V

Jonah 1:17

17 The LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

A fish, a whale, or a metaphor?





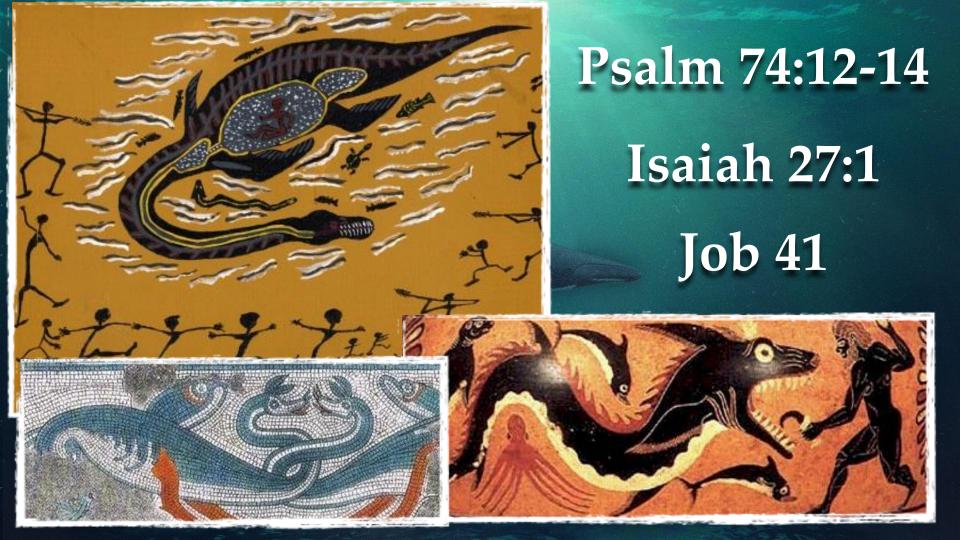












"For as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights." (Matthew 12:40)

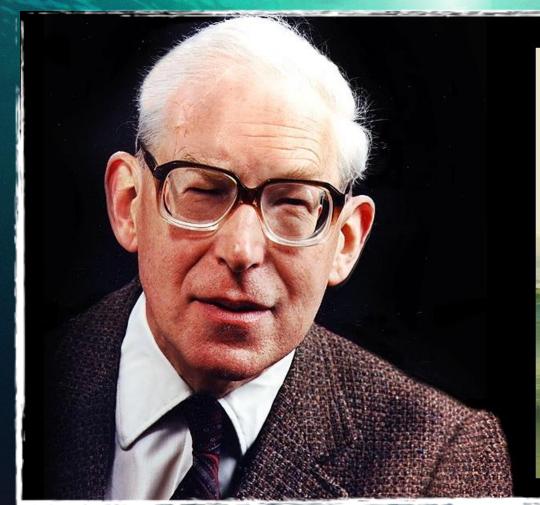
Jonah 2:1-2

1 Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish: 2 "I called to the LORD in my distress, and he answered me. I cried out for help from deep inside Sheol; you heard my voice."

"Sheol cannot thank you; Death cannot praise you. Those who go down to the Pit cannot hope for your faithfulness. The living, only the living can thank you, as I do today." (Isaiah 38:18-19)

Jonah 2:3-4

3 "When you threw me into the depths, into the heart of the seas, the current overcame me. All your breakers and your billows swept over me. 4 And I said, 'I have been banished from your sight yet I will look once more toward your holy temple."

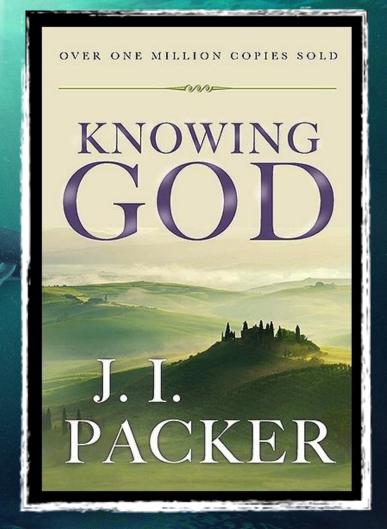


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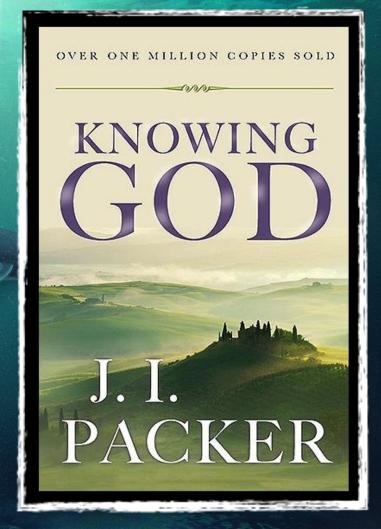
J. I. PACKER The Crucial Truths of Grace:

THE MORAL
ILL-DESERT OF
HUMANITY



The Crucial Truths of Grace:

OUR SPIRITUAL IMPOTENCE



Jonah 2:5-6

5 "The water engulfed me up to the neck; the watery depths overcame me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. 6 I sank to the foundations of the mountains, the earth's gates shut behind me forever! Then you raised my life from the Pit, LORD my God!"

"Grace Greater Than Our Sin"

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold Threaten the soul with infinite loss. Grace that is greater— Yes, grace untold— Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Jonah 2:7

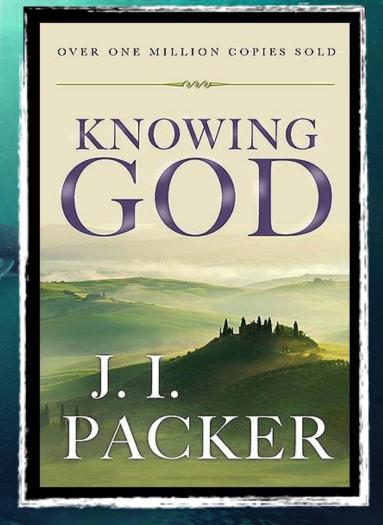
7 "As my life was fading away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, to your holy temple."

Jonah 2:8-9

8 "Those who cherish worthless idols abandon their faithful love, 9 but as for me, I will sacrifice to you with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

The Crucial Truths of Grace:

GOD'S SOVEREIGN FREEDOM



Jonah 2:8-9

8 "Those who cherish worthless idols abandon their faithful love, 9 but as for me, I will sacrifice to you with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

HESED

When the person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything

HESED

The extraordinary loyalty and relentless, gracious devotion God shows to those who He calls His own

Jonah 2:8-9

8 "Those who cherish worthless idols abandon their faithful love, 9 but as for me, I will sacrifice to you with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

"Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?" (Hebrews 12:7)

"No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your tired hands and weakened knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated but healed instead." (Hebrews 12:11-13)

"For God so loved the world, that gave he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16; ESV)