

LESSON 12 – JONAH

Context...

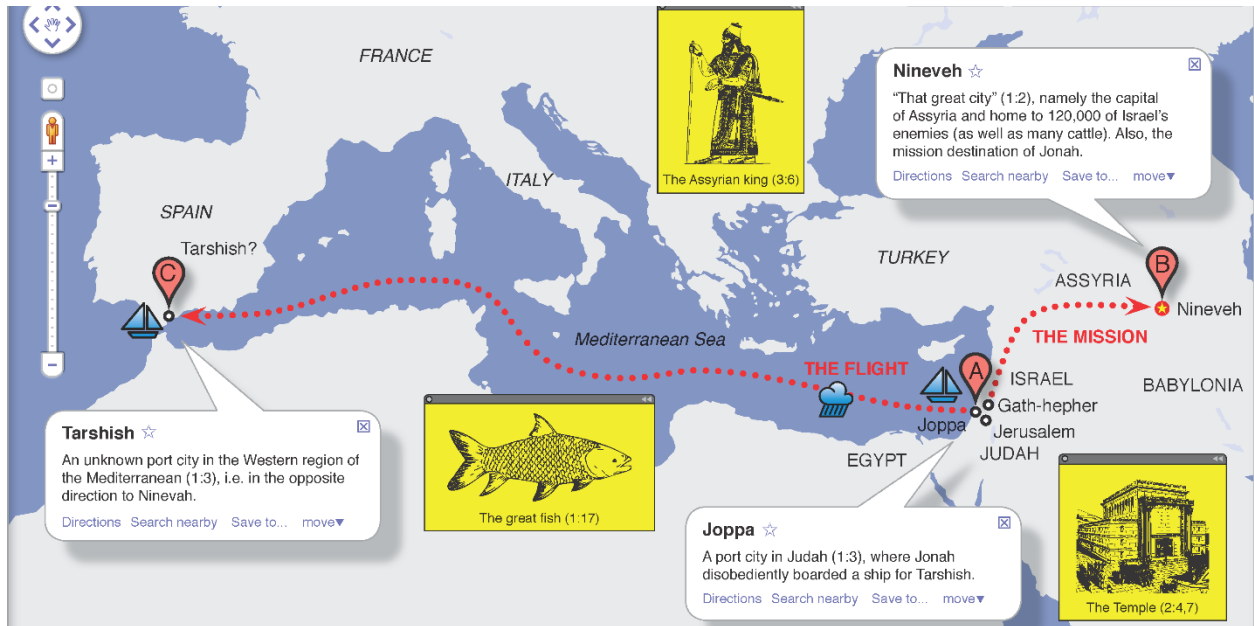
WHO?

- Jonah
- The LORD
- The Assyrian inhabitants of Nineveh
 - Pagan empire to the north of Israel
 - Known for brutality and violence
 - After a 3 year siege of Samaria, the Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and deported the inhabitants (722 BC).

WHEN?

- Jonah prophesied during or before the reign of King Jeroboam II (~750 BC) (2 Kings 14:25).

WHERE?



The Story

Read: Jonah 1:1-3

1.) Imagine you were Jonah. What reasons might you give for refusing God's commands and fleeing in the opposite direction?

Read: Jonah 1:4-16

1.) What amazing thing did the LORD do through the storm and the preaching of Jonah? (v. 16)

Overview: Jonah 2 - The LORD had sent the storm. The LORD sent a fish to swallow Jonah. While inside the fish for three days and nights he prayed a prayer of thanksgiving.

Read: Jonah 3

1.) God's word came to Jonah again and this time he obeyed. How would you classify Jonah's message? (v.4)

2.) How did the Ninevites respond to this message of judgement? (v. 5-9)

3.) How did God respond to their repentance? (v. 10)

Read: Jonah 4

1.) How did Jonah respond to God's compassion? (v. 1, 3) Why? (v.2)

2.) Jonah was very angry about the Lord's compassion but very happy about a vine that gave him shade and protection. The next day the LORD sent a worm to destroy the vine. What did the Lord hope to teach Jonah through the vine? (v. 9-11)

LAW & GOSPEL

Where do we see God's law?

Where do we see the Gospel?

Connecting to HISStory

1.) Christ's resurrection from the grave would be the undeniable proof that he is the Son of God and the Savior.

2.) Jesus also considered Jonah's story to be actual history.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

1.) How does the story of Jonah show that God's power to change hearts is in *the message* (the Bible) and NOT in *the messenger* (you and me)?

2.) List some of the excuses that we, like Jonah, often give for why we can't share the news of Jesus with others.

3.) How does the story of Jonah disprove and disarm each of our excuses?

- God gives us what to say in his Word, which is the power of God.
- God is with us and will accomplish what he wants through our witness.
- God loved you enough to rescue you, undeserving as you are!

NEXT TIME...

- Christmas program practice, **Saturday at 9:00 – 10:30!**
- Christmas program on 21st!
- **Review Due on 21st!**