

JONAH – PART 2

- 1) The Fear of the LORD & Jonah
- 2) God's Grace to the Obnoxious
- 3) How can we be Gracious to the Obnoxious
- 4) Big Fish Stories
- 5) Questions?

By John Williamson

JONAH - OVERVIEW CHAPTER 1

- 1) God's word comes to Jonah (1:1)
- 2) Jonah rejects the word of the LORD (1:3)
- 3) God judges Jonah (1:4)
 - a) God's word comes to the sailors through Jonah(1:12)
 - b) The sailors reject the word of the Lord (1:13)
 - c) God judges the sailors (1:13)
 - d) The sailors repent (1:14)
 - e) God forgives & relents concerning judgment (1:15)
 - f) The sailors feared, sacrificed to & praised God (1:16)

JONAH - OVERVIEW CHAPTERS 2-3

- 1) Jonah repents (2:1-9)
- 2) God forgives & relents concerning judgment (2:10)
- 3) God's word comes to Jonah, and he obeys (3:1-3)
 - A. God's word comes to Nineveh through Jonah (3:4)
 - B. Nineveh repents (3:5-9)
 - c. God forgives & relents concerning judgment (3:10)

JONAH - OVERVIEW CHAPTER 4

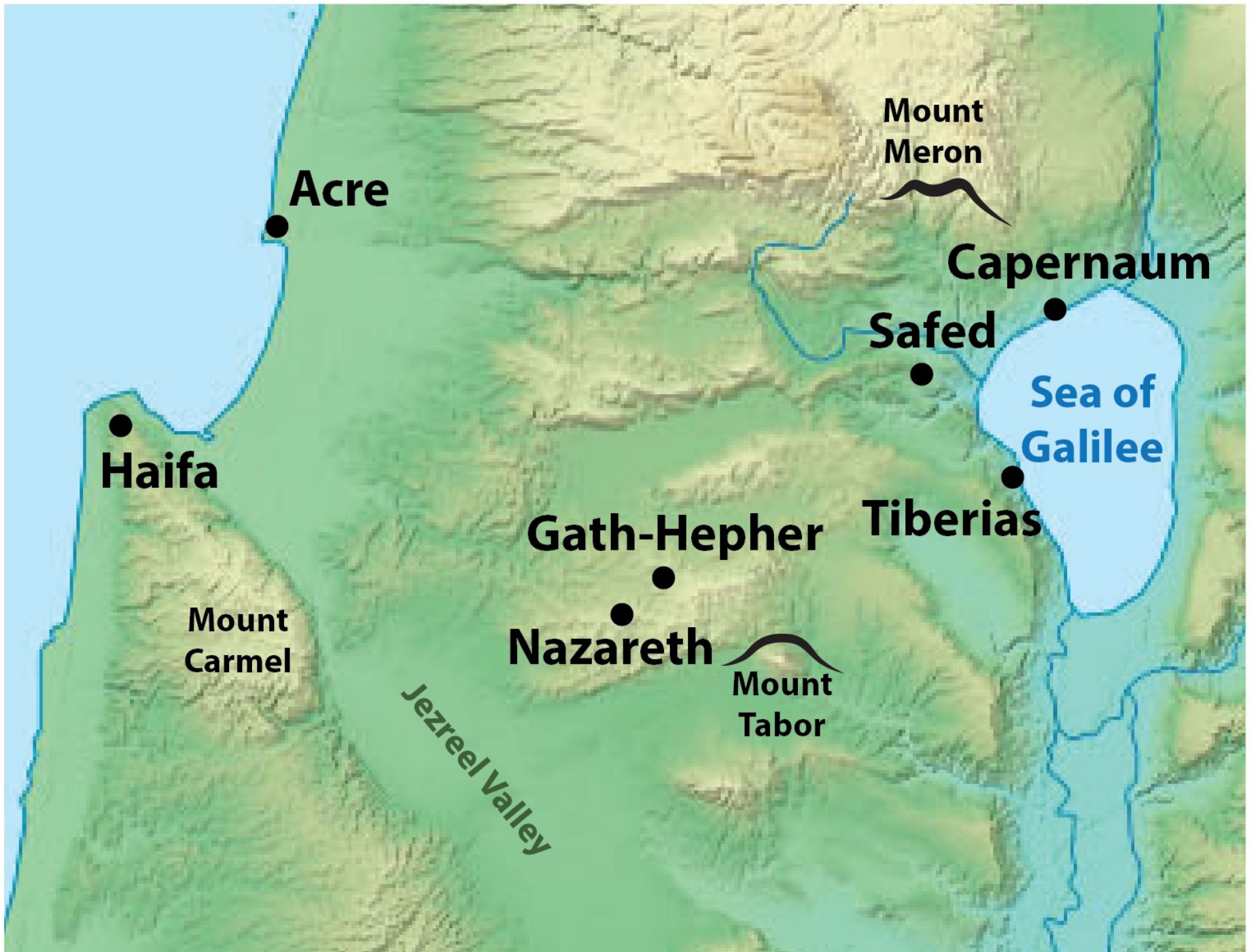
- 1) Jonah rejects God's forgiveness of Nineveh & goes east of the city in hopes to see it destroyed (4:1-5)
- 2) God shows grace to Jonah through the plant (4:6)
- 3) God judges Jonah through the worm & wind (4:7-8)
- 4) God reasons with Jonah to repent (4:9-11)

JONAH – CHARACTERS AND LOCATIONS

- 1) Jonah the son of Amittai
- 2) Israel during the reign of King Jeroboam II
- 3) Nineveh (Assyria)

2 KINGS 14: 23-26

In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, *and reigned* forty-one years. He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin. He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was of Gath-hepher.



Acre

**Mount
Meron**

Capernaum

Safed

**Sea of
Galilee**

Haifa

Tiberias

Gath-Hepher

**Mount
Carmel**

Nazareth

**Mount
Tabor**

Jezreel Valley

Israel and Judah at the Time of Jeroboam II
786–746 BCE

Israel
 Judah



JONAH GOES THE OTHER WAY



Tarshish

2500 miles

Nineveh

550 miles

Joppa

GENESIS 10:8-12

Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.” The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.



BLACK SEA

CASPIAN SEA

Caucasus Mts.

Byzantium

LYDIA

Halys River
L. Tuz

TABAL

URARTU

Araxes River
SEA

Kayseri
Malatya

L. Van
L. Urmia

Tarsus
Carchemish
Aleppo

Harran
Nisibis

MEDIA

Qarqar
Arvad
Byblos
Sidon

Rezep

Nineveh
Calah
Ekallatum
Assur

ELLIP

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Damascus

Terqa

Sippar
Babylon

Susa

Jerusalem
Gaza
Amman

SUMER

ELAM

PERSIA

EDOM
MAT-ARIBI

Ur

Arabian Desert

Memphis

Serabit el-Khadim
Ezion-geber

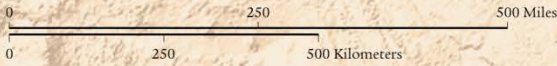
Sahara Desert

Nile River

Thebes

RED SEA

PERSIAN GULF



Bronze relief from Balwat: Shows 3 spikes each with 8 male heads standing like a totem pole



ASHURNASIRPAL, KING OF ASSYRIA

“I flayed as many nobles as had rebelled against me [and] draped their skins over the pile [of corpses]; some I spread out within the pile, some I erected on stakes upon the pile ... I flayed many right through my land [and] draped their skins over the walls.”

Bronze relief from Balwat: Severed heads hang from the walls of Kulisi as flames devour the city. A dismembered prisoner is impaled on a stake and an Assyrian soldier grasps the hand of a captive missing his other extremities. Notice the dismembered hands and feet.



ASHURNASIRPAL, KING OF ASSYRIA

“I felled 50 of their fighting men with the sword, burnt 200 captives from them, [and] defeated in a battle on the plain 332 troops. ...With their blood I dyed the mountain red like red wool, [and] the rest of them the ravines [and] torrents of the mountain swallowed. I carried off captives [and] possessions from them. I cut off the heads of their fighters [and] built [therewith] a tower before their city. I burnt their adolescent boys [and] girls.”

Relief of the
Siege of
Lachish from
the palace of
Sennacherib:
Jewish soldiers,
defenders of
Lachish, are
excuted by
being impaled
on spikes.
Notice the
prisoners are
handcuffed and
naked.



From the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III: Captioned “The tribute of Jehu, son of Omri” This occurred in 841 BC. Jehu, King of Israel is prostrate before the Assyrian King Shalmaneser III.



ASHURNASIRPAL, KING OF ASSYRIA

“In strife and conflict I besieged [and] conquered the city. I felled 3,000 of their fighting men with the sword ...I captured many troops alive: I cut off of some their arms [and] hands; I cut off of others their noses, ears, [and] extremities. I gouged out the eyes of many troops. I made one pile of the living [and] one of heads. I hung their heads on trees around the city.”

Relief of the Siege of Lachish from the palace of Sennacherib:
Two naked Jewish prisoners are being flayed alive by Assyrian soldiers, meanwhile (left) Jews, witnessing the torture, are being deported as slaves.



JONAH – THE SIGNIFICANCE: THEN

- Israel, and Jonah, needs to repent, and follow the LORD their God, then he will forgive them and relent of judgment on them.
- Israel is supposed to bless the nations (Gen 12). Jonah does, but not willingly. Israel need to *willingly* bless the nations through the Gospel.

JONAH – THE SIGNIFICANCE: NOW

- Are there people who seem too evil, or wretched to receive the Gospel? They need it! And we need to tell it to them.
“So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17
- If we, individually and nationally, are doing evil, we too need to repent, and God will forgive us and relent concerning judgment.

DOES JONAH REALLY FEAR GOD?

Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account *has* this calamity *struck* us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?” He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.” (Jonah 1:8-9)

FEAR OF THE LORD BRINGS OBEDIENCE & LIFE

The fear of the LORD leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

(Proverbs 19:23)

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)

RAHAB, ACHAN & THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Rahab fears the LORD and it brings life to her, and to her entire household, and (indirectly to us) through Christ.

Achan does not fear the LORD and violates the Ban on Jericho, bringing death to himself and his whole household.

JONAH HAD A WITNESS TO FULFILL

However since he was not fearing the LORD, he was not doing what he *should*, where he *should*, and Jonah thereby brought cursing (the storm) on those around him (the sailors) instead of blessing.

WE HAVE A CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO FULFILL

If we do not fear the LORD, (Like Jonah didn't) then we will not be doing what a Christian ought to do, and instead of being salt and light to a dark world (as we are supposed to) we will either be rendered inert (Matt 5:13) or become an instrument of cursing (as Jonah was) instead one of blessing.

GOD'S GRACE TO THE OBNOXIOUS

- 1) The syrophoenician woman (Matt 15)
- 2) The woman with the flow of blood (Luke 8)
- 3) Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9)
- 4) Naaman the Aramean General (2 Kings 5)
- 5) The woman at the well (John 4)
- 6) Rahab the Harlot (Joshua 2)
- 7) Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (Daniel 4)

JONAH GOD'S KNEW GRACE, AND DESPISED IT

But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my *own* country? 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. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life." (Jonah 4:1-3)

We were no less obnoxious to God that Nineveh was to Jonah!

ROMANS 5:6-11

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

HOW CAN WE BE GRACIOUS TO THE OBNIXIOUS?

- We are evangelicals, Gospel people. We *should* be a blessing through the Gospel!
- The curse is death through sin. The blessing is life through Christ Jesus and his payment for sin. This applies to every person of every culture, nation, tongue, age, gender, and education. Everywhere, everybody, every when, and it's a great place to start.
- Pray and seek to bless others through the Gospel

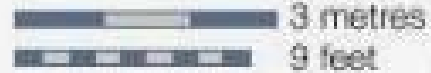
WHAT SWALLOWED JONAH? A SPERM WHALE?



SPERM WHALE SIZE COMPARISON



sperm whale
(*Physeter catodon*)
length up to 19 m (62 ft)



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Sperm whale (*Physeter catodon*).

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WHAT SWALLOWED JONAH? A SHARK?



Shark Size Comparison

