

## Jonah 2:1

*Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.*

The book of Jonah is not a book about a great fish, but a book about a great GOD!!!  
Yet if you ask people about the book of Jonah, most will say that it's a story about a man who was running from God and a whale swallowed him?

First off, the fish is only mentioned in three verses in the book of Jonah, and nowhere does it say that it was a whale. I think people think it's a whale because it's the largest sea mammal in the ocean, and big enough to swallow a man. But if you read the first account of the great fish being mentioned, it says that ***"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**

So, God ***"prepared a great fish"*** (it doesn't say a whale), and it could mean that this was a onetime fish that God ***"prepared"*** for this one purpose, and it was the only one like it, and eventually it had died. But scripture is not clear on it. But then God did not have the book of Jonah written to tell of the great fish that He created, but rather to show God's great Mercy upon a sinful nation, Nineveh.

Yet, how many do a Jonah interpretation of the entire bible, or at least the portions that they know. How many buy books that tell of God's promises which only speak of God's blessings, but never mention the promises of what happens when you reject or rebel against God? Are they not God's promises as well. But that doesn't make people feel good, that's why they like to talk about a whale that swallowed a man, because they see it as a feel good, cute little story. But forget that repentance things and God's judgment on a sinful nation, that doesn't make me feel good, so give me a cute whale who swallowed a man, kind of like in the story of Pinocchio where a whale swallowed Pinocchio and Geppetto.

They also like the story of the woman caught in adultery and with Jesus saying to her, ***"Neither do I condemn you."***

† **John 8:11b** *And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

But they ignore what Jesus said right after that, ***"Go and sin no more"*** because that doesn't make them feel good about themselves, and it chases away those goosebumps and they can't say, *"Ahh, how sweet."*

Some even go from church to church, because they like those messages that make them feel good, but don't address their sins, or cause them to feel uncomfortable, because if they feel that way, they will go to another church that makes them "feel good" about themselves.

But if being a Christian was all about making someone feel good about themselves, then everyone would want to be a Christian, because who doesn't want to feel good about themselves? But being a Christian is actually the opposite, because in order to become a Christian, you can't feel good about yourself, but you have to realize that you are a sinner and without Jesus you are going to hell, and that never made anyone feel good about themselves.

Maybe I should write a book about the promises of God and have it full of scripture of God's promises, but not of the blessing of God, but rather the promises of God to those who reject Him and His Son, Jesus, and choose to live a sinful life apart from God. How many would actually buy it or read it? What publisher would even want to publish such a book? I don't think any would be brave enough to because no one would buy it and they would lose money if they published it.

Now, don't get me wrong, as Christians we actually do feel good, but not about ourselves, but that Jesus is our Lord and Savior and that we get to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Therefore, our joy is not dependent upon anything that we have done, or need to keep doing, but rather in what Jesus has done by dying for us and giving us eternal life.

So, read your bible every day, and don't just look for those make me feel good stories, or just focus on those make me feel good verses. But read it in its entirety, and take God's warnings to heart, because if you do, you will truly live a more joyful life, because you are being obedient by not doing what God tells us not to do, then we can stand on the promises of His blessings as obedient children.

† **1 Peter 1:13-15 (NLT2)** *So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.*

If you don't heed God's warnings, then you won't get swallowed by a whale or a great fish, but rather you will be devoured by wolves, who love to feed on the fat sheep who only fill themselves with the sweet things (Blessing, promises of God), but are never fit and they never eat healthy (The entire word of God).

† **Matthew 7:15** *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

† **3 John 1:2 (NLT2)** *Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.*