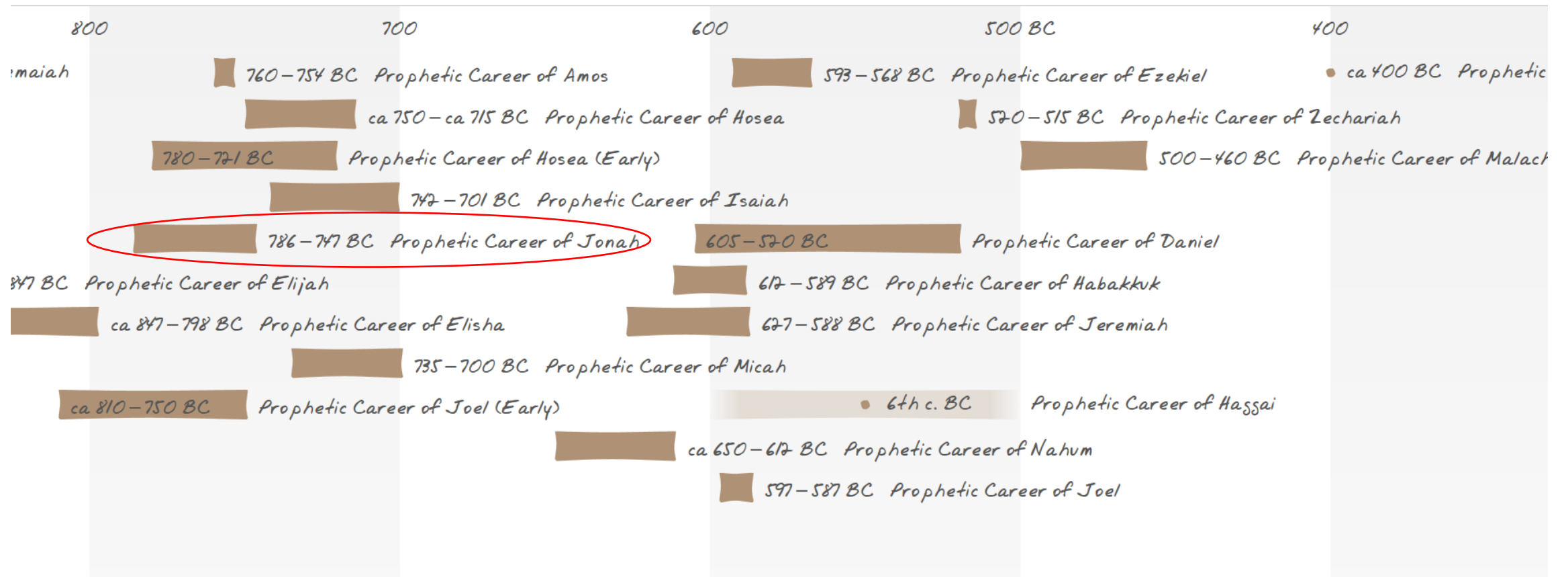


# Jonah 1

The Sovereignty of God







# Historical Context

- One of four (Elisha, Elijah, Isaiah) Old Testament prophets referred to by Jesus
- Considered the “Acts” of the Old Testament
- Written completely in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person
- Jonah was from near Nazareth, in the Galilee
- Likely written around 790BC, during the reign of the northern kingdom’s King Jeroboam
- The only prophet sent to the heathen nations
- Nineveh was likely the largest city in the world, 60 miles across and 100,000+ inhabitants
- Nineveh had gone through significant natural disasters, perhaps priming them
- Hosea and Amos predictions of future conquest of Israel may have produced Jonah’s reluctance

# Significant Aspects & Lessons

- God's love for non-jews
- God's sovereignty
- Foreshadowing the Messiah





1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." 3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

**V1 Where was Jonah from?**

A: Near Nazareth, 550 miles from Nineveh.

**V2 – Why did God command Jonah to go?**

A: They were exceedingly wicked. This was likely the headquarters for Nimrod; they worshipped the fish Gods Nanshe and Dagon

**V3 – Why would Jonah not obey God?**

A: This is one of the only refusals of a prophet of God to obey Him. Could be that Jonah, who was informed by Amos and Hosea, knew they would conquer Israel in the future

**V4 – Where is Tarshish?**

A: Southern Spain

**V4 – What did Jonah expect to do?**

A: Be out of the purview of God...

**V4 – Is this possible?**

A: No, God is omni-present...







4 But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."

7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

9 So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

**V4: How bad was this wind from God?**

A: The word is translated "hurled". God hurled a great storm at the ship, like throwing a rock. These were experienced sailors, they expected this storm to capsize their ship.

**V5: If it was so bad, why wasn't Jonah afraid?**

A: He was either un-afraid of circumstances due to faith in God, or was indifferent "If I die I die."

**V6: What is the captains response to Jonah?**

A: Pray!

**V7: Should we be casting lots (rolling the dice) to make decisions today?**

A: The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost seems to have removed the need for the communication of decisions by lot

**V9: Where does Jonah's heart lie? Do we take the same stance at times?**

A: Jonah acknowledges the true God. Though he was running from Him, he knew the truth.

10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"—for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."

13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, "We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You." 15 So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.

**V11: Do the pagans recognize the true God?**

A: Yes, they know the true God and Jonah's disobedience is the problem

**V12: What is the apparent answer to fixing the problem?**

A: Killing Jonah

**V13: What was the sailors response?**

A: They weren't willing to commit murder, they tried as hard as they could to get back to shore

**V15: Why didn't Jonah jump overboard himself?**

A: Perhaps he knew it was suicide

**V16: What was the sailor's response after the move of God to calm the seas?**

A: Awe, sacrifice to the Lord, etc. Jonah probably instructed them prior