

# Jonah & Discovery Bible Study

# Biblegateway & Scrible

Jonah 1 :: New International Version (NIV)



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## Jonah Flees From the LORD

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup> "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

<sup>3</sup> But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup> All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup> The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."

<sup>7</sup> Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup> So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

<sup>9</sup> He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

<sup>10</sup> This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was

# Google Doc (Text from Biblegateway)

## Jonah Chapter 1

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3 But **Jonah** ran away from the Lord and headed for **Tarshish**. He went down to **Joppa**, where he found a ship bound for that **port**. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for **Tarshish** to flee from the Lord.

4 Then **the Lord sent a great wind on the sea**, and such a **violent storm** arose that the **ship threatened to break up**. 5 All the **sailors** were **afraid** and each **cried out to his own god**. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

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# Google Doc & Pearl Word Search

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## Repeated Themes

1. **God's Initiation**
2. **Human Characters**
3. **Geographical Locations**
4. **Wickedness/ Sin**
5. **Emotions**
6. Questions
7. Prayer
8. **Threatening Situations**
9. **Death**
10. **Compassion/Love/Grace**

# 4 Locations Mentioned in Jonah



# Nineveh & Tarshish

- Nineveh was rediscovered by Austen Henry in the 1800s
- The exact location of Tarshish is still unclear

# Jonah in the OT



## 2 Kings 14:25 (The only other OT reference to Jonah)

**14:25** [King Jeroboam II] was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, *in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher.*

# Neo-Assyrian Period

883-612 BC

# Jeroboam II: 789–748

<u>Ashurnasirpal II</u>	883 - 859	
<u>Shalmaneser III</u>	858 - 824	
<u>Shamshi-Adad V</u>	823 - 811	
<u>Adad-nirari III</u>		810 - 783
<u>Shalmaneser IV</u>	783 - 773	}
<u>Ashur-dan III</u>		
<u>Ashur-Nirari V</u>		754 - 745
Tiglath-Pileser III	744	- 727
<u>Shalmaneser V</u>	726 - <b>722</b>	}
Sargon II		
Sennacherib		704 - 681

Nineveh was one of the great cities of the East

Period of King Jeroboam II (King in Israel)

Moved capital back to Nineveh

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<u>Shalmaneser IV</u>	783 - 773
<u>Ashur-dan III</u>	772 - 755
<u>Ashur-Nirari V</u>	754 - 745
Tiglath-Pileser III	744 - 727
<u>Shalmaneser V</u>	726 - <b>722</b>
Sargon II	721 - 705
Sennacherib	704 - 681

Nineveh was one of the great cities of the East

Period of King Jeroboam II (King in Israel)

Jonah lived either *before* or *during* the reign of King Jeroboam II



The Assyrian Empire was rising during Jonah's day.

- Assyrian Empire - 824 B.C.
- Assyrian Empire - 671 B.C.

# Sennacherib Impaled Jewish Prisoners



This took place after Jonah's lifetime.

# Assyrians Brutalized People

They cut off hands, noses, ears, and heads.

They sometimes skinned people alive and stretched out their skins on city walls.

Perhaps this helps us understand Jonah more and causes us to be in greater awe of God's compassion and grace toward the Ninevites.

# Jonah in the NT



# Matthew 12:38-41

**38** Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” **39** He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except ***the sign of the prophet Jonah***. **40** For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **41** The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.

# Jonah and Early Christians

“The image of Jonah and the fish was used by . . . early Christian groups as a symbol of Christ and his resurrection, based on a reference by Jesus to Jonah in a passage in the gospel of Matthew (12:39-40). The Jonah ‘sign’ became the quintessential expression of Christian resurrection faith in later centuries with over a hundred examples of Jonah images in the Christian catacombs at Rome.”

[Link](#)



[Image Link](#)

Jonah's fish from the catacombs.

# Jonah Today

# Jonah Today: His Tomb in Mosul Iraq



[Full news story](#)

July, 2014

<http://d3dyqb2m69ozbp.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Prophet-Younus-Grave-Destroyed.jpg>

# Jonah Today

Jonah's Tomb

[CNN News Video: July 25, 2014](#)

Iraqi Christians Flee Mosul

[ZAK News](#)

# Destruction of Jonah's Tomb



# Protesters Flogged



In an interview with IraqiNews.com [one person said] that “after the crime of exploding the shrine of Prophet Yunus ISIL’s popularity has fallen dramatically and a big demonstration formed after Friday prayers criticizing this action, but the gangs ISIL arrested its leadership and flogged everyone of them a hundred lashes.”

[Weblink to image and text](#)

# Explanation: What did God want to teach Jonah?

What was the *author* and *audience* struggling with?

What was it like to live in their world?

Why did Jonah not want to go to Nineveh?

Why was Jonah mad that God showed compassion to the Ninevites?



## Application: What does God want to teach Iraqi Christians?

How does God want (Iraqi) Christians to treat members of ISIS?

## Application: What does God want to teach me?

Who are my enemies?

How does God want me to treat them?

# More on Jonah

Learn the Discovery Bible Study Method at:

Do a Google search for  
**The EdAble Bible Project**

<https://sites.google.com/site/edablebible/>

# The EdAble Bible Project

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## Jonah

### *Investigation Stage: What does the text of Jonah say?*

[How to Find and Mark Important Repeated Words, Ideas and Themes in Jonah](#)

[How to Find and Decide on the Key Verse for Jonah](#)

[How to Find the Structure of Jonah](#)

### *Explanation Stage: What did the text of Jonah mean to the first readers?*

[How to Find and Explain Why Jonah Ran Away from God](#)

[How to Find and Explain the Location and Destination of Tarshish in Jonah](#)

[How to Find and Explain the Theme of Questioning in Jonah](#)

[How to Find and Explain the Theme of Prayer in Jonah](#)

# HOW TO FIND & MARK IMPORTANT REPEATED WORDS, IDEAS AND THEMES IN JONAH

Why do I need to do this?

How do I do this?



0:01 / 1:44

CC

