

Hello! This is Dorothy -

It is a joy today to speak about the phrase, **according to the Scriptures**. We are looking at **1 Corinthians, chapter 15** and we are thinking about certain facts concerning Jesus Christ.

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures. “What Scriptures?” you may ask. Wait a minute, they could not run down the road and buy a copy of New Testament! So how come we are talking about the Scriptures? The Scriptures then must be what was recorded in the Old Testament. Where can we find this fact?

Let us, first of all, think about Jonah. You remember about the story of Jonah. We read in **Jonah chapter 1 -**

17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

In fact, our Lord Jesus verified this as He spoke in **Matthew 12:39-41**. The Scribes and the Pharisees denied the sign of a demonic person that had been healed, but they now asked for a sign from the Lord. “Give us a sign!” They are passing up what God has just wonderfully shown: that He is all over the forces of the enemy in that He can command them to come out in the Name, which is a powerful Name, in

which He is the authority of God Himself. Instead of which, they said, “Give us a sign!” They missed the whole thing!

39 But he answered and said, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign . . . *That is so today! We are always wanting to have the next sign, the next amazing happening, the next miraculous occurrence. We are always looking for something, but Jesus said . . .*
there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: *What kind of a sign was the prophet Jonah?*

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; . . . that is right there in Matthew, what the Lord said . . . so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. What could have been clearer than that? But somehow, people miss it when they are not really listening to the Lord. His disciples missed it, didn’t they? They knew about Jonah, but they missed the fact that this was being said, because our Lord knew that He was going to die upon the Cross for you and for me; He was going to be buried; He was going to rise again.

You know, Jesus affirms three Biblical facts in **Jonah**. These become problems if we forget we are dealing with the concept of God. In other words, we are trying to work things out in our own life, “How could God possibly do this?” Jonah’s problem had been that God had told him, as a prophet, to go to Nineveh. But Jonah’s problem was he didn’t think God should be bothered with Nineveh, because why would God

take His people, the Jews, and go over to the Gentiles, and especially this brand of the Gentiles who were so evil and cruel and doing such terrible things? They even took the skin off the new-born babes alive and made it into lamp shades! Interesting, isn't it — the killing of innocent babies? But their minds had been so warped, they did not understand life. They did not understand the creation and the responsibility that we have for each unborn child. Therefore, life had no more any sense of being related to the Almighty God who created each one of us.

Then also, Jonah had a problem, because he literally had to have explained to him what the resurrection of Jesus Christ was about. Jonah was thrown overboard as being responsible for all that was happening around him on the boat when they would all have been killed. He said, "It's me! I am fighting God! Throw me overboard!" And when they did, the big fish took him and swallowed him. But, right in the belly of that fish, he cried out:

2:4 . . . yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. How can you pray toward the holy temple when you are in a fish? What is it all about? In other words, Jonah was reminded that the resurrection had to be in the One who was coming, who was Messiah Himself. Out of the belly of the fish, Jonah cried - . . . ***I remembered the Lord; and***

my prayer came in unto thee. . .

Then we read -

10 And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land. Jonah had to go through a death, burial, resurrection experience to see that his commission was to be the vessel of the living God, not what his prejudice wanted. Jonah had to personally believe the Lord. When he saw the Lord lifted high and saw that this spoke of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, he then knew that only His life could count.

What about you? Would you say *Yes!* to Him?

In Jesus's Name. Amen.