** Notice the words **had prepared** are past tense. This is how much control God had over the situation:
 - Jonah might have went the opposite direction, but it didn't surprise God.
 - He had this **fish prepared** before Jonah ever thought of going to Tarshish.
- **2:10 So the LORD spoke to the fish** (some translations say **commanded**), **and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.** It's interesting the way this is worded: it actually says God **spoke** to the fish...and sure enough it obeyed.
- The greatest example of obedience in the entire book took place in the city of Nineveh. Even the animals look obedient in that they fasted and wore sackcloth: **3:6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. 7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.** So the inhabitants of Nineveh – including even the animals – looked obedient to God.
- **4:6 And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah...** This plant obeyed God.
- **4:7 But as morning dawned the next day GOD PREPARED A WORM, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.** This worm obeyed God.
- **4:8 And it happened, when the sun arose, that GOD PREPARED A VEHEMENT EAST WIND; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint.** This wind obeyed God.

So in a sense – from beginning to end – the Book of Jonah is filled w/ obedience.

But you can probably the irony associated w/ me saying that, right? It's the Book of Jonah, and Jonah is the disobedient element in the book.

And this brings us to the first way Jesus is greater than Jonah...

LESSON 3: JESUS IS GREATER THAN JONAH (PART I) IN HIS OBEDIENCE...

While Jonah is the picture of disobedience, Jesus is the picture of obedience:

- Jonah ran from his assignment; Jesus ran toward it.
- Jonah went to Nineveh b/c he had to; Jesus came to earth b/c He wanted to.
- Jonah found himself in the storm b/c he disobeyed God the Father; Jesus found Himself in the storm b/c He obeyed His Father.
- Jonah was thrown into the sea because of his sin; Jesus was cast into the sea of God's wrath for our sin.

- Jonah was taken down into the depths of darkness for 3 days because of his disobedience; Jesus was taken into darkness of death for 3 days b/c of our disobedience.
- Jonah only delivered his message to Nineveh to save his life; Jesus delivered His message even though He knew it would cost Him His life.

While Jonah is a great type of Christ in many ways, there are also ways in which he couldn't be more UNLIKE Christ. While Jonah looks like the perfectly disobedient man, Jesus was the perfectly obedient Man.

Let me show you the next way Jesus is greater than Jonah...

Look back at **Jonah 3:4** one more time. In particular look at Jonah's message...

Jonah 3:4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Even Jonah's message of repentance is pitifully short. Considering how much Jonah did NOT want these people to be saved, you can picture him saying these words very reluctantly. I think you get the idea Jonah was describing what he WANTED to happen!

And this brings us to the next part of Lesson 3...

LESSON 3: JESUS IS GREATER THAN JONAH (PART II) IN HIS MESSAGE.

Jonah's message contains no mention of mercy, grace, forgiveness, or love whatsoever.

Look what the king said in **Jonah 3:9**...

Jonah 3:9 Who can tell *if* God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

Basically the king said, "MAYBE God will spare us." You know why he worded it this way?

He didn't know whether God would spare them, b/c Jonah made no mention of God's mercy or forgiveness. God did end up sparing them, but not b/c Jonah convinced them that could happen.

The point is, Jonah's message only contained judgment and condemnation.

Contrast Jonah's message w/ Jesus' message...

Jesus said:

- **Luke 19:10 the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**
- **John 3:17 God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**

- **John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

Jesus' message was balanced:

- He discussed judgment and condemnation at times.
- But He also discussed the love, mercy, and grace that He wanted people to receive.

But despite Jonah's best efforts to prevent the people of Nineveh from being saved, they repented and God spared them. Look at Jonah's response beginning in **Jonah 4:1...**

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live!"

4 Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

5 So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

Jonah was outside the city hoping to see it destroyed.

His response brings us to the next way Jesus is greater than him...

LESSON 3: JESUS IS GREATER THAN JONAH (PART III) IN HIS LOVE

Jonah sat outside the city of Nineveh hoping it would be destroyed. He was actually more upset about the death of a plant than the destruction of thousands of people.

Listen to the description of Jesus when He was outside the city of Jerusalem as and He thought about the destruction of thousands of people at the hands of the Romans...

Luke 19:41 As He drew near [Jerusalem], He saw the city and wept over it...43 [He said], "Days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another."

So picture this tremendous contrast:

- Jonah was outside the city wanting to see people destroyed.
- Jesus was outside the city and the thought of people being destroyed brought Him to tears.

And there's another time Jesus was outside the city....

Heb 13:12 Jesus suffered outside the [city] gate.

Contrast the prayers of Jonah and Jesus when they were outside **the city**:

- Jonah hated the people he was sent to save. His prayer was, *“Kill me, because I’m so angry that they’re able to live.”*
- Jesus had such a love for the people He came to save that His prayer – even for those crucifying Him – was: **Luke 23:34** **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”**

So one of the clearest differences between Jesus and Jonah is the way they viewed the repentance and salvation of lost sinners...

- Jonah’s response to the repentance and salvation of lost sinners is in **Jonah 4**.
- Jesus’ response to the repentance and salvation of lost sinners is in **Luke 15**. That’s when Jesus told the Parables of the Lost Sheep, and the Lost Coin to reveal the joy the Lord feels at the repentance and salvation of just one lost sinner. The words **rejoice, rejoicing, and joy** occur 5 times in 6 verses.

And if you want another contrast between Jesus and Jonah, right after Jesus told the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Jonah is in that parable. That parable is about him. He’s the OT example of the older brother who’s angry at the repentance of the younger brother:

- Jonah sits outside the city like the older brother sits outside the party.
- God the Father visits Jonah outside the city like the father visits the older son outside the party.
- The ugliness of the older brother in that parable pictures the ugliness of Jonah in **Jonah 4**.
- The joy of the father in that parable at the repentance of the lost son is the joy of God the Father in **Jonah 4** when the people of Nineveh repent...and when we repent.

Now the last way Jesus is greater than Jonah...

LESSON 3: JESUS IS GREATER THAN JONAH (PART IV) SO WE MUST GIVE GREATER HEED TO WHAT HE SAYS.

Matt 12:41 **The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.**

Jesus told the people in His day that the men of Nineveh would be resurrected, and they would condemn the unrepentant people in His day.

Follow me for a moment...

The repentance of the Ninevites is the most spectacular example of corporate repentance in all of Scripture. As far as I can tell there’s no account that rivals what happened when the Ninevites heard Jonah...despite all of Jonah’s shortcomings.

So consider this...

If the people of Nineveh repented like this after hearing Jonah – a man w/ significant failings – how much greater should the repentance be after hearing Jesus, the **One** who is so much **greater** than Jonah?

This is why Jesus said the people of Nineveh would rise up and condemn those who didn't repent when they heard Him!

If you think about it, it's quite the irony that the people of Nineveh – some of the wickedest to ever live – will condemn people who seem much more righteous b/c the Ninevites were willing to repent and these other people were not.

With that in mind, let me conclude by asking you to consider two points:

- First, if God was willing to so quickly forgive the Ninevites who engaged in terrible wickedness, how much more willing will He be to forgive us when we repent and turn to Christ in faith?
- Second, if Jesus said the people in His day would be condemned if they didn't repent – even though they never approached the wickedness of the Ninevites – how much more will we be condemned if we don't repent after hearing from Christ through the pages of Scripture?

My suspicion is the people of Nineveh could rise up and condemn us too!

If you have any questions about anything I've shared, or you've never repented and turned from your sins to Christ, Pastor Doug and I will be up front after service and we would consider it a privilege to speak w/ you.

Let's pray.