



"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

VOLUME 06 ISSUE 07

JULY 2003

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The Sign Of The Prophet Jonas—Part 3 (Matthew 12:39)



Revealing the parallels between Christ and Jonah

Introduction (repeated)

Matthew 12:38-41 *Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees*

answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 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: 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. 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.

Jesus draws two parallels to Jonah. First is that just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights so Jesus would be in the heart of the earth. Second, Nineveh repented and was saved, so are all who repent of their sins (Luke 3:8).

We conclude that Jonah is an example of Christ, but as all human examples in the Bible are imperfect, Jonah appears to also be imperfect. For example, Moses was the type of prophet Jesus was to be (Deuteronomy 18:15), yet Moses lost his temper once (Numbers 20:10-11). David was a man after God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14), yet he had an affair and murdered (2 Samuel 11:4, 15). Samson was an example of God's strength but could not be in self control, especially with women involved.

But as all repented of their sin, they still gave an example of Christ. Let us study Jonah to learn more of Christ.

Chapter 3

Jonah 3:1-2 *"And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee."*

The Word of the Lord also came twice upon Jesus. First, at His baptism. *"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:16-17). Next, was the transfiguration. *"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him"* (Matthew 17:1-5).

Jonah 3:3 *"So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey."*

And Jesus also went forward to make his journey – the journey of Jerusalem. *"And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto*

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Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

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WWW.TSTLSEMINARS.COM:

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2003 FINANCIAL STATUS

As of June 15, 2003

(Because we are a month off, the May figures were actually June figures.)

DONATIONS:	\$7,578.41
EXPENSES:	12,653.93
NET RESULT:	- \$5,075.52

The above figures do not reflect the loans, donations, or expenses for the new building, the seminars or the store. These figures only reflect the budgeted items, such as newsletters, internet, Bible studies, operating, etc..

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him" (Mark 10:32).

Jonah 3:4 "And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."

If Nineveh would not repent, that would be their fate. And by the way, Nineveh did return to her wicked ways and was overthrown (Nahum 3:7, Zephaniah 2:13). Jesus also prophesied the overthrow of Jerusalem. "For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation" (Luke 19:43-44).

Jonah 3:5-9 "So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered [him] with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused [it] to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that [is] in their

hands. Who can tell [if] God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"

A proclamation calling people to repentance and godliness was quite successful in that day. There is also an end time proclamation (Revelation 14:6-12) that is very similar and yet not having such an affect upon the whole world. Why? "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). But overall, repentance is what Jesus calls all of us to. "But go ye and learn what [that] meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13).

Jonah 3:10 "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did [it] not."

And to all repentant of any age, God's mercy is still available. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

To be continued...

BIBLE STUDY



God's Forgiveness

1. If we sin, what is God ready to do for us? **Psalms 86:5**
2. Before our sins are forgiven by God, what does He wait for? **1 John 1:9**
3. Once our sins are forgiven, are they gone forever? **Matthew 18:32-35**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Particular God

1. What relational expression is God particular about? **Matthew 6:6** "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."
2. What about Himself is He particular about? **Exodus 20:7** "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."
3. What human expression is God particular about? **Matthew 18:35** "So

likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts

forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER AND BE IN HEALTH, EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH (3 John 1:2)



HEALTH SNIPPET:

Topic: *Watch What You Listen To*

Each of us have five senses: taste, touch, smell, sight, and

sound. Satan tries to use these God given senses for his purpose. What goes in through the senses, especially the ears, can lead to the lust of the flesh.

What does the Bible say about things we listen to? Proverbs 2:1-5 *“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, [and] apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”* What we listen to should give us knowledge of God.

Psalms 7:17 *“I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.”* God loves music, however, He is jealous and wants the music to uplift Him only. Looking at most music today, does it uplift God or sin and Satan? Sin and Satan for the most part.

What council is there? Philippians 4:8 *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things.”* This is good council. We should focus on these things. But people will say, “What’s wrong with this song or that song? I can’t see anything wrong.” You are absolutely correct. Blind people cannot see what the devil is doing. In fact, try an experiment on a friend. Tell that person to repeat the word “Tin” ten times as fast as possible. Then quickly ask, “What are aluminum cans made out of?” If

the answer is “Tin” then you can see how the devil is using the lyrics against God’s people. Even with the blatant answer in the question, many will reply with what was pummeled into their heads. ALUMINUM is the correct answer.

And then there is the art of backward masking. The book *Hell’s Bells* exposes this capability. This is where the lyrics sound all right forward, but played backwards, there is a different message going straight for the sub-consciousness. It was also practiced by shopping malls, which saw soft drink purchases skyrocket, but then it was deemed an illegal practice so it ceased.

Now not all music is bad, but we do have to be very selective because it is the most mind to body controlling mechanism out there. In fact, “Christian Rock” music for example is still rock music that has just been Christianized through the lyrics. But what about the sounds from the instruments?

Even in the church it is a concern. The devil appeals to feelings while God appeals to the intellect. If the way music is played or the type of music played

HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE RECIPE:

Lima Bean Chowder

- 2 c potatoes, diced
- ½ c whole kernel corn
- 2 c cooked dried lima beans
- 4 c non-dairy milk
- 3 T flour
- 1 ½ t salt
- 1 T garlic powder or 1 fresh clove, minced
- Parsley

Cook veggies until tender. Simmer milk and flour together, stirring for 10 minutes. Mix all together, reheat and serve.

IN THE CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1 — New Testament Lesson in children’s language.

PAGE 2 — Old Testament Lesson in children’s language.

PAGE 3 — Character Lesson — Application of character attributes from both Bible lessons.

PAGE 4 — Nature Lesson — Learning from God’s nature.

PAGE 5 — Health Lesson — Watching what, when, and how much we eat.

PAGE 6 — Coloring Page — Alternating between either the Old or New Testament

PAGE 7 — Puzzles — Matching from both Bible lessons.

PAGE 8 — Learning Activities — Object lessons in our work and in our play.

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SUDDEN DESTRUCTION NEWS

May 16 to June 15, 2003.

►► WND, June 4, 2003 - Islamists burn to death Christian pastor

Military forces led by Sudan's militant Islamist regime burned to death a Christian pastor and his family in a massacre of 59 unarmed villagers, a relief group working in the area reported.

COMMENT: Matthew 10:22 *"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."*

BIBLE THOUGHT

Nature

1 Corinthians 11:14 *Doth not even nature itself teach you*

Nature is able to provide object lessons. Many of Jesus' parables dealt with nature. Although sin has marred the perfect lessons that could be learned, there is still yet lessons to be educated by. Study nature and see what it teaches but do not worship nature.

appeals more to the feelings and emotions, that is not of God. Why? God works with the

mind (Hebrews 10:16). He wants intellectual decisions for Him.

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT (Prov. 22:6)



Practical Applications for Character Development in Children

Character Examples From the Bible – Philip

Acts 6:5 *And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch*

Acts 8:26-29 *And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.*

Acts 8:35 *Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*

Philip was satisfied being a deacon. He could have coveted an elder's position, but a truly converted person really does not need a title. So it is not so important to teach a child to seek after a position but simply to do the work, and the position will be granted according to God's will. That includes the position of recognition.

Further, Philip then listened to God directing him by the Holy Spirit. A child should be trained to also do exactly what is asked of them by a parent without arguing.

Philip was able to teach the scriptures and how to lift up Jesus in the scripture. Philip was not automatically given the knowledge of the scriptures for the Holy Spirit simply enhances or multiplies the God given ability. This teaches that the most important textbook to teach a child is the right understanding of God's Word.

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WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED? *(Isaiah 53:1)*

- COMMENTS ON ITEMS IN THE NEWS -



The following are news items that appeared between April 16 and May 15, 2003. [Preview future snippets at www.tstl.net/news/]

►►The Washington Times, June 9, 2003 - Tiny IDs can track almost anything

Computer chips the size of grains of sand have become the latest trend among manufacturers seeking to track everything from automobiles to underwear to razor blades. The new technology can fix the exact location of virtually any consumer product and the humans who wear and carry the items.

COMMENT: Since the introduction of credit cards and chips, a lot of Christians have bought into the fear of them being the fulfillment of Revelation 13:17, *"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."* Tracking people's purchases and accounts obviously can be done without people's knowledge. Maybe it is time to fulfill Psalm 91:1-2, 14 *"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name."*

►►Catholic News Service, May 23, 2003 - Fewer Americans are tithing, research group says

The number of Americans who give a full tenth of their income to the church dropped significantly last year, the Barna Research Group said. The proportion of Americans who tithed "dropped by 62 percent in the past year, from 8 percent in 2001 to just 3 percent of adults during 2002," it said May 19. Of

Catholic respondents, none reported giving 10 percent of last year's income to his or her church.

An expert on Catholic giving said that was not surprising because full tithing is not part of the U.S. Catholic culture. Barna, a Ventura, Calif., firm that specializes in religious research, said among born-again adults, who represent 38 percent of the population, 12 percent reported tithing in 2000 and 14 percent said they did so in 2001, but only 6 percent said they did so in 2002. Among evangelicals, nearly 9 percent of those surveyed reported tithing.

COMMENT: Matthew 22:21 *"Then saith he {Jesus} unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."* What is God's? Leviticus 27:30 *"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD."* What if you do not pay tithe? Malachi 3:8-9 *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."* And just how much is a "tithe". *"And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, [even] of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD"* (Leviticus 27:32).

►►OCA, May 21, 2003 - Canada Identifies BSE in Domestic Herd

A cow in Canada has tested positive for mad cow disease in a test taken on Jan. 31, a Canadian Beef Export Federation official told Reuters Tuesday. The United States has temporarily banned Canada meat imports after the report of the case, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said Tuesday. Veneman said the United States would not accept any "ruminant products" from Canada until further notice.

ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH *(Daniel 10:21)*



QUESTION #1 – Harrisburg – Do you not think that the Bible study section is following tradition instead of taking the words of Jesus to mean literally three days and three nights?

ANSWER #1 – No, we do not believe that we are following tradition by understanding Jesus' words to be a comprehension of a day and not the literal counting of exact days. Although it is true that Genesis establishes the day as being from sunset to sunset producing a twenty-four hour period, keep in mind that Jesus used their understanding of speech when He was in the human form. But there are other points biblically supporting that there is no way Jesus was in the tomb for seventy-two hours.

Speaking a prophecy of Jesus being in the tomb, David recorded in Psalms 16:10, *"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."* This prophecy is confirmed to apply to Jesus in Acts 2:31 *"He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption."*

Now corruption is the decaying of the body. That was not to happen. And if Jesus' body would have

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seen corruption, then a stench would have been present. With that understood, we need to establish how long it takes a body to begin the decaying process.

John 11:39 "Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been [dead] four days." So by the fourth day a body would have begun decaying, but as the verse implies with the words "by this time", it can start even earlier. Four days was a guarantee of stench, but probably by three days it would have stunk is what was implied. But we further suggest that even after two days a body could begin the decaying process. That is why dead people are placed in freezers in a morgue. The overall point is that there is no way that Jesus could have been in the tomb exactly seventy-two hours or even close to that number or His body would have corrupted and the prophecy would have failed.

A second point is the time span is Luke's recording. Luke 23:56 "And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment." Jesus was placed in the tomb right before the Sabbath. Now which Sabbath? Is it the Sabbath of the fourth commandment or the Sabbath feast day of Passover and Unleavened bread (Leviticus 23:7)?

One reference that points

(Continued on page 7)

Ruminant products are from animals that chew their cud, including cattle and deer.

COMMENT: If everyone would follow the New Testament diet, Mad Cow Disease would not be a concern: Acts 15:28-29 "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well."

▶▶ Fox News, May 19, 2003 -
Homeschooling on the Rise in Black Communities

With a 4,000 percent increase in a 20-year span, homeschooling has become one of the fast-growing phenomenon, especially inside the black community. In fact, black children are now five times more likely to be homeschooled than they were five years ago.

COMMENT: John the Baptist, Jesus, and even Timothy are a small sampling of those in the Bible who were taught at home. 2 Timothy 3:15 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

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to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the fact that Luke 24:1 states, "Now upon the first [day] of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain [others] with them." God's week consists of first, second, third, fourth, fifth, preparation, and Sabbath. Luke recorded the word "first" in 24:1 concluding that he was using the numbering system of the week meaning then that 23:56 is the seventh or Sabbath day of the fourth commandment. Otherwise, so as not to confuse people, he would have added the word feast or even changed it to unleavened bread instead of the word "Sabbath".

A second reference to pointing to the word "Sabbath" in 23:56 to mean the fourth commandment is the fact that Jesus was sacrificed on the day of Passover even though the Jews stated they did not want to do that. We know because Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples on the night of Passover (Luke 22:8). Keep in mind that God's day starts with the evening and then the morning is part of the same day. It was the next morning, while still being Passover that He was crucified.

Now Luke 22:1 states "the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover." What is so significant? Luke 22:7-8 "Then came the day of unleavened bread, when

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JULY 2003

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS CONTINUED

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the passover must be killed. And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat." As stated a moment ago, Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, still on the day of Passover but the next morning, He is tried, crucified, and laid in the tomb before the sun went down. So although Leviticus 23 refers to the Passover as a feast day Sabbath as well as the day after being the feast day of Unleavened Bread also being a feast day Sabbath, neither is being referenced in 23:56, but the fourth commandment is.

Why neither? The preparation to keep both feast day Sabbaths holy would have required the day before the Passover to be a double preparation day. So if the women were respectful to not break the feast of Unleavened bread by ceasing the spice and ointment work, they would have broken the feast of Passover using it

as a day of preparation. And if the women were respectful to not break the feast of Passover by ceasing the spice and ointment work, then they were prophetesses because Jesus did not even go to trial at that time. So again, the only way they could have prepared the spices and ointment on a preparation day would have been for the preparation of the Sabbath commandment contained in the Ten Commandments.

A third reason is that Luke uses the word "Sabbath" seventeen times. Two times is in regards to the day Jesus was in the tomb. For those that believe in the exact seventy-two hours, they assume that the Sabbath in verses 23:54 and 23:56 refer to the Passover or Unleavened Bread feast days, also known as Sabbath days. That would break the pattern of the other fifteen uses. So Luke uses the word "Sabbath" fifteen times in regards to the fourth commandment. Further, when he means the Sabbath of Passover, he stated it seven times between chapters 2 and 22. Why he would not stated it explicitly in chapter 23 is again against the set pattern of

Luke. He even mentions the feast of Unleavened Bread twice in chapter 22. Why he would refer to it by the word "Sabbath" is again against his pattern. Therefore, by the set writing patterns of Luke, "*the sabbath day according to the commandment*" (Luke 23:56) is not the commandment of the feast day Sabbaths but the fourth commandment. And further, this reference and the first verse in the next chapter reveal a period of much less than seventy-two hours, even a period of no more than thirty or so.

So, Jesus was laid in the tomb just as the preparation or sixth day was ending and right before the seventh day or Sabbath came in where the women rested and did not finish their work. After the Sabbath concluded Saturday night, some time before the women arrive at the tomb, Jesus rises from the dead. Touching each of the three days constitutes being good enough for the Jewish reckoning of time being three days and three nights. Otherwise, Jesus' body would have decayed breaking one of the prophecies.