

JUST A “FISH STORY?”

By Keith Greer

During the last few months I've been attending a preacher's study in Lexington. In these studies we are examining each of the **Minor Prophets**. Powerful books, with very important lessons of principles man can learn much from.

One of the prophet's is Jonah. This book only has eight words of prophecy: "...Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" {Jonah 3:4} The book is more about the man and what he did with God's instructions.

Many skeptics just don't accept the teaching of Jonah because they believe it is a myth. **"Just another fish story"**, is what we are told. Did the events recorded in Jonah really occur?

Listen to the words of the Lord while talking with the Pharisees. "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." {Matthew 12:40} Our Lord did not think it was a fish story!

Many think the events that happened to Jonah, after he was cast from the ship, make it difficult "to swallow!" Why?

"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." {Jonah 1:17} Who prepared the fish?

"Is anything too hard for the LORD?..." {Genesis 18:14}

God can do anything He desires to accomplish. Can man stop the actions of God? Let me give you some things to consider:

"He answered and said, Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." {John 9:25} Our Lord gave a blind man sight. His enemies tried to get around it and couldn't.

"And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Loose him, and let him go'." {John 11:44} This man had been dead four days! The chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus! John 12:10,11

"...What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it." {Acts 4: 16} When the lame man was healed by Peter, walking and standing before them, they could not deny it! The evidence was overwhelming!

What do all these miracles have in common? All were done by the power of God and could not be denied! Why is the account of Jonah so difficult to believe?

Personally speaking, I know an even bigger fish story that people have believed for centuries. Do you want to hear it?

Once upon a time a little fish flopped out upon dry land. Some time passed and his fins turned into legs. Then he began to crawl, then stand up on his hind legs, the rest is history, so say the evolutionists. **Now that's a fish story!**

In this short book God shows His power over creation. Notice please: He prepared a fish (Jonah 1:7), a plant (Jonah 4: 6), a worm (Jonah 4: 7), a great wind (Jonah 1:4), and a vehement east wind (Jonah 4:8). Surely if God could do all that, He could keep Jonah alive in the belly of a great fish! It never ceases to amaze me what men will believe in, and that they will reject the truth of God's word so easily! When will we ever learn? ***