

What's Eating Jonah?

Lessons from Jonah

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When we think of 'Nineveh', most think of two bible events: The Assyrian captivity (with Nineveh being the capital of the Assyrian empire) and the story of Jonah. Two other prophets dealt particularly with the destruction of Nineveh and the Assyrian empire: Zephaniah and Nahum. The actual fall of Nineveh/Assyria came in 612. The story of Jonah take place earlier and shows us the longsuffering and righteousness of God in judgment! Yes, the judgment came, but God was more than patient and fair (using 'our standards of such').

What's Eating Jonah?



Whale

OR
Fish



Just this week (10/27/2017) read a 'debate' on whether it was a WHALE or FISH... yet that not anything but a small side issue in the whole story, and it was whatever God 'created' for the occasion...

NASB the Lord appointed a great fish

KJV the Lord had prepared a great fish

Tyndale translation:
17 Bvt ye lorde
prepared a greate
fyshe to swallow vp
lonas.

17 Bvt ye lorde prepared a greate fyshe to swallow vp lonas.
Tyndale translation

IT (whatever) 'deposited' Jonah on the beach!



[Rosemarie Adcock - Work Zoom: The Arrival of Jonah at Nineveh](#)
[Rosemarie Adcock](#) 900 × 782 Search by image

The Arrival of Jonah at Nineveh

It is interesting that the story of Jonah and Nineveh gets told but MAINLY the story dwells on Jonah and the fish.

→ **Some have moved beyond that unto the story of Jonah and the Vine.** The NT DOES talk about the story of Jonah, but doesn't emphasize those events. First, of course it the foreshadowing of Jesus in the grave and rising again. As Jonah in the belly of the great fish..



Some – the plant that withered and angered Jonah –

Yet the whole of the story is one of our great stories –

The NT DOES talk about the story of Jonah, but doesn't emphasize those events.

First, of course it the foreshadowing of Jesus in the grave and rising again. As Jonah in the belly of the great fish..

THEN Jesus used the story to talk about one's relationship with God and the need of repentance. Matt. 12:41 (cp also Luke 11:30-32).

→ Nineveh – that Great City

Nineveh the Great City

Jonah 1:2; 3:2, 3; 4:11

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1:2 the great city of Nineveh

3:2 go to Nineveh the great city

3:3 Nineveh was an exceedingly great city

4:11 Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who

→ **AN ANCIENT CITY**

Nineveh the *Ancient* City

Genesis 10:11

Mentioned in Gen. 10:11f – Nimrod the mighty hunter –
“... From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh...”

→ BEFORE the great empires...
and of Shinar (later Assyria / Babylon). This was in the ‘fertile crescent’ on the east
bank of the Tigris river, opposite modern Mosul.

Great Empires

Egypt

Assyria 700's

Babylon 600's

Persia / Medes 500's

Greece 300's

Rome 100's

Egypt

Assyria 700's

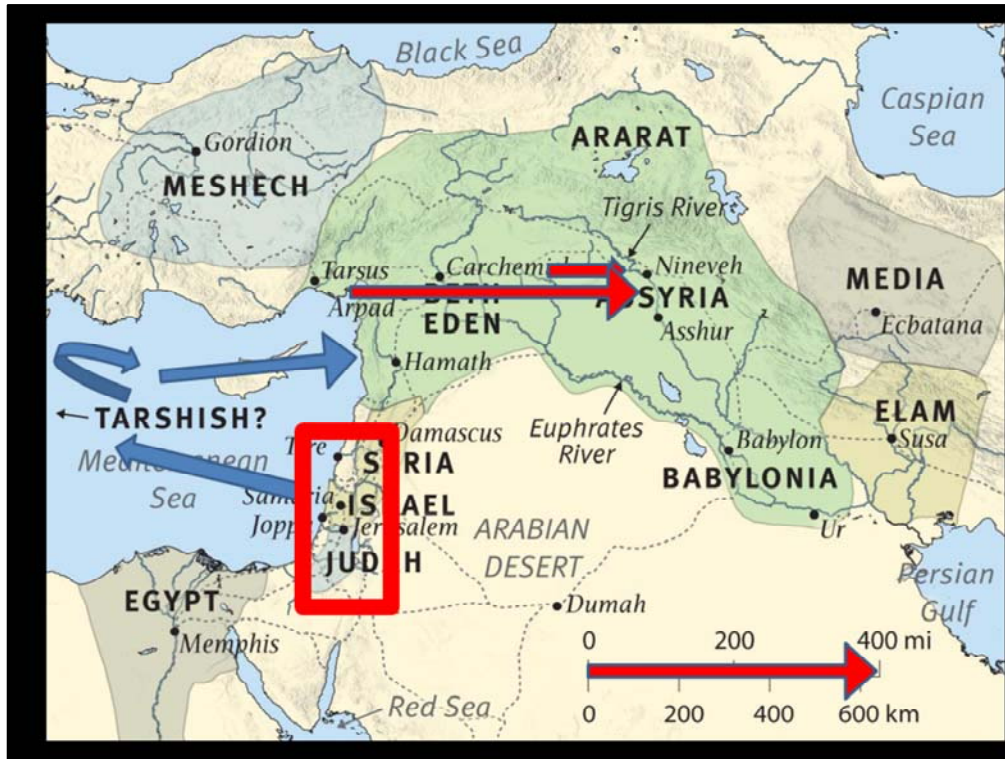
Babylon 600's

Persia / Medes 500's

Greece 300's

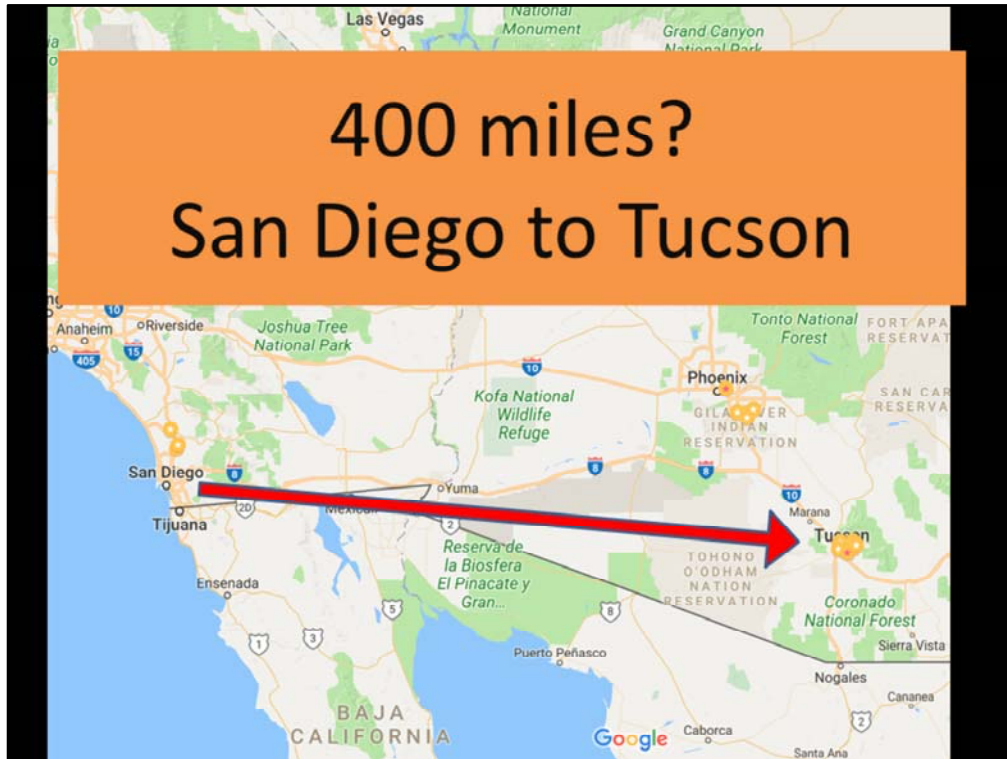
Rome 100's

and of Shinar (later Assyria / Babylon). This was in the 'fertile crescent' on the east bank of the Tigris river, opposite modern Mosul.



Nineveh – The capital of Assyria... that stretch through out Middle East Iraq, Iran, Syria, Judah, and into Egypt. And modern Turkey.

400 miles? San Diego to Tucson





Artist conception –



Gates to the city – picture from a few years ago ..

(recently destroyed by ISIS)..



Another picture of the gates...



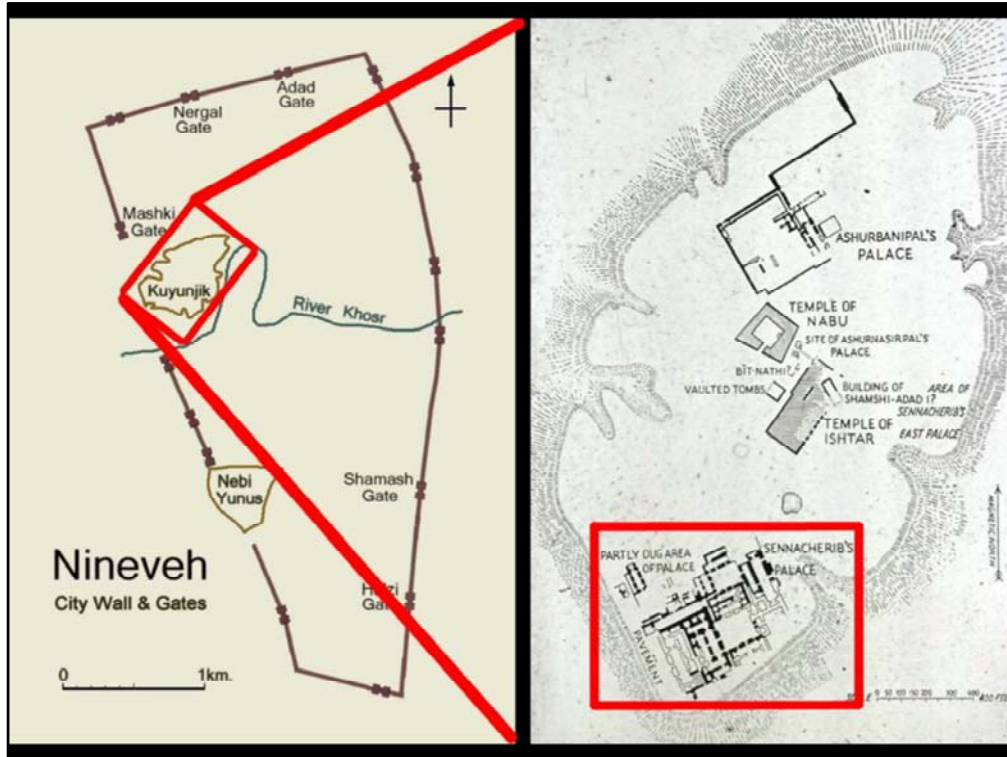
The partially reconstructed Nergal Gate in Nineveh, Iraq.



Another gate – but occupied



The outline of the city walls, which are about 13 km (8 mi) in circumference and enclose an area of about 730 ha (1800 acres), can still be traced.



Palaces of Ashurbanipal and Sennacherib



lamassu - man, Lord of Creation



lamassu - man, Lord of Creation



'thanks' to ISIS – most of ruins have been destroyed...

YET, not erase the historical record – a great city....

Great City

- Power
- Wealth
- Culture - library

Power
Wealth
Culture - library



Library

- 26,000 tablets
- Royal –
- Literary –

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Library

Royal texts – ‘presidential libraries’ – wars, victories, etc...

Literary – gives us an insight to the nature and character of the Empire... divided into 5 sections...

Library

- Literary –
– Philological



- 1) Philological (syllabaries, lexicons, grammars)
- 2) Allowed for the moderns to translate cuneiform writings! A window to the ancient world



Library

- Literary –
 - Philological
 - Juridical

2) Juridical (points of law and social practices)



Library

- Literary –
 - Philological
 - Juridical
 - Historical

3) Historical (annals of the kings!)



Library

- Literary –
 - Philological
 - Juridical
 - Historical
 - Religious

4) Religious
Epic of Gilgal and other flood stories...



Library

- Literary –
 - Philological
 - Juridical
 - Historical
 - Religious
 - Scientific

5) Scientific (500 tablets dealing with medicine – diseases described and prescriptions recorded, including some 500 different drugs to be used, ALONG WITH texts on botany, geology, chemistry, mathematics, astronomy...)

Nineveh
Great in
WICKEDNESS

Jonah 1:2

Great in wickedness -

Jonah 1:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Nineveh and God

• *God over ALL people*

God is God over ALL peoples.

While Israel was in a special covenant relationship, the rest of humanity was NOT exempt for God and righteousness.

We have no record of any revelation, but we HAVE revelation concerning what God would condemn among the non-Jewish nations.

Amos –

Daniel – ‘weighed in the balance and found wanting’

Great oracles against the nations by the prophets –

Paul address in Romans 1 – the sins of the gentiles!

We do not have a list of specifics for Nineveh, but we have God’s statement that they were WICKED.

Nineveh and God

- God over ALL people
- ***God KNOWS – 1:2***

God KNOWS –

Jonah 1:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Nineveh and God

- God over ALL people
- God KNOWS – 1:2
- *God CARES – 4:1*

God CARES – Jonah 4:1

As with Sodom – if find 5

God had mercy upon them – caring even for the animals –

Nineveh and God

- God over ALL people
- God KNOWS – 1:2
- **God CARES – 4:1**
- ***God GAVE TIME to REPENT***

God GAVE TIME FOR REPENTANCE –

Jonah – sent

Later the other two prophets.

Jonah succeeded – prolonging the city, but eventually it was judged and destroyed –

Their Response

- Jonah 3
 - 7 mourn / fast / call on God
 - 8 – turn from his wicked way and from the violence...

Our Foundation:

Jesus said:

"The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because **they repented at the preaching of Jonah**; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. Matt. 12:41

It was THIS that the Lord called repentance! Matthew 12:41 "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

God's Response

- God Spared them !

Jonah's Reasoning:

I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

Jonah's reasoning (4:2)

Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

God's Response

- God Spared them !
- LATER – Destroyed!

application?

- God is still GOD !
- Nations are still judged

application?

- We MUST
 - be lights in the world..
 - call to repentance -

Acts 17:30

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,

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2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

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Acts 2:38

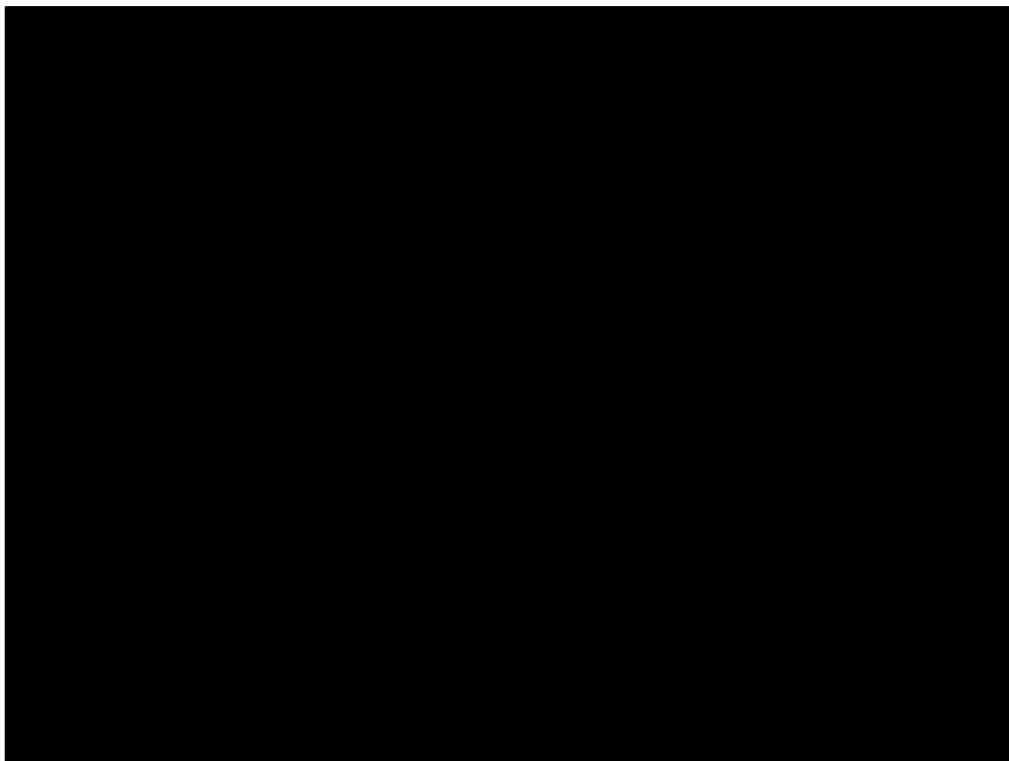
"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

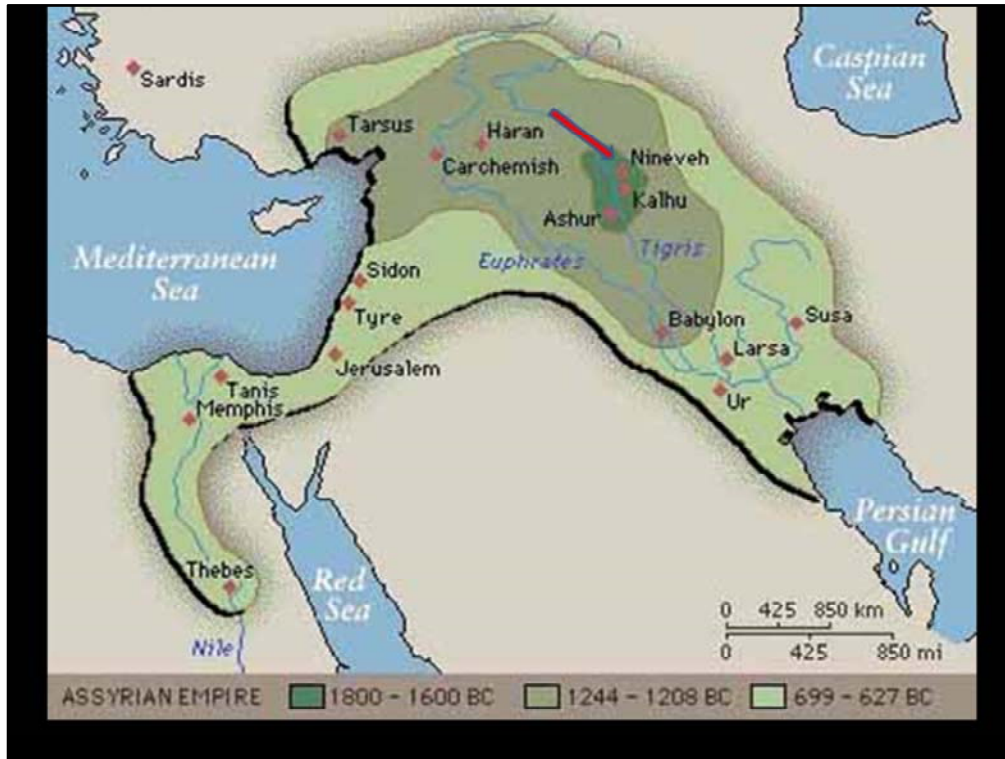
Acts 2:36-39 ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."





Assyrian empire – from Thebes on the Nile, to Turkey and all the way to the Persian gulf...

Ancient Walls -