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Jonah and the Great Whale

1:17 to 2:10

By focusing on **the sailors** in **1:16**, we lose sight of **Yonah**. As far as **they** are concerned there can be no hope of **his** surviving the raging sea (**1:14**). **ADONAI**, however, has not yet finished with **the reluctant prophet**. And by means of **a great whale** in **scene three** God snatches **him** from a watery grave.



Many Bible scholars say that the word in the Greek New Testament translated **whale** (Greek: *ketos*) could be just as accurately translated simply huge fish or sea monster. However, in defending **God's** Word, it is not really necessary to rule out the possibility that this Greek word which may mean **whale** actually does mean **whale**. There are two reasons for this: First, Some research scholars tell us there is a species of **whale** which not only has a mouth large enough for a man to get in, but also has a throat large enough for the whale to swallow the man. And second, even if there is no species of whale today with a throat large enough for a man to pass through, **God** could have certainly **prepared a whale** with a mouth and throat large enough for **Jonah** to go right on down to **the whale's** stomach, because the Bible tells us that **the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah (Jonah 1:17)**. Thus, we should realize that it was a greater miracle for **God** to resurrect **Jonah** than it was for **Him** to create or appoint a **whale**, which could swallow **the runaway prophet**. **For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37)**. Therefore, **the great fish** of **Jonah** was probably a **sperm whale** (*Catodon Macrocephalus*).

It is important to understand that **the whale** here is not the hero of the story, neither is it its villain. The book is not even about a **whale**. **The whale** is among the props and does not

occupy the star's dressing room. Let us distinguish between the essentials and the incidentals. Incidentals are **the whale, the plant, the east wind, the ship, and Nineveh**. The essentials are **ADONAI and Jonah . . . God and man**.

*Dear Mighty and Loving Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** love that knows how to guide **Your** wayward child back to you, so he or she can be forgiven. **Now all discipline seems painful at the moment - not joyful. But later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (Hebrews 12:11)**. Praise **You** for being the means of forgiveness so those who love **You** can enter your holy heaven. **He made the One who knew no sin to become a sin offering on our behalf so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (Second Corinthians 5:21)**. We love **You** and want to follow **You**, for **You** always want what is best for **Your** child. In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*