

Jonah 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Analysis

And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land. This verse demonstrates God's sovereign command over all creation. The Hebrew vayomer YHWH la-dag vayaqe et-Yonah el-hayabashah (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לַדָּג וַיִּקַּח אֶת-יוֹנָה אֶל-הַיַּבֶּשֶׁה) shows God speaking to the fish—divine Word accomplishes His purposes. The verb qo (קוּ) means to vomit or spew out, suggesting forceful expulsion. This wasn't natural fish behavior but miraculous obedience to God's command.

"Upon the dry land" (el-hayabashah) completes Jonah's resurrection typology. Just as Christ rose from the tomb on the third day and appeared to witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:4-5), Jonah emerges from his watery tomb onto solid ground—delivered from death, restored to ministry. The fish, which seemed like judgment, becomes instrument of salvation. This teaches God's discipline is redemptive, not merely punitive. As Hebrews 12:6 states, "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth."

Jonah's prayer from the fish's belly (chapter 2) contains no explicit repentance for disobedience—it's mostly thanksgiving for deliverance. Yet God delivers him anyway, demonstrating hesed (steadfast covenant love) that persists despite human failure. God's purposes will prevail: Jonah will go to Nineveh (3:1-3). This prefigures the gospel—salvation comes not from our perfect repentance but God's perfect grace that brings us to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Historical Context

Jonah's three-day entombment in the fish occurred around 760 BC during his mission to Nineveh. Jesus explicitly confirmed this miracle's historicity in Matthew 12:40: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Christ treats Jonah as historical type, not mythology. Early church fathers universally accepted Jonah's experience as literal prefigurement of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. The fish's vomiting onto dry land symbolizes resurrection—death could not hold Jonah, just as the tomb could not hold Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign command over the fish demonstrate His power over all creation to accomplish His redemptive purposes?
2. In what ways does Jonah's deliverance onto dry land prefigure Christ's resurrection and our spiritual resurrection from death to life?
3. How should God's persistent grace toward rebellious Jonah shape your confidence in His covenant faithfulness despite your failures?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	לִדְג	וַיִּקֶּא	אֶת	יוֹנָה	אֶל
spake	And the LORD	unto the fish	and it vomited out	H853	Jonah	H413
H559	H3068	H1709	H6958		H3124	

הַיָּבֵשָׁה:
upon the dry
H3004

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 33:9 (Parallel theme): For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Isaiah 50:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

Genesis 1:3 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Jonah 1:17 (References Lord): Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Psalms 105:31 (Parallel theme): He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.

Psalms 105:34 (Parallel theme): He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillers, and that without number,

Genesis 1:7 (Parallel theme): And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

Genesis 1:14 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Genesis 1:9 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

Genesis 1:11 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.