

Jonah for Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills
Lesson Three
The Big Fish

1. Then The Eternal designated a Dag Gadol to swallow Jonah and Jonah was in the Dag three days and three nights. Jonah prayed to the Eternal his God from the belly of the Daga.

Jonah 2:1-2

2. Rashi: *Dag Gadol*, A Big Fish. It was a male fish and he could stand in an open space, in the belly of the fish, and so he was not moved to pray. The Holy Blessed One intimated to the male fish and it spit him into the mouth of a female fish, which was full of embryos, which pressed against the belly of the fish, decreasing the room available to Jonah. There he was stressed and he prayed there, as it says, in verse two, *Mimayi Hadaga*, from the belly of the female fish.

3. Ibn Ezra: *There is a person who says that the feminine fish swallowed him from the mouth of the masculine fish. There is no need for this complex explanation. For Dag and Daga are nouns without distinction as to gender, like Tzedek and Tzedakah.* They can be used interchangeably.

4. Tevye: And among ourselves, we get along perfectly well. Of course, there was the time when he sold him a horse, but delivered a mule, but that's all settled now. Now we live in simple peace and harmony and...

A man: It was a horse.

Another man: "It was a mule."

The chorus: "Horse!

Mule!

Horse!

Mule! Tradition, tradition... tradition."

Fiddler on the Roof

5. Father Mapple, the preacher in the whalers' church in Moby Dick, delivers a sermon in which he refers to Jonah in "the belly of the whale."

6. For as Jonah 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 in the King James Version

6. Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah

Jonah 2:1 in the King James Version

8. Ketos, κήτος,

The original Greek version of Matthew 12:40

9. Ketos Megas κητος μεγας

Septuagint, the Greek translation of Jonah 2:2

10. Piscis Granda,

Jerome translation of Jonah 2:2 from Hebrew in to Latin

11. Cetus

Jerome's translation Matthew from Greek 12:40 in to Latin

12. The Eternal spoke to the fish and he spewed Jonah onto dry land

Jonah 2:11

13. Ibn Ezra

We should read these words *in the manner of a metaphor*. "The Eternal spoke" means that *He compelled him*, the fish, *to fulfill the Divine wishes*.

14. Kimchi

He revealed His will to the fish *so that it would spit him on to dry land*.

15. Abarbanel

And remember that it is written that when The Holy One saw Jonah's repentance and that he regretted his sin and departed from the path of sin, and that he swore an oath that would not foolishly flee, then He spoke to the fish. This means to say that He lifted the wind that was blowing to the shore. According to Abarbanel God indirectly caused the fish to approach the land.