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Jonah & Jesus in the Bible, Judaism, and Islam

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'Jonah (2:1-9) prayed to the LORD from out of the fish's belly...and said: "Out of the belly of the grave, I cried out.... You have brought back my life from corruption, O LORD!... Salvation is from the LORD!"'

Jonah did not die when thrown from the ship into the sea. Nor when swallowed by the big fish. Nor thereafter when at the bottom of the ocean. But he then arose, and got deposited on the dry land -- in order to continue His work for God there!

Calvin commented: "Jonah...was indeed cast into the sea by the hands of men. But God...presided!.... 'The Lord...prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish, three days and three nights'....

"The Lord caused the fish to meet him..., to the PRESERVATION of Jonah.... There are some fishes which can swallow men whole and entire.... Jonah...was received into the inside of the fish, as though it were into a HOSPITAL.... He was as SAFE...as though he were WALKING!...

"He was 'surrounded by the deep'.... He had so sunk, as to be fixed...under the roots of the mountains.... He afterwards comes to (say): 'You, Jehovah my God, have made my life to ascend!'"...

"I WILL SACRIFICE to You!... Salvation is from the Lord!" This shows Jonah KNEW God would spare him. 'And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land!'... This deliverance of (the not yet resurrected) Jonah, is an IMAGE of the resurrection." Thus Calvin.

Since Jonah, there have been two or three documented cases of men swallowed alive by huge fish or whales -- who survived. One, a whaler, stayed as white as a sheet after being taken from the belly of the whale -- and continued whaling for many years.

Though Jonah did not then die, he was inside the belly of the great fish -- possibly, shut off from much air, in a rather comatose condition. Like the dead Jesus in the earth, the live Jonah was there for three days. But God, for Christ's sake, heard his CONSCIOUS cry -- even from the belly of the whale!

The *Jewish Encyclopaedia* says of Jonah that "a huge fish swallowed him, but after earnest prayers he was deposited on land unhurt -- but that "Jesus' real history began with his death." Too, the first century A.D. Judaistic historian Josephus says in his *Antiquities* 18:3:3 that "Jesus, a wise man -- if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works -- was a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was Christ. And when Pilate at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the CROSS -- those that loved him at the first did not forsake him. For he appeared to them ALIVE AGAIN the third day -- as the divine Prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him."

On Christ's predicted and later fulfilled violent DEATH, see Isaiah 53:8-9,12 & Daniel 9:26 -- cf. Matthew 16:21 & 20:18 & 26:12 & 27:58 & 28:5-6 and Mark 10:33-34 and John 2:19-22 and Acts 2:23 & 5:28-30 & 10:39 & 13:33-34 & 17:3 and Romans 4:24 & 5:8-10 & 10:7-9 and First Corinthians 15:3-4 and Second Corinthians 5:14-15 and Ephesians 1:20 and Philippians 2:8 and Colossians 1:18 & 2:12 and Second Timothy 2:8 and Hebrews 2:9 & 10:10 and First Peter 3:18 and Revelation 1:5 & 1:18 & 2:8 & 5:9. This greatly differs from THOSE Judaistic chief priests and elders who spread the story Jesus' disciples "stole him away" (Matthew 28:11-15)!

Islam believes its *Qur-an* is inspired by God. It says regarding Jonah in 4:163 & 6:86 & 10:98 & 21:87 & 37:142-45 & 68:48-50: "The big Fish did swallow him.... Had it not been that he (repented and) glorified God, he would certainly have remained inside the Fish till the Day of Resurrection. But We cast him forth on the

naked shore in a state of sickness.... Wait with patience for the command of your Lord, and be not like [Jonah] the companion of the Fish -- when he cried out in agony! Had not grace from his Lord reached him, he would indeed have been cast off on the naked shore, in disgrace."

Islam's admits uninspired later traditions or *Hadith* and her commentators may sometimes teach the contrary (just like a few Post-Biblical uninspired Church and sectarian traditions). Thus some Islamic commentators say: 'Jonas...was swallowed by a fish or whale, but was saved by God's mercy.... He was swallowed by a big Fish (or Whale), but in the depth of the darkness he cried to God.... He was cast out ashore.... The word used here is *Hut*, which may be a fish or perhaps a crocodile.... The Tigris river, mentioned by some of our Commentators, is more likely. And it contains some fishes of extraordinary size.... This was to be the burial and the grave of Jonah. If he had not repented, he could not have got out of the body of the creature that had swallowed him until the Day of Resurrection when all the dead would be raised up.... His strange situation, might well have caused him to be ill.... This was *Zun-Nun*, or Jonah.... He was swallowed by a fish or whale, but he repented in his living prison and was forgiven.'

All this, persuades Islam that neither Jonah died in the whale nor Jesus on Calvary. Yet to both Christianity and Judaism, Jesus DID die on the cross. Islam's *Qur-an* 4:155-59 & 3:55 teach: "They [the Jews] have incurred divine displeasure... They said 'We killed Christ Jesus!'.... But they killed him not, nor crucified him [for not the Jews but the Romans did!]. But so it was made to appear, to them.... Nay, God raised him up unto Himself.... There is none of the People of the Book [the Jews] but must believe in him before his death.... Behold, God said: 'O Jesus! I will take thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehood) of those [Jews] who blaspheme!'"

Again, Islam's admittedly uninspired later traditions or *Hadith* and the uninspired Quranic commentators may sometimes teach the contrary (just like a few Post-Biblical uninspired Church and sectarian traditions and commentators). Islamic commentators say: "The end of the life of Jesus on Earth, is as much involved in mystery as his birth.... It is not profitable to discuss the many doubts and conjectures among the early Christian sects, among Muslim theologians.... The Quranic [or rather the uninspired Hadithic!] teaching, is that Christ was not crucified nor killed by the Jews [but by the Romans?!] -- notwithstanding certain apparent circumstances which produced that illusion in the minds of some of his enemies.... Disputations, doubts, and conjecture on such matters are vain....

"He was taken up to God.... There is a difference of opinion as to the exact interpretation.... The words are that the Jews 'did not kill Jesus; but God raised him up (*rafa'a*) to Himself.' One school [of Islam] holds that Jesus did not die the usual human death, but still lives in the body in Heaven. Another holds that he did die, but not when he was supposed to be crucified -- and that his being 'raised up' unto God means that instead of being disgraced as a malefactor as the Jews intended, he was on the contrary honoured by God as His Apostle [after coming round from his coma on the cross and then going off to preach till an old man in Pakistan -- where he is now alleged by the local Muslims there to have been buried in Srinagar]."

The *Quran* states: 'The People of the Book [the Jews]...must believe in him before his death.' "Interpreters are not agreed as to the exact meaning.... Those who hold that Jesus did not die..., refer the pronoun 'his' to Jesus. They say that Jesus is still living in the body, and that he will appear just before the Final Day in preparation for the coming of Imam Mahdi.... There will be a final death before the final Resurrection, but all will have believed before that final death. Others think that 'his' is better referred to 'none of the People of the Book' -- and that the emphatic form 'must believe' (*la-yu-minna*) denotes more a question of duty, than of fact.... It is said that the Jews neither crucified nor killed Jesus, but that another [Judas?!] was killed in his likeness. The guilt of the Jews remained, but Jesus was eventually taken up to God."

One Islamic website alleges: "This has been the single most controversial subject in the world. The *Quran's* miraculous mathematical code, has now provided the final answer to this topic: "Jesus' soul was raised, *i.e.*, he was put to death PRIOR to the arrest and crucifixion of his body. Thus, his persecutors arrested, tortured and crucified an empty body -- Jesus was already gone to the world of souls"!!!

According to the Bible, Jonah did not die in the fish; but Jesus surely died on Calvary. According to also the Judaistic historian Josephus and the *Jewish Encyclopaedia*, Jesus died on Calvary. But according to the Islamic *Qur-an*, *Hadith* and commentators -- Jesus died before Calvary; not on Calvary; after Calvary in Pakistan, OR not yet at all. Wow!

Hope all this helps -- next time you witness to Jews or Muslims!

In Christ,

"God Triune, beginning, created the Heavens -- and the Earth."

Genesis 1:1 <http://www.dr-fnlee.org>

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