

## ***Ordination of a Fish (Jonah 1:17)***

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. *Plot twists* are an interest-drawing tool in literature and film
  - B. A review of the narrative of Jonah
  - C. Jonah's *plot twist* – enter a great fish – in a minor but crucial role
- II. ***The Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah***
  - A. He deliberately and intentionally *counted* or *weighed out* (ordained) a great fish for a specific purpose
    - 1. The Hebrew word is “count” (Ps 90:12, 147:4, Dan 1:5)
  - B. Skeptics use the story of Jonah to cast doubt on the Bible
    - 1. no fish with a big enough larynx is known to exist
    - 2. it's impossible to survive in a fish's belly due to gastric juices
    - 3. was it a fish or a whale?
  - C. Fundamentalists' answer to the skeptics “Christian myths”
    - 1. The historical reality of Jonah needs no more confirmation than the words of Jesus (Mt 12:40)
  - D. The great fish is God's miracle – His surprise plot twist!
- III. ***And Jonah was in the belly of the fish***
  - A. Jonah's thoughts from the belly of the fish
    - 1. *Why are you keeping me alive?*
    - 2. *I am getting my rightful penalty for my sin*
    - 3. *Am I in hell?*
  - B. Jonah's understanding of God's grace is about to change (Is 42:2-3, Jonah 2)
  - C. Jonah remembers God's Word (Ps 18:4-6, 34:6, 120:1)
    - 1. God's Word in his heart brings hope (Dt 30:14, Ps 119:11, Pr 12:25)
  - D. Jonah prayed (Jonah 2:1-9)
    - 1. Romans 8:15-17 His Spirit cried out to God, proving he is a son
    - 2. He realized it was a Sovereign God who cast him into the sea
      - a. a revelation of God's sovereignty revives man's heart
    - 3. The authenticity of Jonah's repentance is seen in his concern over being separated from God's presence (like Jesus Mt 27:46)
      - a. genuine repentance is more concerned with the spiritual rather than the physical consequences of sin
      - b. God does care for the circumstances; He only hesitantly afflicts us in order to form Christ in us
      - c. What do you pray for when you are afflicted?
    - 4. Jonah's hope is restored (Jonah 2:7-9)
    - 5. Jonah is now prepared to be a minister of God's grace and mercy
- IV. ***For three days and three nights***
  - A. The greatest miracle of Jonah's story – in three day, what happened?
  - B. The sign of Jonah (Mt 12:38-41) – the Gospel
  - C. God raises souls in three days in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.