

ONE GREATER THAN JONAH IS HERE!

Mat 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Mat 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.

The story of Jonah is one of the most famous in the bible. I think it is easy to remember a story of a man getting swallowed by a great fish! Some don't realize however that this story was given by God to picture the ministry of Jesus Christ. Moses told those of his generation that God would raise up to them a Prophet. [Deut 18:15] Jesus was **the** Prophet of God. Jesus alludes to this story and applies it to himself when the Jews asked him for a sign from heaven. He said that no sign would be given to them except for the sign of Jonah. What was the sign of Jonah? It was that he was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. As Jonah was buried in the depths for three days so Jesus would be in the heart of the earth for three days and nights. After the third day Jonah was vomited up on the dry land. This pictures resurrection! After three days, hell vomited out Jesus on the dry land of earth. What a correlation between these two prophets!

Although they both pictured death and resurrection after three days, their messages were drastically different. As soon as Jonah was "resurrected" he went into Nineveh and proclaimed a message of judgment to the gentiles. His sermons were always the same and they consisted of one line.

"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be thrown down [destroyed]!"

Jonah proclaimed the judgment of God for forty days. Jonah remained around the city the entire forty days to see the judgment fall. However, the people believed what Jonah preached and repented. God relented from the judgment because of this. When Jonah saw that the judgment did not come, he was very angry about it. He wanted the Gentiles to fry!

We learn that Jesus also in like wise after his resurrection remained for forty days **but he had a different message than Jonah-** a greater message because He was a greater Messenger!

Act 1:3 to whom He also 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.

Jonah's message was a message of judgment and destruction, but Jesus' message was a message of salvation and deliverance! Jonah desired for and preached judgment upon the gentiles. Jesus desired for and preached a message of salvation to the gentiles. Jonah proclaimed that God's judgment was about to tear them down [overthrow them]. Jesus message those 40 days after he was resurrected was that God was about to start **building up** those who would accept and believe upon Him, even the gentiles!

Mat 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Jonah preached destruction to the gentiles. Jesus here says that He came to **build** His church which is primarily comprised of the gentiles. Jesus came to build up not destroy. Jesus is greater than the Law. When the Law was given on Mt. Sinai and Moses come down off the mountain he found many worshipping a golden calf. 3000 men died that day. [Ex. 32:28] However, on the day of Pentecost [this feast was to remember the giving of the Law] the Spirit was sent and 3000 men got saved that day. [Acts 2:41] Jesus is greater than the Law but He is also greater than Jonah. His message is greater than that of Jonah! Jonah preached the judgment of God but Jesus preached salvation and the love of God. Jesus is greater than the judgment of God. Jesus on the cross took the wrath of God we all deserve and offers us the gift of righteousness. Sins do not stand in the way of sinners and God anymore. The sins of the whole world were placed on Jesus. What stands between God and the sinner is Jesus Christ. He is the door. All they have to do is believe the message of the One who is greater than Jonah!

Jesus stayed after he was raised from the dead forty days preaching the good news of the gospel. He proclaimed that God was about to start building up his church. Jesus then left so He could start the building process. He had to go so that the Spirit could be sent to give birth to the Church. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit was outpoured and the building of the church started. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is a building up ministry. How can we tap into this ministry? It is no secret! We find that the

disciples on the day of Pentecost tapped into by speaking in tongues. The supernatural prayer language from God has been given to us to build us up and empower us!

Jud 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

When you pray in tongues you build yourself up! Most Christians don't benefit much from tongues because they do not pray enough in tongues. They don't fully pray out the mysteries and secrets God has for them. When we pray in tongues we speak the mysteries of God. [1 Cor. 14:2] These mysteries of God have to deal with God's will and future for your life and the lives of others. When we pray and intercede in tongues we build ourselves up and pray for edification in other people's lives. We can do this even for people we don't know! Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues? This is a sure sign that God's judgment against you was placed on Jesus and now you are an object of his salvation and deliverance. Satan will try to tear you down, but if you will stay in the Word of God and in prayer, especially praying in tongues, you will be too strong for Satan to tear down. God will continue to build and build and build in your life so that His kingdom has manifested everywhere you go! One greater than Jonah is here! His message is greater than Jonah's! **Say this, "One greater than Jonah is right here! He is Jesus and I believe His message! Amen!"**