

Jonah: The Reluctant Man on Mission

Jonah 1: The _____ Man on Mission!

When Jonah started, he was a Godly prophet:

2 Kings 14:23-25 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. 24 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit. 25 He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, *in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher.*

Yet somehow Jonah became a reluctant prophet!

Jonah 1:1-2 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 2 “Get up! *Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before Me.*”

→ *We are not all called to be _____ of God, but we are all called to be _____!*

Matt.28:18-20 (Jesus) said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*"

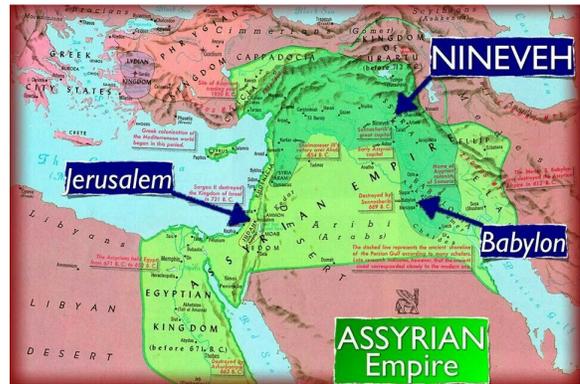
Jonah 1:3 Jonah, however, *got up to flee to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.* He went down to Joppa and found a ship bound for Tarshish. So he paid the fare *and went aboard to sail for Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.*

→ *This prophet of God needed to revisit his theology of God!*

Psalm 139:7-8 Where can I go from your Spirit? *Where can I flee from your presence?* 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Nineveh: Capital city of the Assyrian Empire (Mosul, Iraq)

Henry Morris: “They were notoriously cruel to their enemies when they conquered them ... they not only would burn the city, but also mutilate all the male citizens (cutting off their hands and ears and gouging out their eyes), then pile them all in a great heap to die in the sun. The children would all be burnt alive” *The Remarkable Journey of Jonah*, p.97,113-114.

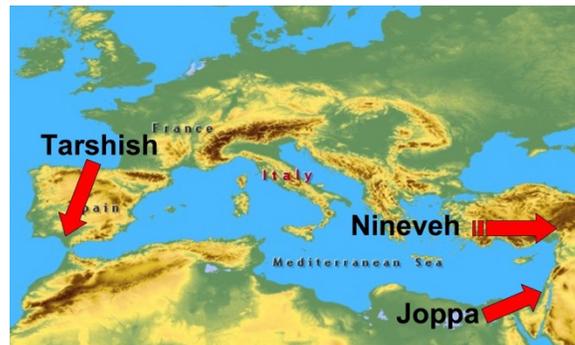


→ ***Nineveh was the ancient equivalent to Hitler’s lair!***

Joppa = Joffa – a very dangerous shoreline in southwest Israel!

→ ***Jonah risked his life to save his life!***

Tarshish: (Tartessos, Spain) – the literal end/edge of the earth (flat-earth worldview)!



→ ***Tarshish was opposite direction from Nineveh and was located at the farthest end/edge of the known world!***

Jonah 1:4 Then **the LORD** **hurled a great wind upon the sea**, and such a violent storm arose that the ship was in danger of breaking apart.

→ ***Sometimes God sends storms to turn us around!***

Jonah 1:5 **The sailors were afraid**, and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the ship’s cargo into the sea to lighten the load. **But Jonah had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.**

→ ***Nothing lulls us to spiritual sleep like sin and apathy!***

Jonah 1:6 The captain approached him and said, “**How can you sleep? Get up and call upon your God. Perhaps this God will consider us, so that we may not perish.**”

Q: When was the last time we wept for the lost?

Keith Green: "Asleep in the Light"

Do you see?

Do you see?

All the people sinking down?

Don't you care?

Don't you care?

Are you gonna let them drown?

How can you be so numb?!

Not to care if they come

You close your eyes,

And pretend the job is done

→ ***How can we sleep at a time like this?***

Vernon McGee: "The Devil is working in an area where we least expect to find him. He is not out on the town on Saturday night. He has gone to bed early so he can get up and go to church on Sunday morning ... (but) too many sleepy Christians seem to be totally unaware of that" p.173.