



GOD'S GREATEST GRACE IS OFTEN FOUND AT ROCK BOTTOM.

Jonah 1:17-2:10

A Great Fish Swallows Jonah

17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah's Prayer

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. ³ For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. ⁴ Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.' ⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head ⁶ at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. ⁷ When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. ⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. ⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" ¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

David Hume's skepticism on miracles:

- 1) "Wise men choose probabilities."¹
- 2) "That (a dead man should come to life/actual miracle occurring) has never been observed in any age or country."²
- 3) "The most ignorant and barbarous of these barbarians carry the report (miracle accounts) abroad."³

Response:

- 1) Wise men choose evidence rather than mere probability – "The error is that this argument equates quantity of evidence and probability. It says, in effect, that we should always believe what is most probable (in the sense of "enjoying the highest odds"). But this is silly. On these grounds a dice player should not believe the dice show three sixes on the first roll, since the odds against it are 216 to 1. Or, we should never believe we have been dealt a perfect bridge hand (though this has happened) since the odds against it are 1,635,013,559,600 to 1! What Hume seems to overlook is that wise people base their beliefs on facts, not simply on odds...Hume's argument confuses quantity of evidence with the quality of evidence. Evidence should be weighed, not added... The wise do not legislate in advance that miracles cannot be believed to have happened; rather, they look at the evidence to see if God has indeed acted in history."⁴ – Norman L. Geisler
- 2) If Jesus rose from the dead then miracles are possible.⁵
- 3) If Jesus rose from the dead then it is reasonable to trust His commentary on Jonah.
- 4) There are evidenced cases of contemporary miracles.⁶

Rock bottom symptoms

- God gets your _____ – 1:17

And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

- You find yourself _____ rather than _____ – 2:1

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,

- You're _____ distressed – 2:2

saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

- You feel cast away and far from God – 2:3-4

For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. ⁴ Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'

- You feel like you're sinking and _____ – 2:5-6

The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head ⁶ at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

- You see yourself wasting away – 2:7

When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.

- You begin looking to God as your _____ – 2:8-10

Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. ⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" ¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Key: attention/praying/running/deeply/overwhelmed/Deliverer

¹ David Hume, "Of Miracles," R. Douglas Geivett & Gary R. Habermas, eds., *In Defense of Miracles: A Comprehensive Case for God's Action in History* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997), 30.

² *Ibid.*, 33.

³ *Ibid.*, 37.

⁴ Norman L. Geisler, "Miracles & the Modern Mind," *In Defense of Miracles*, 79, 85.

⁵ Richard Whately's, *Historic Doubts Relative to Napoleon Bonaparte*, is a brilliant satire facetiously denying the historicity of Napoleon Bonaparte using the same criteria as skeptics who deny the historicity of Jesus. It presents a cogent apologetic against the self-defeating 'logic' of hyper-skeptics and a devastating rebuttal of Hume's unwarranted metaphysical naturalism. See Richard Whately, *Historic Doubts Relative to Napoleon Bonaparte* (London: B. Fellowes, 1833).

⁶ Craig Keener, *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011).