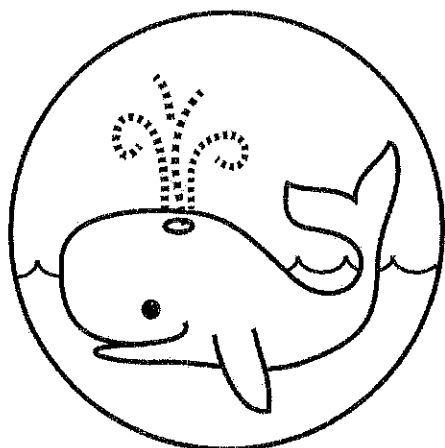
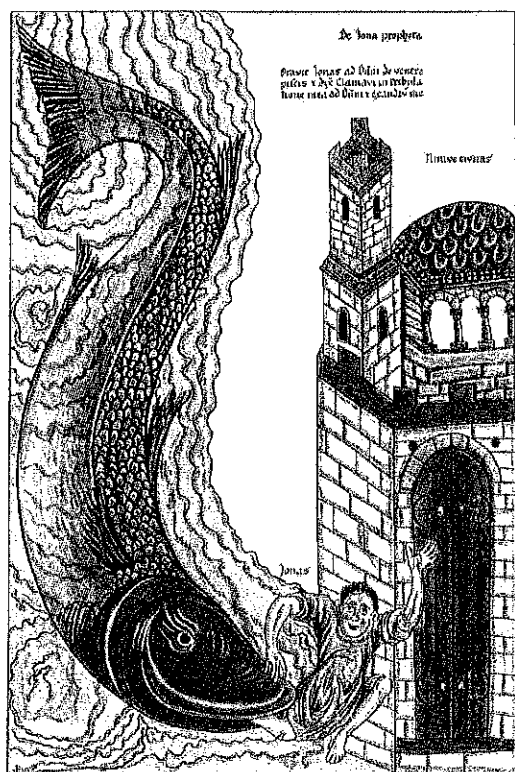


December 16: Jonah and the Whale



Jonah was a prophet who became famous for being swallowed by a large fish or whale. God commanded Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to tell the people that unless they repented God would destroy them for their sins. Jonah instead ran away and got on a boat going in the opposite direction. A big storm came up. The sailors knew it was not an ordinary storm and discovered that Jonah was to blame. Jonah admitted that it was his fault for disobeying God. They threw him overboard, and the storm calmed down. Jonah was saved by being swallowed by a great fish. Jonah prayed to God, and God commanded the fish to spit out Jonah. God again commanded Jonah to prophesy to Nineveh. This time he went and prophesied that in 40 days Nineveh would be overthrown. The people of Nineveh believed him, and the king and people fasted, prayed, and repented. God, who is very merciful, saw their repentant hearts and spared the people and the city.



"Jonah at the gates of Nineveh"
Hortus Deliciarum, c. 1180



Jonah 1:15-17. ¹⁵ So they took up Jonah, and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared Yahweh exceedingly; and they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh, and made vows. ¹⁷ Yahweh prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:1-3. ¹ Then Jonah prayed to Yahweh, his God, out of the fish's belly.

² He said, "I called because of my affliction to Yahweh. He answered me. Out of the belly of Sheol I cried. You heard my voice." ³ For you threw me into the depths, in the heart of the seas. The flood was all around me. All your waves and your billows passed over me.

Jonah 3:1-2. ¹ Yahweh's word came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I give you."

**2:2 Sheol is the place of the dead.*