

- The primary subject of this book is NOT what Jonah was *really* like, but rather what God is *really* like
- Too much attention paid to the person of Jonah, rather than on the character and purpose of God
- Most biblical narrative is indirect as to its meaning and application, rather than bold and explicit as we'd prefer
- Ancient and modern Hebrews have differing views about the ultimate point being made in the Book of Jonah

WHO WAS JONAH?



- Jonah “son of Amittai”
- “Son of Amittai” is NOT a last name
- Jonah is mentioned in 2Kings 14
- Jonah lived and prophesied between 793 and 753 BC
- He was from the tribe of Zevulun, the Kingdom of Ephraim/Israel, and a Prophet to King Jeroboam II

WHO WROTE JONAH?



- Jonah was written by an anonymous person that scholars call “The Narrator”, some years after Jonah lived
- When was it written? Book of Tobit (3rd cent. BC) and the Book of Ben Sira (2nd cent. BC) both mention Jonah; so it was in the Hebrew Bible before then

WHY IS JONAH AMONG THE MINOR PROPHETS



- Why was Jonah not placed among The Writings since this is essentially a story?
- Some Jewish scholars think Jonah ought to be considered a parable; others a midrash of another book of prophecy
- There is a clear relationship between Jonah and the Book of Exodus

REPENTANCE GOES BEYOND A CHANGE OF MIND



- The Church has de-coupled behavior from salvation
- Repentance has no meaning or effect if it does not include a change of behavior
- Matthew 7:15 – 22
- If we don't bear good fruit, we are either a liar or self-deceived
- Good fruit = good works

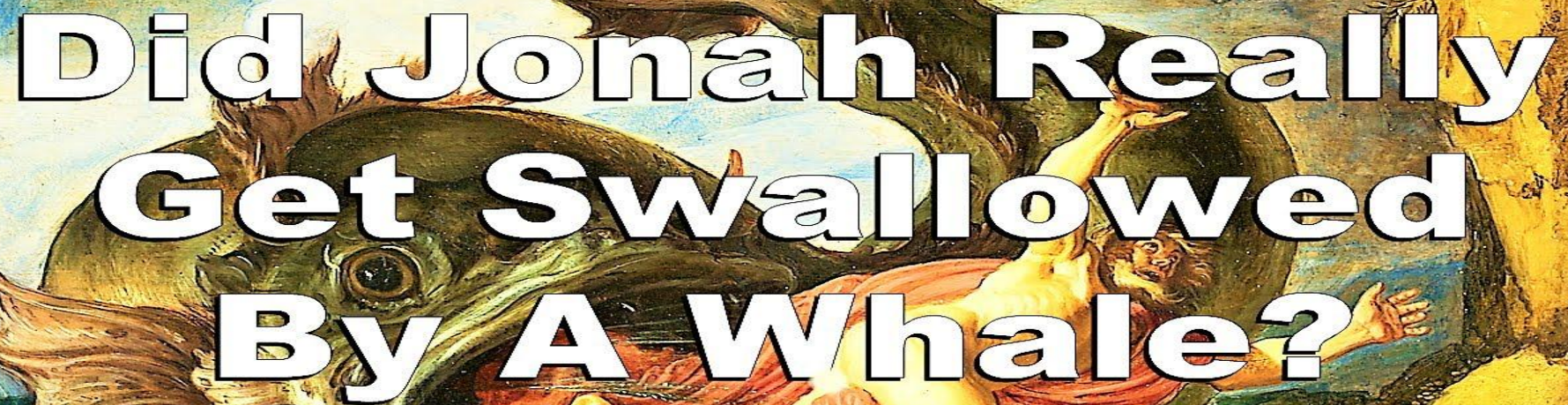


GOOD FRUIT, BAD FRUIT

MATTHEW 7:15 - 20

- A tree that bears bad fruit (or no fruit) is cut down
- A good tree is purposed by God for ONE thing!
To bear good fruit!
- James 2:14 – 22
- Book of James removed, added back, removed,
added back...due to being judged as too Jewish
and too works oriented

Did Jonah Really Get Swallowed By A Whale?



- Real or fictional, the moral point is true and valid
- Humans more identify with the real and actual than with what is only theoretical or an ideal
- Theoretical: What we OUGHT to think and do
- Historical: What we MUST think and do
- Matthew 12:36 – 41
- Yeshua validated Jonah, so there's no point to debate it

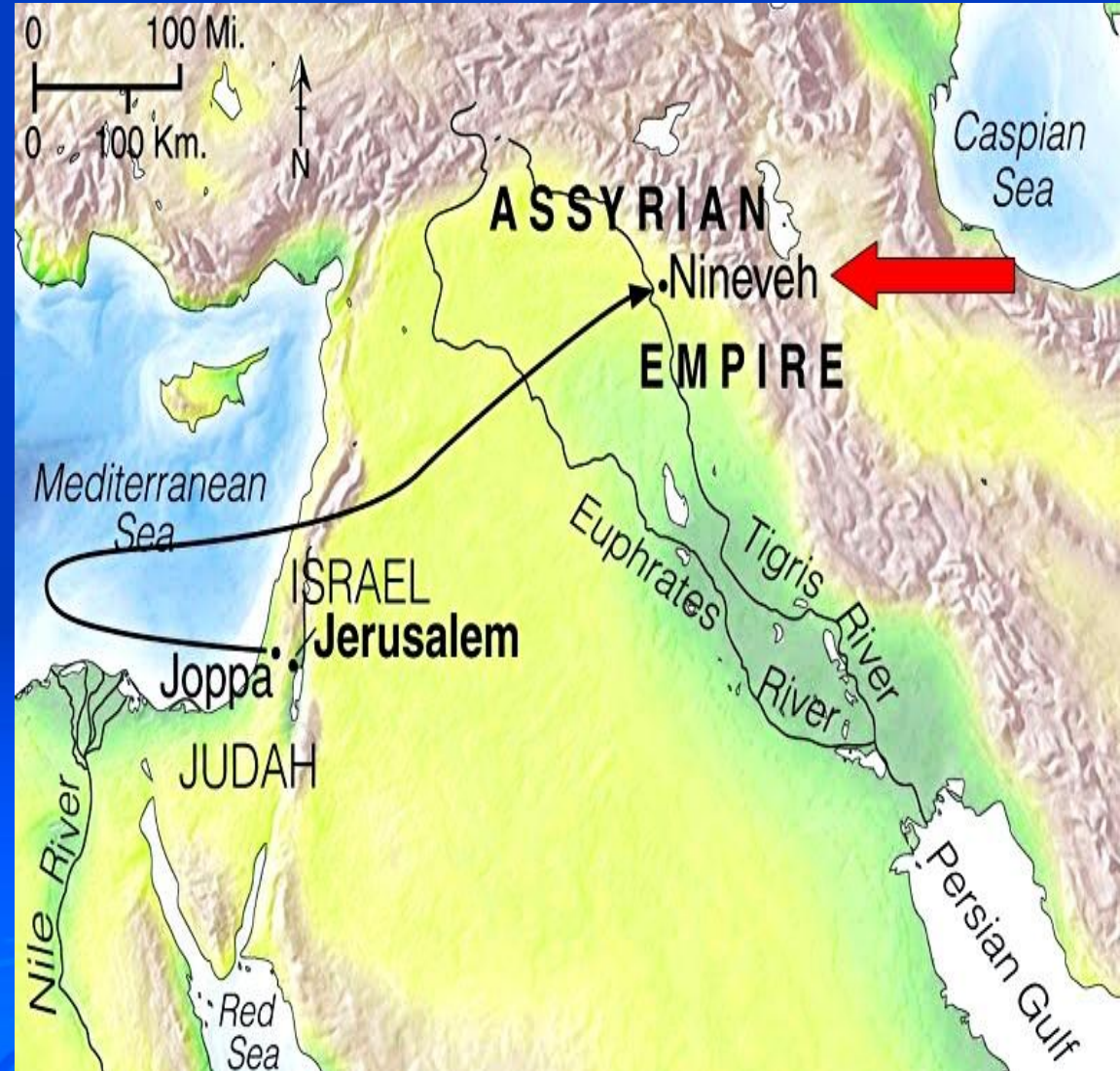
The God of Miracles



- Scientism and a demand for complete rationality for biblical truth eliminates the possibility of miracles
- If Bible miracles aren't real and truth, neither is our faith
- 1Corinthians 15:13 – 18
- Yeshua's resurrection was a miracle, just as Jonah living in the belly of a whale was a miracle

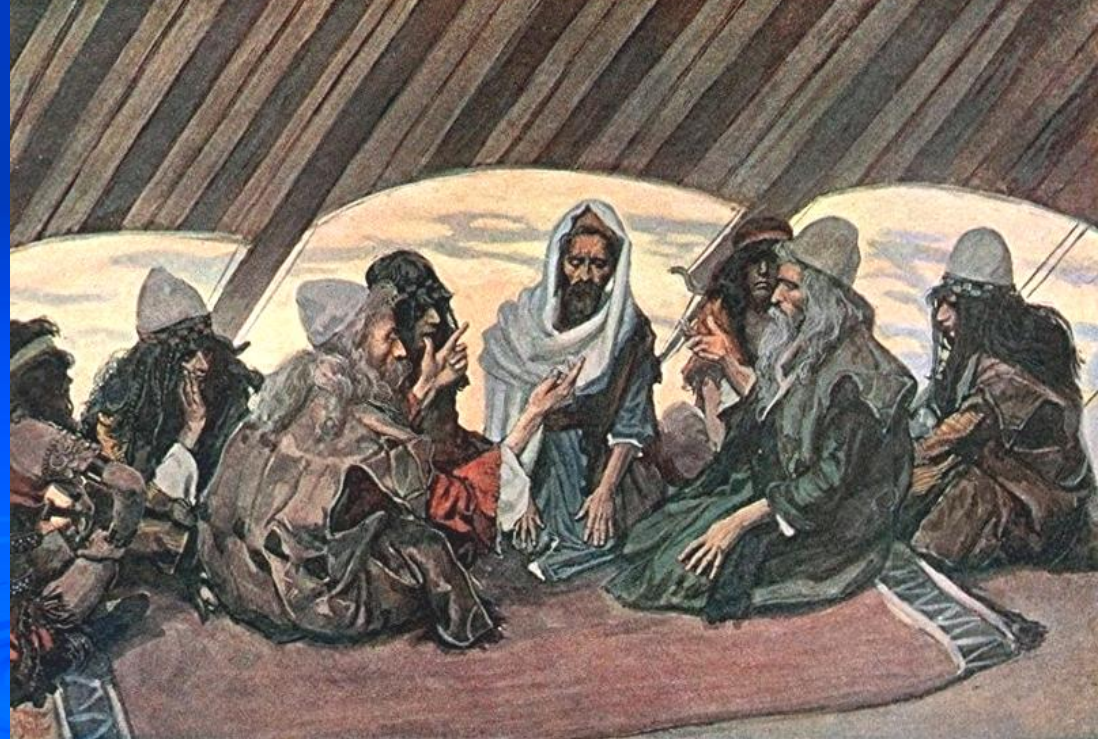
ASSYRIA WAS DESPISED

- Ephraim/Israel was prosperous and admired
- Assyria was struggling and despised, and no threat to Israel
- Nineveh an important city of over 100,000
- Nineveh was representative of all Assyria



TRANSMITTING INFORMATION

- Jonah's story could have come from him, or from the sailors, or from investigation by the writer
- Similar to how the Gospels were written
- Oral Tradition was protected and handed down by the Elders



Jonah: Angry with God



- Jonah 4:1 – 2 Jonah admits his bad behavior
- The world was divided into Hebrews and everyone else
- The nations were divided into Israel and everyone else
- Jonah thought God should ONLY care about Israel, and only show mercy to Israel...he was wrong!