

Outline of  
Jonah



# Introduction

## Writer

Jonah

## Date

Conservative scholars place the writing of this book before 745 B.C. The incidents took place about that time. Some even place it as early as 860 B.C. It seems best to place it between 800 and 750 B.C. Students of history will recognize this as the period when Nineveh was in its heyday. The nation of Assyria was at its zenith at this time, also. It was destroyed by 606 B.C. By the time of Herodotus, Nineveh, the city of Nimrod, had ceased to exist. When Xenophon passed the city it was deserted, but he testified that the walls still stood and they were 150 feet high. Historians now estimate they were at least 100 feet high and 40 feet thick.

## Significant subjects

**1. This is the one book of the Old Testament that sets forth the Resurrection.** Those who assert that the Resurrection is not found in the Old Testament surely are not versed in the magnificent message of Jonah. When a wicked and adulterous generation was seeking after a sign, Jesus referred them to the Book of Jonah for the message: “As Jonah...so Jesus” is the fine comparison made by our Lord.

**2. Salvation is not by works.** Salvation is by faith, which leads to repentance. The Book of Jonah is read by the Orthodox Jews on the Great Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). One great self-evident truth from the ritual of this day is that the way to God was not by “works of righteousness which we have done” (Titus 3:5), but by the blood of a substitutionary sacrifice provided by God. The most significant statement in the Book of Jonah is in 2:9 — “Salvation is of the LORD.”

**3. God’s purpose of grace cannot be frustrated.** If Jonah had refused to go to Nineveh the second time, would God have destroyed the city? God would not have been limited by Jonah’s refusal. He would have raised up another instrument, or, more likely, He would have had another fish ready to give Jonah the green light toward Nineveh. The book shows God’s determination to get His message of salvation to a people who will hear and accept it.

**4. God will not cast us aside for faithlessness.** When Jonah failed the first time, God did not give him up. The most encouraging words that a faltering and failing child of God can hear are, “And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time” (Jonah 3:1).

**5. God is good and gracious.** The most penetrating picture of God in the entire Bible is in Jonah 4:2. It is wrong to say that the Old Testament reveals a God of wrath and the New Testament reveals a God of love. He is no vengeful deity in the Book of Jonah.

**6. God is the God of the Gentiles.** It has been suggested that Romans 3:29 be written over this book: “Is he the God of the Jews only? Is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also.” The Book of Jonah is the answer to those critics who claim that the Old Testament presents a local and limited deity, a tribal deity. The Book of Jonah is a great book on missions and has a world vision.

**Source:** Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904 – 1988), THRU THE BIBLE RADIO NETWORK

# PROPHETS

## A. HEAR FROM GOD

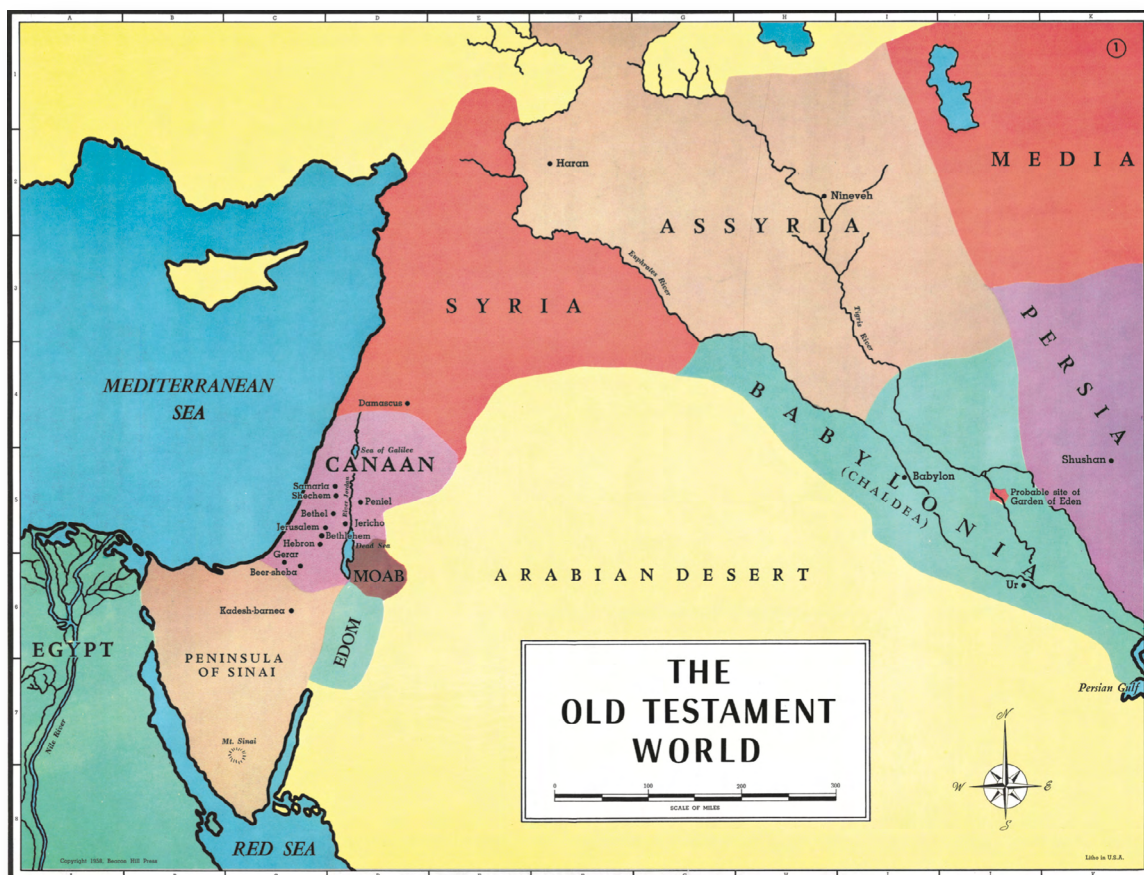
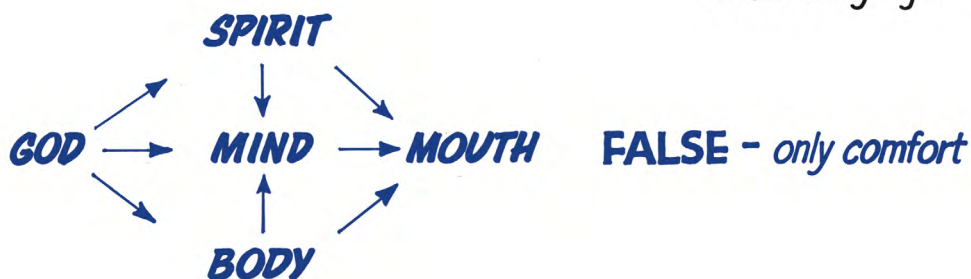
WORDS - 'burdens'

PICTURES - visions (awake)  
dreams (asleep)

## B. SPEAK FOR GOD

CHALLENGE -  
when doing wrong

COMFORT -  
when doing right



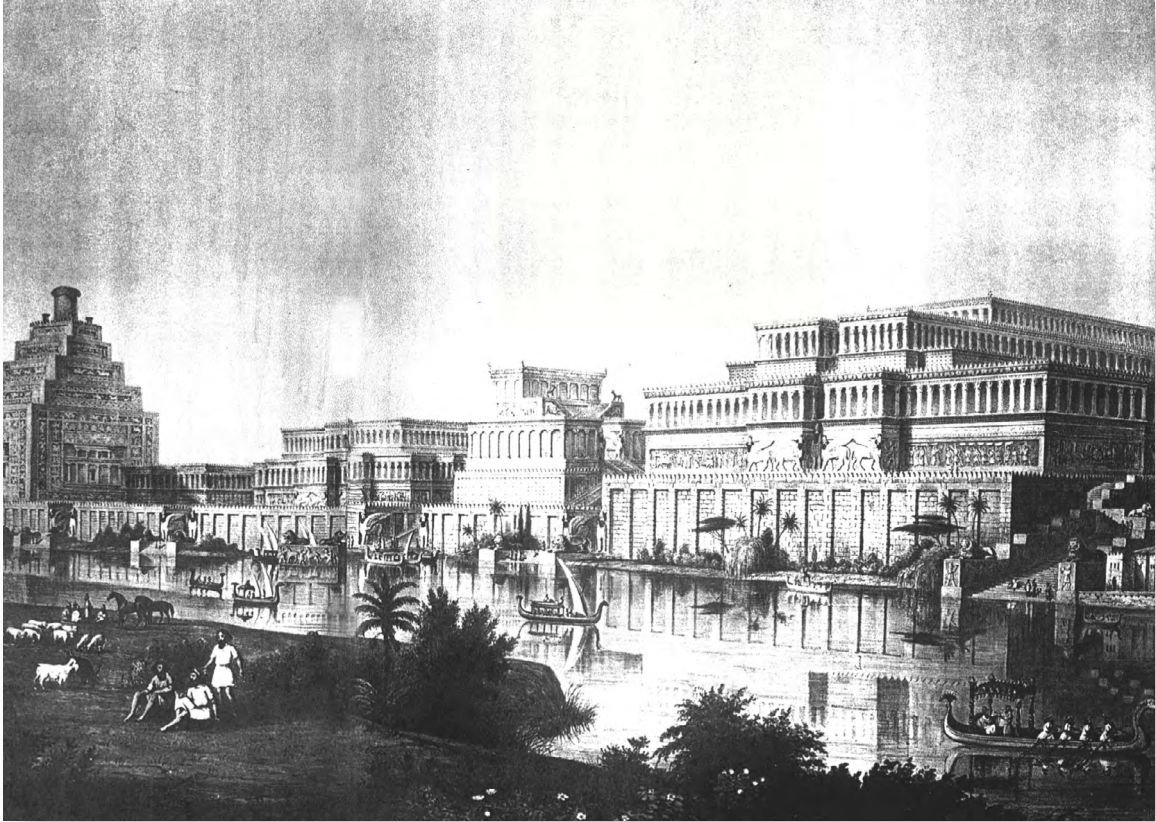


<u>B.C.</u>	<u>ASSYRIA</u>	<u>ISRAEL</u>
1354	AHSURUBALIT I (First king)	(north kings)
853	SHALMANESER III → Failed invasion	AHAB
c.770	← JONAH	JEREBOAM II
733	TIGLATH-PILESER III → took Naphtali	PEKAH
721	SHALMANESER V → took Israel (10 North tribes)	HOSHEA (south kings)
701	SENNACHERIB → besieged Jerusalem	HEZEKIAH
663	ASSUR BANIPAL → conquered Thebes (upper Egypt)	
c.630	← ZEPHANIAH	JOSIAH
c.620	← NAHUM	
612	SINSHURISHKUN (fall of Nineveh)	JEHOIACHIM
607	ASSURBALIT II (end of Assyria)	

## MIRACLES in JONAH

1. WIND → STORM
2. LOTS → JONAH
3. SEA CALMED
4. FISH SWALLOWS
5. 'FISH' VOMITS
6. VINE (OVERNIGHT)
7. 'WORM' (EATS ROOT)
8. SCORCHING WIND

PHILOSOPHIES [WORLD VIEW]	GOD CREATED THEN	GOD CONTROLS NOW	
ATHEISM	X	X	SCIENCE
DEISM	✓	X	
THEISM	✓	✓	SCRIPTURE





# Approaches to the study of Jonah

## 1. Striking resemblance between Jonah and Paul

Both were missionaries to the Gentiles; both were shipwrecked; both were witnesses to the sailors on board the ship, and both were used to deliver these sailors from death. There are other striking comparisons which a careful study will reveal. Paul made three missionary journeys, and with his trip to Rome, there were four. The four chapters of the Book of Jonah may be divided into four missionary journeys of Jonah: (1) into the fish, (2) out onto dry land, (3) to Nineveh, and (4) to the heart of God.



## 2. Timetable approach

When you consult a timetable in a railroad station or airport, there are three important factors you note: (1) destination, (2) departure time, and (3) arrival time. It is possible to construct the four brief chapters of Jonah into the form of a timetable.

**Timetable of the Book of Jonah**

DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	ARRIVAL	CHAPTER
Israel (Samaria or Gath-hepher)	Nineveh	Fish	1
Fish	Nineveh	Dry Land	2
Dry Land	Nineveh	Nineveh	3
Nineveh	Gourd Vine	Heart of God	4



# Quiz on Jonah

1. God asked Jonah to go and preach against what city?

2. How many days was Jonah in the belly of the great fish?

3. When confronted by the sailors during the storm, Jonah suggested that they do what to appease God?

4. What did Jonah do the second time the Lord told him to go to Nineveh?

5. In Jonah Chapter 3, how did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message?

6. How did the king of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message?

7. What did God do when he noticed that the people had turned away from their evil ways?

8. In the beginning of Chapter 4, how did Jonah react to the repentance of Nineveh?

9. In Chapter 4, when Jonah sat and was waiting to see what will happen to the city of Nineveh, what did God provide to ease his discomfort?

10. What question did God ask Jonah at the end of the Book of Jonah?

GENEVA  
BIBLE SCHOOL

