



A Jesus University Study
Sundays @9:45am
(except on 1st Sundays)

GRACE



About the Class

Study: Book of Jonah

Duration: 6 Sessions (*no class August 7th*)

Curriculum: The Bible (*NASB*)

Study progression method: verse-by-verse

Classroom Expectations

Seek to bring value to the class through participation

“Parking lot” tangential questions/comments till end

Strive to apply lessons learned throughout the weeks

Purposely get to know someone new & pray for them



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Study Overview

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Purpose

The purpose of this study is to show the extent of God's grace – the message of salvation is for everyone.

Author (?)

Jonah, son of Amittai

Date Written

Approximately 785 – 760 B.C

Audience

God's people everywhere

Settings

Joppa, Nineveh, Belly of a large fish

Key Passage

Jonah 4:11



“Should I not also have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 people, who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left, as well as many animals?”

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A Jesus University Study
Chapter 3 – Repentance

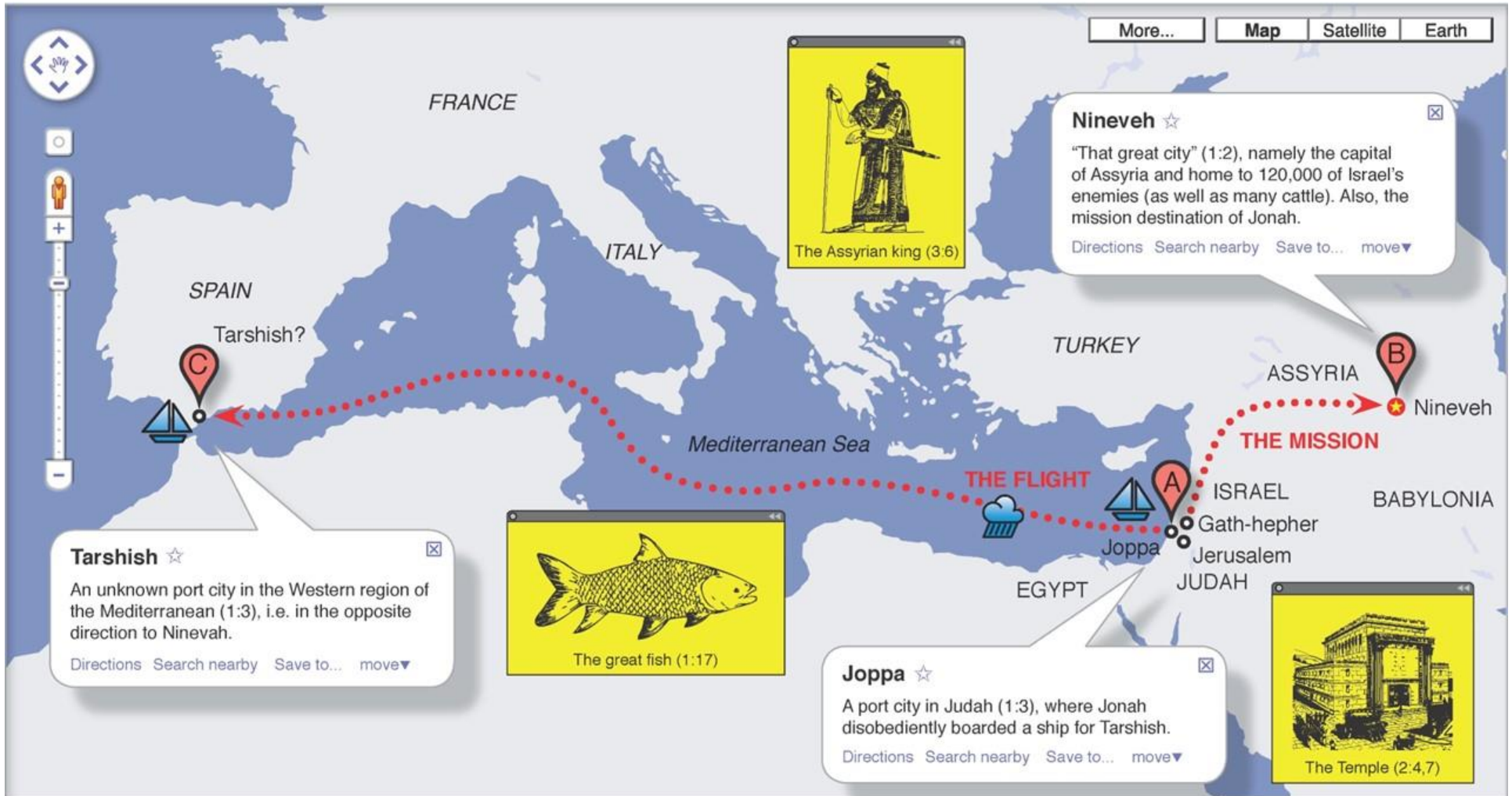
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Who was Jonah?

- Jonah was the son of Amittai
- Jonah came from a town later known as Galilee (*2 Kings 14:25*)
- Jonah was a prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II (*2 Kings 14:23-28*) 782 -753 B.C.
- Jonah was one of the few prophets to come from the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- He lived during a time of expansion of the Northern Kingdom's borders, under the reign of Jeroboam II
- When God calls him to preach to the Ninevites, he refuses, unable to see how God could have compassion for a nation that boasts of its cruelty toward others. Jonah eventually obeys.

Chapters 1 & 2 Recap

- God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach against its wickedness
- Jonah disagreed with the assignment and ran from God by boarding a boat leaving Joppa for Tarshish
- Jonah's disobedience was the cause of a great storm on the boat
- The crewmen cast lots and learned that Jonah was the cause of the storm
- Jonah confessed that he served the God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land and that he disobeyed God by fleeing to Tarshish
- The crewmen reluctantly threw Jonah overboard to calm the sea
- Jonah was swallowed up by a big fish
- Jonah prays to the Lord from the belly of the big fish
- In prayer, Jonah gives a prayer of thanksgiving to Lord
- The Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up on dry land



More... Map Satellite Earth

Nineveh ☆

"That great city" (1:2), namely the capital of Assyria and home to 120,000 of Israel's enemies (as well as many cattle). Also, the mission destination of Jonah.

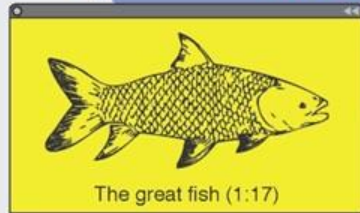
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Tarshish ☆

An unknown port city in the Western region of the Mediterranean (1:3), i.e. in the opposite direction to Ninevah.

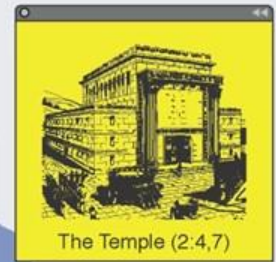
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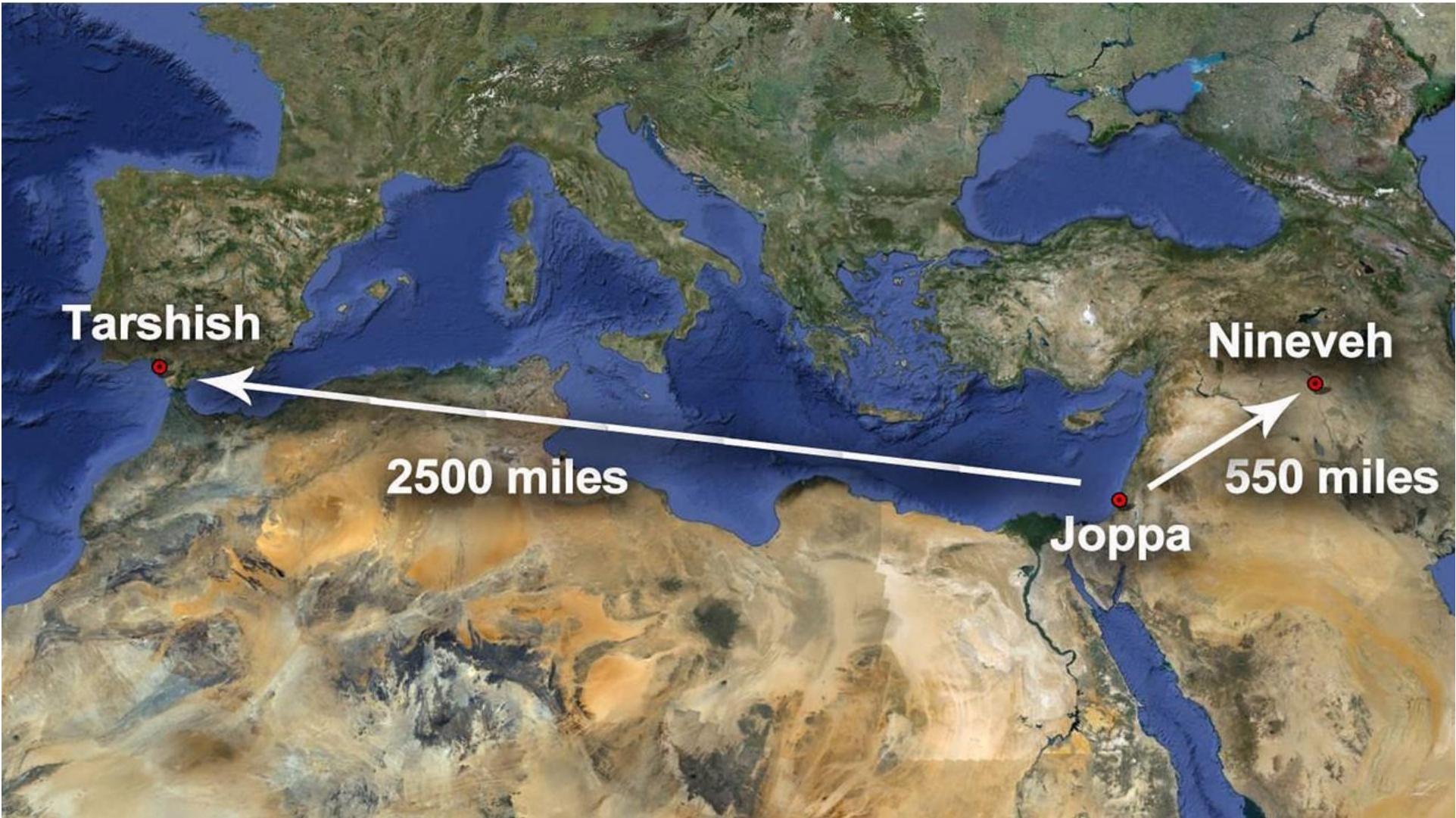


Joppa ☆

A port city in Judah (1:3), where Jonah disobediendly boarded a ship for Tarshish.

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Tarshish

Nineveh

2500 miles

550 miles

Joppa

God's Sovereignty

Although Jonah attempted to run away from God, the Lord was always in control. God powerfully displayed His control over the stormy seas, creatures of the sea, and man. Through this glorious display, God remained loving and compassionate.

What might the consequences be for saying “no” to the Lord rather than yes?

The Importance of God's Sovereignty

A large whale is swimming in a vibrant coral reef. In the background, a diver is visible, and the water is filled with various colorful corals and smaller fish. The scene is set in a clear, blue underwater environment.

Saying “no” to God’s will immediately lead us down a path of destruction though we may not realize this at the onset.

Saying “yes” brings a deeper understanding of His will and our purpose in this world. Even more, God’s purpose in this world.

God's Message is for the World

Jonah was purposed to preach to the Assyrian nation but his hatred for the Nineveh people caused him to respond to the call with anger, fear, prejudice, etc. Jonah had a huge problem with loving his neighbor.

Question: Do we struggle with loving our neighbor?

The Importance of God's Sovereignty

We can not limit our reach to our “own” people but must proclaim God's love to all. We are commissioned to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Matt 28: 16-20

....¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



Jonah 3:1-2 [Repentance]

¹Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”

Jonah 3:1-2

[Key Points]

- When we rebel against God, He still shows compassion though we have to deal with the consequences of our disobedience
- Jonah was given a second chance at “obedience.” We often disqualify ourselves when we sin thinking that God is done with us.
- Serving God is not an earned position. We are not qualified to serve him by our works
- Jonah was ordered to bring a message of doom to the greatest city in the world. We should not let social pressures or fear of people dictate how if and how we deliver God’s word.

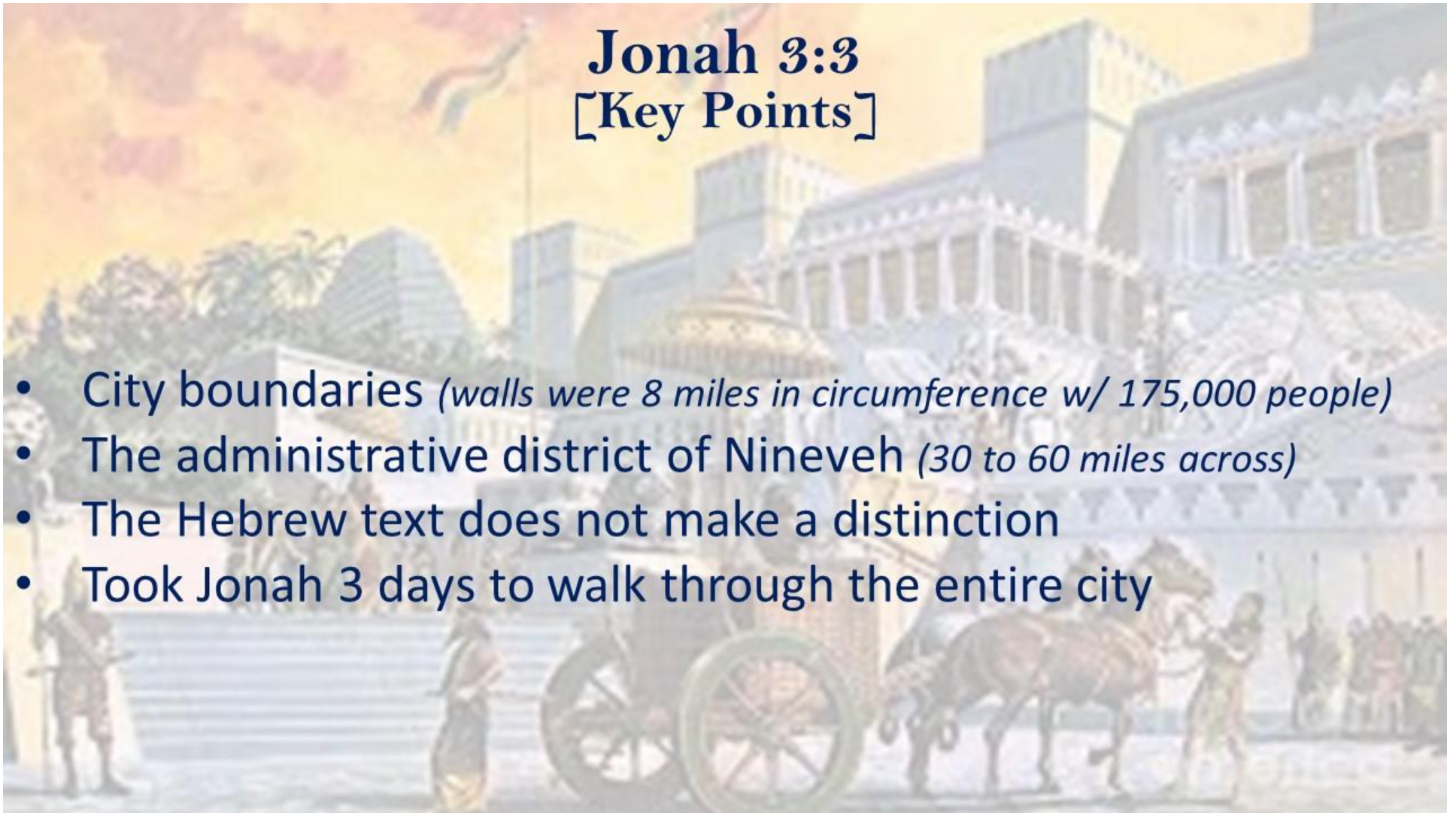


Jonah 3:3 [Repentance]

³ So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk.

Jonah 3:3 [Key Points]

- City boundaries (*walls were 8 miles in circumference w/ 175,000 people*)
- The administrative district of Nineveh (*30 to 60 miles across*)
- The Hebrew text does not make a distinction
- Took Jonah 3 days to walk through the entire city





Jonah 3:4-6 [Repentance]

⁴ Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Forty more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown."⁵ Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. ⁶ When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, removed his robe from himself, covered *himself* with sackcloth, and sat on the dust.



Jonah 3:7-8 [Repentance]

⁷ And he issued a proclamation, and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: No person, animal, herd, or flock is to taste anything. They are not to eat, or drink water. ⁸ But *every* person and animal must be covered with sackcloth; and *people* are to call on God vehemently, and they are to turn, each one from his evil way, and from the violence which is in their hands



Jonah 3:9
[Repentance]

⁹ Who knows, God may turn and relent, and turn from His burning anger so that we will not perish



Jonah 3:4-9

[Key Points]

- God's message is for EVERYONE!
- Despite their wickedness, the Ninevites were open to God's message and repented immediately
- If we testify of the greatest of God, we will be amazed of how many people will hear and respond to it.

A painting depicting a city in ruins, likely Nineveh, with people in mourning. The scene is filled with people in long, flowing robes, some kneeling in prayer or grief. The architecture is classical, with domes and arches. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

Jonah 3:10

[Key Points]

¹⁰When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their evil way, then God relented of the disaster which He had declared He would bring on them. So, He did not do *it*.

Jonah 3:10

[Key Points]

- Nineveh heard God's word and repented
- God's word can change the hearts of the evilest people
- Nineveh's repentance contrast with Israel's stubbornness
- Israel heard many messages from the prophets but refused to repent
- God responded in mercy by canceling his threat to punish Nineveh
- Repentance is for everyone Jeremiah 18:7-8
- God forgave Nineveh as He had forgiven Jonah
- God's judgment is one correction, not revenge

2 Scenes, 2 Chances

In chapters 1 & 2, Jonah is given a command by the Lord, and he fails to carry it out because of his own disobedience. In chapters 3 & 4, Jonah is given a second chance to carry out the command of the Lord and is successful. Let's look at the parallel between Chapters 1 & 3.

SCENE 1 Jonah, the pagans, and the city		SCENE 2 Jonah, the pagans, and the city	
JONAH AND GOD'S WORD			
1:1	God's Word comes to Jonah	3:1	God's Word comes to Jonah
1:2	The message to be conveyed	3:2	The message to be conveyed
1:3	The response of Jonah	3:3	The response of Jonah
JONAH AND GOD'S WORLD			
1:4	The word of warning	3:4	The word of warning
1:5	The response of the pagans	3:5	The response of the pagans
1:6	The response of the pagan leader	3:6	The response of the pagan leader
1:7	How the pagans' response was ultimately better than Jonah's	3:7	How the pagans' response was ultimately better than Jonah's

SCENE 1 Jonah, the pagans, and the city		SCENE 2 Jonah, the pagans, and the city
JONAH AND GOD'S WORD		
1:1	God's Word comes to Jonah	The Lord spoke directly to Prophet Jonah
1:2	The message to be conveyed	Nineveh needs to repent from their wickedness
1:3	The response of Jonah	Jonah attempted to run and avoid God's command
JONAH AND GOD'S WORLD		
1:4	The word of warning	God sent a great storm that nearly broke up the boat
1:5	The response of the pagans	Called on their Gods for help to no avail
1:6	The response of the pagan leader	Desperately ask Jonah to call on his God to show mercy
1:7	How the pagans' response was ultimately better than Jonah's	Cast lots to determine who caused the evil to come upon them

SCENE 1 Jonah, the pagans, and the city		SCENE 2 Jonah, the pagans, and the city
JONAH AND GOD'S WORD		
3:1	God's Word comes to Jonah	The Lord spoke directly to Prophet Jonah
3:2	The message to be conveyed	Nineveh needs to repent from their wickedness
3:3	The response of Jonah	Jonah obeys and went unto Nineveh, the great city
JONAH AND GOD'S WORLD		
3:4	The word of warning	Jonah proclaims that Nineveh shall be overthrown in 40 days
3:5	The response of the pagans	Ninevites fasted & put on sackcloth from greatest to the least of them
3:6	The response of the pagan leader	The king of Nineveh rose from his throne, laid his robe down and covered himself with sackcloth & sat in ashes
3:7	How the pagans' response was ultimately better than Jonah's	The king decreed a fast overall of Nineveh for people and beast

SCENE 1 Jonah, the pagans, and the city		SCENE 2 Jonah, the pagans, and the city	
JONAH AND GOD'S WORD			
1:1	The Lord spoke directly to Prophet Jonah	3:1	The Lord spoke directly to Prophet Jonah
1:2	Nineveh needs to repent from their wickedness	3:2	Nineveh needs to repent from their wickedness
1:3	Jonah attempted to run and avoid God's command	3:3	Jonah obeys and went unto Nineveh, the great city
JONAH AND GOD'S WORLD			
1:4	God sent a great storm that nearly broke up the boat	3:4	Jonah proclaims that Nineveh shall be overthrown in 40 days
1:5	Called on their Gods for help to no avail	3:5	Ninevites fasted & put on sackcloth from greatest to the least of them
1:6	Desperately ask Jonah to call on his God to show mercy	3:6	The king of Nineveh rose from his throne, laid his robe down and covered himself with sackcloth & sat in ashes
1:7	Cast lots to determine who caused the evil to come upon them	3:7	The king decreed a fast overall of Nineveh for people and beast

The Sound of Repentance



When Jonah decided to obey, lives were changed! The Ninevites repented from their wicked ways and turned their hearts towards God. God will forgive, no matter the sin. Refusing to repent is the same as loving our sin?

Question: What blessings might your disobedience be blocking?

Miracles in chapters 1 - 3

- God caused a great storm [1:4]
- The lot fell on Jonah [1:7]
- The seas ceased from its raging [1:15]
- God arranged a great fish to swallow Jonah [1:17]
- God ordered the fish to spit up Jonah [2:10]
- God saw their works and the Ninevites repented [3:10]



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*No Class next week but there is
PRAYER!*

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