

## **A Greater Jonah (Part 1)**

Jonah 1-2

**Main point:** We, who are far more like Jonah than we think, need a greater Jonah who willingly obeys and lays down his life for our sake.

### **1. Like Jonah, we descend deeper and deeper into disaster when we disobey (1:1-17)**

- The problem is not that Jonah ran into a bad storm. The problem is that Jonah ran into the Lord. When God is your problem, only God is your solution. In what ways might you need to come to agreement with the Lord's terms?

### **2. Christ, the greater Jonah, willingly obeyed and embraced his prophetic duties so that we could be saved.**

- The law places a punishment upon all who disobey, and Christ's death was necessary to remove this punishment. But the law also promises life to all who would obey it completely. The active obedience of Christ, in his perfect keeping of the law, means that we get credit for the obedience of Jesus. In other words, we don't simply have our guilt forgiven. To use the imagery of the prophet Zechariah, the Lord removes the filthy garments of our guilt, then clothes us with the beautiful robes of righteousness.

### **3. Like Jonah, our disobedience leads to death and abandonment (2:1-9).**

### **4. Christ, the greater Jonah, experienced the ultimate death and abandonment so that we could live.**

**Question: What do you understand by the word suffered?**

**Answer:** That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the anger of God against sin of the whole human race.

This he did in order that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he might set us free, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

**Question: Why does the Creed add: "He descended into hell?"**

**Answer:** To assure me in times of personal crisis and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, especially on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from the anguish and torment of hell. (Heidelberg Catechism #37 and #44).

**Question: Why do we need a greater Jonah, and what difference does it make that we have one?**