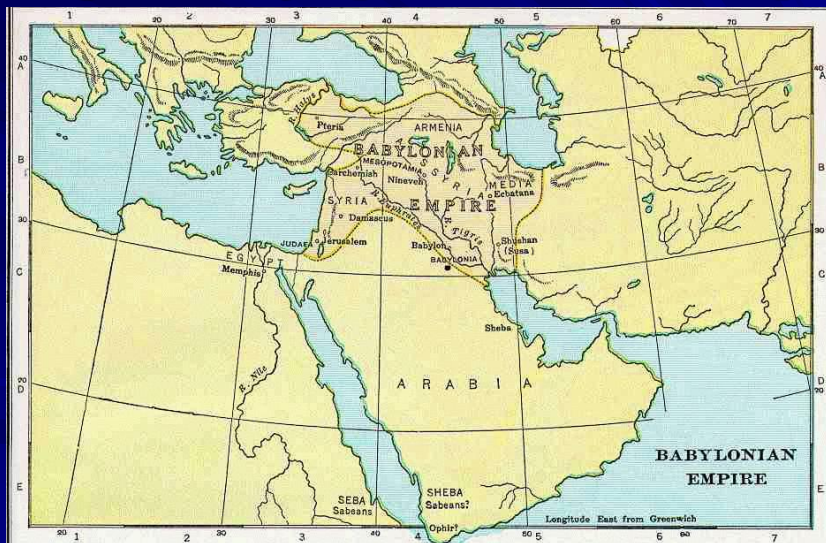


Major Issues in the Minor Prophets

2) “The goodness and severity of God”

“Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city” [the second time]



Why did the Ninevites repent?

1) Jonah's message

- "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4) – probably an inspired epitome of the message.
- The word "overthrown" is used of the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah in Genesis 19: "The LORD ... overthrew those cities" (verses 21,25,29).
- Note Jesus' comment: "The men of Nineveh ... repented *at the preaching* of Jonah" (Luke 11:32).

Why did the Ninevites repent?

2) The sign of Jonah

- Jesus said: "Jonah was a *sign* unto the Ninevites" (Luke 11:30).
- They must have come to know of Jonah's experience. Perhaps also his three days in the fish left him with a bleached appearance.

Why did the Ninevites repent?

3) Trouble in Assyria

- The history of the period suggests that Jonah's mission happened when the Ninevites were more likely than usual to take his message seriously.

Assyria and Israel

ASSYRIA (BC)

SHALMANESER III (858-824)

|

SAMSI-ADAD V (823-811)

|

ADAD-NIRARI III (811-782)
[own rule from 805 BC]

|

SHALMANESER IV (782-773)

|

ASHUR DAN III (773-755)
[eclipse - 15th June 763]

|

ASHUR-NIRARI V (755-745)

|

TIGLATH-PILESER III (744-727)

ISRAEL (BC)

JEHU (c.842-815)

|

JEHOAHAZ (c.814-798)

|

JOASH (c.801-786)

|

JEROBOAM II (c.793-753)

|

[Jonah's mission to Nineveh
c.760]

|

ZACHARIAH (c.753-752)

The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III



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The Gourd

- Jonah 4:6 – “A GOURD”
 - The word comes from the LXX translation of the Hebrew (*qiyqayown*). AVm. indicates “palmcrist” (or RVm. “Palma Christi”) – the castor-oil plant. Its leaves resemble the shape of a hand. 4:10 – Its growth was miraculously accelerated.



The Worm and the East Wind

- Jonah 4:7 – “A WORM” – Singular noun used elsewhere to refer to worms collectively – see Deut. 28:39; Isa. 14:11. Probably a swarm of caterpillars stripped the plant of its leaves.
- Jonah 4:8 (RV) – “A SULTRY EAST WIND” – Not a refreshing wind, but a suffocating sirocco – a hot, dusty wind of the desert.