

Jonah
Super Patriot,
Sorry Prophet:
Serving
A Universal God

By Timothy Sparks

TimothySparks.com

Theme

- God's compassion on Gentile nations
- Jonah took God's message to the Assyrians at Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire
 - The capital of a brutal, pagan nation
- God is a universal God
 - God's love and forgiveness extends to Gentiles—a reminder that Israel was to reach the world with God's message
 - Isaiah 42:6 and 49:6 (Messiah: the light to the Gentiles)

The Assyrian Empire

- The Assyrian Empire was a world empire for about 300 years (900-607 BC)
- Assyria started rising as a world power about the time of the division of the Hebrew kingdom at the close of Solomon's reign
- The Assyrian Empire gradually absorbed and destroyed the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Shalmaneser II (860-825 BC) began to “cut off Israel”

The Assyrian Empire

- Adad-Nirari III (810–783 BC) took tribute from Israel (time of Jonah's prophecy?)
- It appears Jonah viewed God calling him to prolong the life of an enemy nation that was in the process of exterminating Jonah's nation
- No wonder Jonah tried to escape doing what God called him to do
 - Jonah's reaction out of patriotic duty and patriotic dread toward the Assyrians, who were a threat to the survival of the Hebrews

Jonah, the son of Amittai

- The name “Jonah” means “dove”
- Jonah, the son of Amittai
 - The name of his father “Amittai” in Hebrew means “truth,” making Jonah “the son of truth”
 - Jonah seeks only the truth, not forgiveness
 - Mentioned in 2 Kings 14:23-25—the king of Israel during Jonah’s ministry was Jeroboam II—ruled 41 years, from 793-753

Nineveh, Capital of Assyria

- Jonah may have served during the reign of the Assyrian king Adad-Nirari III (810–783 BC) or during the reign of Assurdan III (771–754)
- If during Adad-Nirari III, his worship of Nebo was more “monotheistic” than previous kings
- If Jonah served during Assurdan III, then three striking events might have “softened” the people for Jonah’s message: a plague in Nineveh (765 BC); a total eclipse of the sun (763); another plague hit the city (759)

Nineveh



Assyria

Caspian Sea

Haran

Nineveh

Tigris River

Mesopotamia

Euphrates River

Babylon

Babylon

Arabian Desert

Cyprus
Mediterranean Sea

Damascus

Israel

Jerusalem

Sinai

Persian Gulf

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Hattusas

CAUCASUS

Caspian Sea

HITTITE EMPIRE

ANATOLIA

Carchemish

Haran

Nineveh

Calah

Padan-Aram

Ebla

Hamath

Assur

PERSIA

CYPRUS

Ugarit

ARAM

Mari

IRAN

Byblos

Sidon

Tyre

Damascus

Hasor

AMMON

Babylon

Susa

Mediterranean Sea

CANAAN

Jerusalem

BABYLONIA

SUMER

MOAB

Ur

Tanis

Raamses

EDOM

ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Memphis

LOWER EGYPT

SINAI

EGYPT

El Amama

ARABIA

Nineveh, Capital of Assyria

- The city was long doubted until A. H. Layard and H. Rassam discovered Nineveh in 1845–1854
- Archaeologists have excavated the city
 - They found the library of Ashurbanipal which contained many creation and flood texts, along with economic, political, and other texts

Nineveh, Capital of Assyria

- Nineveh was on the eastern bank of the Tigris, near what is today the city of Mosul, Iraq
- It was an ancient city that was thought to be impregnable
- Nimrod (Gen. 10:8-11) founded the city
- Sennacherib (705–681 BC) made Nineveh his capital and the main city of Assyria (2 Kngs. 19:36; Is. 37:37)
- Nahum prophesied its destruction (Nah. 1:1; 2:8-10)

Nineveh, Capital of Assyria

- Nineveh proper was 3 miles long and 1.5 miles wide
- Greater Nineveh included Calah 20 miles to the south and Khorsabad 10 miles to the north
- The triangle formed by the Tigris and the Zab was included in the fortifications of Nineveh



Archaeology and Ancient Assyria

- Introduction
- Overview
- Ancient Assyria
- Assyria and Archaeology
- Archaeological Discoveries
- Later Assyrian Kings
- Scriptures
- Dictionaries
- Conclusion



TURKEY

Lake Urmia

DAHÜK

ARBİL

NINEVEH

Mosul

AT TAMİM

Kirkuk

AS SULAYMANIYAH

IRAN

SYRIA

ŞALĀH AD DĪN

BAGHDĀD
Population est. 5,635,000

DĪYALĀ

IRAQ

AL ANBĀR

Kermānshāh

De Facto Boundary

Tarshish (1:3)

- Thought to have been Tartessus in Spain
 - A city in the western Mediterranean in southern Spain near Gibraltar
 - Jonah was trying to escape to the extreme boundaries of the then known world
 - Trade with Tarshish (2 Chron. 9:21; Ps. 72:10)
 - Tarshish was the great grandson of Noah (Japheth, Javan, Tarshish; Gen. 10:1-4)

Jonah runs!



Key Words & Phrases

- “LORD” and “LORD God of Heaven”
 - 1:1, 3, 9-10, 14, 16-17
- “Great fish” and “fish”
 - 1:17; 2:1, 10

Verses to Remember

- 2:7-9
- 3:2, 8
- 4:2, 11

Overview Outline

Chs. 1-2: Disobedience and discipline

Chs. 3-4: Service and compassion

Outline by Chapter

Ch. 1: Jonah disobeys, God disciplines

Ch. 2: Jonah prays, God delivers

Ch. 3: Jonah preaches, Nineveh repents
and God does not judge

Ch. 4: Jonah complains, God explains his
compassion

Outline by Chapter #2

Ch. 1: Running away from God

Ch. 2: Running to God

Ch. 3: Running with God

Ch. 4: Running against God

Outline by Chapter #3

Ch. 1: Fleeing

Ch. 2: Praying

Ch. 3: Preaching

Ch. 4: Pouting

Lessons

- Sometimes we can simply choose to be sorry individuals, even though we might know God's will very well—may we determine within ourselves and to God that we will not be sorry people
- Nineveh is an approved example of repentance (Mt. 12:38-41; Lk. 11:29-32)
- Lk. 13:3
- 1 Tim. 4:16
- 2 Tim. 4:2

Trivia

How many innocent people “who cannot discern between their right hand and their left” did the Lord say were in Nineveh?

4:11

More than 120,000

Memory Verse Review (Daniel—Obadiah)

- Dan. 4:25c—“. . . the Most High...”
- Hos. 4:6a—“My people...”
- Joel 2:32a—“And it shall...”
- Amos 3:3—“Can two...”
- Obad. 3—“The pride...”

Memory Verse for Jonah

3:2b

“Preach to it the message that I tell
you”