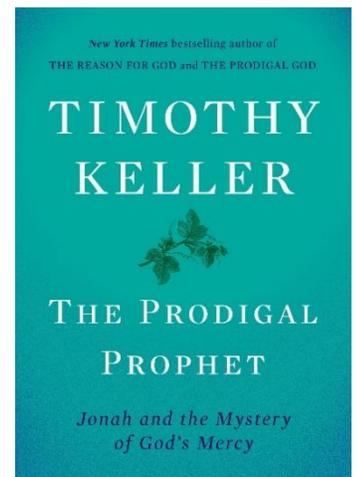




## JONAH: THE PRODIGAL PROPHET WEEK #6

BASED ON TIMOTHY KELLER'S BOOK

### I CAN'T BELIEVE JONAH WAS SWALLOWED BY A BIG FISH:



- I believe in God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- I believe in Jesus, and that He was crucified and rose again.
- But I don't believe everything in the Bible is true or accurate.
- For instance:  
I can't believe that Jonah was really swallowed by a big fish.

WHAT ARE GOING TO BE THE PROBLEMS  
WITH THIS LOGIC?

# THE PROBLEMS WITH THE LOGIC OF BELIEVING IN JESUS BUT NOT JONAH'S STORY

- Jesus spoke about Jonah without giving any indication that He thought the story was a fable.
  - See Matthew 12:38-41.
- Jonah is just the beginning of things in the Bible that are difficult to believe.
- Besides historical accounts, there are teachings in the Bible that we also would rather not believe.
- “The Bible *contains* the Word of God”  
vs. “The Bible *is* the Word of God”
- If Jonah is difficult to believe, why would we believe that Jesus is the divine Son of God, born of a virgin, died on the cross in our place, and rose again from the dead?

## WHAT'S EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE?

- “God is more dedicated to our good, and more aware of that is, than we are” (137).

We distrust God because we assume he is not truly for us, that if we give him complete \_\_\_\_\_, we will be \_\_\_\_\_.

## SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT

- “The biblical gospel of atonement is of God satisfying himself by substituting himself for us. The concept of substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which belong to man alone”

(John Stott, as quoted in Keller, 155-156).

# SEEING JESUS AS THE GREATER JONAH

Accepting substitutionary atonement opens up to understand Jesus dying on the cross, but it also helps us see how many things in the lives of Jesus points to His love as self-sacrifice.

- We can see this in comparing Jonah’s story to Jesus and the disciples in the storm.

## PARALLELS:

MARK 4:35-41

JONAH

- |                                         |         |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| • Verse 36—they are out in _____        | • _____ |
| • Verse 37—a _____ arrives              | • _____ |
| • Verse 37—_____ is described as _____  | • _____ |
| • Verse 38—Jesus is _____               | • _____ |
| • Verse 38—The others in the boat _____ | • _____ |
| • Verse 39—The sea is _____             | • _____ |
| • Verse 41—The others in the boat _____ | • _____ |

## CONTRASTS:

MARK 4:35-41

JONAH

- |         |                                                         |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| • _____ | • Jonah is thrown into sea                              |
| • _____ | • Throwing Jonah overboard saved the sailors from death |

## ANSWER KEY FOR PAGE 2

### THE PROBLEMS WITH THE LOGIC OF BELIEVING IN JESUS BUT NOT JONAH'S STORY

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