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## Draw Nigh Unto Me .... Part 88

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### Defaced - Week 80

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 27

So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire? (continued)

Regarding family matters, in particular, last week was an unusually busy one that totally consumed my time in doing what needed to be done.

Any desire for conscious thoughts or meditations about the possible ongoing direction of these writings was, by default, inevitably relegated to this weeks agenda.

Then sometime late last week & just for a fleeting moment, Jonah came to mind, yet I found it was superimposed with thoughts of Jesus.

This threw me off balance a bit as it was out of left field to what I was sensing as last week's writing was being finalised.

Later, in a quiet moment, I came to the remembrance of what I had found in the early stages of researching Jonah.

I also then recalled it was referred to in the article 'The Sign of Jonah' written by Doug Batchelor that was shared with you over six Issues of these writings (Issues 74-79).

Reference: <https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/book/e/75/t/the-sign-of-jonah>

The fact to which I refer is that many have spoken or written of Jonah being a foretaste of Christ.

After such a tiring week, yesterday found me in such a state of lethargy that my thoughts had to fight hard to reach the surface of my consciousness much less receive any recognition.

Before retiring for the night I suddenly became aware that the morning was to bring the weekly requirement to produce this message & my mind just simply froze.

I will refrain from naming it as fear but it seemed like a pretty good imitation of it!

At that very time, beyond the name Jonah, my mind was an absolute blank & my first thought at that moment was that this week, this time, it will surely be impossible.

Thank God for the past two years experience of getting these weekly writings out for in doing so I have learnt once again He is Ever Faithful.

It is now almost twenty years since I was last given the privilege to preach at a pulpit or publicly.

Most times when I did, I went to the pulpit with absolutely nothing prepared or even in my mind or maybe with just a seed of thought or a simple perception of a general direction.

Yet God, Always put Word in my mouth. Hallelujah. All Glory to Him.

Now, this morning, I awoke to feel refreshed & in amongst my very first conscious thoughts arose a prompting in my heart as the Spirit of God filled my mind with thoughts of Christ & Jonah, Jonah & Christ.

My one thought was, thank you Lord for your direction, but now I surely need help!

At varying levels, any close reading of the Book of Jonah can bring us to see parallels with Christ but until that fleeting moment last week & now this morning's experience I did not envisage we would be going there yet.

Especially as we finished last week delving into the cause of Jonah's anger.

However, we started on this journey together now two years ago & the only One with a known Purpose for them is God, so let us keep following Jesus!

Talking of Jesus, He, in fact, was the first to mention Jonah in reference to himself, one such scripture is to be found in Matthew Chapter 12.

### Matthew 12:38-41 KJV

#### The Sign of Jonah

**38** Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

**39** But he answered and said unto them, *An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:*

**40** *For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

**41** *The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*

#### "Jonah and Christ

Jesus Christ laid His credibility on the line when He said,

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40)."

**If therefore, the story of Jonah is not true then the story of Christ is not true.**

**If the story of Jonah is fiction, then the story of Christ is fiction."**

<http://www.biblelineministries.org/articles/basearch.php?action=full&mainkey=JONAH+AND+CHRIST>

So now let us now take a closer look at comparing & contrasting Jonah & Jesus through the following article written by Kevin Halloran & to be found on the Leadership Resources website:

<https://www.leadershipresources.org/seeing-jesus-christ-in-the-old-testament-book-of-jonah/>

#### Seeing Jesus Christ in the Old Testament Book of Jonah

When most people think of Jonah in the Bible, they think of the reluctant prophet who ran from God's missionary call and was then swallowed up by a fish.

I think of my Sunday school's flannelgraph of Jonah and the great fish. Who could forget a man spending three days inside the belly of a sea monster?

As great as that story is, only remembering the "fish story" part of Jonah means we miss the larger picture of what Jonah is really about.

Jonah is a book about God's sovereign control over earthly events, our need to repent of selfishness and hypocrisy, and His loving and gracious heart for repentant sinners.

The themes of this book, like every Old Testament book, point to the main focus of the whole Bible: the person and work of Jesus Christ.

**Seeing Jesus Christ in the Old Testament book of Jonah will greatly aid us in understanding Jonah and how Jesus could refer to Himself as, "something greater than Jonah" (Matthew 12:38-42).**

#### Comparing and Contrasting Jonah and Jesus

1. Jonah was a prophet preaching a message of repentance (Jonah 1:2, 3:1-4). Jesus was a prophet preaching a message of repentance (Acts 3:22; Mark 1:14-15).

2. Jonah ran from the difficult calling God gave Him (Jonah 1:3). Jesus perfectly obeyed the Father's will and went to the cross.

3. Jonah slept on a ship during a storm caused by his own disobedience and offered up his life to save those on the ship (1:4-12). Jesus slept on a ship during a storm, calmed the storm, and would later offer up His life to save those who were disobedient.

4. Jonah claimed to fear the Creator God who had authority on earth (Jonah 1:9). Jesus is the Creator God with the supreme authority over all the earth (John 1:3; Matthew 28:18).

5. Jonah spent three days inside the belly of a great fish because of his own sin. Jesus spent three days inside the belly of the earth because of our sin.

6. Jonah knew that "Salvation belongs to the Lord" (Jonah 2:9). Jesus' name means "Yahweh saves" and He is the only source of salvation from the Lord (Hebrews 5:9; Acts 4:12).

7. Jonah despised God for showing grace toward repentant sinners (Jonah 4:2). Jesus modelled God's grace toward repentant sinners (Luke 19:10).

8. Jonah lacked concern for the salvation of people from other nations (specifically the Ninevites). Jesus loved the world so much that he gave his life to ransom people to God "from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9).

9. Jonah was angry enough to die because of God's grace toward sinners (Jonah 4:3). Jesus was compassionate enough to die because of His love for sinners (1 John 3:16).

10. Jonah cared exceedingly about a plant that provided him comfort (4:10-11). Jesus cared about a whole multitude of people enough to deny himself and His comfort to reconcile them to God (2 Corinthians 5:18).

#### Are you more like Jesus or Jonah?

God's grace made Jonah angry and flee from the presence of the Lord.

He didn't want to share about a gracious and merciful God to a bunch of sinners who didn't deserve it.

Only after a series of miracles does Jonah decide to obey God, and when God uses Jonah's actions to save a whole city of people—Jonah is furious.

Jesus is strikingly different than Jonah. He humbly followed His Father's will and shared His heart for rebels—enough to give His life to save them.

Does that describe you? Do you share God's heart for the lost, or do you reluctantly and half-heartedly perform the ministry God has given you?

If you find yourself like Jonah, you are not alone.

We can easily become jaded in our evangelism and our heart toward unbelievers—but don't forget that God's slowness to anger and amazing grace extends to you as well.

Repent of your Jonah-like attitudes and ask God for His heart for the world and for the strength to carry out the ministry He has given you.

Colin Smith shares the following prayer that you can make yours today:

**"Lord, make me less like Jonah and more like Jesus. Save me from being the kind of person who cares more about my comfort, my reputation, and my success than I do about the people You are calling me to serve. Help me to keep all of my dreams on Your altar and be ready at all times to respond with faith and obedience to Your call."**

Love,

Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 81 follows next week]

**Your prayers of unity with us for God's Provision are most welcome.**



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