

LESSON FOUR

Jonah 760 B.C

Introduction-Ryrie

- Some regard the book of Jonah as an **allegory** written around 430 B.C.
- This view would state:
 - Jonah represented disobedient Israel.
 - The **sea** represented the Gentiles.
 - The **great fish** represented Babylon.
 - Jonah's three days in the fish's belly symbolized the Babylonian captivity.
- 2 Kings 14:25 states Jonah was a **real** person and was a prophet from Gath-hepher near Nazareth.



Gath-hepher

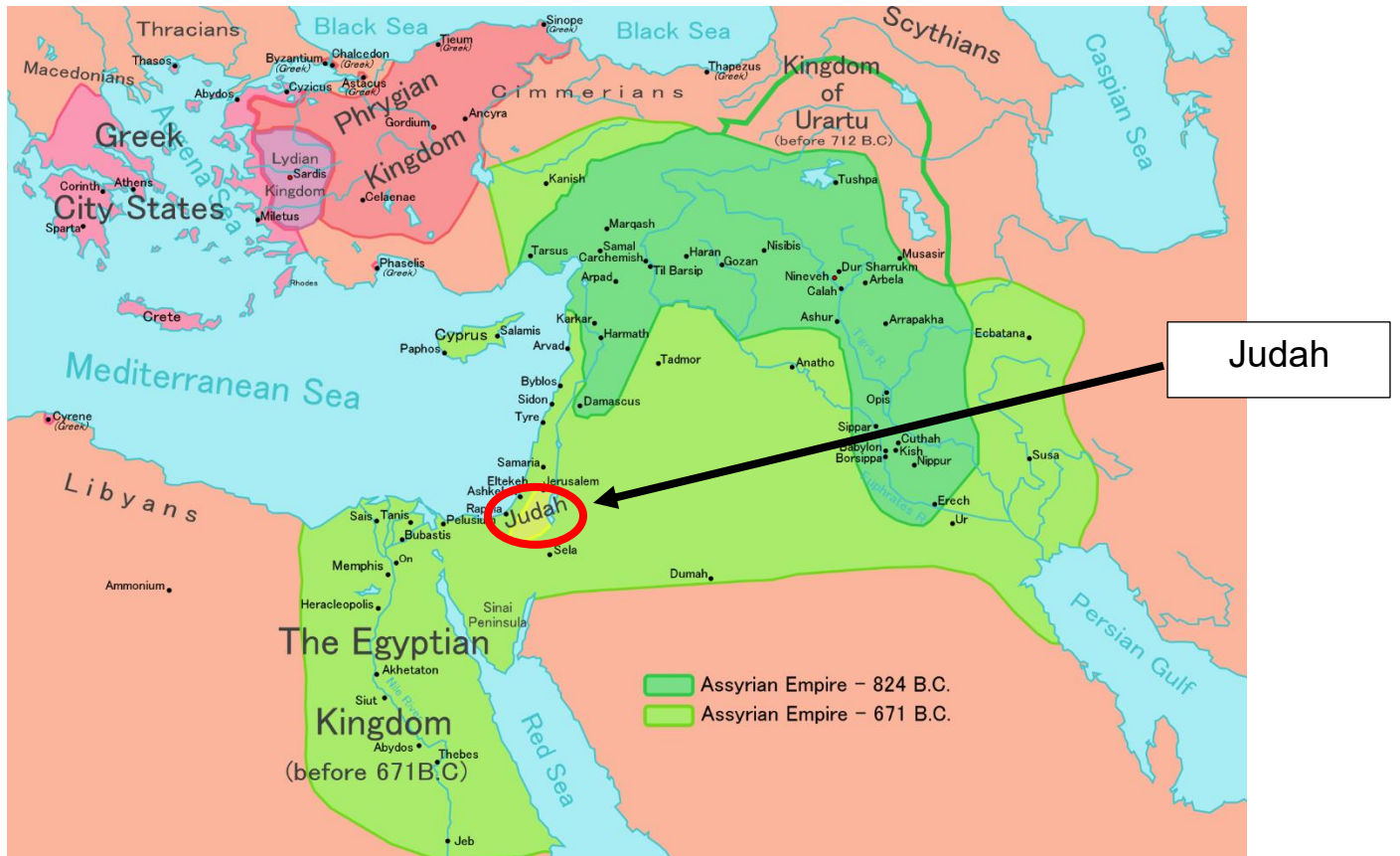
- The Pharisees stated no prophet came from Galilee (John 7:52). However, Jonah came from that region (2 Kings 14:25).
- Jesus treated Jonah's experience as **factual** (Matthew 12:38-41).
- Jonah lived during the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel (793-753 B.C.) as stated in 2 Kings 14:27.

Kings of Judah	Bible	Good/Bad	Kings of Israel	Bible	All Bad									
Rehoboam	1 Kings 11-14	BAD	Jeroboam I	1 Kings 12-14	BAD	General Chronological Line-up of Prophets to Kings								
Abijam	1 Kings 14-15	BAD												
Asa	1 Kings 15	Good	Nadab	1 Kings 15	BAD									
			Baasha	1 Kings 15-16	BAD									
			Elah	1 Kings 16	BAD									
			Zimri	1 Kings 16	BAD									
			Omri	1 Kings 16	BAD									
			Ahab	1 Kings 16	BAD									
Jehoshaphat	1 Kings 22	Good	Ahaziah	1 Kings 22	BAD					Prophet	Est. Year BC	From/To	Period	Address
			Jehoram	2 Kings 1	BAD					Obadiah	848	841	Pre-Exile	Edom
Jehoram	2 Kings 8	BAD	Jehu	2 Kings 3-9	BAD	Joel	835	835	Pre-Exile	Judah				
Ahaziah	2 Kings 8-9	BAD	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 9-10	BAD									
Athaliah	2 Kings 11	BAD												
Joash	2 Kings 11-12	Good	Jehoash	2 Kings 13-14	BAD									
Amaziah	2 Kings 14	Good	Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14	BAD	Jonah	782	753	Pre-Exile	Assyria				
			Zechariah	2 Kings 14-15	BAD	Amos	760	753	Pre-Exile	Israel				
Azariah	2 Kings 15	Good	Shallum	2 Kings 15	BAD	Hosea	755	715	Pre-Exile	Israel				
Jotham	2 Kings 15	Good	Menahem	2 Kings 15	BAD									
			Pekahiah	2 Kings 15	BAD	Isaiah	740	680	Pre-Exile	Judah				
			Pekah	2 Kings 15	BAD									
Ahaz	2 Kings 16	BAD	Hoshea	2 Kings 15-17	BAD	Micah	735	700	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah				
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18-20	Good	Assyrian Captivity - No return											
Manasseh	2 Kings 21	BAD												
Amon	2 Kings 21	BAD												
Josiah	2 Kings 21-23	Good												
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23	BAD												
Jehoiakim	2 Kings 23	BAD												
Jehoiachin	2 Kings 24	BAD												
Zedekiah	2 Kings 24-25	BAD												
Babylonian Captivity - 70 years														
Restored from Captivity														
									Daniel	605	535	Judah also in Exile	Judah	
						Ezekiel	593	571	Judah also in Exile	Judah				
						Haggai	520	520	Post-Exile	Returned Jews				
						Zechariah	520	480	Post-Exile	Returned Jews				
						Malachi	432	424	Post-Exile	Returned Jews				
Followed by 400 "Silent Years" between the OT & NT, then the life of Christ & Apostles, followed by the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, and organized nation in 70 A.D.														

<https://visalettersapplication.com/>

- Jeroboam II reigned over **Israel** (north of Judah-see map above) previously controlled by King David and King Solomon.
- To date, archaeologists have not found any Assyrian inscription mentioning a religious awakening such as described in the book of Jonah.
- There was:
 - A plague in 765 B.C.
 - A total **eclipse** of the sun in 763 B.C.
 - A second plague in 759 B.C.
- Ancients regarded these events as evidence of divine **judgment** and could have prepared the people to receive Jonah's message.

- Shalmaneser, King of Assyria, conquered Israel in 722 B.C.



<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/117/neo-assyrian-empire/>

- This conquest occurred approximately **38** years after Jonah preached to Nineveh.
- Nineveh's revival did not last long.
- Israel's captivity took place during the seventh year of King Hoshea, King of Israel, and the fourth year of godly King Hezekiah, King of Judah.
- King Shalmaneser laid siege against Samaria for three years.
- After three years, Samaria fell (722 B.C.).
- Sennacherib became King of Assyria in 705 B.C.
- In 701 B.C., Sennacherib captured the cities of Judah and threatened to capture **Jerusalem** (2 Kings 18:13-19, 37; Isaiah 36-37).
- God miraculously saved Judah and King Hezekiah.
- An angel of the Lord destroyed Sennacherib's army of 185,000 soldiers.
- After returning home, the Ninevites **murdered** Sennacherib.
- Babylon eventually became the next major empire during the 7th century.

Chapter 1

- **Nineveh** was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire and well-fortified.



<https://shawnthomas.com/2022/09/25/lifeway-explore-the-bible-jonah-115-210-no-escape/>



<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/nineveh-ancient-assyrian.html?sortBy=relevant>

- God instructed Jonah to preach against the city due to its **wickedness** (1:1-2).
- For whatever reason, Jonah decided to flee the Lord's presence and sail to **Tarshish**.
- Tarshish was on the southern tip of Spain near Gibraltar.
- God caused a storm and Jonah told the sailors to throw him overboard.
- A great fish swallowed Jonah and the storm subsided (1:8-17).
- Jesus referenced this event in Matthew 12:40.

Chapter 2

- Jonah stayed in the fish's belly for **three** days.
- Jonah prayed to God for deliverance.
- God reminded Jonah He would restore those who looked toward the holy temple (2:4; 1 Kings 8:44-50).
- Verse 10 states the fish vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

Chapter 3

- God told Jonah a second time to go and preach to Nineveh.
- It took about three days to walk around the perimeter of Nineveh (approximately 60 miles-3:1-3)
- Jonah told the people of Nineveh that God would destroy the city within **40** days if they did not repent (3:4).
- The king and the people repented, and God did not bring calamity upon the city (3:10).

Chapter 4

- Jonah became **angry** with God for not destroying Nineveh.
- Nevertheless, the people of Nineveh believed in Jonah's words and repented.
- Jonah **sulked** (4:2-3).
- God gave Jonah an object lesson by providing him with a plant that gave shade during the day.
- The plant withered and Jonah became bitter.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/26740191516254273/>

- God reminded Jonah that He loved all people and His compassion for them was much greater than Jonah's **compassion** for the plant (4:10-11).

Summary

- Pride often hinders God's best for us.
- We can become so concerned about our reputation that we stop relying upon God.
- Due to Jonah's reputation, he lost sight of God's compassion for the people of Nineveh.
- We must stay focused on God's priorities and less focused upon our own wants.
- God desires blessings for us.
- Do not hinder God's plan by selfishly demanding justice.
- God knows our needs and will take care of us in unimaginable ways.



<https://www.daringrohani.eu.org/2021/04/kisah-nyata-dibalik-lagu-have-decided.html>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson Four

1. The Pharisees stated no prophet came from Galilee (John 7:52).
 - A. Why did the Pharisees make such a mistake?
 - B. Why didn't anyone correct the Pharisees?
 - C. Read 2 Timothy 2:15 How can this verse help when someone falsely misinterprets the Bible?

2. Look at the map in your book and calculate how far Jonah traveled to Nineveh? How far to Tarshish?
 - A. What direction was Tarshish from Nineveh?
 - B. Why did Jonah want to go to Tarshish?
 - C. Have you ever had a Jonah experience? Explain.

3. Jonah stayed in the belly of the fish for three days.
 - A. Do three days have any significance to Jesus and His burial? Explain.
 - B. Jonah repented and went to Nineveh. How do you think he felt walking into that great city?
 - C. Did God ever call you into Nineveh (metaphorically)? What did you do? How did it turn out?