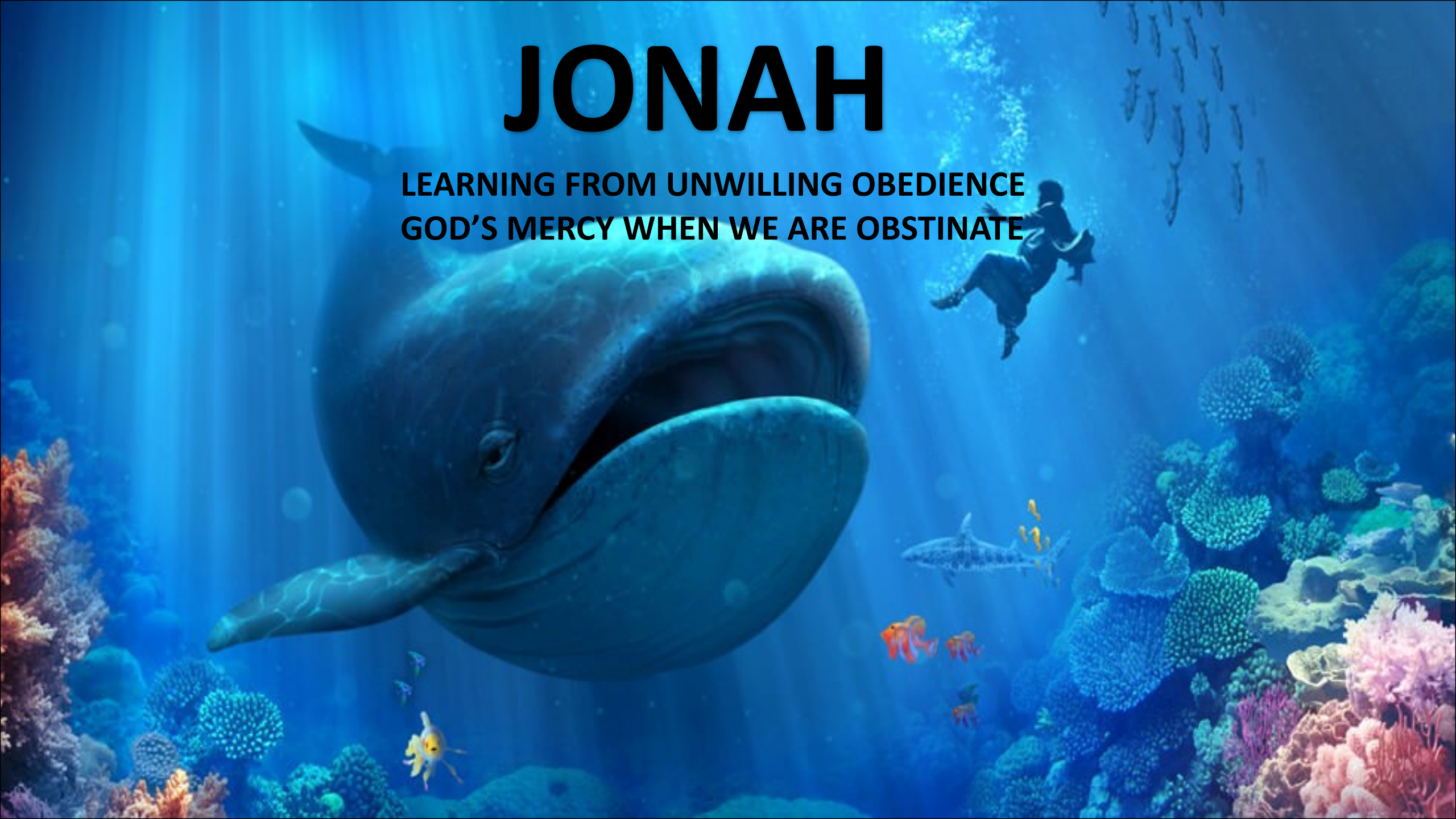

JONAH
LEARNING FROM UNWILLING OBEDIENCE
GOD'S MERCY WHEN WE ARE OBSTINATE

FISH
N
SHIPS

LESSONS FROM
THE LIFE OF
JONAH

SESSION #1



JONAH

Arise & Go

Jonah 1:1-4

Jonah 1:1

‘the word of the Lord’

↓

Heb. ‘a matter of a thing’
Ges. ‘promise, precept, edict, counsel, plan’



Ps. 138:2 – ‘thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name’

Is.55:11 – ‘…it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please…’

EXHORT – God’s word is bigger than Jonah!

Jonah 1:1

Jonah Heb.3124 – ‘a dove’



1. Noah – Gen.8:8-12 – ‘he sent forth a dove’, to see if the waters were abated
2. Call of the Gentiles – Is.60:6-8 – note allusion to Gen.8:6
3. Israel like a dove
   Hos.7:11 – fly to other nations without thought to their harm
   Hos.11:11 – as dove returns to its’ window, God would bring them home
   Jer.32:37, Ezek.37:21,25, 28:25
4. Doves known for their mourning
   Israel – Is.59:11 – ‘we mourn sore like doves’
   Ezek.7:16 – ‘they that escape shall be like doves on the mountains…mourning’
   Nineveh – Nah.2:7-8 – ‘…maids lead her with the voice of doves…flee away’

5. Jonah's behaviour is dove-like

- In their wild state doves generally build their nests in the wilderness in the clefts of rocks – Jer.48:28, Sg.Sol.2:14



Jonah the Wild Dove

Ps.55:2-7 – v.2 'mourn'

v.6 – 'wings like a dove'

v.6 – 'rest' – Heb. 'to stay permanently' – Jer.9:2 Jonah's mindset

v.7 – better rendered 'lodge in the wilderness'

Ps.139:9 – 'If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea…'

Jonah 1:1

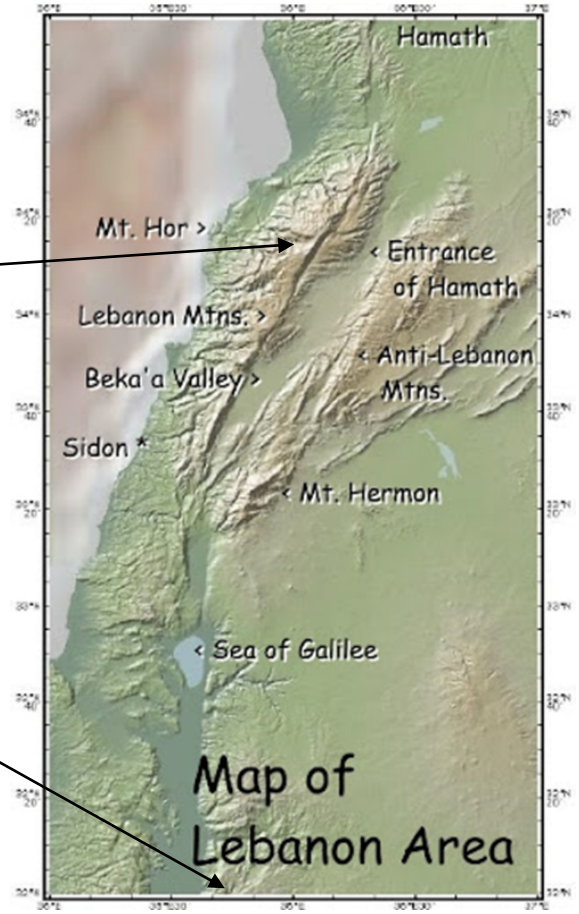
‘son of Amittai’

↓

Heb.573/571 – ‘stability, truth, certainty’ – Truth of God (Pusey)

II Kings 14:21-27 – Jonah’s other Prophecy

v.25 Restore the land from the ‘entering of Hamath’ to the ‘sea of the plain’ (Dead Sea – Deut.3:17)



Boundary of Israel Under David/Solomon

I Chron.18:1-10

I Kgs.4:21-29

II Chron.8:4 – storehouses in Hamath

Jonah 1:2

‘Arise, go to Nineveh’



The Sins of Nineveh

Nahum 3:1-7 – **Violence** v.1-3

Immorality v.4-7

PRIDE

Is.10:12 – stout heart of the king of Assyria

Zech.10:11 – ‘pride of Assyria’

Ezek.31:3-10 – Tallest tree – ‘heart lifted up in his height’

Zeph.2:13-15 – ‘I am and there is none beside me’

Exhort

Prov.6:16,16:18,11:2,18:12,29:23

Babylon – ‘I am and there is none beside me’ Is.47:10

Tyre – ‘I am a god…I am God’ – Ezek.28:2-9

Sodom – Pride – Ezek.16:49

Ps.14:1-3 - Is it more abominable to say ‘there is no God’ or to say ‘I am God’?

Jonah 1:2

‘Nineveh’ – ‘abode of Ninus’

> Rolins – ‘Among other cities, he (Nimrod) built one more large and magnificent than the rest which he called Nineveh from the name of his son Ninus.’
>
> ‘after his fathers death, Ninus set out to make Nineveh ‘the largest and noblest city in the world and put it out of the power of those that came after him ever to build or hope to build another like it’

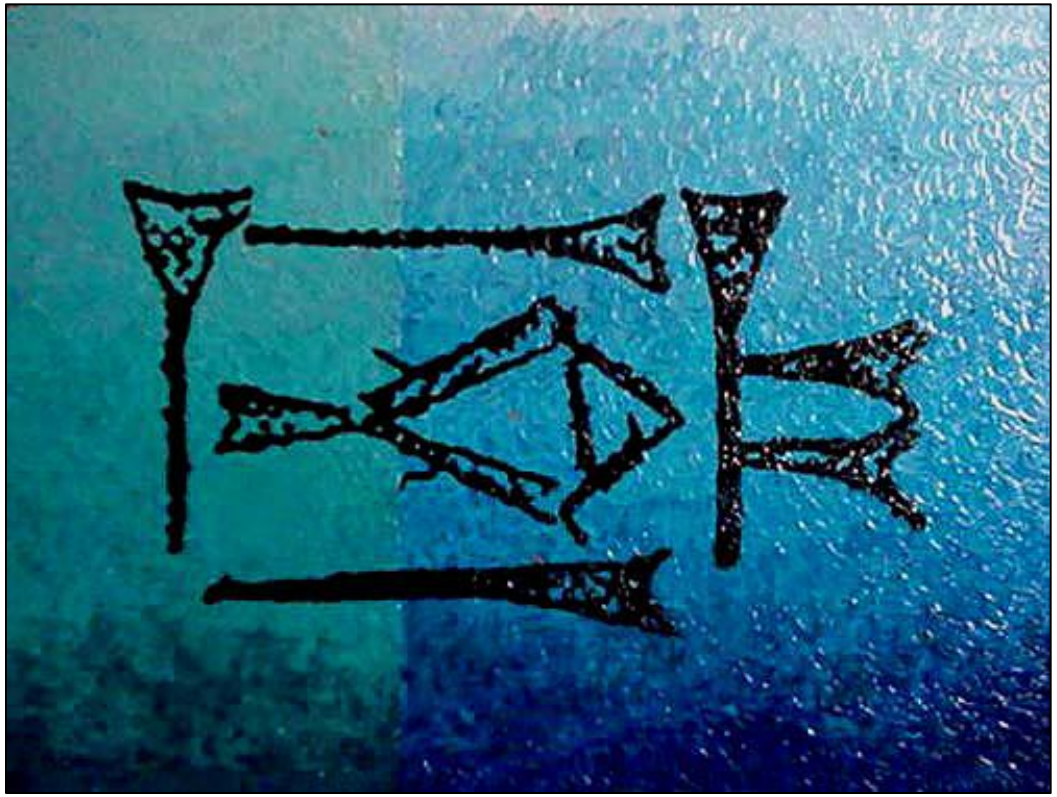
‘cry against it’ – Heb. ‘shout from the top or from on high’ – sense Is.58:1, Jer.1:7-10

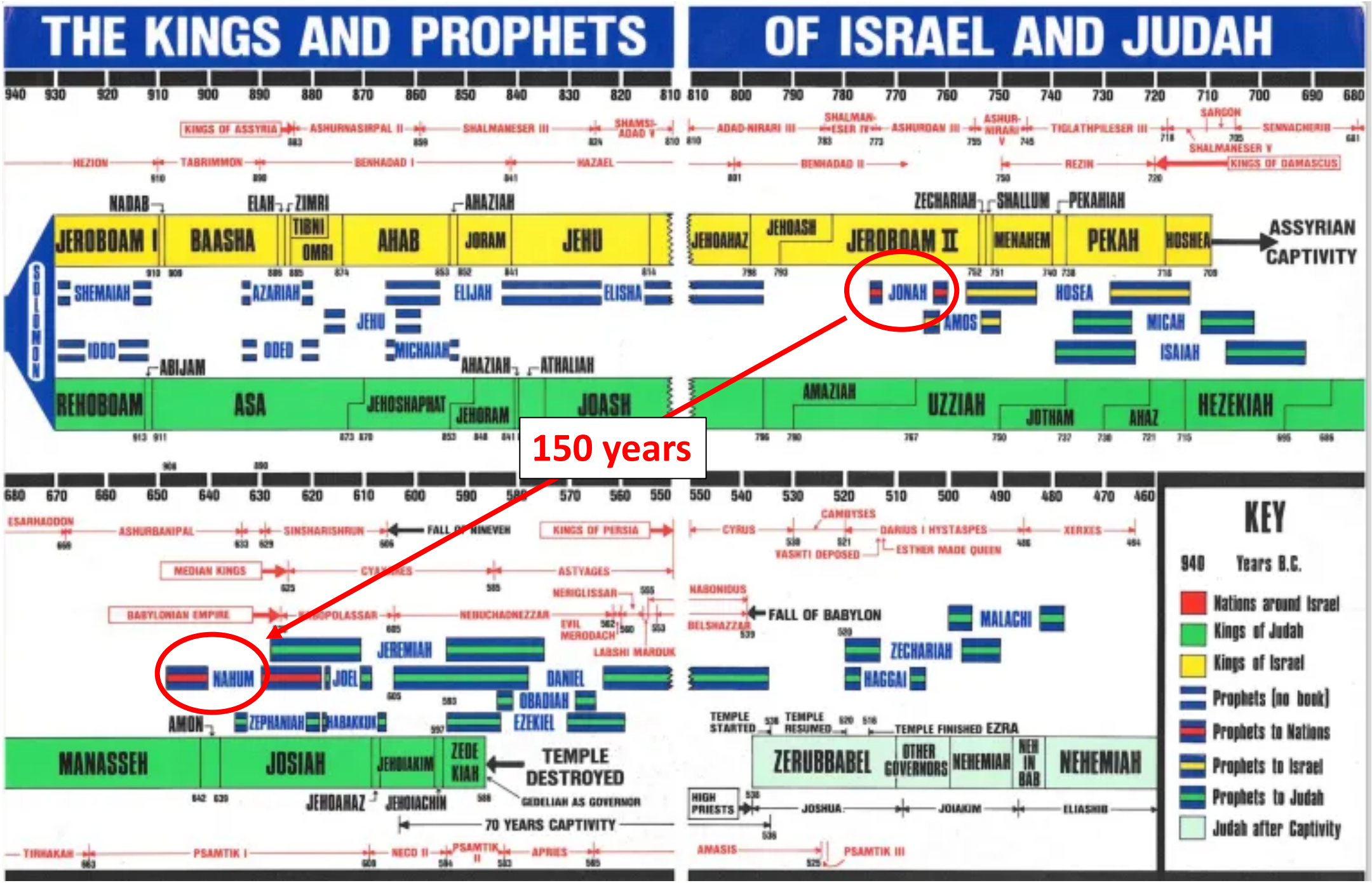


‘cry against it’

Why listen to Jonah?

Cuneiform for Nina (name for the goddess Ishtar) - Fish within a house




THE KINGS AND PROPHETS
OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH
940 930 920 910 900 890 880 870 860 850 840 830 820 810
810 800 790 780 770 760 750 740 730 720 710 700 690 680
KINGS OF ASSYRIA
ASHURNASIRPAL II
SHALMANESER III
SHAMSI-ADAD V
ADAD-NIRARI III
SHALMAN-ESER IV
ASHURDAN III
ASHUR-NIRARI V
TIGLATHPILESER III
SARGON
SENNACHERIB
SHALMANESER V
HEZION
TABRIMMON
BENHADAD I
HAZAEL
BENHADAD II
REZIN
KINGS OF DAMASCUS
NADAB
ELAH
ZIMRI
TIBNI
OMRI
AHAZIAH
ZECHARIAH
SHALLUM
PEKAHIAH
JEROBOAM I
BAASHA
AHAB
JORAM
JEHU
JEHOAHAZ
JEHOASH
JEROBOAM II
MENAHEM
PEKAH
HOSHEA
ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY
SOLOMON
SHEMAIAH
AZARIAH
ELIJAH
ELISHA
JEHU
JONAH
AMOS
HOSEA
MICAH
ISAIAH
IDDO
ODED
MICHAIAH
ABIJAM
AHAZIAH
ATHALIAH
REHOBOAM
ASA
JEHOSHAPHAT
JEHORAM
JOASH
AMAZIAH
UZZIAH
JOTHAM
AHAZ
HEZEKIAH
150 years
680 670 660 650 640 630 620 610 600 590 580 570 560 550
550 540 530 520 510 500 490 480 470 460
ESARHADDON
ASHURBANIPAL
SINSHARISHRUN
FALL OF NINEVEH
KINGS OF PERSIA
CYRUS
CAMBYSES
DARIUS I HYSTASPES
XERXES
VASHTI DEPOSED
ESTHER MADE QUEEN
MEDIAN KINGS
CYAXARES
ASTYAGES
NERIGLISSAR
NABONIDUS
BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
NEBUCHADNEZZAR
EVIL MERODACH
BELSHAZZAR
FALL OF BABYLON
LABASHI MARDUK
JEREMIAH
MALACHI
NAHUM
JOEL
DANIEL
ZECHARIAH
OBADIAH
HAGGAI
AMON
ZEPHANIAH
HABAKKUK
EZEKIEL
TEMPLE STARTED
TEMPLE RESUMED
TEMPLE FINISHED EZRA
MANASSEH
JOSIAH
JEHOIAKIM
ZEDE KIAH
TEMPLE DESTROYED
ZERUBBABEL
OTHER GOVERNORS
NEHEMIAH
NEH IN BAB
NEHEMIAH
JEHOAHAZ
JEHOIACHIN
GEDELIAH AS GOVERNOR
HIGH PRIESTS
JOSHUA
JOIAKIM
ELIASHIB
70 YEARS CAPTIVITY
TIRHAKAH
PSAMTIK I
NECO II
PSAMTIK II
APRIES
AMASIS
PSAMTIK III
KEY
940 Years B.C.
Nations around Israel
Kings of Judah
Kings of Israel
Prophets (no book)
Prophets to Nations
Prophets to Israel
Prophets to Judah
Judah after Captivity

Jonah 1:3

‘rose up’ – same Heb. as ‘arise’ v.2

‘flee’ – Heb. 1272 – ‘to bolt, flee suddenly’

Exhort

Jonah, with haste, rises to flee in the opposite direction. Takes deliberate steps to avoid preaching in Nineveh.

Choosing to Neglect our Duty

- Ex.4:13-14 – Moses tried to refuse God’s appointment
- Ezek. 3:4-14 – Ezekiel not happy about his mission
- I Cor.9:16-17 – ‘necessity is laid upon me’
  - ‘a stewardship is committed unto me’ v.17 (RV,WNT,YLT)

Jonah 1:3

‘presence’ – Heb. ‘face’

- same Heb. as ‘before’ v.2
- same wd. Gen.3:8 (Adam & Eve), Gen.4:16 (Cain), Ps.139:7-12

‘from the presence of the Lord’ – lit. ‘from being before the Lord’

> ‘Jonah, as God’s prophet knew full well that no man can escape from the presence of God. He knew full well the words of David – ‘whither shall I go from thy spirit or whither shall I flee from thy presence.’ Jonah fled, not from God’s presence, but from standing before him, as his servant and minister. **He renounced his office**.’ (Pusey pg.397)

sense…. Jn. 6:60, 64, 66 – ‘…many of his disciples walked no more with him’

Jonah 1:3

'went down' – Heb. 3381 'to descend' – lit. or fig. to go from a place of higher elevation to one lower

- allusion to his impudence and spiritual decline
- rep. all of mankind in general

The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Lu 10:30-37

Certain man – Jew and Gentile – 'went down'
Priest – Ceremony of the Law
Levite – Legalism of the Law
} Jonah
Samaritan – Christ (Jn.8:48)

God's Lesson to Jonah

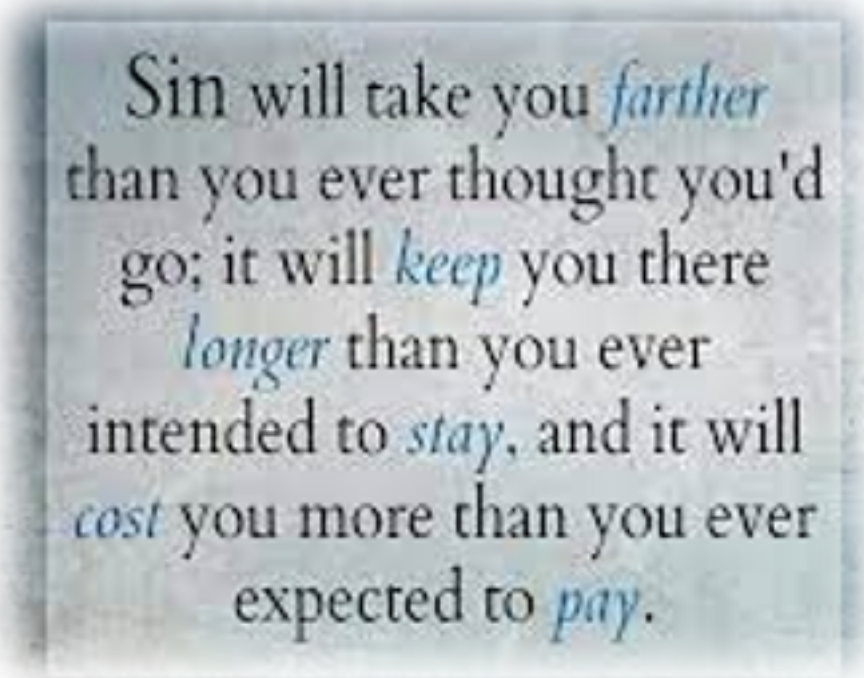
'which was neighbour (Gr. 'fellow man') to him?'
'He that showed mercy'
'Go and do thou likewise.'

→ Ps.107:23-30, Is.42:10 'new song'----- Jon.1:16

Jonah 1:3

‘he paid the fare’ – The Price of Sin ------- one’s life!

‘Wherever you turn, if you depart from the will of God, thou goest down ---- whatever glory, riches, power, honor thou gainst, thou risest not a whit; the more thou ‘advancest’, while turned from God, the deeper and deeper thou goest down ---- yet all these things are not had, without paying the price. At a price and with toil, he obtains what he desires; he receives nothing gratis, but, at great price purchases to himself storms, grief, peril.’ (Pusey pg.399)



Jonah 1:3

‘Joppa’ – Heb. ‘to be fair’ ⟶ Labourers work for a penny – Mt. 20:3-15
‘Is thine eye evil, because I am good?’



JONAH	PETER
Commissioned to bring wd. to Ninevites – Jon. 1:2	Known as ‘son of Jonah’ (Jn.21:15) & received keys to kgm. for both Jew and Gentile – Mt.16:17-19
Fled to Joppa to escape God’s command – Jon.1:3	Received dream and first resisted to preach to Cornelius at Joppa (Acts 10:8)
Jonah needed to learn that Gentiles could also be recipients of God’s grace	Peter was taught the same lesson in a dream (Acts 10:28)
Ninevites repent – Jon. 3:5-9	Cornelius & household baptised – Acts 10:33-48

Jonah 1:4



‘a great wind’ -------- cyclone, hurricane, tornado

↓

Heb. ‘twisting, circling’

Ps. 135:7 – ‘he bringeth the wind out of his treasuries’
Ps. 148:8 – ‘stormy wind fulfilling his word’
Ps.48:7 – ‘thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind’
I Kings 22:48-49 --------- II Chron. 20:35-37

Exhort – There is a purpose to the storms in our life!

Ps.77:13-19 – ‘thy footsteps are not known’
Is.30:18-21 – ‘this is the way, walk ye in it’ ⟶ Jonah!

Jonah 1:4



‘broken’

Heb. ‘to burst, break apart’

Acts 27:17 ‘helps’

↓

Gr. ‘a rope or chain for **frapping** a vessel’

Spiritual Frapping in the Storms of Life – Heb. 4:16

‘grace to **help**’

FISH
N
SHIPS

LESSONS FROM
THE LIFE OF
JONAH



SESSION #2

JONAH

Saving the Mariners

Jonah 1:5-16

**‘The Fear of the Lord is
the Beginning of Wisdom’**

Jonah 1:5

Heb. ‘to fear, be affrighted, experience dread’

‘the mariners were afraid’ Ps. 107:22-31

Heb. From rt. 4414 – ‘to salt, wash with salt’ – ‘to be washed with salt water’

Ezekiel 27:29 – ‘all that handle the oar, the mariners, pilots of the sea’

AFRAID
v.5

EXCEEDINGLY AFRAID
v.10

FEARED THE LORD EXCEEDINGLY
v.16



Exhort – Prov.9:10

Jonah 1:5

‘cried every man unto his god’ --------- that could not save! Is.45:20, 46:6-7
Ps.115:2-8

‘cast forth the wares…to lighten it’

Exhort

The weight of sin still remained
Wares were tokens
Needed to get to the root!

Ps.38:4
Heb.12:1



Jonah 1:5

‘Jonah … was fast asleep’



Exhort

To Jonah and ourselves!

Rom 13:11-12

I Thess.5:5-7

Jonah 1:6

‘shipmaster’ Heb. lit. ‘chief of the ropemen’ - LXX ‘the lookout man’

‘that God will think upon us’

→ Heb. ‘ha Elohim’ – ‘the God’ – ie the supreme deity

Jonah 1:7

‘cast lots’

Heb. ‘a pebble or stone’ --- ‘pebbles used for systematically making decisions’ (BDB)

All white stones used with the person to whom the lot fell drawing a black one.



Prov.16:33 – ‘…whole disposing is of the Lord’

Prov.18:18 – ‘the lot causeth contentions to cease’

Jonah 1:7



‘the lot fell upon Jonah’

Exhort

As is almost always the case, our sin doesn’t just affect ourselves – it impacts others directly/indirectly!

↓

‘for my sake this great tempest is upon you’ v.12

Ecc.9:18 – ‘one sinner destroyeth much good’
Heb.12:15-16 – ‘thereby many be defiled’
II Pet.2:1-2 – ‘many shall follow their pernicious ways’
I Cor.5:6 – ‘little leaven leaveneth the whole lump’
I Kgs.14:16 – ‘sins of Jeroboam, who made Israel to sin’

Sin always has collateral damage!

Jonah 1:8-9

The Inquisition

What is thy occupation?
Whence comest thou?
What is thy country?
Of what people art thou?

I am an Hebrew
I fear Yahweh
Maker of the sea & dry land

Ps.95:5-6

Jonah 1:10

'exceedingly afraid' ⟶ beginning of their conversion – Prov.15:33

Jonah 1:11-12

The Solution

‘the sea wrought and was tempestuous’

LXX – ‘the sea was moving and lifting the surge still more’

Pusey – ‘it was not only increasingly tempestuous, but, like a thing alive and obeying it’s master’s will … its’ wild waves tossing themselves and marching on like battalions, marshalled, arrayed, pursuing and demanding the end for which they were sent’



‘take me up and cast me forth into the sea’

Why does he not cast himself into the sea?

1. Mariners – needed to take action based on faith – Phil.2:12
2. Fulfils the type – Christ ‘lifted up’
3. Suicide isn’t letting God work

The Strength of their Own Arm

Jonah 1:13

‘rowed’

Heb. ‘to force a passage by digging’ ie as a burglar — Job 24:16
Ges. ‘to break or dig through a wall’ — Ezek.12:1-7
LXX ‘used violent efforts’

‘bring it to land’ Heb. ‘to turn back’ – same word 3:8,9,10(2X)

Exhort

- We repent on God’s terms, not our own!
  - Jer.10:23 – ‘not in man to direct his steps’
  - Prov.21:30 – ‘no wisdom, understanding, counsel against God’
  - Jer.17:5 – ‘maketh flesh his arm’
- Sometimes we need to make tough decisions and act accordingly (by faith)!

Lay not Upon us Innocent Blood

Jonah 1:14

‘they cried unto the Lord’ Ps.107:28, Is.26:16

‘we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man’s life’ Christ – Pilate – Jn.19:8

- Under Law = Life for Life – Deut.19:21, 21:7-9, Gen.9:5-6
- Warning – I Chr.16:19-22, Ps.105:13-15 – ‘do my prophets no harm’
- Mindset of David – Ps.51:14 – ‘deliver me from blood guiltiness’

‘hast done as it pleased thee’ Christ – Is.53:10 – same Heb. wd.

Ps.135:6-7, Dan.4:34-35

Exhort – Effort and Prayer

Exhort

Sometimes we are led by Providence to do things contrary to our own inclinations/intentions. It is then in humility we are forced to recognize the hand of Providence and that He will do as He pleases that His will may be done.

Eph.1:11, I Pet.4:18-19

The prayer of the sailors shows Gentiles and Jews could be saved by the sacrifice of Christ!

They Took Up Jonah



Jonah 1:15

'they took up Jonah' Christ – Is.53:5

Heb. 'nacah' – 'to lift up' – Jn.3:14-15, 12:32-34

'the sea ceased'

Ps.65:5-7, 89:9, 93:3-4, 107:29, Nahum 1:3-4, Mt.8:26/Lu.8:24

Complete Conversion



Jonah 1:16

‘the men feared the Lord exceedingly’

↓

Heb. ‘to make large’

- Jer.5:21-24 - Opposite rx of children of Israel
- Prov.16:1,6 – ‘by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil’

‘offered a sacrifice’

1. Right there on the ship – v.5 cast all wares into the sea
2. Made sacrifices once they got back to land
3. The Sacrifice of Praise

   Ps. 51:16-17 – ‘thou desirest not sacrifice’

   Ps.107:22 – ‘sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving’

   Ps.95:1-5 – Perhaps the words of the mariners!

Commitment



Jonah 1:16

‘and made vows’

Exhort

- Ps.61:5,8 – ‘thou hast heard my vows; thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name’
- Ps.66:13-17 – The words of the mariners!

The Sign of the Prophet Jonah

Jonah Chapter 1

JONAH	CHRIST
1. The 'Dove'	1. HS descended like a dove – Mt.3:16
2. Fast Asleep in the ship – v.5	2. Asleep in the storm – Mk.4:35-41
3. Cast lots – v.7	3. 'Cast lots upon my vesture' – Ps.22:18
4. Mariners 'exceedingly afraid'	4. Pilate – Jn.19:8
5. 'Take me up' – v.12,15	5. 'Lifted up' – Jn.3:14-15, 12:32-34
6. 'let us not perish for this man's life' - v.14	6. Pilate – 'I am innocent of the blood of this just man' – Mt.27:24
7. 'hast done as it pleased thee' – v.14	7. Is.53:10 – same Heb. wd.
8. 3 days and 3 nights – v.17	8. 3 days and 3 nights – Mt.12:40, I Cor.15:4

FISH N SHIPS

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JONAH

SESSION #3

JONAH

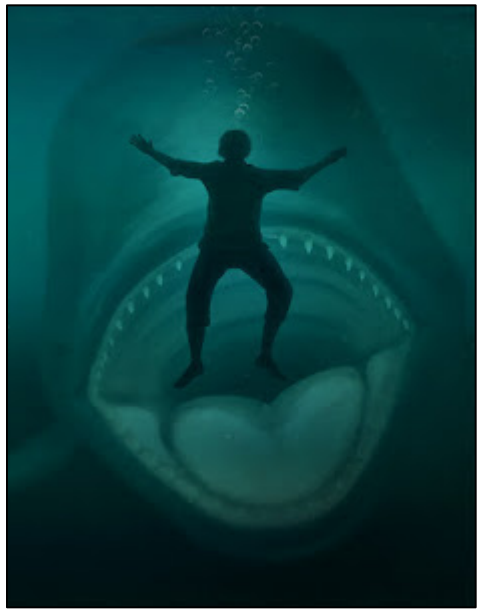
The Power of Prayer



Jonah 1:17-2:10

‘Out of the belly of Sheol cried I’

The Providential Fish



Jonah 1:17

‘the Lord prepared a great fish’

Heb. ‘to weigh out, a fixed weight, a measured amount’

- Used 4X – 1:17, 4:6, 4:7, 4:8

Exhort – The fish was exactly there in the right place at the right time. God provides exactly what was needed for Jonah. God’s work with Jonah was not complete. God fits each and every circumstance to move men to His service. God needed to have Jonah understand the principle of grace and mercy without respect of persons. The goodness and severity of God, Jonah failed to comprehend. We don’t understand this at times either – hopefully, God **prepares** circumstances in our life at the right time and place to move us in the direction of His service.

Jonah Prayed



Jonah 2:1

‘then Jonah prayed’

↳ This prayer is not recorded

- RV – period at end of v.1
- Order – v.1, 10, 2-9

Ps. 130:1-4 – ‘Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord…’
Lam.3:53-57 – ‘Waters flowed over my head…I called upon thy name’

Exhort – 1. Even in our darkest moments, we can experience God!
2. Is it ever too late to pray? We must pray!
3. Often our ‘affliction’ serves to force us to our knees in prayer – Hos.5:15

Jonah Prayed

Jonah 2:1

‘out of the fish’s belly’

Exhort – I Tim.2:1,8 – ‘Supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving thanks…
be made everywhere!’

There is no need to get to a place of prayer!
God is everywhere
So pray anywhere!

God Answered

Jonah 2:10

‘The Lord spake to the fish and it vomited out Jonah’

God’s Cycle of Intervention

- Go Preach to Nineveh
- Jonah Flees to Tarshish
- Sailors Cast Him to Sea
- Sea Provides Large Fish
- Fish Delivers Him Back to God
- God Provides a Second Opportunity



Can’t Escape the Hand of God

Cried Out in Afflicton

Jonah 2:2

Heb. ‘a narrow, tight space’

‘I cried by reason of mine affliction’

Heb. ‘to call out to – properly address by name’

Exhort

Acts 14:22 – ‘…we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God’

Ps.119:67,71 – ‘Before I was afflicted I went astray…’

AFFLICTION OPENS THE MOUTH THAT SIN HAD SHUT

‘out of the belly of hell’

Ps. 86:13 – ‘thou deliverest my soul form the lowest hell’

Ps. 116:3 – ‘the pains of hell gat hold upon me’

Ps. 88 – esp. v.4-7, 16-17

God Heard His Cry



Jonah 2:2

'thou heardest my voice'

Ps. 22:24 – 'when he cried unto him, he heard'
Ps.18:6 – 'in my distress I called upon the Lord…he heard my voice'

Exhort – Be not like the hypocrites – Job 36:13 (note: v.8)
God's design in afflicton – Ecc.7:14

God Hears Our Prayer

I Jn.5:14	Ps.66:17-20
Jn.9:31	I Pet.3:12
Prov.15:29	Ps.34:15-17
Ps.145:18	

God's Hand at Work

Jonah 2:3

'thou cast me into the deep…thy waves…thy billows'

Heb. 'throw, hurl, fling'

Heb. 'breakers' – Ps.42:7-8

Jonah 2:4

'I am cast out of thy sight' ——— Lit. from before thine eyes – ie from thy protecting care

Heb. 'to drive out, expatriate, divorce' ⟶ Banishment – quoting Ps.31:22

'yet I will look again toward thy holy temple' ——— Metaphor for prayer

I Kings 8:38-40, Ps.18:6

Voyage to the bottom of the sea



Jonah 2:5

‘the waters compassed me about’

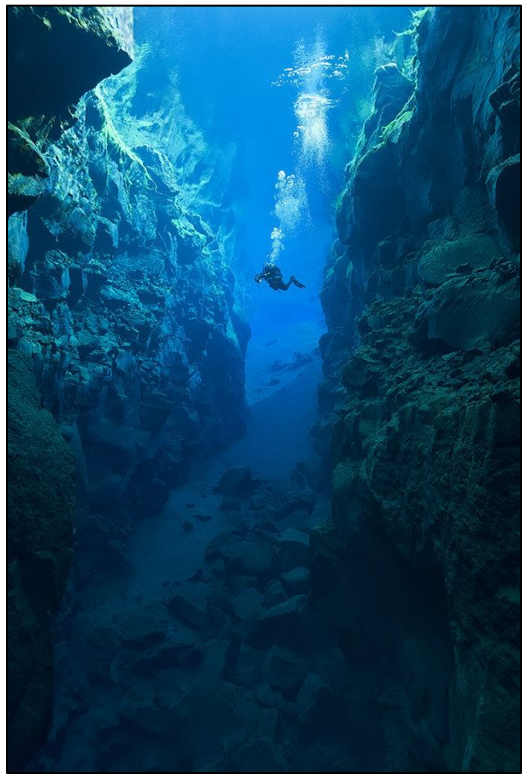
- same expression – Ps.40:12
- Messianic – Ps.69:1-2



‘the weeds were wrapped about my head’

- like his grave clothes – Matt. 27:57-60

Voyage to the bottom of the sea



Jonah 2:6

‘I went down to the bottom of the mountains’

Roth. ‘roots’

Ges. ‘roots of the mountains in the depth of the sea’

Nobody has seen nor comprehends the ‘roots’ of the mountains – yet God is there!

Ps.104:1-8, Prov. 8:23-30, Job 9:2-8

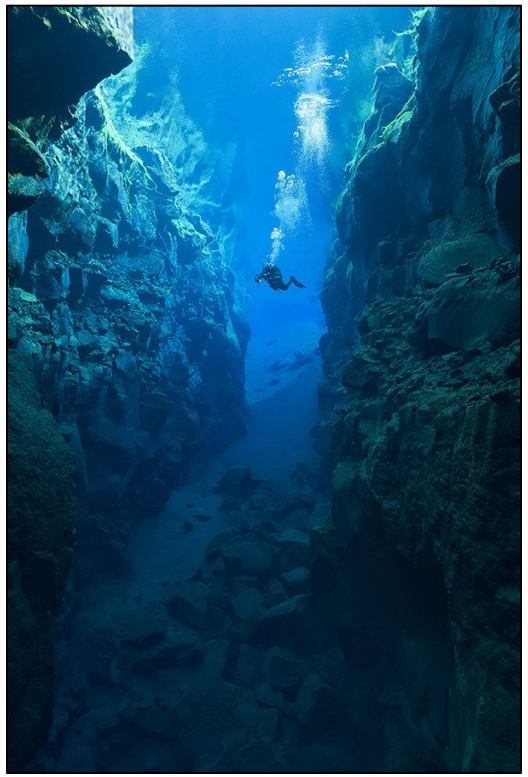
Voyage to the bottom of the sea

Jonah 2:6

Heb. ‘bolt’

‘the earth with her bars was about me forever’

Heb. ‘the hidden period, time out of mind’



He was like a prisoner in the dungeon of death with the door shut and bolted!

Job 17:11-16

Job 38:4-11

Ps.107:10-16

He has no way left to help himself, nor hope that anyone else can help him. Thus are the people of God sometimes perplexed and entangled, that they may learn not to trust in themselves, but in God that raises the dead! (MH) II Cor. 1:8-9

The Resurrection

Jonah 2:6

Prior to this Jonah had always gone down!!!

‘yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption’

Heb. rt. ‘to revive, to ascend’

Is. 38:17 ESV – ‘Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.’

Messianic – Ps.16:10, Acts 2:27-31

‘thou wilt not suffer thine holy one to see corruption’

Praying in Affliction



Jonah 2:7

‘when my soul fainted within me I remembered’

Heb. ‘to envelop, cover with darkness’

Same word Ps.142:3, 143:4

Ps. 143:5

The Prayer – What do I say?

v.7 ‘Hear me speedily’

v.8 ‘Cause me to hear’ – ‘to hear intelligently, with understanding’

‘Cause me to know the way’ – ‘to see with the mind’ – ‘road, path, journey, direction’

v.9 ‘Deliver me’ – ‘to snatch away’ ie be removed from situation

v.10 ‘Teach me’ – ‘to goad’ – ie to prod, encourage, stimulate

v.11 ‘Quicken me’ – ‘to revive – live or be restored to life’

Jonah's Learning



Jonah 2:8 Heb. 'desolating, destructive' Heb. 'relinquish'

'they that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy'

Heb. 'hedge about, guard, protect' Heb. 'vapor, breath, emptiness, nothingness' -------- idols!

Exhort

Jonah did not worship idols, but he was caught up in idolatry!

-------- A 'respecter of persons' – to exclusion of others whom God included

-------- Refusal to obey a direct command

-------- He chose to go in the opposite direction

OUR IDOL CAN BE A THOUGHT, DESIRE, LINE OF REASONING
THAT WE CAN'T LET GO OF!
Col. 3:5

Jonah's Path Forward

Jonah 2:9

Two Resolutions

1. **'I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving'**
   - Heb. 'an extension of the hand'
   - Heb. 'to call aloud'

2. **'I will pay that that I have vowed'**
   - Heb. 'to complete – see through to comlpetion'

'the sacrifice of praise to God continually…fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name'
Heb 13:15

Making Vows

- Choose your vows wisely – Deut. 12:11
- Not half-hearted – allow an out – Num.22:21,23
- Better not to vow if not commited – Deut.23:21-22, Ecc.5:4-5

FISH N SHIPS

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JONAH

SESSION #4

JONAH

Turn Everyone from His Evil Way

Jonah 3



‘Proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth’

A Second Chance

Jonah 3:1

‘the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time’

⟶ He wasn’t already on his way!

Exhort

Heb.11:3 – ‘In faith we perceive that the Ages, have been so thoroughly adjusted by God’s command, that not from things then manifest, the things now seen have come to pass’ (Diag.)

Jonah could not understand the things then present wrt Nineveh. Nevertheless, by faith he should have known the Ages are thoroughly adjusted by God’s command.

A Second Chance



Jonah 3:2

‘Arise, go’ - Same as 1:2
- Lit. ‘get up and start walking’

God’s Purpose Doesn’t Change

Mal.3:6 – ‘I am the Lord, I change not’

Ja.1:17 – ‘the Father of lights…no variableness, neither shadow of turning’

‘preach the preaching that I bid thee’

Heb. ‘arranged - to put words in order (Ges)’ —— Prov.25:11 – ‘fitly spoken’

Work of an angel – Zech. 1:14

Exhort

Did God abandon Jonah?
Did God choose someone else?
Did God expect anything less from Jonah?
Did God deny him the opportunity?
What would you have done with Jonah?



How do we react to those in our midst who have fled/left and returned?

Acts 12:12, 25, 13:5, 13 ----- 15:36-41 ------ II Tim.4:11

- Barnabus – allows second chances
- Paul – had a chance and blew it

Philemon:9-10, 15 – 'Perhaps he departed for a season that thou shouldest receive him forever'

- Paul – allows second chances
- Philemon – had a chance and blew it

I'm Going Already

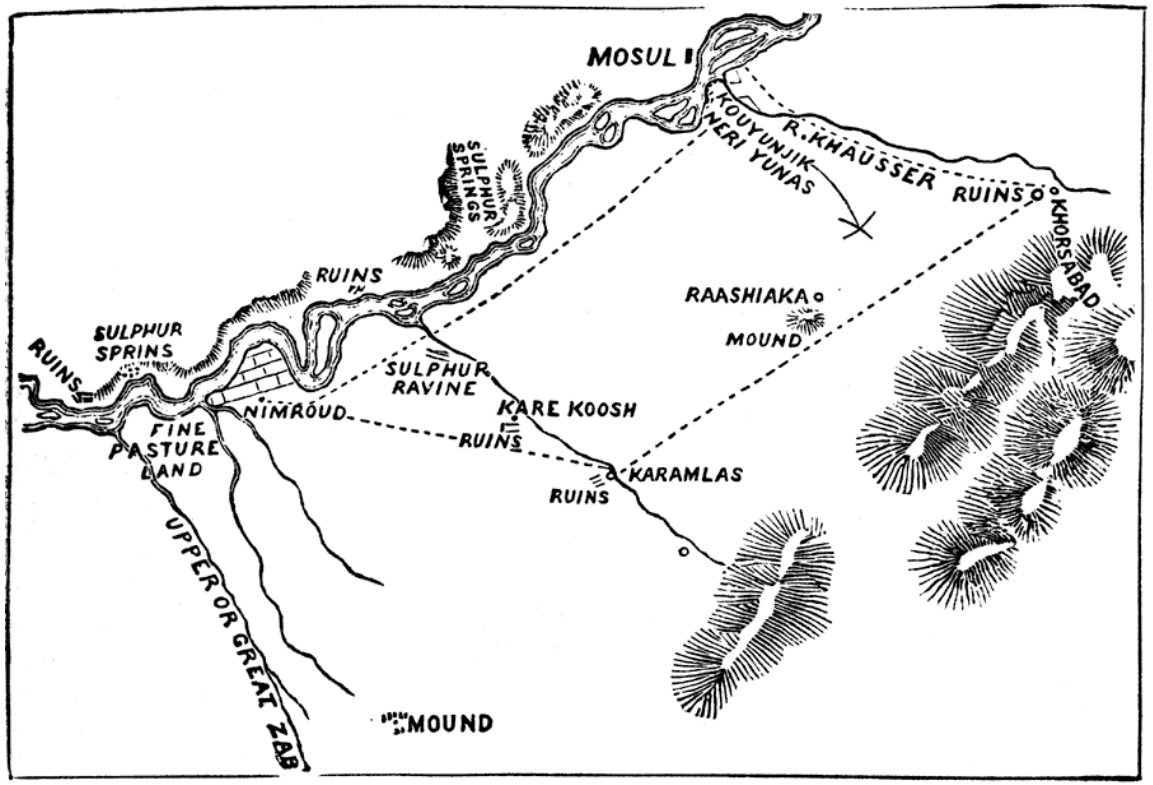
Jonah 3:3

'Jonah arose and went' Walked – Rom.10:15

'an exceeding great city of 3 days journey'



British Museum



'the city was shaped like a parallelogram; its longer sides 36 miles in length and its shorter about 24; having therefore a circumference of about 60 miles. Its walls were 100 feet high and so broad that 3 chariots could be driven abreast on them; and they were fortified with 1500 towers, all of them 200 feet in height' (The Imperial Historical, Biographical, Geographical and Doctrinal Bible Dictionary 1888 vol 5 pg 18)

I'm Preaching Already



Jonah 3:4

Principle of God's Operation – Jer.18:7-10

'began' Heb. 'to perforate, pierce through'

--- imagery of light with darkness – Gen 1:3-5, II Cor.4:6-7

'yet' Heb. (Ges.) – 'to repeat, to do over again, to say again & again, to witness'

'Jonah went hither and thither on the first day – through street, park, barrack, and bazaar; past temples, tombs and monuments, before rich, nobles and judges'(Pusey)

Prov.1:20-23 – 'Wisdom crieth in the streets'

'overthrown'

- same word used wrt S&G – Gen.19:24-25
- Principle – Prov.12:7, Ps.37:35-36

I Was Afraid This Would Happen

Jonah 3:5

'believed' Heb. 'trust, have faith, turn to the right hand'

Ex.9:18-21 – opportunity to all!

Jonah 4:11 – Exhort – Is.30:21

'proclaimed' Heb. 'accosting a person met'

→ sense of urgency, no other option, everyone must do it

'fast' Heb.rt. 'to cover the mouth' → refrain from indulgence

Ezra 8:21 – Purpose of fasting

Joel 1:14 – mgn. 'day of restraint'

2:12-17 – Where is their God?



I Was Afraid This Would Happen

Jonah 3:6

‘came’ Heb. ‘caused to reach, touch, lay hand upon the shoulder’

‘the king of Nineveh’

‘The Assyrian monarch was a thorough eastern despot, unchecked by popular opinion, and having complete power over the lives and property of his subjects. He was rather adored as a god than feared as a man.’
(Nineveh & Babylon, A.H. Layard pg 632)

Exhort – The Power of Example – Influencing Upwards

I Cor. 12:21-22 – ‘members which seem to be more feeble are necessary’
Prov.22:29 – A man diligent man will stand before kings.
I Tim.4:12 – Be an example of the believers.
Neh.1:11-2:6 – ‘So it pleased the king to send me’
I Sam.25:14-42 – ‘blessed be thy advice…’ - Abigail
Prov.25:15 – With forbearance a ruler may be persuaded
Ecc.10:1-4 – dead flies cause the ointment to stink



I Was Afraid This Would Happen



Jonah 3:7

‘let neither man nor beast’

WHY THE BEASTS TOO?

- Consciousness that God cares for them – God’s care of his creatures is grounds for man’s trust in him – Ps.36:6-7, 50:10
- The Lord teaches that God’s care of the sparrows is a ‘pledge’ to man of God’s minute unceasing care for him, so the Ninevites felt truly that the cry of the poor brutes would be heard by God.
- The cry of the beasts would indirectly plead the cause of the Ninevites

Hos.4:1-3, Joel 1:18-20, Job 38:41, Ps.104:21

The irrational creature is made subject to vanity on account of man’s sin – Rom.8:19-22

An Appeal for Grace

Jonah 3:8-9

‘cry mightily’ Heb. ‘to address by name, call by name’

Exhort – Is.55:6-7 – ‘Call upon him while he is near…’

‘turn every one from his evil way’

Exhort – Behavioral Reformation – Ezek.33:11-19

‘who can tell if God will turn and repent?...’

- God desires the wicked to live – Ezek.18:21-23, 27-28
- Expression of hope – Joel 2:12-14 – opp. rx of Israel – Jer.18:7-12
- They don’t appeal their case – they pray for grace – Lu.15:18-32

An Appeal for Grace

WHAT WAS NINEVEH?
They ate they drank; they bought, they sold; they planted, they builded; they gave themselves up to perjuries, lies, drunkenness, enormities, corruptions.
This was Nineveh.

LOOK AT NINEVEH NOW!
They mourn, they grieve, are saddened, in sackcloth and ashes, in fasting and prayers.

WHERE IS THAT NINEVEH…….

IT IS OVERTHROWN!!!!!

An Appeal for Grace

‘They know not the issue, yet they neglect not repentance. They are unacquainted with the method of the loving-kindness of God, and they are changed amid uncertainty. They had no other Ninevites to look to, who had repented and been saved. They had not read the Prophets nor heard the Patriarchs, nor benefited by counsel, nor partaken of instruction ……. great then was the virtue of these men and women, but much greater the loving-kindness of God’

Divine Repentance

Jonah 3:10

'God saw their works'

Prov.16:3 – Thoughts established by works!
Is.55:7 – Connection between thoughts and works!

'God repented'

Mic.7:18 – 'delighteth in merc

Heb. 'sigh, breathe strongly in a favourable way' – Jer.18:7-8, 26:2-3

> This was no real change in God; rather the object of His threatening was, that He might not do what He threatened. … men threaten punishment and inflict it. Not so God; but contrariwise He both predicts and delays, and so terrifies with words, and leaves nothing undone, that He may not bring what He threatens. ----- Job 33:27-30

FISH N SHIPS

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JONAH

SESSION #5

JONAH

How Does Your Story End

Jonah 4

‘I do well to be angry’



I am Angry

Jonah 4:1

‘it displeased Jonah’

|

2 Heb. wds.

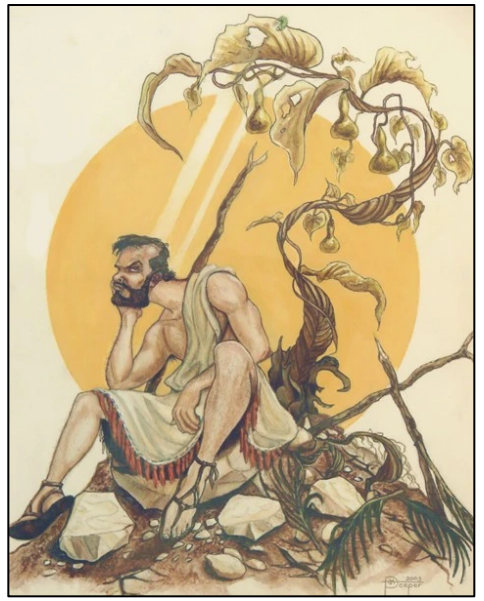
- 413 – ‘motion or turning of the body or mind, turning in thought’
- 7489 – ‘to be evil, an evil disposition’ – Num.11:1, Deut.15:9, Prov.24:17-18

‘he was very angry’

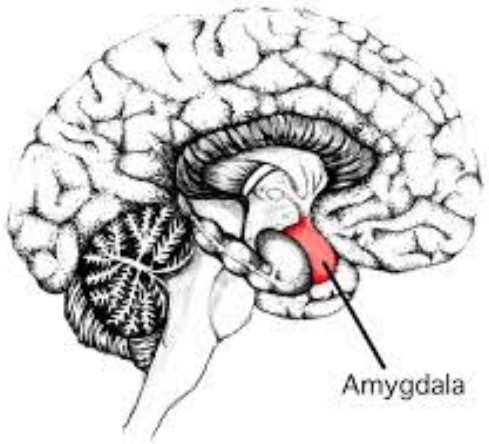
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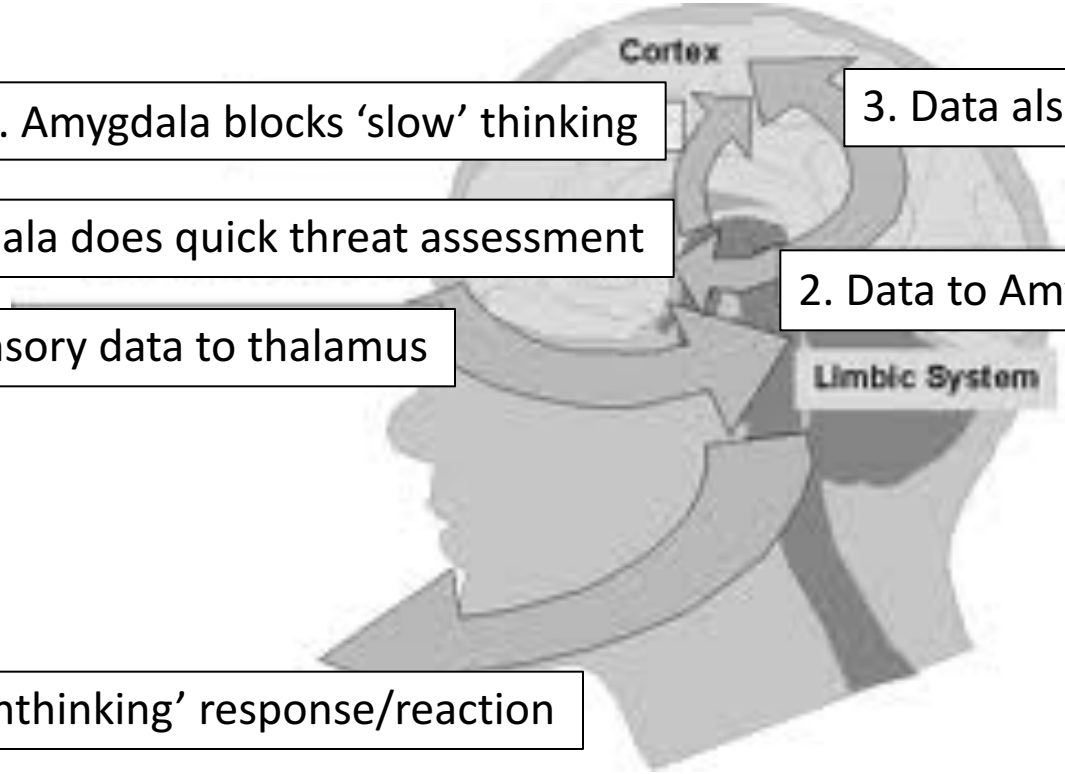
Lit. ‘hot’

Heb. ‘to glow or grow warm’ --- furious, enraged



ANGER PHYSIOLOGY





5. Amygdala blocks ‘slow’ thinking

3. Data also to cortex

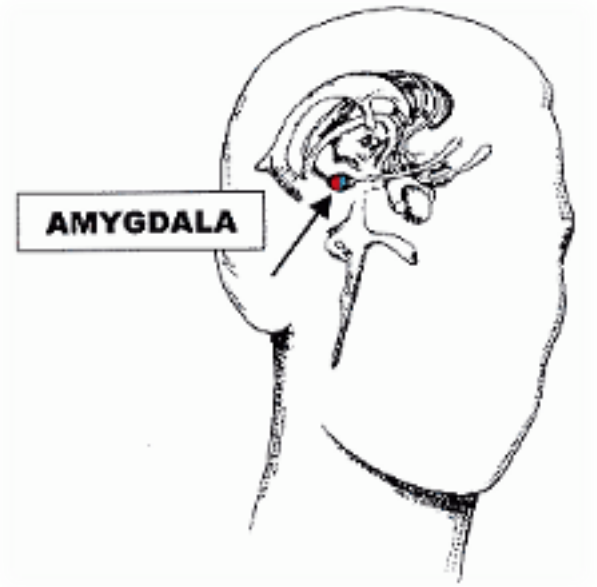
4. Amygdala does quick threat assessment

2. Data to Amygdala

1. Sensory data to thalamus

6. ‘Unthinking’ response/reaction

The Amygdala



- Radar – constantly firing
- Scanning for threats
- Can't stop it from firing
- Responsible for 'fight' or 'flight'
- Triggers appropriate survival behaviour
- Responds in .85 milliseconds
- Fires 100x faster than ability to think

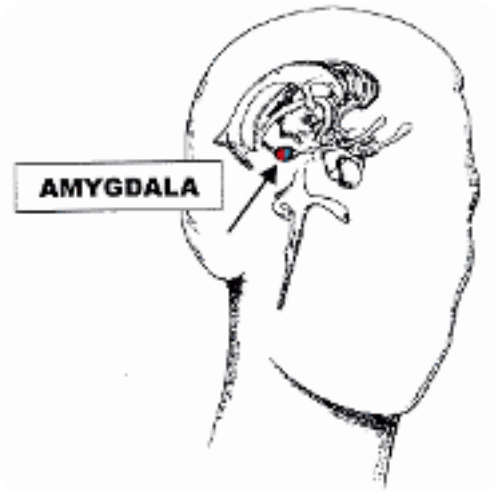
Effects on the Body

- Monitors threats ---- releases adrenalin
- Pupils dilate (gathering info) ------ laser focus
- Releases cortisol – creates stressful state
  - fight, flight, freeze
- Sweaty palms, facial redness, veins stick out

Effects on the Thinking Mind

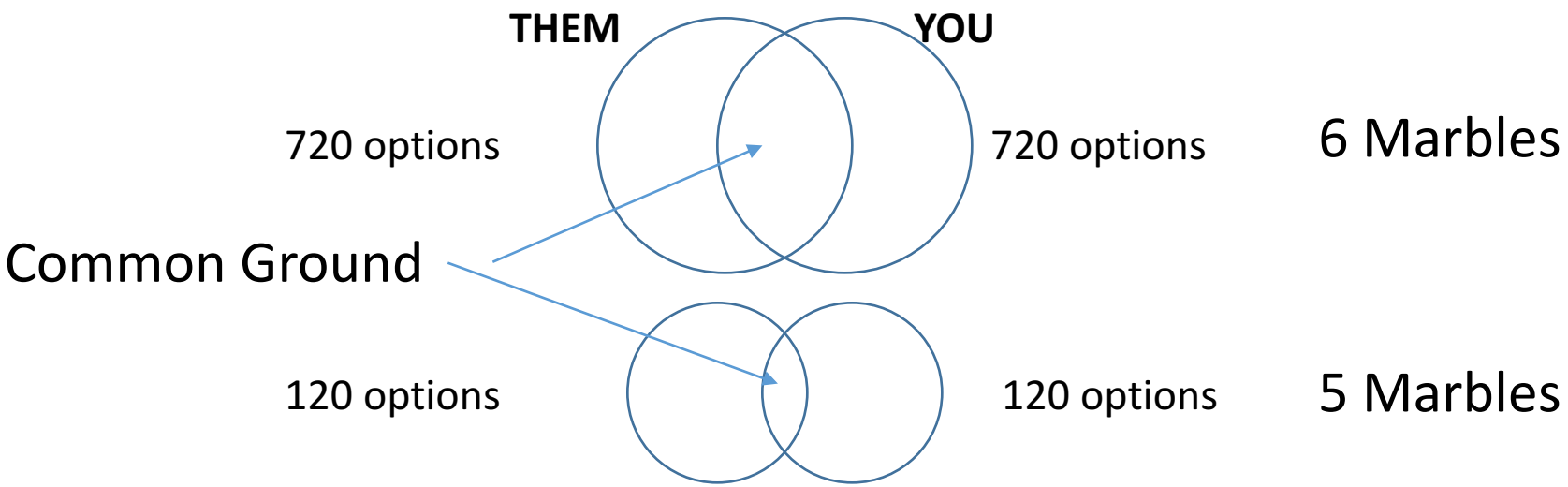
- Can't distinguish between perception and reality
- Overpowers/hijacks rational thinking
- Lose logic
- Lose perspective

The Amygdala

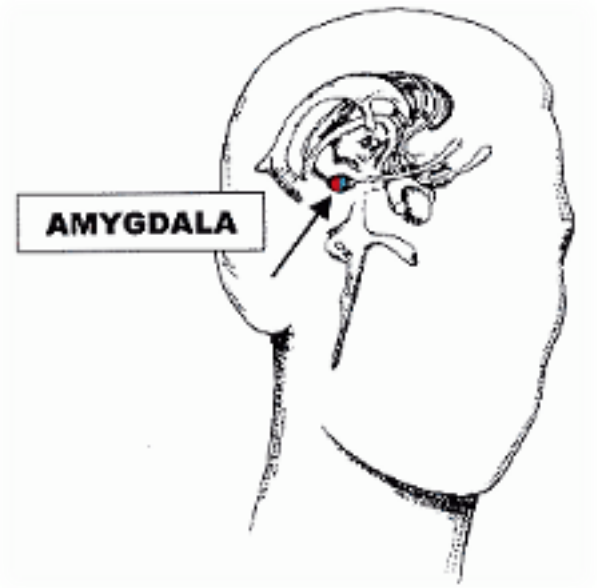


Effects on the Thinking Mind

- Can't distinguish between perception and reality
- Overpowers/hijacks rational thinking
- Lose logic
- Lose perspective



The Amygdala



How to Get Back Rational Self

1. Take deep breaths
   - 1st shallow & hold
   - 2nd mid & hold
   - 3rd deep & hold
2. Count backwards from 97 by 3
3. Tap into Gratitude
   - anchor yourself with something for which you are grateful
   - appreciation for others despite circumstances
   - pushes out cortisol & washes with feel good hormones

My Thoughts are not Your Thoughts …

Jonah's Viewpoint

- Preservation of Assyria = Israel's captivity
- Salvation is of the Jews
- If Nineveh destroyed prolongs time for reform
- Willing to be accursed for sake of his brethren – Rom.9:3
- Didn't comprehend Gospel to be preached to Gentiles

Divine Purpose

- No repecter of persons – Acts 10:28,34-35
- He is not a Jew which is one outwardly – Rom.2:28-29
- Jonah type of Messiah – Gospel to the Gentiles – Is.49:6
- Israel needed to be disciplined and humbled
- Nineveh not saved for own glory but according to God's purpose

I am Angry



Jonah 4:2

‘and he prayed…’

- Blinded by his own anger
- Self-justification and questioning
- Underlying assumption was that he was still right
- Does not acknowledge God’s thoughts higher than ours

Jonah’s fatal flaw – Rom 10:1-3
Jonah’s mindset – like the lawyer – Lu.10:29

Exhort – He still prays…God does not reject him…makes Jonah teach himself!

ANGER

Needs to be Managed

Prov.14:17 – 'He that is soon angry will deal foolishly'
Prov. 14:29 – He that is slow to anger is of great understanding, but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly'
Prov.15:18 – 'A wrathful man stirreth up contention: he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.'
Prov.16:32 – 'He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty'
Prov.22:24 – 'Make no friendship with a man given to anger; with a wrathful man thou shalt not go.'
Ecc.7:9 – 'Be not hasty to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools'
Ja.1:19 – 'Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.'

… to be Constructive!!

‘WRATHFUL MAN’

‘Soon Angry’

STIMULUS ➡ RESPONSE



PAUL
JONAH



MANAGING ANGER

Slow to Wrath

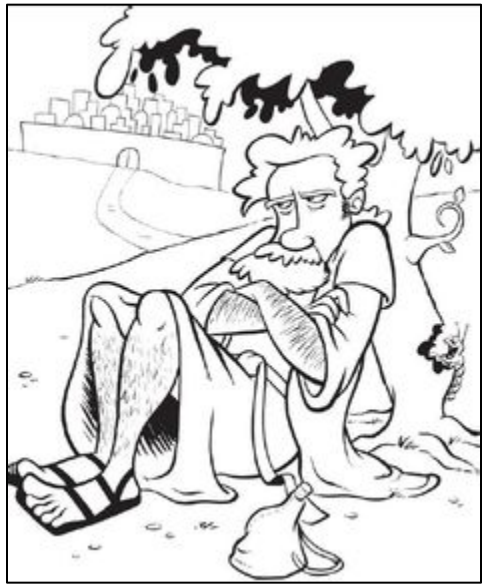
STIMULUS → **PAUSE** → **RESPONSE**

Freedom to Choose



Nehemiah - Jonathan

Doest Thou Well to be Angry?



Jonah 4:3-4

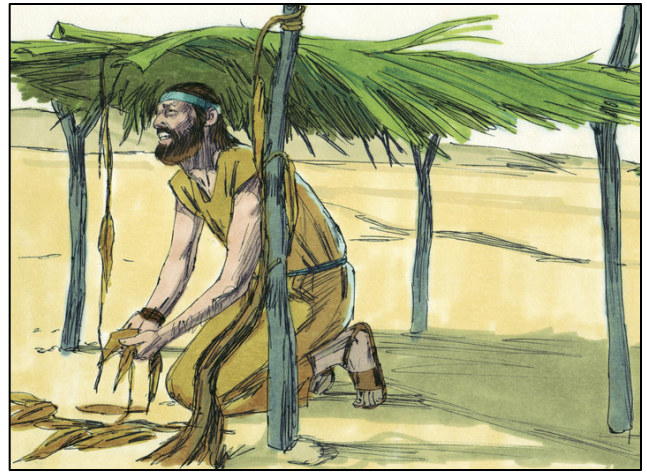
‘Doest thou well to be angry?’

Exhort

Mt.20:15 – ‘…is thine evil because I am good?’
Ps.106:32-33 – ‘provoked his spirit, so he spake unadvisedly with his lips’
Ja.1:19-20 – ‘wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God’

- God forces Jonah to look inward, be introspective
- God appeals to Jonah and his conscience
- God now has a lesson prepared for him

Let's See What Happens



Jonah 4:5

'sat on the east side'

|

Heb. 'to sit down as a judge' - as Abraham Gen.19:27-28

'booth' – Heb. 5521 – same wd. Lev.23:39-44

Is. 1:8 – 'cottage'

Rep. Israel Under the Law

Jonah 4:6

'prepared' - also v.7,8

- Heb. 'a fixed weight, a measured amount'



Second Preparation - The Gourd

Jonah 4:6

‘gourd’ mgn. ‘palmcrist’ – ‘castor bean palm’

A Vine – ‘a name given to a family of trailing vine-like creepers which quickly grow over temporary arbours. It forms a shade impenetrable to the sun’s rays even at noonday providing pleasant leafy shade. When injured or cut, it withers away with great rapidity.’ (The Land and the Book (1894) – Thomson – pg 69-70)





Second Preparation - The Gourd

Jonah 4:6

'gourd' (cont.)

Represents Israel

- Is.5:1-7 – 'the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel'
- Jer.2:20-21 – 'I planted thee a noble vine'
- Ezek.17:1-10 – 'spreading vine…utterly wither when east wind toucheth it'
- Hos.10:1 – 'Israel is an empty vine'

  Also Is.34:4, Ezek.15:1-8, Hos.14:4-9, Mic.4:4, Zech.3:10, I Kings 4:25

'shadow'

Heb. 'a roof which affords shade and protection; hence used for protection and defense, preserving sometimes however the image of a shadow'

→ God's 'overshadowing care' – Ps.17:8, 36:7, 91:1, Is.25:4, Num.14:9

Second Preparation - The Gourd

The Gourd and its' Shadow

The gourd speaks of the lovingkindness and watchful eye of Yahweh who had allowed Israel to prosper with its greatest period of fruitfulness and peace under Jeroboam II (II Kings 14:13-27) ie protection from the heat of the Assyrian power. As Jonah received the gourd when he did not deserve it, so wayward Israel had for many years received God's grace and protection without appreciation or thanks. The lesson Jonah and Israel, needed to understand was that just as God could allow them to prosper so he could take away that protection and destroy them with or without the help of the Ninevites. If only they could have realized that they, in themselves (not the Assyrians) were their greatest threat – similarly, we hold the key to our personal destinies in our own hands! (Clarendon)

Overriding Principle – Although forgiving, God will not clear the guilty – Ex.34:7

Third Preparation - The Worm

Jonah 4:7

‘worm’

Heb. ‘a maggot (as voracious), specifically the crimson grub, but used only in this connection wrt the color derived from it and clothes dyed therewith’

Ges. ‘a worm, specially one which springs from putrefaction’

The Effects of Sin – Deut.28:39

Ex.16:20, Is.1:18, 14:11, Job 25:6, Ps.22:6



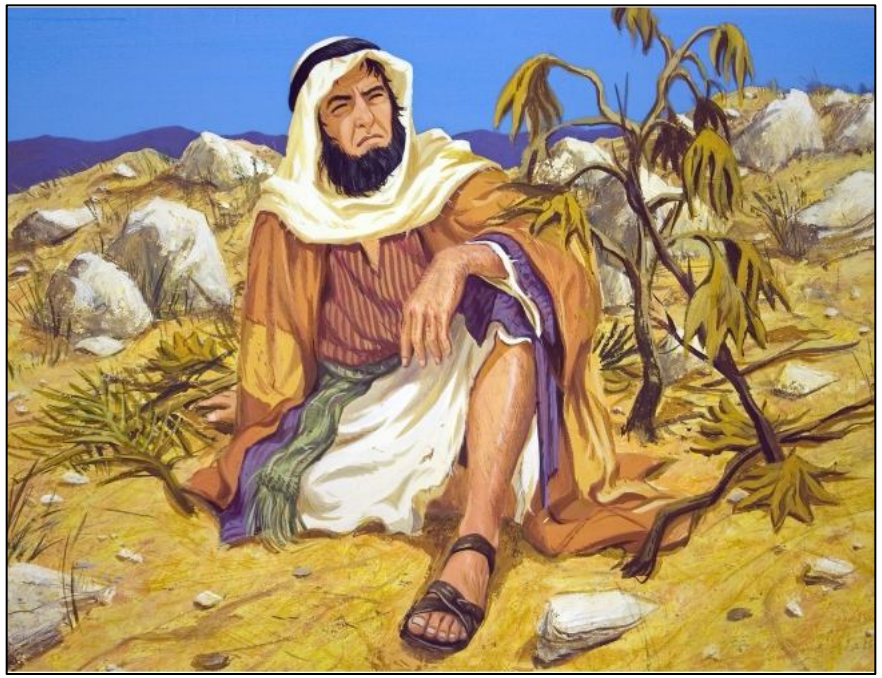
Third Preparation - The Worm

Jonah 4:7

‘withered’ Heb. ‘a primitive root – to be ashamed, confused, or disappointed also to dry up or wither’

Ges. ‘put to shame, be ashamed, made to blush’

State of Israel (spiritually) - Jer.2:26, 8:9,12



Fourth Preparation – Vehement East Wind

Jonah 4:8

‘God prepared a vehement east wind’

Represents Judgement to Come

Ezek.17:1-10 – ‘it shall wither in the furrows when the east wind touches it’
Ezek.19:12 – ‘the east wind dried up her fruit’
Ps.48:7 – ‘thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind’
Gen.41:23 – ‘seven ears blasted with the east wind’
Jer 4:7, 11-14, 18:17



Is Anger Justified?



Jonah 4:9

‘Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd?’

Exhort

Job 5:2 – ‘Wrath killeth the foolish man’

Nothing can man have so pleasing, green, and in appearance, so lasting which has not its’ own worm prepared by God, whereby in the dawn, it may be smitten and die’ (Pusey)

We each have our own gourd; and every gourd has a worm!

The withering of a gourd is a thing which in no way should we be angry at. It was a gourd, a withering thing. Our anger at it will not recover it; we ourselves shall shortly wither like it. Though our gourd may be gone, our God will always be there – His ‘shadow’ is always available.

Is Anger Justified?

Jonah 4:9

‘I do well to be angry?’

God himself rebuked him and by appealing to his conscience expected he would rebuke himself! (MH)

Passion often over-rules conscience, and forces it, when it is appealed to, to give a false judgement, as Jonah did here. Foolish indeed are those who cut their own throats with their own passions, that fret themselves into consumptions and other weaknesses, and put themselves into fevers with their own intemperate heats. (MH)

Accepting and Elevating our Thinking

Jonah 4:10-11

‘thou has had pity on the gourd, for which thou hast not laboured’

Mark 4:26-29 – God is secretly working to bring about salvation!

… for Israel and mankind, including Nineveh!

Sad and monitory is that narrative; but be it remembered that **he** writes it. And mark **how**. He conceals nothing, extenuates nothing; says the bitter worst about himself. There is no effort at explanation, no colour of apology, no relieving light, If his conduct **should** be a warning, **let** it be a warning. It is not difficult to" speak truth "to and about others. It is agreeable even to some. But to "speak truth" about **one's self** - there is the difficulty. Truth about one's wrongdoing, one's wrong spirit. The black truth, without any attempt at apology or explanation. Few can do it. Jonah did it. How men hide themselves from themselves! How they tone down their evil deeds! Their sin is not as other men's. Not so with Jonah.

He was one soon angry, and who could be **very** angry. Not a pleasant man to live with.

" Here, through all time, he is seen as the great **missionary**-prophet, and as, of all the prophets, the great Christ-type. On earth he had much to learn - much concerning his own folly, impatience, sin; much of God's wisdom, forbearance, perfection.

His intense uncharitable patriotism made him long for the destruction of Nineveh, his country's enemy. Patriotism that binds us to our birthland, the scenes of memory, and of our nation's history, is well But it is sadly, terribly **ill** when a man thinks that he can only truly love his own country by longing for the humiliation and harm of all others. God is the God of **all** the nations; the gospel is for "every creature" - is to be passed on by us to those as yet unblessed by us. The story of Jonah warns us against the narrowing influence of professional and national feeling.

What's the End of the Story?

'A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth' Ecc.7:1

'The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot' Prov.10:7

'A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold' Prov.22:1

'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and **their works do follow them**.' Rev.14:13



What is Our Story

We are left with Jonah as angry, stubborn and proud.

If your story ended today, what 3 words would people use to describe you? More importantly, what 3 words would you use to describe yourself?