



Jonah 2

The Sovereignty of God



Significant Aspects & Lessons

- Jonah's acknowledgement of the true nature of God
- Who gives salvation
- What does it mean to obey

1 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.



Q: Was this a whale?

A: Not likely, the Hebrew word for whale is different (*dag gadōl*). If it were the size of a sperm whale, it would have a mouth 20 feet long, 15 feet high, and 9 feet wide, larger than the average room

Q: Anything else special about this fish?

A: It was prepared, meaning God knew this event would happen and had this great fish ready at the right place at the right time

Q: Where else have we heard about this event in the bible?

A: From Jesus in Matthew 12:40 – “for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER...” Jesus validates this story...

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly. And he said:

"I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction,
And He answered me.

"Out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
And You heard my voice.

3 For You cast me into the deep,
Into the heart of the seas,
And the floods surrounded me;
All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

4 Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight;
Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

5 The waters surrounded me, even to my soul;
The deep closed around me;
Weeds were wrapped around my head.

6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains;
The earth with its bars closed behind me forever;
Yet You have brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD, my God.

7 "When my soul fainted within me,
I remembered the LORD;
And my prayer went up to You,
Into Your holy temple.

8 "Those who regard worthless idols
Forsake their own Mercy.

9 But I will sacrifice to You
With the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed.
Salvation is of the LORD."

Q: What are the components of Jonah's Prayer?

- Honesty – Jonah acknowledged he was the cause of his circumstances. He didn't blame God
- Penance – Confession and mortification showing sorrow for and repentance from sin. Jonah didn't ask God for anything, replaced the idol of himself with God
- Thanksgiving – Jonah was not thankful God delivered him from the fish, because He hadn't yet. Instead, he was thankful God turned him from rebellion, brought him back to God, by God's grace. God had restored the relationship and Jonah was grateful
- Humility – Jonah took his place with the rest of humankind. His status as a Jew no longer mattered. He acknowledged the true salvation of God through grace
- Eph. 2:8-9 - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast"

10 So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.



V10: What was the result of Jonah's recognition of these facts and establishing a right relationship with God?

A: He was now fit for duty

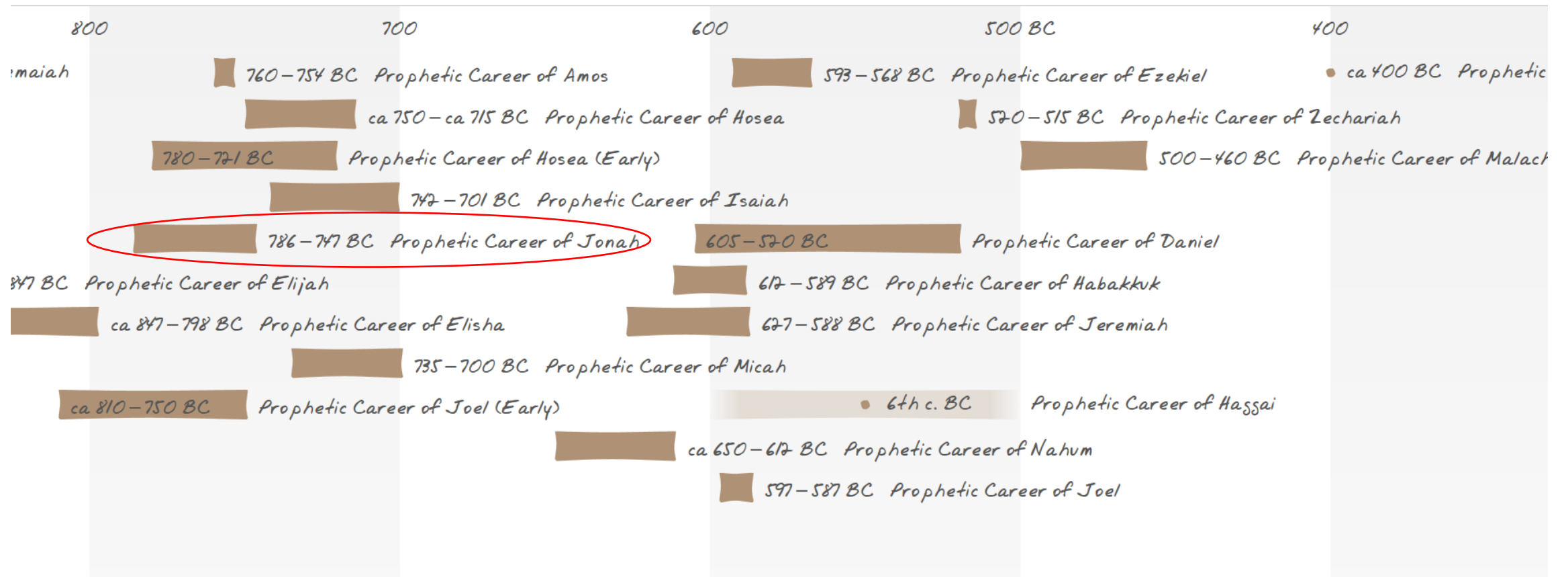


What did we learn?

- Jonah's acknowledgement of the true nature of God
- Who gives salvation
- What does it mean to obey



Appendix



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 3rd 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

