

Jonah 1 (Part 1)

Background & Context of this book and place in history:

- Divided Kingdom (After the death of Solomon)



ISRAEL (NORTH)			
Years (BC)	King	Good/ Evil	Prophet
931-910	Jeroboam I	Evil	Abijah
910-909	Nadab	Evil	
909-886	Baasha	Evil	Jehu
886-885	Elah	Evil	
885	Zimri	Evil	Micaiah Elijah
885-874	Omri	Evil	
874-853	Ahab	Evil	
853-852	Ahaziah	Evil	Elisha
852-841	Joram	Evil	
841-814	Jehu	Good/Evil	
814-798	Jehohaz	Evil	Amos Hosea Jonah
798-782	Jehoash	Evil	
782-753	Jeroboam II	Evil	
753-752	Zechariah	Evil	Amos Hosea Jonah
752	Shallum	Evil	
752-742	Menahem	Evil	
742-740	Pekahiah	Evil	
733-722	Pekah	Evil	
732-722	Hoshea	Evil	
Israel Falls into Assyrian Captivity in 722			

Divided Kingdom
10 Northern Tribes (Israel)
2 Southern Tribes (Judah)

Jonah

- Real person with a family and history.
- Prophet to the northern tribes
- From Gath-Hepher near Nazareth (only prophet from there)
- Immediate predecessors: Elijah & Elisha
- Contemporaries:
 - NORTH: Hosea & Amos
 - SOUTH: Isaiah
- Mentioned in 2 Kings 14
 - Probably one of the "Sons of the Prophets" (mentioned 8+ times in OT)
 - Jonah's major prophesy to a struggling Israel

**BEFORE
Prophecy**

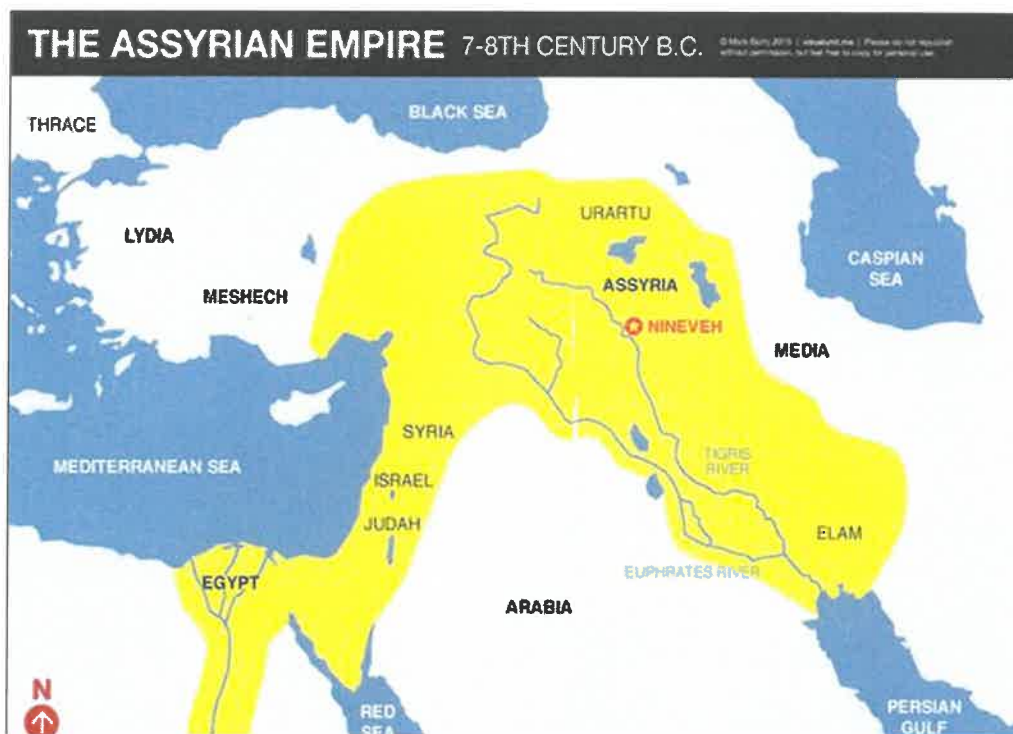
- Attacked over and over by surrounding pagan nations.
- Leadership was abysmal; “Did evil in the sight of the Lord”
- Other nations chipped away at Israel’s territory

**AFTER
Prophecy**

- God does an unexpected wonder through an evil King of Israel (Jeroboam II)
- Israel gains back land previously lost
- Territory nearly as large as when Solomon had it
- Population growth
- Relative peace & prosperity thru Jeroboam II
- Peacetime & wealth made her bankrupt spiritually, morally, and ethically
- Jonah was a famous prophet in nice times; an esteemed Prophet of God

Jeroboam II Reigns in Israel

23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. **24** And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. **25** He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. **26** For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or free, and there was none to help Israel. **27** But the LORD had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash. **2 Kings 14: 23-27**



Assyrian Empire

- Advertised their brutality as part of psychological warfare
- Pictures of torture in great detail on the walls of the imperial palaces
- Cut off the limbs, gouged out the eyes, and then left victims to roam around.
- Proud of the mass executions.
 - Impaled their victims on large stakes. Slow, terrifying death
- Flaying; hung on city walls
- Forced the captured nobles to grind the bones of their ancestors.
 - psychological torture.
 - demonstrated the absolute power over the subjugated nations.
- Beheading
 - soldiers built pyramids out of enemy heads.
 - decorated trees with the heads of their enemies.
- Cut off:
 - legs, arms, noses, tongues, ears, and testicles.
 - burned small children alive.

The news of extreme terror spread fast. The entire cities surrendered at the mere sight of the approaching Assyrian army.

Each chapter in Jonah highlights same 2 subjects:

1. God's Heart

- What He cares about
- How He operates & proves it

2. Jonah's Heart

- What he cares about
- How he operates & proves it

Jonah Flees the Presence of the LORD

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." ³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

Possible reasons why Jonah fled God's call.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.



Principle

When we go outside of God's will, it's expensive. We pick up the tab.

When traveling within God's will, He pays for everything.

God won't send us where He won't supply.