

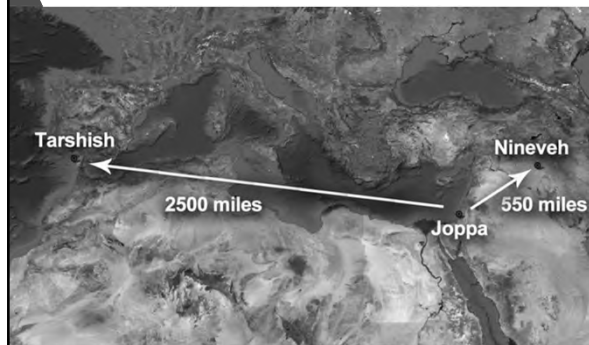
## LESSONS FROM JONAH

Matthew 12:38-42

## OUTLINE OF JONAH

- Chapter 1: Running from God
- Chapter 2: Running back to God
- Chapter 3: Running with God
- Chapter 4: Running ahead of God

## JONAH'S DESTINATIONS



## JONAH Chapter 1

- Running from God
  - God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh and cry against it
  - Jonah attempts to flee to Tarshish by going to Joppa and paying passage on a ship
  - The Lord hurls a great wind and storm
  - Every man cried to his god for salvation, however, no record that Jonah cried to his God
  - Jonah admits that he is responsible for the storm and asks to be thrown overboard
  - Jonah thrown into the sea, the storm stops
  - Men feared the Lord, offered sacrifice, made vows
  - God appoints a great fish to swallow Jonah
  - Jonah lives inside the fish three days and three nights

## JONAH Chapter 2

- Running back to God
  - Jonah prays to God from inside the fish
  - Jonah credits God for hearing his distress while in the sea
  - Jonah credits God for answering his call of distress
  - Jonah credits God's ownership of the breakers and the billows
  - Jonah describes his desperation as he was encompassed by water, weeds wrapped around his head – to the point of death
  - Jonah credits God with his salvation, sparing his life from drowning by sending a great fish
  - Jonah points out the folly of those who regard vain idols
  - Jonah offers thanksgiving, promising sacrifice and fulfillment of vows, noting "Salvation is from the Lord."
  - God commands the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land

## JONAH Chapter 3

- Running with God
  - God commands Jonah again to go to Nineveh and cry against it, proclaiming what He would tell him
  - Jonah obeyed God, arose, and went to Nineveh
  - Jonah preached to a third of the city, "Yet 40 days and Nineveh will be overthrown."
  - Jonah convinced the people of Nineveh, they believed in God, fasted and put on sackcloth (signs of repentance)
  - Word spread throughout the city, even to the king, who also believed, repented, and proclaimed a city-wide fast to avoid the judgment of God and certain destruction
  - God witnessed their deeds, their repentance, and changed His mind regarding their destruction

## JONAH Chapter 4

- Running ahead of God
  - Jonah is displeased with God's sparing of His wrath against Nineveh, and becomes angry, questioning God's decision
  - Jonah prays to God, telling Him "I told you so," that if the people of Nineveh were preached to, that they might repent and be spared destruction, because of the compassionate nature of God
  - Jonah pleads to die, as he doesn't want to be held responsible for the salvation of a gentile nation, an enemy of Israel
  - Jonah makes a shelter and sits to watch if God might still destroy the city (to follow his advice)
  - God appoints a plant for shelter, then a worm to attack the plant, then a scorching east wind
  - Jonah is angry once again and pleads to die
  - God points out Jonah's hypocrisy in feeling compassion for a plant and none for over 120,000 ignorant people and their animals

## LESSONS FROM JONAH

- No one can run or hide from God. He is the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them.
- We must obey God and teach repentance to the lost.
- We must not second-guess God or think that our ideas are better than His.
- When God forgives people, we must also forgive them. We must strive to be more like Him.
- We must not grumble at the will of God, for His compassion is righteous.

## Appointments of God

In the book of Jonah ...

- God appoints a fish, and it swallows then vomits up Jonah.
- God appoints a plant, and it grows up and provides shade for Jonah.
- God appoints a worm and it attacks the plant and makes it wither.
- God appoints a scorching east wind, and it made Jonah miserable.

## Appointments of God

○ In the book of Hebrews, we learn ...

"... It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him." (Hebrews 9:27)

○ In the book of Acts, we learn ...

"... Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31)

## The Invitation of Christ to receive the gift of Eternal Life

- Hear (Romans 10:14-17, James 1:21)
- Believe (Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 2:8-10)
- Repent (Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30)
- Confess (Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32-33)
- Be Baptized (Mark 16:16, Galatians 3:23-27)
- Remain Obedient to God (Matthew 7:21)