

# CAN YOU HIDE, OUTRUN GOD, OR MAYBE, JUST WHINE TO GET YOUR WAY? **NOT A CHANCE!**

Some people say it was a whale and others say it was a big fish. If they read their Bible, they would know that God calls it both, but Jonah probably called it a watery hell. People think that prophets of God are special people, and they are. People also think prophets of God are perfect saints. Not always so.

Jonah was unforgiving. He had seen how cruel Nineveh could be, and he wished them dead. When God called him to go and preach repentance to that great city, Jonah refused. He didn't want them to repent and he didn't want them to be saved from God's wrath. So he took a ship in the opposite direction. As the ship sailed further and further from Nineveh, Jonah must have thought he had left God far behind. Did he seriously think that God had given up on him? There was a huge city full of people who needed God's Word, and God had called Jonah to go. So God sent a storm. Every man on the ship was afraid with the exception of God's prophet, who was fast asleep. They woke Jonah up, and he told them it was his fault. He said, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which made the sea and the dry land. Throw me overboard and the wind will cease."

It would appear Jonah thought that in death he would escape preaching repentance to the sinful city. So they threw Jonah overboard into the churning sea, and the sea

became calm. God called into the depth of the sea for an old friend called Whale. Jonah found himself in a foul, slimy darkness. Jonah must have waited for death. After three days in the belly of the beast, he was miserable beyond belief, but still alive. God waited. Jonah repented. And the whale vomited him up on the beach. I guess a disobedient prophet is hard to digest.

Three days in the digestive juices of a whale's belly would have left Jonah hairless and bleached white. The folks in Nineveh took one look at him, heard him screaming "Repent or perish," and even the king fell on his face and repented.

Jonah was not pleased with the success of his revival campaign. He built a small shelter (probably to protect his bleached skin) and waited to see if God might yet destroy Nineveh. God caused a gourd plant to grow that protected Jonah from the sun's glare, and then God prepared a worm (you think God sends worms?) to eat the vine so it withered, leaving Jonah sunburned and mad. What a prophet! God still wanted Jonah to have a merciful heart. God gave us this story so we could learn with Jonah. God says, "And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand, and much cattle?" God even cared for the animals. Did Jonah ever learn his lesson?

## SEPTEMBER 2017

### Jesus' Burial & Resurrection

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>What did Jesus say was his new commandment? John 13:34</i> <i>What does hemitohidrosis mean? Luke 22:44. Look it up in a medical dictionary!</i> <b>Memory Verse:</b> John 14:19; Revelation 1:18						1 Luke 18:18-43
2 Mark 9:1-13	3 Matthew 20:17-34	4 Matthew 20:1-16	5 Matthew 20:17-34	6 Matthew 22:1-14	7 Luke 19:28-48	8 Matthew 22:15-33
9 Matthew 22:34-46	10 Mark 13:1-20	11 Mark 13:21-37	12 Matthew 26:1-16	13 Mark 14:12-25	14 John 13:1-20	15 John 13:21-38
16 John 14:1-18	17 John 14:19-31	18 John 15:1-17	19 John 15:18 to John 16:11	20 John 16:12-33	21 John 17:1-19	22 John 17:20-26 Matthew 26:37-46
23 Luke 22:47-71	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 John 21:14-25	Luke 23:1-25	Luke 23:26-56	John 20:1-18	Luke 24:13-35	John 20:19-31	John 21:1-13