

## **2015 Focus on Bible: Learning about the Bible: A Page in the Bible**

Some Bibles are a nightmare for an easily distracted person! There are different numbers, words all over the pages, and it can be hard to know what is what. Every Bible formats each page differently. Let's take a look at the Lutheran Study Bible. Pull out your own Bible and see if you can find the same thing.

**Book:** The Bible is like a library of many books, each with its own title. Examples of books in the Bible: *Genesis, Jonah, Matthew, Revelation*. The book is one of the first things people will name if they want you to find where they are reading. You'll usually find this on the top or bottom of the page, and in large print at the beginning of the book. It's what you'll need to know to look in an index of all the books in the Bible.

**Chapter:** Most books of the Bible have chapters. These weren't used in the original texts, but they are very helpful today so that we can find our place together!

**Verse:** Each verse has a number. These also weren't used in the original texts.

*\*To describe where a verse is, say: "Book Chapter: Verse. (Jonah 2:3)"  
Different Bibles have different page numbering, so that's not always a helpful number to share.\**

**Page number:** You'll find this at the top or bottom of each page. Most Bibles are numbered, sometimes using letters for note pages at the beginning, and then numbers for the whole Bible.

**Heading:** Many Bibles include a heading, which relates to the story or topic of the section. These are developed by the editors and publishers of each Bible, and reflect what they think is important for you to know. Some Bibles also have headings in the "header" section at the very top of the page. Headings can be helpful if you're looking for a story or subject, but don't know exactly where to find it.

**Notes:** These serve to clarify. There are two types of notes.

***Translation notes:*** These are usually presented as footnotes. They help us know different words that are in different original texts. Because our Bibles are translations, sometimes people disagree about what English word best speaks. Sometimes, these notes describe a debate among scholars, or new discoveries of older texts.

***Editor's/Study notes:*** These are on the bottom or side of the page. They give background, suggestions, and questions to help you explore your Bible, either in personal or group study. These usually reflect the purposes of the editors/publishers of your Bible- so much so that you might find two Bible with conflicting notes trying to describe what a passage means! Treat them like another voice at your Bible study, and look into the denominational and educational background of the authors to better understand where they're coming from.

**Maps/Illustrations:** Some pages contain these extras to help you visualize. In some Bibles, you'll find these at the very back.

*A Page in the Bible*

Editor's/Study Notes

the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

17<sup>a</sup> But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

in service to God's "proper" work of love and forgiveness. When God causes the fish to swallow Jonah, it is in response to Jonah's disobedience to God. Through this "alien work," God calls Jonah back into right relationship with God, and renews his faith in God's purpose for his life. From our perspective, this work of God sometimes seems harsh. But God's judgment makes us aware of our sins and our need for God's saving mercy in Jesus Christ. *Jonah 1:17*

*A Psalm of Thanksgiving*

Heading

Chapter Number

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, <sup>2</sup>saying,

"I called to the LORD out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

Verse Number

<sup>3</sup> You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

<sup>4</sup> Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; how<sup>b</sup> shall I look again upon your holy temple?'

<sup>5</sup> The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head

<sup>6</sup> at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit,

 **1:17 Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights:** Christians may recall here the words of Matthew 12:38-40 and be reminded of Christ's three days in the tomb. In this story we see another example of God bringing life out of death. For all practical purposes, Jonah was dead while inside the fish. God's bringing him up out of the depths and the darkness symbolizes a rebirth for Jonah and the gift of new life.

 **2:1-10 Jonah prayed to the Lord:** Jonah's prayer is like a song (psalm) of thanksgiving. It looks like Jonah is in danger in the fish's belly, but perhaps Jonah realizes that God is with him, using the fish to save him from drowning. This is why he gives thanks and claims God to be the one who delivers (2:10).

 **2:1** Have you ever prayed to God in a time of great distress? What did you say? How did God answer you?

 **2:2 Sheol:** This is the dark underground world of the dead, a shadowy place of isolation, but not what Christians would consider hell.

Translation Notes

<sup>a</sup> Ch 2:1 in Heb <sup>b</sup> Theodotion: Heb surdy

Page Number

**Bible Name, Translation, Copyright and Publishing Information**

**This Bible includes the Book: Chapter: Verse that ends the page.**