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8-22-2020
JONAH PART 13
Ch. 2:2

Jonah, from the belly of the huge fish says, (2:2 KJV), ***"I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and He heard me. Out of the belly of hell cried I..."***

This is a foreshadow of what occurred with Messiah. Jesus spoke of the ***"sign of Jonah"*** (Matthew 12:39-40) and said ***"as Jonas (Jonah) was in the (fish's) belly three days and three nights, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Hades)."*** While Jesus' body lay in an earthly tomb, His spirit went to hell (the deep heart of the earth) for those three full days, just as Jonah had done.

I had always been under the impression that Jonah was alive in the belly of that fish. No preacher had ever taught that his physical body was dead inside there. Ch. 2:2 makes it very clear that Jonah descended to hell for those three days, which is a prophetic fore type of what was to happen to Jesus.

In verse 2, the Hebrew word for hell is "sheol," also termed as "the abode of the dead." Sheol (hell) had two parts. One part was "in torment" and the other part was "paradise," also sometimes called "Abraham's bosom." There was a great gulf (wide expanse) separating the two parts. This is where Jonah went while his body lay in the belly. This is where Jesus went while his body lay in the tomb.

Just as Jonah was three days later regurgitated out of the belly, so also was Jesus three days later raised out of the tomb. Life was miraculously restored to both of them at that time. The souls of the Ninevites were saved after Jonah's resurrected life. The souls of untold numbers of people were saved after Jesus' resurrected life.

The ***"sign of Jonah"*** (Matthew 12:39-40) of being dead, and in hell three days, then brought to life, and preached to the saving of souls, was exactly fulfilled in Jesus as it was done with Jonah.

The Hebrew "Sheol" is the same as "Hades" in the New Testament Greek. KJV translates both words as "hell," but it was a two-part place. After Jesus' resurrection He led "captivity captive" from Hades. The souls were "captive" in the paradise of Hades. After leading them out of Hades, the paradise side was vacated as the righteous dead now ascend directly at death to heaven to be with Jesus. Only the torment side remains, and that is why we now think of Hades (or hell) as only being a place only of torment.

Jesus fulfilled what Jonah went through. This was a very real and graphic prophetic type of the Messiah's death and resurrection. Because Jesus fulfilled all Messianic Prophecy, we have life in Him.