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Jonah and Nahum

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INTRODUCTION TO JONAH AND NAHUM

JONAH

DATE

- This takes place during the divided kingdom. Israel had been divided for about 200 years. The events of Jonah happen in the early 7th century BC.
- 2 Kings 14:23-27 mentions “Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet.” The passage begins “In the fifteenth year of Amaziah...” This date puts the events in about 781 BC. Whether the events of Jonah occurred before or after those of 2 Kings 14 isn’t known.
- The actual writing of the book of Jonah is likely around the same time. The prophet himself is the most likely source of the information, though inspiration allows that the book could have been penned by another. The actual writing and the events do not have to coincide, but it is likely that they do.
- All of this information puts the writing of Jonah in the early 7th century.

BACKGROUND AND MESSAGE

The book of Jonah, and the story within of the giant fish who swallowed him is perhaps one of the best known stories of the Old Testament. To skeptics, it is cause for ridicule towards Bible believers. To believers, it is sometimes nothing more than a children’s story, a cautionary tale about the necessity of obedience towards God. Neither of these treatments gives this inspired writing its due. It is a book well worth our time and contemplation.

When we have an exegetical mindset, we are seeking to see each book as it was given before we attempt to fit it into the whole of scripture.

Remember that the Bible is not truly one book, but a library of carefully cultivated books. While the whole library has one purpose (and indeed one author), each book is best understood individually before it is fitted into the whole. When it is treated thus, its contribution to the library becomes more clear and profound, and the library itself becomes fuller in meaning and richness.

Concerning Jonah, this means that, while the history and background of the Assyrians gives us great insight into the likely inner workings of Jonah as a man, that history is not necessarily part of the story— at least not as God, thru the inspired writer, told it. Within the book, we are given no window into

why Jonah wished calamity on the Ninevites. He was given a job to do by God, and he fled rather than fulfill it. Given a second chance, he fulfilled his mission, but failed to adopt the heart of God in the process. More than many books of the Old Testament, this is a book about the deep compassion of God, and His desire for us to emulate it, no matter what. We see a God who is infinitely powerful, and yet rules the world with mercy and justice. If we focus excessively on the historical background, we risk missing God's point in the writing.

That said, one of the goals of exegesis is to understand a Bible book as its original readers would have done. The Assyrian people and their ways were no doubt well-known to those first readers.

One does not have to dig very deeply into Assyrian history before their renowned brutality comes up. They were a truly violent, cruel people who seem to have relished the pain of those crushed under their might. Their own artwork and writings testify to the practices which earned this reputation. Written annals and reliefs carved into giant stone slabs, bronze bands at gates, and many other places tell of the horrors inflicted on the subjugated. Men were flayed alive. People were impaled and left for the birds to devour. Soldiers' heads are displayed in piles. The king tells proudly of burning prisoners, including children. While some scholars argue that the Assyrians' brutality was comparable to that of other ancient conquerors, such a comparison would not comfort anyone caught on the wrong side of their might.

The original readers would have been familiar with the tactics and violence of the Assyrians. They would have understood Jonah's desire to flee and his hatred for the Ninevites. Like Jonah, they may well have wished calamity on the Ninevites as well. And they would likely have been astounded at God's ready—even eager—forgiveness. While astonishment is a valid response to our merciful God, it is not sufficient. As we see God admonishing Jonah, we see that He expects us to adopt His ways. While the Ninevites used their power and might to rule harshly, God uses His power and might to teach of His love, and encourage us to follow His example.

WHO

Recipients

Jonah doesn't tell us who it is written to. Jonah himself was from the ten Northern tribes.

Who: the major players

Jonah

- Son of Amittai— we know nothing about Amittai.
- According to 2 Kings 14:25, Jonah was a prophet from Gath-hepher.
- Within the book of Jonah, we can see that Jonah knows God, and not just in a passing sense. He knows God’s character and how God will react in various circumstances, yet Jonah seems to think he will be able to flee from the presence of God (1:3,9). His understanding of God was evidently incomplete in some ways.
- Jonah shows himself to be entirely lacking compassion for the Ninevites. He calls out to the people about their impending doom, but when they heed his call and repent, though Jonah knows how God will react, he hopes for disaster anyway. In this we again see Jonah’s incomplete understanding of God. Jonah fails to recognize God’s desire for His followers to imitate Him.

God

- God shows Himself to be exactly who Jonah said He was: “gracious, compassionate... slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity” (4:2)
- We see God as one who is definitively in control of all things, and yet chooses to allow mankind to make his own decisions.

Sailors

- Pagans with compassion for Jonah. They urge him to beg his god to be concerned for them. When they discover that Jonah is the reason for the storm, he tells them to throw him into the sea, but they instead row desperately, trying to return to land. Eventually, they decide throwing Jonah into the sea is the only solution. They pray to God and ask him not to hold them guilty. When they do so, and the sea stops raging, they fear the Lord, offer a sacrifice, and make vows.

Ninevites

- At the preaching of Jonah, they repent of their ways
- The king himself calls for a fast to be undertaken by men and animals alike. He urges them to call on God earnestly so that they may repent from their wicked ways and violence.
- History tells us this king is Shalmanezar IV
 - Secular history does not have much to say about Shalmanezar IV.

- In a nation known for conquering (and most of whose records come from those exploits), Shalmanezar IV stands out for his lack of conquest.

Nature

- The main character, so to speak, of the book of Jonah is undoubtedly God. We learn about God's power and might as He shows Himself to be in control of all aspects of nature: seas and winds, animals and plants. Notably, God *does not* control mankind. Given that He controls all else, it is evident that He *could*, so one must conclude that He chooses not to do so. Clearly, the obedience God seeks— from Jonah, the Ninevites, and us as well— is voluntary, not forced.
- **Seas**— God shows Himself to be in control of even the seas when He “hurled a great wind” (1:4) and when the sea stopped its raging (1:15). See Matthew 8:27
- **Great fish**
 - God appoints a great fish to swallow Jonah. The word for “appoint” means to divide out, allot, assign, prepare, make ready (Gesenius). This is the same word used in regard to the plant, worm and wind.
 - This portion of the story has caused some to reject the entire book of Jonah, relegating it to the realm of fantasy. Bible-believers have sometimes tried to reclaim Jonah from this realm by seeking extra-biblical evidence that such a happening is possible and has happened to others. This approach is unnecessary.

“Since the Christian accepts the inspiration of the Bible, he responds to doubters by presenting two truths. (a) Nothing is impossible for God (Mt. 19:26); if God wanted to prepare a fish to swallow a man and chose to keep the man alive for three days inside that fish, then God could do so... (b) Jesus spoke of Jonah's experience in the belly of the fish as an actual occurrence (Mr 12:40)... If Jesus believed the story, His followers must also believe it” (Roper 42).
- **plant**— God appointed a plant to shade Jonah and to save him from his discomfort (4:6).
- **worm**— God appointed a worm to attack the plant, causing it to wither (4:7)
- **wind**— God appointed a “scorching east wind” (4:8)

HOW

How is the book laid out? (Outline)

How is the story told? (What are the keywords of Jonah?)

Looking for repeated words helps us to notice patterns we might not otherwise notice. It also helps us pay attention to what is truly emphasized in the text rather than simply what jumps out at us. While this method is not entirely objective, it is more so than many methods.

Marking these repeated words as well as repeated phrases and significant grammatical structures (bible marking) turns your Bible into a personalized study Bible. It helps you notice what God put there to be noticed. It is a highlighting (literally) of what the writing itself highlights. Bible marking enables you to quickly be reminded of what you have studied whenever you come back to a book, whether for another deep study, or for a quick reference.

Keywords

YHWH— LORD— 26x— note that in many Bible translations, though this name of God is translated as “Lord” it is denoted as being YHWH in the original language by small capital letters.

YONAH— Jonah— 18x— Jonah’s name means “dove.”

EL— god/ God— 17x— sometimes in this book, this word refers to idols, but most of the time, it refers to *the* God.

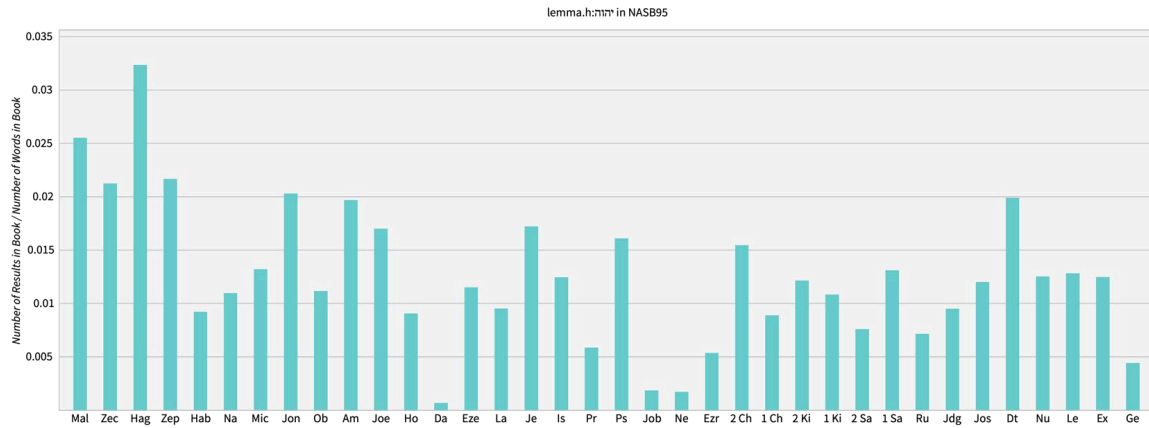
QR— cry, call, proclaim, proclamation— 9x

RAAH— wickedness, calamity, displeased, discomfort— 7x

QWM— arise, get up—6x

HRH— angry— 5x

Key verse: 4:2



God Himself is referenced around 40 times in this short, four-chapter book. Proportionally speaking, Jonah ranks fifth for occurrences of the name of God (YHWH). There is no question who the book is truly about.

NAHUM

DATE

In determining a date for the book, two events are particularly significant.

The first significant event is the fall of No-Amon, also known as Thebes.

Nahum 3:8-9 tauntingly asks if Nineveh is better than “No-Amon.” “No-Amon” translates to “city of Amon,” Amon being one of the primary gods of the Egyptians. Thebes was the long-time capital of Amon worship, with many rich temples located there, making the city itself extremely wealthy.

Despite its many advantages of wealth as well as defense, ancient Thebes was conquered by Assyrian king Ashurbanipal (known for his brutality) in about 663 BC (Dorman). For conservative scholars, the date of this event means the book of Nahum cannot have been written before 663 BC.

The second significant event is the fall of Nineveh. Since Nahum prophesies of the fall, the book must be earlier. Nineveh fell in 612 B.C. after a three-month siege by a coalition led by Babylonia. The coalition included many peoples who had suffered under the mighty oppression of the Assyrians. Babylonian king Nabopolassar led an army of people from Susa, as well as Scythians, Chaldeans, Aramites, and Lydians. The fighting was fierce, but by the end, the city was sacked and Assyrian King Sinsharushkin was dead (Mallowan). For conservative scholars, the date of this event means the book of Nahum cannot have been written after 612 BC.

This information gives us a window of writing for the book of Nahum between 663-612 BC, about 100 years after the events of the book of Jonah.

BACKGROUND/ TIMELINE

In the intervening years between Jonah’s message and that of Nahum, the nation of Assyria has been busy indeed.

735 BC

Judah’s king Ahaz takes the silver and gold from the house of the Lord as well as that of his own treasuries and gives it as a gift to the king of Assyria to convince him to go against the armies of Aram and of Israel (2 Kings 16:8). 2 Chronicles records that Ahaz brought about a lack of restraint within Judah (2 Chronicles 28:19).

722

Assyrian king Shalmaneser fights against Hoshea, king of Israel. Fearing Hoshea was about to rebel against him, Shalmaneser captures and imprisons the Israelite king. After three years' siege, Samaria falls to Assyria, and the people are carried off into captivity (2 Kings 17:3-6). Per the Assyrian's practice, Shalmaneser populates Samaria with people of other conquered nations, but the Lord sends lions among them. The king commands that an Israelite priest be brought in to teach the people how to fear the Lord, and one does (2 Kings 17:25-28).

715

Hezekiah becomes king.

Hezekiah re-established the worship of the Lord in the first year of his reign (2 Chronicles 29:3), including the observance of Passover at Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 30:5). One of Hezekiah's prime motivations was to accomplish the return of the people from Assyria (2 Chronicles 30:6).

701

Sennacherib, king of Assyria comes up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seizes them (2 Kings 18:13, 2 Chronicles 32:1). Hezekiah pays Assyria 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold, including all the silver of the hours of the Lord, and the treasuries of the king's house.

Sennacherib sends an envoy and an army to Jerusalem, threatening war. His envoy taunts Hezekiah (thru messengers) that neither Egypt or the Lord will be able to save them from the ravages of the Assyrian war machine (2 Kings 18:17-37). Hezekiah seeks the advice of the prophet Isaiah. Thru Isaiah, the Lord tells Hezekiah not to be afraid, that He will deliver Judah. The Assyrians again blaspheme the Lord, but Hezekiah seeks God, and begs Him to hear the reproaches of the king and act to deliver them (2 Kings 19:10-19). The Lord tells Sennacherib in no uncertain terms that whatever success he may have had was the Lord's ordaining, but it will come to an end. That very night the angel of the Lord strikes 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. Sennacherib leaves Jerusalem and returns to Nineveh.

681

Sennacherib is killed while worshiping his idol (2 Chronicles 32:21, 2 Kings 19:37)

686

Manasseh becomes king of Judah, and does evil in the sight of the Lord (2 Kings 21:1, 2). He was not only an idolator, but a violent ruler, said to fill Jerusalem with innocent blood (2 Kings 21:16). Because of their evil, the Lord sent Assyria against Manasseh and “his people” (2 Chronicles 33:10, 11). King Manasseh was taken to Babylon, but cried out to God, who saved him. The king rightly concludes that the Lord is the one, true God and begins worshipping him and directing his people to do the same (2 Chronicles 33:13, 16).

640

Josiah becomes King. Nineveh falls during his reign.

612

Nineveh falls to a coalition of armies led by Babylonia.

“Extensive traces of ash, representing the sack of the city by Babylonians, Scythians, and Medes in 612 BCE, have been found in many parts of the Acropolis. After 612 BCE the city ceased to be important” (Mallowan).

WHO

Nahum, the Prophet

- Nahum means “Compassion.” He is from Elkosh. We have no clue where this is; some claim it was Capernaum. They think Capernaum was his birthplace because it means “city of Nahum.”
- “Nahum was a patriotic man. He loved Israel and his sensitive nature erupted at the godless cruelty of these inhuman warriors of Assyria. He could sense and see his Holy God dealing with this enemy. Righteous indignation raged within this prophet of God.” (Denny Petrillo, WVBS Notes)

Nineveh

- Referred to as... “wicked one,” “den of lions,” “bloody city,” “harlot,” “charming one,” “mistress of sorceries”

OUTLINE

- A. Nineveh's Doom Declared Ch 1
- B. Nineveh's Doom Described Ch 2
- C. Nineveh's Doom Deserved Ch 3

KEY WORDS/ PHRASES/ THEMES

“I am against you”

“I will”

Key words:

YHWH (10 times, 1:2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14; 2:2, 13; 3:5). Notice the five-fold use of "the Lord" in 1:2-8:

- The Lord is jealous and avenging—God will not accept another to take His place.
- The Lord is avenging and wrathful
- The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries and reserves wrath for His enemies.
- The Lord is slow to anger and great in power . . ." Cf. Jonah 4:2. God is waiting for His perfect time to punish.
- The Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished

CALACH for "completely destroyed" (1:8, 9)

CARATH for "cut off forever" (1:14, 1:15, 2:13, 3:15)

The purpose: To comfort and console the people of Judah.

- God rules in the kingdoms of men.
- God is a stronghold in the time of trouble - 1:7.
- There are no strongholds secure from the vengeance of God.
- “The history of the world is the judgment of the world” - Schiller. Nations meet out judgment to nations. Nations reap what they sow. The wages of sin is death. Nahum is a book relevant in a world of dictators.
- “[Nahum’s] message of judgment does not fit the picture we want to have of a loving, forgiving God. Nahum centers attention

entirely on the impending fall of Nineveh resulting in the delivery of the people of Judah. This central focus produced a message of hope to the people of Judah in a most unusual literary form, sometimes called a hymn of hate. Nahum's message has become the prototype of the destruction of all evil—from that of Nineveh to Nazi Germany to the final end of all evil like that of Babylon in Revelation 18. Nahum's message is essential and timeless: the Lord reigns and will have the final word against evil. This means hope and deliverance by God for God's people" (Barker 137).

Summary: Nahum paints the Assyrians as a brutal, idolatrous, and oppressive nation whose evil had reached its limit. The book serves as a prophecy of divine retribution, promising the complete destruction of Nineveh and the end of Assyrian dominance. God's judgment is portrayed as inevitable and just, marking the downfall of one of the most feared empires of the ancient world.

Lessons:

- About God, 1:1-3, 7
 - There is a limit to God's patience. God hates brutality, violence and all wrong.
 - A Judge who is jealous, vengeful, furious, ruthless, wrathful, great in power and will not acquit the wicked.
 - A Father who is slow to anger, good, a stronghold in the day of trouble and knowing them who trust him.
- About wicked nations.
 - Condemned to utter destruction - 1:8,9.
 - Their names will be blotted out - 1:10.
 - God will dig their graves - 1:14.
 - No great wealth nor power can save them - 3:8-19.
 - A nation built on pride, cruelty, force and selfishness cannot hope to have friends in the day of its fall.

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JONAH - CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION:

- I. Jonah - Chapter 1
 - A. This book has powerful applications for all of us today and how we view those living around us.
 - B. In our study, we will explore four key points:
 1. Jonah's disobedience,
 2. The storm at sea,
 3. Jonah being thrown from the ship and
 4. God's magnificent mercy.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Jonah's Disobedience (verses 1-3)
 - A. Main Points
 1. God gives Jonah a command.
 2. God gives a description of the city of Nineveh.
 3. Jonah makes the decision to disobey God.
 - B. Verses 1 & 2
 1. As a prophet of God, Jonah had a job to do.
 2. Nineveh was a great city (Genesis 10:11).
 - C. Verse 3
 1. "But Jonah rose up"
 - a) Why did he not obey God? He hated the Ninevites, who were citizens of the capital of Assyria.
 - b) He did not want them to be saved (misguided, passionate patriotism).
 - c) Our God has love for all people and He is in control, not man.
 2. Let's take a closer look at all that Jonah did when he disobeyed God.
 - a) He traveled to Joppa,
 - b) He found a ship,
 - c) He paid the fare and
 - d) He went down into the ship.
 3. It would have been so much easier to just obey God.
 4. He was wasting time rebelling against God.
 5. "Flee" (verse 3) - "*BARACH*" meaning, "to bolt or make haste."

6. "From the presence of the Lord" – it is as if Jonah is resigning from his job as a prophet.
7. Jonah is first mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25.
 - a) He lived during the time of Jeroboam II.
 - b) "Jonah" = "dove, a messenger or a symbol of peace." Yet he did not want to be God's messenger for "peace" to the Ninevites.
 - c) Tarshish (3 times in verse 3). Jonah was not going where God had told him to go.
8. Tarshish
 - a) Ancient merchant city on the Iberian Peninsula known for its wealth (Psalms 72:10).
 - b) It was named after one of the sons of Javan (Genesis 10:4).
- D. Jonah lived in the Galilean city of Gath Hopher (2 Kings 14:25), four miles north of Nazareth.
 1. He traveled approximately 65 miles to Joppa.
 2. Nineveh is located northeast of Joppa.

II. The Storm at Sea (verses 4-9)

A. Verse 4: "But the Lord"

1. The Lord prepared a great wind on the sea, and this great wind creates a powerful storm. Hymn: *Master the Tempest is Raging*

B. Verse 5:

1. The sailors were in a panic, doing everything they could to save the ship.
 - a) They were praying to the god of their country and dumping cargo.
 - b) But where was Jonah?
 - c) He was fast asleep in the belly of the ship (Matthew 25:13).

C. Verse 6:

1. The shipmaster woke Jonah up and asked him to pray to his God (Psalm 107:28).
2. This shipmaster (pagan) is rebuking Jonah (God's prophet) telling him to pray to God.
3. Jonah was acting as if he was an atheist.

D. Verse 7:

1. They are still not being saved so they cast lots.
2. The lot falls on Jonah.

E. Verse 8:

1. These sailors ask Jonah 5 questions.

- a) Why is this evil happening to us?
 - b) What is your job?
 - c) Where do you come from?
 - d) What is your country?
 - e) What “people are you”?
- F. Verse 9:
- 1. As Jonah answers them, he is, in a way, making a confession.
 - 2. Notice the way he describes himself.
 - 3. If we try to run from our problems they will never be solved.
 - 4. Notice, God is Omniscient and Omnipresent (Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 15:1-2; Job 34:21-22; Hebrews 4:13).

III. Jonah is thrown from the Ship (verses: 10-16).

- A. Verse 10
- 1. The men were “exceedingly afraid.”
- B. Verse 11 & 12
- 1. The sailors ask, “What shall we do to you?”
 - a) Jonah says, “Pick me up and throw me overboard.”
 - b) I wonder if he was thinking, “Now I am going to die.”
 - c) Jonah was showing care and compassion for the men on the ship.
- C. Verse 13
- 1. At first the men resist.
 - a) They are still trying to save Jonah.
 - b) They had care and compassion towards him.
- D. Verse 14
- 1. Notice the word “Lord” is found 3 times in this verse.
 - a) These men are not Hebrews, but they are using the name of God (“YAHWEH”).
 - b) They are not calling on any “god” of their own. They are calling on the Lord!
 - 2. Their lives are at stake because of what Jonah has done - because of his disobedience, yet they do not want to kill Jonah by throwing him overboard.
- E. Verse 15
- 1. The mariners probably thought they killed Jonah.
 - a) But then this amazing change in nature takes place. “And the sea ceased from her raging” (cf. Mark 4:39).
 - b) God is always in control!
- F. Verse 16

1. Jonah had an impact on the mariners.
2. Notice the last two words of this verse – “made vows.”

IV. God’s Mercy (Verse: 17)

A. “Fish” or “Whale”:

1. The original classification system (God’s word) was:
 - a) Fish of the sea,
 - b) Birds of the air,
 - c) Beast of the field and
 - d) Creeping things.
2. In the book of Jonah, it says “great fish” and in Matthew it says “whale.”
3. The Hebrew word is “*DAWG*” and the Greek word is “*KETOS*.”

B. Let us not miss the deeper lessons from the book of Jonah.

1. The Lord – saving him – gave him time to pray and reflect on his disobedience.
2. Notice the word “prepared.”
3. God was not going to let Jonah get away with disobedience.

C. God showed His mercy to Jonah in an unexpected way. Who would think Jonah being swallowed by this fish was his rescue?

E. Matthew 12:40 states that Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

APPLICATION:

I. How can we apply this inspired chapter to our lives today?

II. We cannot run from God.

III. We are given a similar command - Matthew 28:19-20.

IV. He is talking about EVANGELISM.

A. Christians are commanded to evangelize.

B. How do we evangelize?

1. By our Christian example (1 Timothy 4:12),
2. By supporting evangelistic works of our local congregation and
3. By contacting people to begin a Bible study.

C. One day, we will give an account for the time God has blessed us with (Romans 14:12).

1. Lost souls are important! One of the saddest hymns is, “*You Never Mentioned Him to Me.*”
2. We need to practice directing our daily conversations to spiritual things.

3. Most importantly we must overcome fear – Satan wants us to be afraid (Romans 1:16, Fear – Proverbs 29:25).
- D. What are our excuses for not evangelizing?

CONCLUSION:

- I. What Do We Learn from Jonah?
 - A. Do we sometimes resist what God has told us to do?
 - B. Jonah could not get away with disobedience then - just like we cannot get away with disobedience today.
 - C. We cannot be prejudiced towards others (James 2:8-9).
 - D. We will give an account to God for our choices on the day of judgement (Romans 14:10-12).
 - E. If we reject God's word, we reject Him.
 - F. God is the God of all people and all nations (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9).
 - H. We must always remember that our influence is far reaching (1 Timothy 4:16).
- II. "Between those great things we cannot do, and those small things we will not do, there is a great danger we will do nothing." --Adolph Monod

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Kathy Carroll

Kathy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology, specializing in Gifted Education. She and her husband Kevin worship with the Brown Trail congregation in Bedford, TX, where he serves as an elder. They have two grown children, Kason and Kastin, whom they greatly enjoyed homeschooling. Prior to becoming a mom, Kathy taught high school Math and Computer Science near College Station, TX. Additionally, she has spent many years teaching Bible classes for women and children of all ages. She is a graduate of the Brown Trail School of Preaching Wives' Program, has been teaching in it since 1999, and has also served as its coordinator. Since becoming an empty nester, Kathy now teaches part time in the Math Department at Tarrant County College, while continuing to enjoy hosting Bible studies and teaching children, teen girls, and women in classes, retreats, camps, and ladies' days. She also enjoys the great outdoors and loves learning, teaching, encouraging, and meeting new people.

Jonah Chapter 2 – Jonah is Spewed with a New Attitude

Jonah 2 in NKJV

1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.

2 And he said:

"I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction,
And He answered me.

"Out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
And You heard my voice.

3 For You cast me into the deep,
Into the heart of the seas,
And the floods surrounded me;
All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

4 Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight;
Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

5 The waters surrounded me, *even* to my soul;
The deep closed around me;

Keys to See:

Jonah

God

Prayer

Prayer Heard/Answered

Weeds were wrapped around
my head.

Hopeless

6 I went down to
the moorings/foundations/bases
of the mountains;

The earth with its
bars *closed* behind me forever;
Yet You have brought up my life
from the pit,
O LORD, my God.

Hopeful

7 “When my soul fainted within
me,

I remembered the LORD;
And my prayer went *up* to You,
Into Your holy temple.

Mercy

8 “Those who regard worthless
idols
Forsake their
own Mercy/Lovingkindness.

Response

9 But I will sacrifice to You
With the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed.
Salvation *is* of the LORD.”

10 So the LORD spoke to the
fish, and it vomited Jonah onto
dry *land*.

Important Lessons from Jonah Chapter 2

What About Me?

Do I sink into hopelessness, or remember in whom I hope?

Do I mostly pray when I am distressed or unhappy?

Do I pray in faith and trust God, even when things seem bad?

Do I express thankfulness to God for the good things and the things that are already going well?

Do I appreciate God's mercy?

Am I willing to help others receive His mercy?

Am I happy for others who receive His mercy, or would I rather they receive justice while I enjoy mercy?

What is my response to God's innumerable blessings?

Do I worship heartily?

Do I express my thankfulness?

Do I acknowledge and appreciate His salvation?

Am I keeping my commitment to Him?

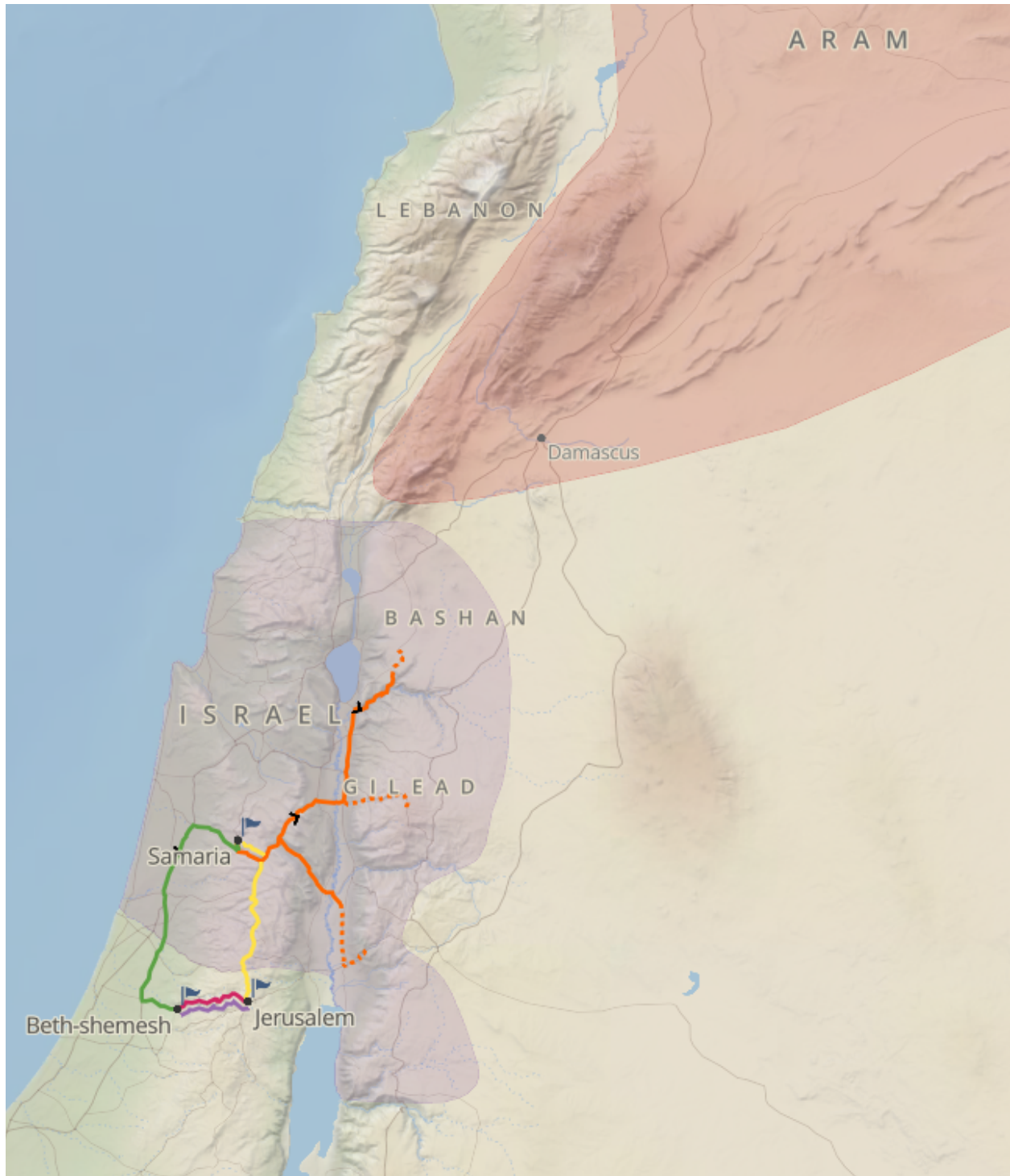
Jonah 3

Leah Hopkins has been married to Justin for almost 17 years and is the mother of three sons (two teens and a young adult – yikes!) and is a 2009 graduate of the Southwest School of Bible Studies. She has worked alongside her husband on many adventures but most recently has started a home and school in Tanzania called Talawanda's HOPE for Women which teaches the Gospel and practical life skills to at risk women. She enjoys traveling and milling her own grains for cinnamon rolls and other treats in her free time (what's that?).

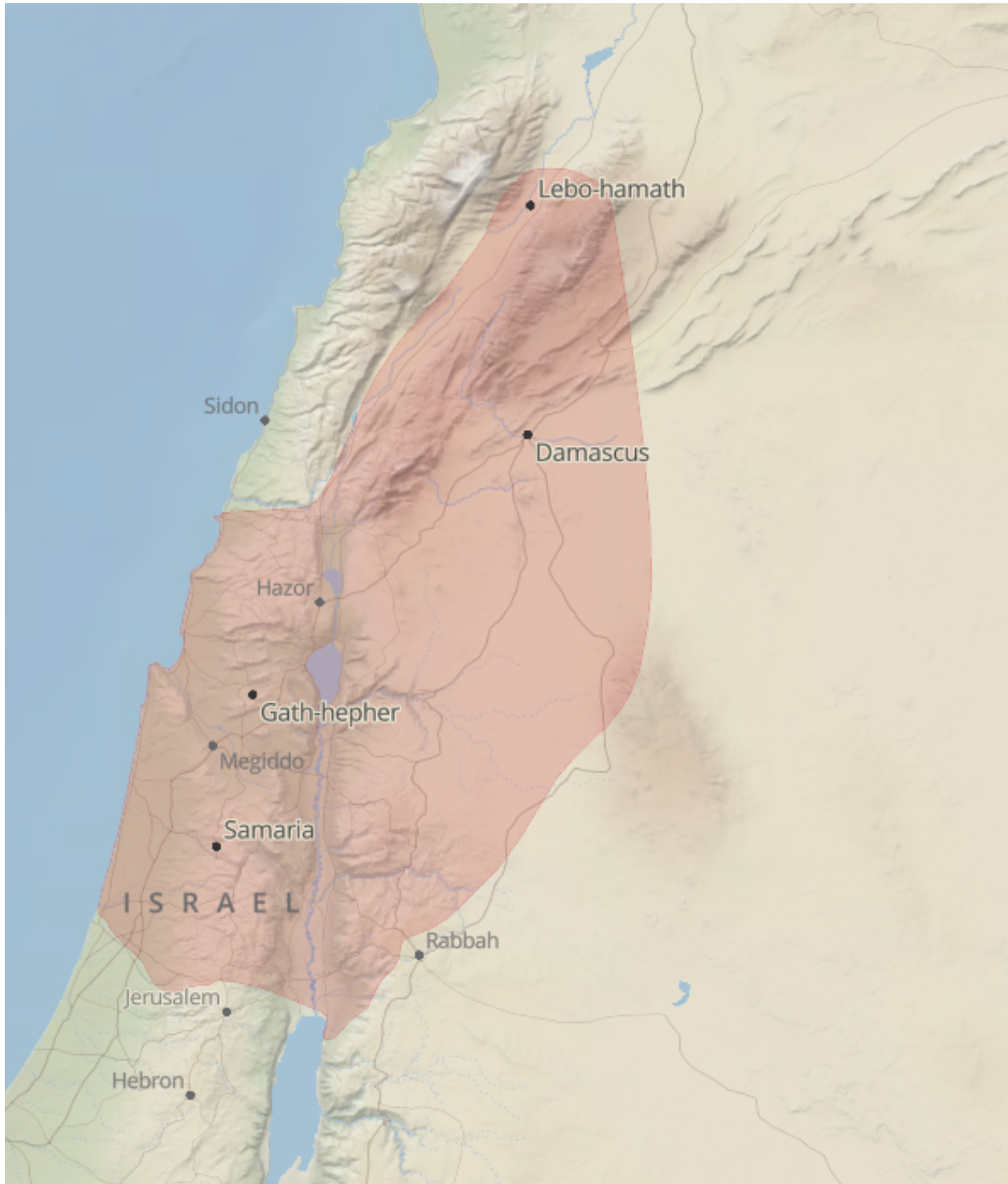
Jonah 4

Nahum

Source: Faithlife, LLC. "Logos Bible Study Atlas." 28 Aug. 2024: n. pag. Print.



Israel under Joash, son of Joahaz (2 Kings 14)



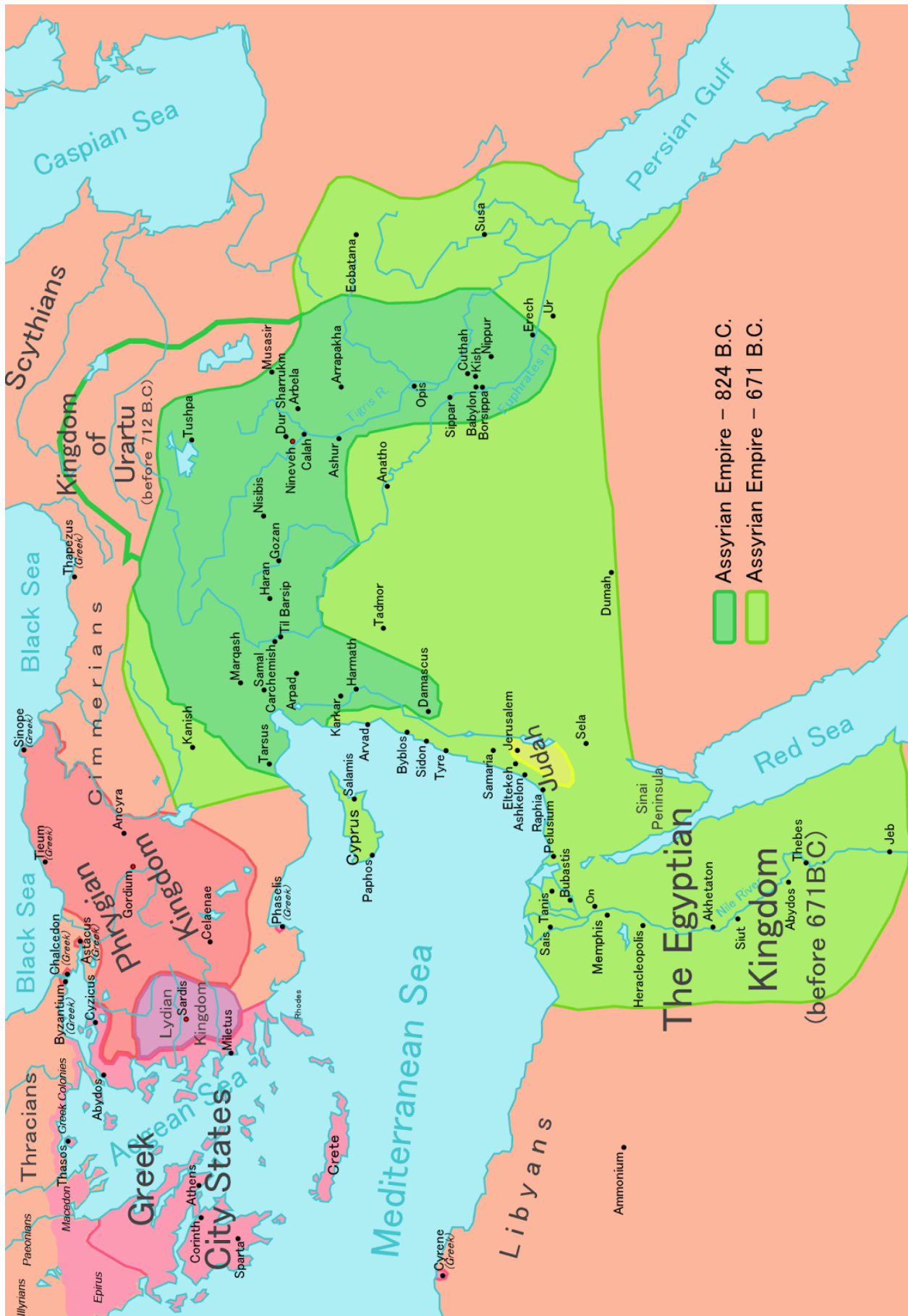
Israel's borders restored under Jeroboam (2 Kings 14:24, 25)



Jonah's travels + Tarshish



Jonah's travels

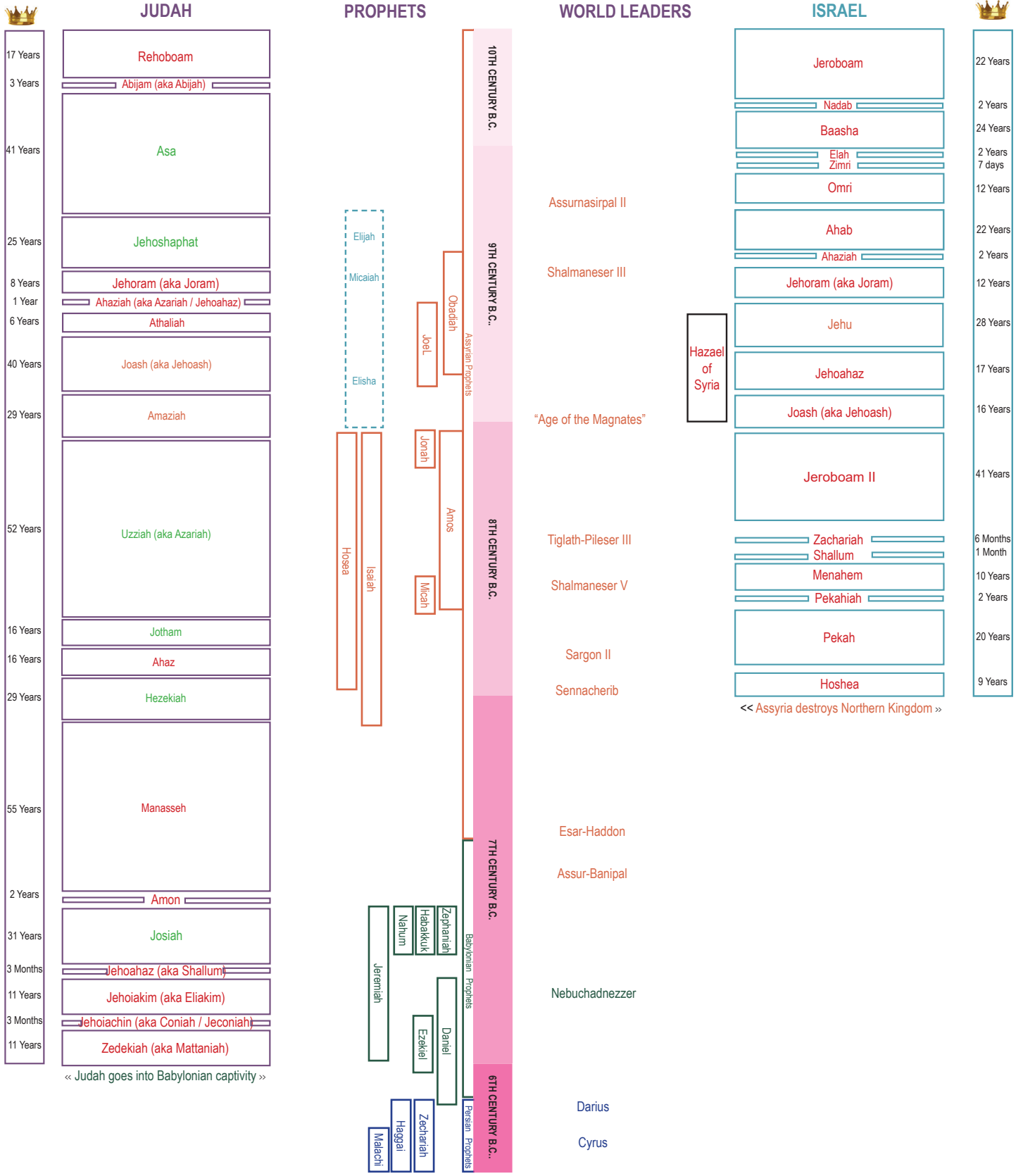


Jonah's Journey

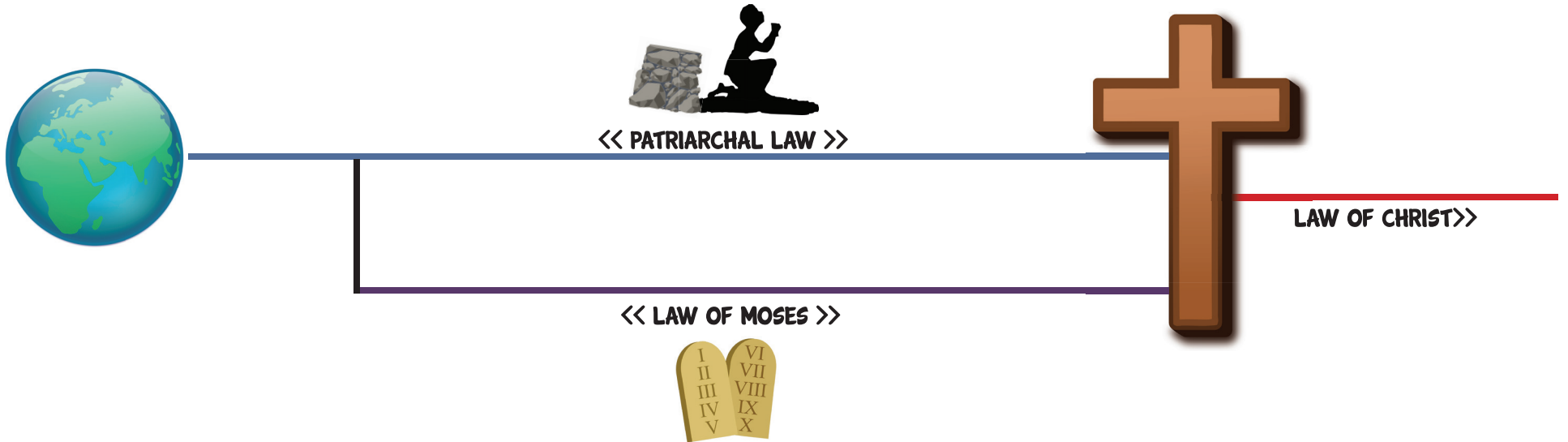
1. Jonah starts in Gath Hepher and travels to Joppa.
2. Jonah tries to sail away to Tarshish, but is thrown overboard on the way.
3. Jonah is swallowed by a great fish and prays for deliverance.
4. Eventually the fish vomited Jonah onto dry land.
5. Jonah finally makes his way to Nineveh.



Kings & Prophets



Time Periods





Evangelism Ideas



And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

There is not just one right way to spread the Gospel. Now days, there are so many resources available that help. Here are a few ideas you can use:

Helpful Websites

These are just a few great websites that can help you share the Gospel with someone.

www.makedisciplesprogram.com
www.topicalbiblestudies.com
www.evangelism.housetohouse.com/resources
www.video.wvbs.org
www.apologeticspress.org
www.mannafarm.org/islam

How do I Use These?

These are just a few ideas..

- 1) Learn from the information yourself.
- 2) Share the videos on your social media
- 3) Start a FB page named for your town and the phrase Bible Study. (example: CleburneBibleStudy) Start populating it with videos people can watch.
- 4) Start a WVBS website local to your town.
- 5) Host an evangelism seminar
- 6) Print out studies and go through them with someone.
- 7) Be a silent partner in a Bible Study

What Are Some Other Ways I Can Evangelize?

- 1) Be hospitable. Have people over and share your life with them. Remember - Christianity is supposed to be in the trenches.
- 2) Take food to people.
- 3) Send cards (new baby, hospital visit, etc)
- 4) Take something useful to new movers.
- 5) Take people to appointments.
- 6) Encourage your congregation to host events aimed at the community.
- 7) Be known for being friendly!
- 8) Leave evangelism cards from WVBS around town.

How to Interact with Visitors

- 1) Look for visitors and have them sit with you.
- 2) Be welcoming - smile at people when you see them.
- 3) Do not ask where they are from - ask where they live. That way you can tell right away if they are just coming through town or if they live here and are a prospective Bible study.
- 4) Offer to take visitors to lunch.
- 5) Provide them information about the congregation.
- 6) Provide visitor bags - and fill out a visitor card for them so you can send them a card.