

Jonah

66 Books in 52 Weeks

(A Book-by-Book Overview of the Bible)

Summary & Structure

JONAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

32

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

4

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

The book contains the story of Jonah and the great fish. God calls Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh, who were known for their cruelty and misdeeds. Jonah attempts to flee and hide, but ultimately God's will prevails.



WRITTEN
772-754 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED

At this time Israel was a political power, having spread and grown quite prosperous. Much of this was the result of having an evil king corrupting the people.



AUTHOR
Jonah the Prophet

Key Verse

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:17

Background

Author:

We know little about Jonah prior to his calling to Nineveh.

During Jonah's time, Jeroboam II reigned in the northern kingdom from 793-753 BC, 30 years prior to the Assyria's invasion of Israel. (2 Kings 14:25)

The Assyrians were notoriously cruel in their methods of warfare.

Historical Setting:

Jeroboam II was one of the strongest military leaders in Israel's history. He expanded Israel's borders and ushered in a period of great peace and prosperity.

Pride had now become Israel's main problem.

Issues of Credibility:

Some liberal scholars dismiss the credibility of this book because it contains accounts of supernatural events.

Jewish tradition regards Jonah's narrative as history.

Jesus upheld the book's credibility when He referred to Jonah as a

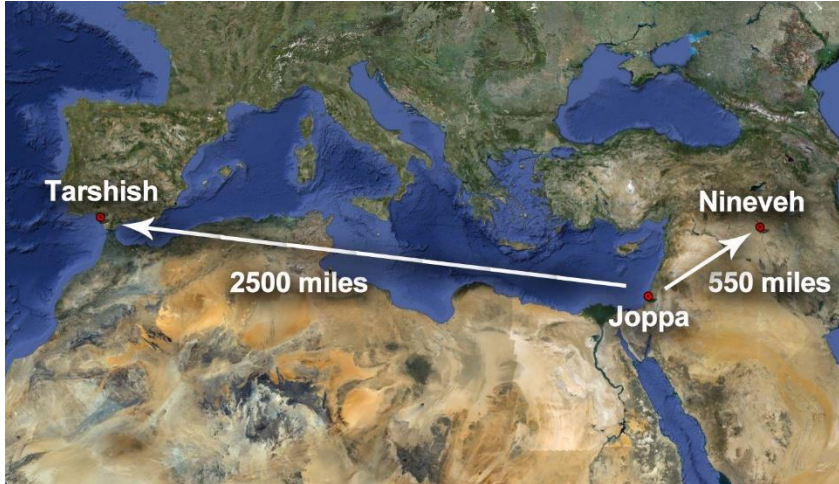
foreshadowing of His death and resurrection. (Matthew 12:39-41; Luke 11:29-32)

Style and Structure:

This book is a narrative account of a single prophetic mission.

Outline of Jonah

Running _____ God (Chapter 1)



Running _____ God (Chapter 2)

Running _____ God (Chapter 3)

Running _____ God (Chapter 4)

Lessons/Applications

- God's _____ extends farther than we often understand.
- There is a difference between _____ to religion and _____ to God.
- There is a difference between an _____ experience and a _____ change.
- We decide how the _____ ends.