

Jonah & The Whale

Northwest Baptist Church

Nineveh, The Assyrian Capital

- Nineveh was the Capital of the Assyrian Empire. It was called the “bloody city”. Nahum 3:1
- Assyrians were a very cruel people.
- They loved decapitation
 - *Today their descendants make films of decapitations.*

Addiction to Violence

- The Assyrian Government's primary business was war.
- Soldiers were rewarded not for every scalp brought in, but for every head brought in.
- Massive piles of heads were made after every battle.

Pleasure In Torture

- Prior to decapitation, Assyrians enjoyed torturing the captives.
- King Ashurbanipal boasted: “I cut off the hands of all that I captured. I burned 3,000 captives with fire.”

Whatever Happened To The Hittites and Phoenicians ?

- The Assyrians captured both nations, slaughtered masses.
- Put tens of thousands into forced labor.
- These nations were destroyed totally by the ruthless Assyrians.

Nahum 3:4-5

- “Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts. Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts...”

Assyrians Enjoyed Astrology

- Nahum 3:4 Astrology
- Most American newspapers have horoscopes, which God hates.

Like America Today

- Nahum 3:16 Wealthiest merchants of the day.
- After Babylon, Nineveh was the largest city in the Western World.
- King Ashurbanipal assembled a massive library. Assyrians were educated but ungodly.

God Called A Preacher

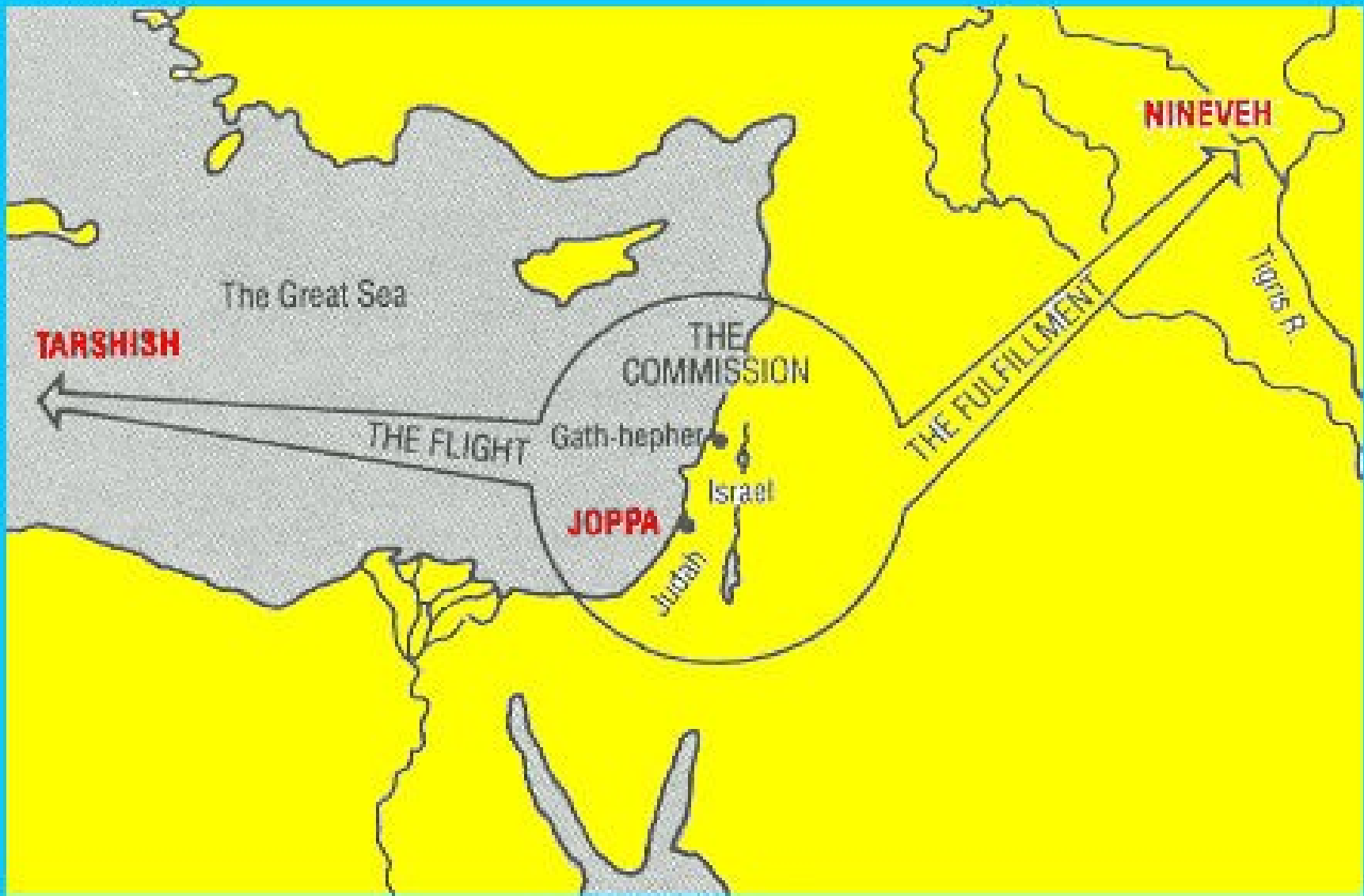
- Jonah 1:1-2
- Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai saying
- Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city and cry against it
- For their wickedness is come up before me.

Nineveh An Ancient City

- Genesis 10:11
- Nineveh was a city roughly 2300 B.C.
- In Jonah's day, Nineveh was 1400 years old.
- How old is Seattle (less than 200 years, the U.S.A. is less than 300).

Jonah Doesn't Want to Witness

- Jonah 1:3-4 (Doug Reads) Nineveh east, Jonah headed west to Tarshish, Spain.



TARSHISH

The Great Sea

THE COMMISSION

Gath-hepher

Israel

JOPPA

Jordan

THE FLIGHT

THE FULFILLMENT

NINEVEH

TIGRIS R.

Jonah 1:8

- “Then said they unto him, Tell us we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? And whence comest thou? What is thy country? And what people art thou?”

Jonah 1:9

- “And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of Heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.”

Salvation is not of Works

- Jonah 1:11-12
- Jonah 1:13 The men rowed hard (they trusted in man to save man)
- Jonah 1:14-15 “So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea and the sea ceased from her raging.”

The Lord Prepared The Fish

- Jonah 1:17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

God Doesn't Need Help

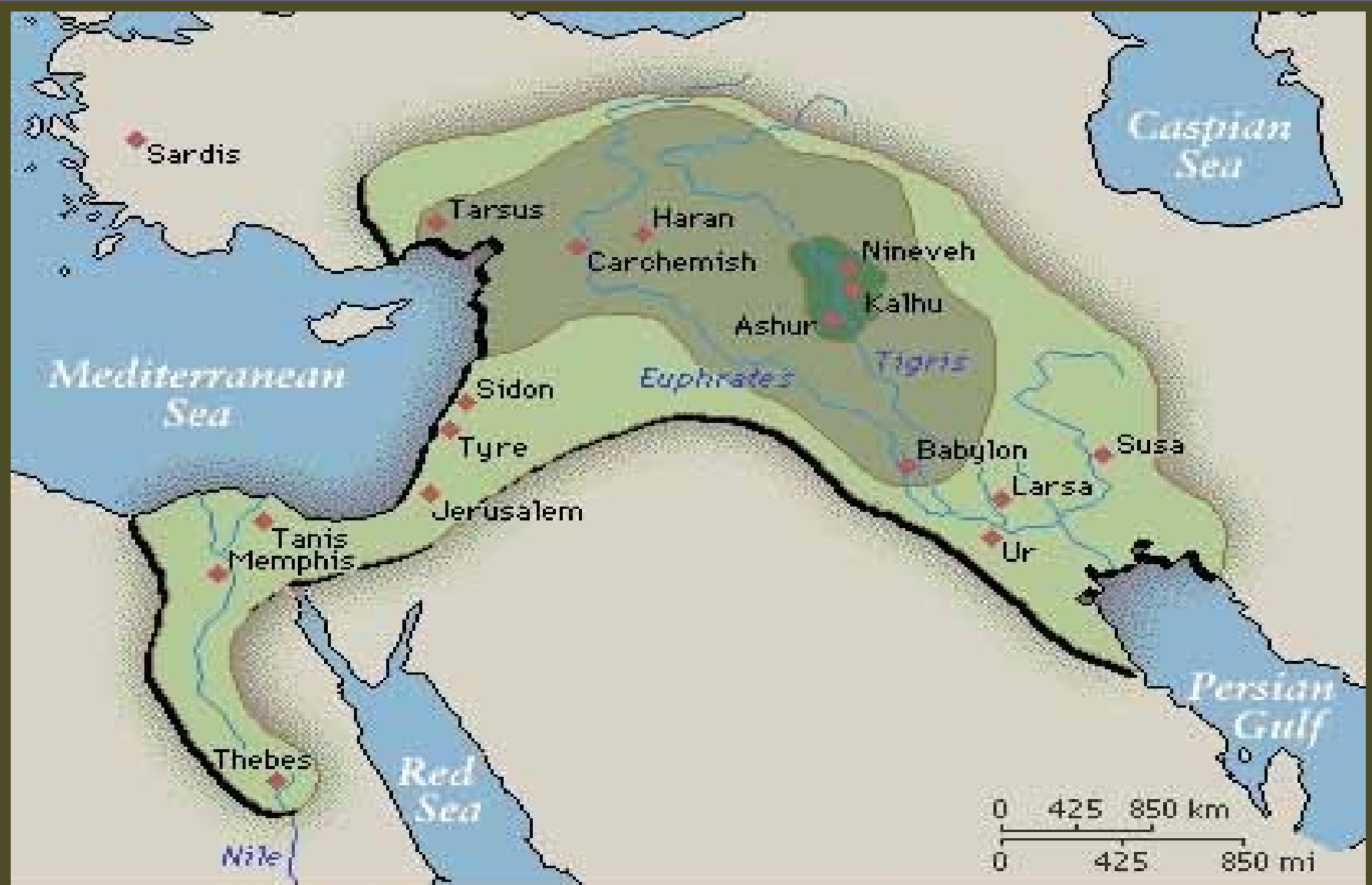
- 1941 report was made about a man who was swept off the boat and swallowed by a sperm whale near the Falkland Islands. The whale was killed and cut apart after 3 days.
- The man was still alive but burnt badly from the whales stomach acid.

Hard To Swallow The Story

- Modernist Humanists have a harder time swallowing the story of Jonah and the whale than the whale had of swallowing Jonah.
- The reason is that God was with Jonah, but the humanists are all alone.

Critics Will Always Be There

- 150 years ago, Bible critics said the story of Jonah is just a myth and there was never a city called Nineveh.
- If it were a “great city”, as the Bible claims, we would see proof of it somewhere in historical records.



ASSYRIAN EMPIRE
 1800 - 1600 BC
 1244 - 1208 BC
 699 - 627 BC

Science of Archeology

- 1873-1876 George Smith, an archeologist, excavated ruins of an ancient city. The city was 60 miles across, with walls 50 feet high- a very great city.
- The city had two large palaces, one with 71 rooms, for a King named Sennacherib.

Archeology Confirms The Bible

- II Kings 19:36 Where did Sennacherib go?
To Nineveh, that great city.
- In 689 B.C. King Sennacherib destroyed Babylon and had his capital of Nineveh magnificently enlarged by a huge population of captive slaves from conquered lands.

Archeology Confirms The Bible

- In the ruins archeologists found the Kings library with 22,000 clay tablets (talk about heavy reading).
- Records on the clay tablets confirm many Bible places, people and events including the once great city of Nineveh.

Bible Is Scientifically Accurate

- Dr. Albright of Johns Hopkins University said: “There is no doubt that archeology has proven the historical accuracy of the Bible.”

Bible Is Scientifically Accurate

- Professor Burrows of Yale University said: “Archeological finds have proven the reliability of the Bible.”

Bible is 100% Accurate

- The famous Jewish archeologist, Nelson Glueck said: “No archeological find has ever contradicted the Bible.”

One Greater Than Jonah

- Matthew 12:41
- “And behold, a greater than Jonas is here.”

One Greater Than Jonah

- Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the whale; Christ 3 days and 3 nights in the tomb.
- God asked Jonah to preach to the great city:
- Christ asked us to take the gospel to the whole world.

One Greater Than Jonah (2)

- Jonah means Dove. In the old testament the poor people sacrificed a Dove for salvation.
- Jesus the Lamb was sacrificed for the world.

One Greater Than Jonah (2)

- Jonah's family name is Amatai (truth).
- Jesus is the Truth.

Mankind Wants Proof of God

- All over the world people want a sign, or proof that God is real.
- Those looking for proof, need to read Matthew 12:39-40

Matthew 12:39-40

- “But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas, For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Jonah a Picture of The Gospel

- Jonah preached against the people's wickedness and said that God's judgment is coming. Repent!
- Christ preached against sin and said Repent; Judgment is coming.
- Today, this church preaches and teaches the same message.

America Has Much In Common With Assyria

- Assyrians were preoccupied with violence. America's movies and games are predominantly about violence.

America Has Much In Common With Assyria

- Assyrians had little appreciation for life. Americans kill 1.4 million babies per year aborting, and throwing the bodies away like the Assyrians did.

God's Grace

- The city of Nineveh was desperately wicked.
- God planned to destroy the city.
- But first he sent a preacher to give the people the chance to repent and be saved.

You Want Me To Preach? - To Them ?

- Jonah must have thought: You want me to tell them how bad they are. Do you know what they do to their enemies? They cut off their hands, torture them by burning them all over, then cut off their heads. (can you blame Jonah for not wanting to go preach to Nineveh?)

Jonah Fled From God's Work

- Jonah headed toward Tarshish, Spain opposite direction from Nineveh.
- When you run from God, you must pay the fare.
- Those around you have to pay also.
- Jonah 1:4-5

Jonah Believed in Creation

- Jonah 1:8-9 Did Jonah believe in evolution?
- No. Jonah believed in creation and he feared his maker.
- He also feared the Ninevites (the fear of man bringeth a snare).

The Flood Waters in the Ocean

- Jonah 2:3
- “The floods compassed me about.”
- Jonah believed in the story of Noah and the Ark. He knew that the waters he was in were once waters that brought the flood.

Mountains under the Ocean ?

- Jonah 2:6 He went to the bottom of the mountains.
- Whales don't have periscopes. How did Jonah know that the mountains were under the ocean.
- “All scripture is by inspiration of God.”

Salvation is Not By Works

- Jonah 1:10-11 These men were sailors, but they'd never seen God stir up the oceans like this before. They were filled with terror.

Salvation is Not By Works

- Jonah 1:12-13 The sailors tried to save themselves by works – they rowed hard in desperation, but could not save themselves.
- Every man-made religion says that you get to heaven by works. The Bible says it is only by following God's plan of salvation.

We Do Not Sin Unto Ourselves

- Jonah 1:14-15 When a child of God runs from God, the one running suffers, but even lost people around the backslider suffer consequences of God's child backsliding.

Apart From God Everything Goes Down

- Jonah went down to Joppa.
- Down into the ship.
- Down into the water.

Apart From God, Everything Goes Down

- Down into the whale.
- Then the whale took him down into the depths.
- Down to the bottom of the mountains.
- When you run from God everything is down, down, down

Like Hell

- Darkness, falling feeling, burning, smelly fumes. It was a picture of Hell.

God Prepared Way of Salvation

- Jonah 1:17
- God prepared a fish to swallow Jonah.
- Jonah was in the whale's belly 3 days and 3 nights.

The World Says Only A Foolish Person Really Believes The Story

- Can you be intelligent and believe in the story of Jonah and the Whale?
- Matthew 12:38-40 “Jesus said: “As Jonas **was** 3 days and 3 nights in the whales belly, so shall the son of man be 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth (the grave)”.

Without God, Life Is Hopeless

- Jonah 2:7-9 Jonah's soul is ready to faint. It looks hopeless. He's in the middle of the ocean, inside a whale, it is pitch black, he is burning in the stomach juices, the stench is unbearable, hot seaweed wrapped around him, the whale dives.

Jonah Turns to God

- Jonah 2:9
- But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving.
- I will pay that which I have vowed.
- Salvation is of the Lord (not of man's works).

Like No Other Ride

- The ride in the Whale was Better than any ride at the fair or Six Flags.
- Tell the Trident Submarine people about this.

Like No Other Ride

- Jonah 2:10 You have not lived until you've been vomited out of a whale.
- Someone once speculated that going through the air, Jonah yelled back at the whale:
 - "See, you can't keep a good man down."

Hit the Decks Running

- One could imagine that when Jonah's feet hit the beach, his legs looked like an egg beater as he headed toward Nineveh.

Hit the Decks Running

- Jonah 3:1-2 Jonah had enough of God's judgment, so he surrendered his life to God's service.
- Jonah 3:3 "So Jonah arose and went unto Nineveh, according to the Word of the Lord."

Jonah Begins Preaching

- Jonah 3:4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey. Archeologists found that Nineveh was sixty miles across, further than a days journey.

Jonah Begins Preaching

- Jonah began preaching a message about the coming judgment of God.
- “Yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown. Repent or perish. You can’t save yourself. Salvation is of the Lord.”

God's Work, God's Way, Works

- Jonah 3:10
- After 3 days and 3 nights in the deep, Jonah was resurrected.
- He preached God's word, they heard, believed and repented.

Jonah 4:1-11

- What a way for the story to end!
- Is it right to resent it when God's mercy is shown to others?
- Jonah wanted 120,000 dead.
- Jonah's story does not end here with Jonah displaying a bad attitude of bitterness.

II Kings 14:23-28

- Verse 25 – Jonah is preaching God's word
- When we get in a snit, repent, ask forgiveness and go back to serving God.

But I'm Educated, I Can't Believe The Story

- The Prophet Jonah recorded a story to prepare us for Christ.
- Luke 24:25
- “Then he said unto them: Oh fools and slow of heart to believe ALL that the prophets have spoken.”

But I'm Educated, I Can't Believe The Story

- The Prophet Jonah is a type of Christ. Christ said it is a real story. If you do not believe in Jonah, you do not believe in Christ.

Getting Out The Gospel

- Jonah was a picture of the coming Great Commission to go and preach the gospel
- Jonah wasn't comfortable going, and neither are we.
- Jonah would do almost anything to keep from witnessing and so do we.

Matthew 12:38

- Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying Master, we would see a sign from thee.

Un-believers Want Signs

- Today our charismatic friends want to see signs: speaking in tongues is a sign, healings, casting out devils.
- Skeptics want visions, miracles, or some other proof to believe in Christ.
- Christ said, you won't have any more signs, but the story of Jonas.

Matthew 12:39

- “But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.”

Matthew 12:40

- “For as Jonas **was** three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Luke 11:29-32

- Luke 11:32 “The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it for they repented at the preaching of Jona, and behold a greater than Jonah is here.”