

**Joppa.** modern Jaffa, located about thirty miles northwest of Jerusalem)

**Nineveh** was approximately 600 miles east of Jerusalem as the crow flies, a place that Jonah visited.

**Tarshish,** tThe most distant city in the known world is 2200 miles to the West clear on the edge of SPAIN.

Characters	Sequence	Emotions
<p><u>Jonah 1:1-16</u>            The Lord and Jonah            The sailors, the captain, the boat            The Wind, The Sea, The Storm, The Calm</p>	<p>1:1-2 The Lord's Command, "Arise, go"            1:3 Jonah takes boat at Joppa to flee to Tarshish            1:4 -6 Great wind, great storm, great fear            1:7-9 The Casting of lots            1:13-14 The Casting of Jonah into the Sea &amp; the Calm            1:15-16 The Sailors' Prayer and Fear</p>	<p>1. Jonah's response to God's command (1:1-2) – defiance  <b>The Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm (1:4)</b>            2. reaction to God's storm (1:4) – Sailors' fear (1:5) and Jonah's indifference (1:6)            3. Sailor's reaction to God's name (1:9) – extreme fear  <b>The sea was becoming extremely stormy (1:11)</b>            4. Jonah's reaction to own fate – indifference (1:12)            5. Sailor's reaction to Jonah's suggestion – reluctance (1:13-14)  <b>The sea was becoming even stormier against them (1:13)</b>  <b>The sea stopped its raging (1:15)</b></p>
<p><u>Jonah 1:17-2:10</u>            Jonah and the Fish</p>	<p>1:17 A fish swallows Jonah, Jonah in fish for 3 days and 3 nights</p>	<p>6. Sailors' reaction to the calm (1:15) – great fear (1:16)            7. Jonah's stubbornness (1:17)            8. Jonah's distress in the fish's belly (2:2)</p>
<p><u>Jonah 3:1-10</u>            Nineveh, the City, the People, and the king            The Lord</p>	<p>2:1-10 Jonah's prayer in the belly of the fish            3:1-2 Jonah's 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioning, "Arise, go"            3:3-4 Jonah preaches judgment in Nineveh            3:5-9 The Conversion of Nineveh / the people fast, the king fasts, the proclamation, people &amp; animals fast</p>	<p>9. reality of his own death – didn't want to die, desperation (2:7,9)            10. Jonah's thankfulness to God for his life (2:9)            11. Nineveh's response to Jonah's preaching (3:3-4) – Faith in God (3:5-9), Fear of God's judgment (3:7-9)  <b>God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them &amp; didn't do it (3:10)</b>            12. Jonah's great displeasure and anger at God's compassion on Nineveh (4:1-3) – wants to die</p>
<p><u>Jonah 4:1-11</u>            Jonah and the Lord            The Sun, the Plant, the worm, the scorching east wind            Nineveh's 120,000</p>	<p>3:10 The Lord Relents            4:1-3 Jonah's Angry Prayer            4:4-6 The Glaring Sun, the Plant to protect Jonah            4:7-8 The Worm eats the plant, the wind, Jonah desires to die            4:9-11 God questions Jonah</p>	<p><b>God's patience with Jonah (4:4)</b>  <b>God provides a plant to shelter Jonah (4:5)</b>            13. Jonah's discomfort, thus extremely happy about the plant (4:6)  <b>God appoints a worm to wither the plant (4:7-8a)</b>            14. Jonah faints from heat from the sun &amp; the scorching east wind and asks to die (4:8b)  <b>God's patience with Jonah (4:9a)</b>            15. Jonah's stubborn anger (4:9b)            16. Jonah's compassion for the plant (4:10)  <b>God's compassion for Nineveh &amp; its people (4:11)</b></p>

# Jonah People Chart / The Lord

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
<p>1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai</p> <p>2 Jonah sent to cry against Nineveh, the great city</p> <p>2 Nineveh's wickedness has come up before God</p> <p>3 Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD</p> <p>3 he went down to Joppa, found a ship, paid the fare to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD</p> <p>4 the LORD hurled a great wind on the sea &amp; there was a great storm so that the ship was about to break up</p> <p>5 the sailors became afraid, every man cried to his god, and threw the cargo into the sea to lighten</p> <p>5 Jonah was asleep in the hold of the ship</p> <p>6 the captain asked him to call on his god so that they will not perish</p> <p>7 they cast lots learn who caused this calamity &amp; the lot fell on Jonah</p> <p>8 they questioned Jonah, "On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"</p> <p>9 he said, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."</p> <p>10 the men became extremely frightened for he had told them he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD</p> <p>11 they asked, "What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?"</p> <p>12 Jonah told them to throw him into the sea to calm it for he knew the great storm was his fault</p> <p>13 the men rowed desperately but could not return to land</p> <p>14 they called on the LORD, "We earnestly pray, O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man's life and do not put innocent blood on us; for Thou, O LORD, hast done as Thou hast pleased."</p> <p>15 they threw Jonah into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging</p> <p>16 then the men feared the LORD greatly, offered a sacrifice to the LORD &amp; made vows</p> <p>17 the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, &amp; Jonah was in the stomach of the fish 3 days &amp; 3 nights</p>	<p>1 Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's stomach</p> <p>2 called out of his distress to the LORD, cried for help from the depth of Sheol &amp; God heard him</p> <p>3 God cast him into the deep</p> <p>3 engulfed by the current, all God's billows passed over him</p> <p>4 have been expelled from God's sight but will look again toward His holy temple</p> <p>5 encompassed by water to the point of death, weeds were wrapped around his head</p> <p>6 descended to the roots of the mountains, earth with its bars was around him forever</p> <p>6 But the LORD his God brought up his life from the pit</p> <p>7 while fainting away, he remembered the LORD &amp; his prayer came to Him, into His holy temple</p> <p>9 will sacrifice to God with thanksgiving, will pay his vow</p> <p>9 Salvation is from the LORD</p> <p>10 the LORD commanded the fish, &amp; it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land</p>	<p>1-2 the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time to go &amp; proclaim to Nineveh what God will tell him</p> <p>3 Jonah went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD</p> <p>3 Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk</p> <p>4 Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; he cried out, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown"</p> <p>5 the people of Nineveh believed in God; called a fast &amp; put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them</p> <p>6 When the king of Nineveh heard, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, &amp; sat on the ashes</p> <p>7-9 he issued a proclamation in Nineveh by his decree &amp; his nobles that no man or beast should eat or drink but both man &amp; beast must be covered with sackcloth; men are to call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands so that they not perish</p> <p>10 When God saw they turned from their wicked way, God relented &amp; did not bring the calamity</p>	<p>1 it greatly displeased Jonah &amp; he became angry</p> <p>2 he prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore, in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that Thou art a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.</p> <p>3 asked the LORD to take his life, "for death is better to me than life"</p> <p>4 the LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"</p> <p>5 Jonah went out &amp; sat east of the city, made a shelter &amp; sat under it in the shade to see what would happen in the city.</p> <p>6 the LORD God appointed a plant &amp; it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.</p> <p>7 God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day, and it attacked the plant and it withered</p> <p>8 when the sun came up, God appointed a scorching east wind, &amp; the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."</p> <p>9 God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death."</p> <p>10 the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work, and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.</p> <p>11 "And should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"</p>

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
<p>1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai  <b>Nineveh, the great city</b>                  2 <b>Nineveh's wickedness has come up before</b> God                  3 <b>Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from "the presence of the LORD" (2x)</b>                  4 the LORD hurled a great wind on the sea &amp; there was a great storm so that the ship was about to break up                  6 <b>the captain asked him to call on his god so that they will not perish</b>                  9 <b>Jonah feared</b> the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land                  10 <b>he had told them he was fleeing from</b> the presence of the LORD                  14 <b>they called on</b> the LORD, "We earnestly pray, O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man's life and do not put innocent blood on us; for Thou, O LORD, hast done as Thou hast pleased."                  16 <b>then the men feared</b> the LORD greatly, offered a sacrifice to the LORD &amp; made vows                  17 the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, &amp; Jonah was in the stomach of the fish 3 days &amp; 3 nights</p>	<p>1 <b>Jonah prayed to</b> the LORD his God from the fish's stomach                  2 <b>called out of his distress to</b> the LORD, cried for help from the depth of Sheol &amp; God heard him                  3 God cast him into the deep                  3 <b>engulfed by the current, all God's billows passed over him</b>                  4 <b>have been expelled from</b> God's sight but will look again toward His holy temple                  6 But the LORD his God brought up his life from the pit                  7 <b>while fainting away, he remembered</b> the LORD &amp; his prayer came to Him, into His holy temple                  9 <b>will sacrifice to</b> God with thanksgiving, will pay his vow                  9 Salvation is from the LORD                  10 the LORD commanded the fish, &amp; it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land</p>	<p>1-2 the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time to go &amp; proclaim to <b>Nineveh</b> what God will tell him                  3 <b>Jonah went to Nineveh</b> according to the word of the LORD                  5 <b>the people of Nineveh believed in</b> God; called a fast &amp; put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them                  8-9 <b>king's decree: men are to call on</b> God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands so that they not perish                  10 When God saw they turned from their wicked way, God relented &amp; did not bring the calamity</p>	<p>2 <b>he prayed to</b> the LORD, "I knew that Thou art a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity"                  3 <b>asked</b> the LORD to take his life                  4,9 the LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"                  6 the LORD God appointed a plant &amp; it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head                  7 God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day, and it attacked the plant and it withered                  8 when the sun came up, God appointed a scorching east wind, &amp; the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he begged with all his soul to die                  10 the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work, and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.                  11 "And should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"</p>
	<p>the sailors feared the LORD greatly when they saw the sea stop raging, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows (1:15-16)                  the people of Nineveh believed in God (3:5) and called on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands (3:8) in hopes that God may relent, &amp; withdraw His burning anger so that they would not perish (3:9)                  But Jonah disobeyed and got angry with God for showing mercy to Nineveh!                  Everything in the book of Jonah obeyed the Lord: the wind, the sea, the storm, the sailors, the fish, the people of Nineveh, the plant, the scorching east wind, the wind EXCEPT JONAH!</p>		

*However, secular history may, indeed, hint to this sacred revival recorded in Jonah after all. It is known that about this time there was a religious movement in Nineveh, which resulted in a change from the worship of many gods to that of one God whom they called Nebo. Nebo was the son in the Babylonian trinity. His name meant, "The Proclaimer, the Prophet." He was the proclaimer of the mind and will of the trinity head. Nebo was the god of wisdom, the creator, the angelic overseer.*

*Some believe Nebo had been worshiped in earlier days as the only supreme God. It is known that the Ninevite ruler Adal-Nirari III (810-783 B.C.) had advocated a monotheistic worship system of some kind. If the revival took place at this time as a result of Jonah's preaching, then the use of their national name for the Son of God is what we might possibly expect. Jonah did not preach repentance to the Ninevites in the name of Yahweh (the Hebrew God of the Covenant), but in the name of Elohim (the triune Creator of the Universe; Gen. 1:1).*

*Some believe, however, that the revival took place a little later, under the reign of King Assurdan III (771-754 B.C.) If so, then God had even more time to prepare the Ninevites, for:*

- A great plague had occurred in 765 B.C.
- A total eclipse of the sun took place on June 15, 763 B.C.
- Another plague fell in 759 B.C.

Nineveh was a large city: It required three days to travel from one side to the other (3:3; cf. 4:11). Originally built by Nimrod (Gen. 10:8-11), it was on the east bank of the Tigris River. The city was advanced culturally but its people were arrogant and corrupt. Nahum the prophet spoke against Nineveh as a bloody city full of lies, violence, sensuousness, and idolatry. Their soldiers were infamous for their cruelty. Although God knew of their wickedness, He nevertheless commissioned Jonah to go and preach to them. God sent him there not only for Nineveh's spiritual welfare, but also to shame Israel in a dramatic way. Israel was religiously self-indulgent and did not bother to evangelize the surrounding nations. So when Jonah went alone to preach to Nineveh and the entire city repented, it was a sharp rebuke to Israel's attitude. It seems God often sends individuals to accomplish His work when a larger group does not obey

## Israel in the Reign of Jeroboam II

Jeroboam II (c. 793-753 B.C.) was king of Israel. "He was, in fact, the greatest and longest-reigning of all the kings who reigned over the northern kingdom. In a moral and religious sense there was little to choose between him and his evil predecessors on the throne, but in military prowess, he remarkably excelled. His recaptured and newly annexed territories reached up as far as Hamath, over 200 miles north of Samaria, so that his domain became almost as extensive as David's has been! – and all this is plainly said to have been the fulfillment of a prophecy by 'Jonah, the son of Ammitai, the prophet which was of Gath-hepher.' ... Gath-hepher is now identified with a village name El Meshed some miles north of Nazareth, in Zebulun, where, according to a firm tradition dating back to Jerome's time, the tomb of Jonah is pointed out even to this day.

"Incidentally, the reference to 2 Kings fixes the time of Jonah's ministry. It was during the later years of Joash, and (presumably) the earlier years of Jeroboam II. He would probably be one of the leaders among the 'school of prophets' when Elisha was nearing the end of his remarkable ministry" (Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*, p. 148).

Since the days of King Omri (c. 885-874 B.C.) the northern kingdom had been attacked by Syria and Assyria. The Israelites particularly hated and feared Assyria because its growth as an empire threatened their national security. In the midst of that tension, God called Jonah to go to the capital of Assyria: "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" (Jonah 1:1-2). We know little about Jonah, but his name means "dove," symbolic of a messenger of peace.

## One Reason for Jonah's Disobedience

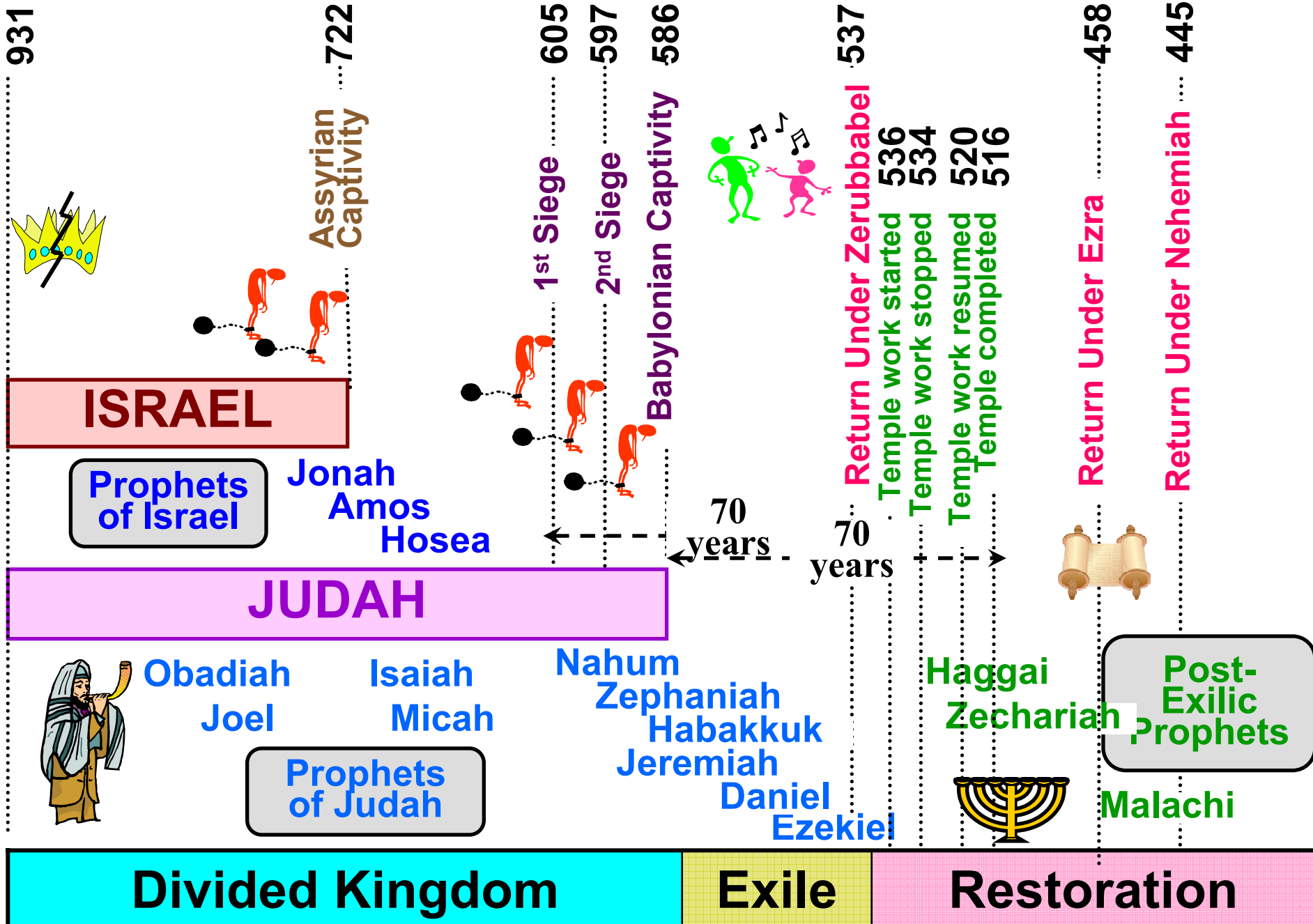
The only other time Jonah is mentioned in the Old Testament is in 2 Kings 14:25. There, his message was one of:

- Expansion of the kingdom,
- And financial blessings for Israel.

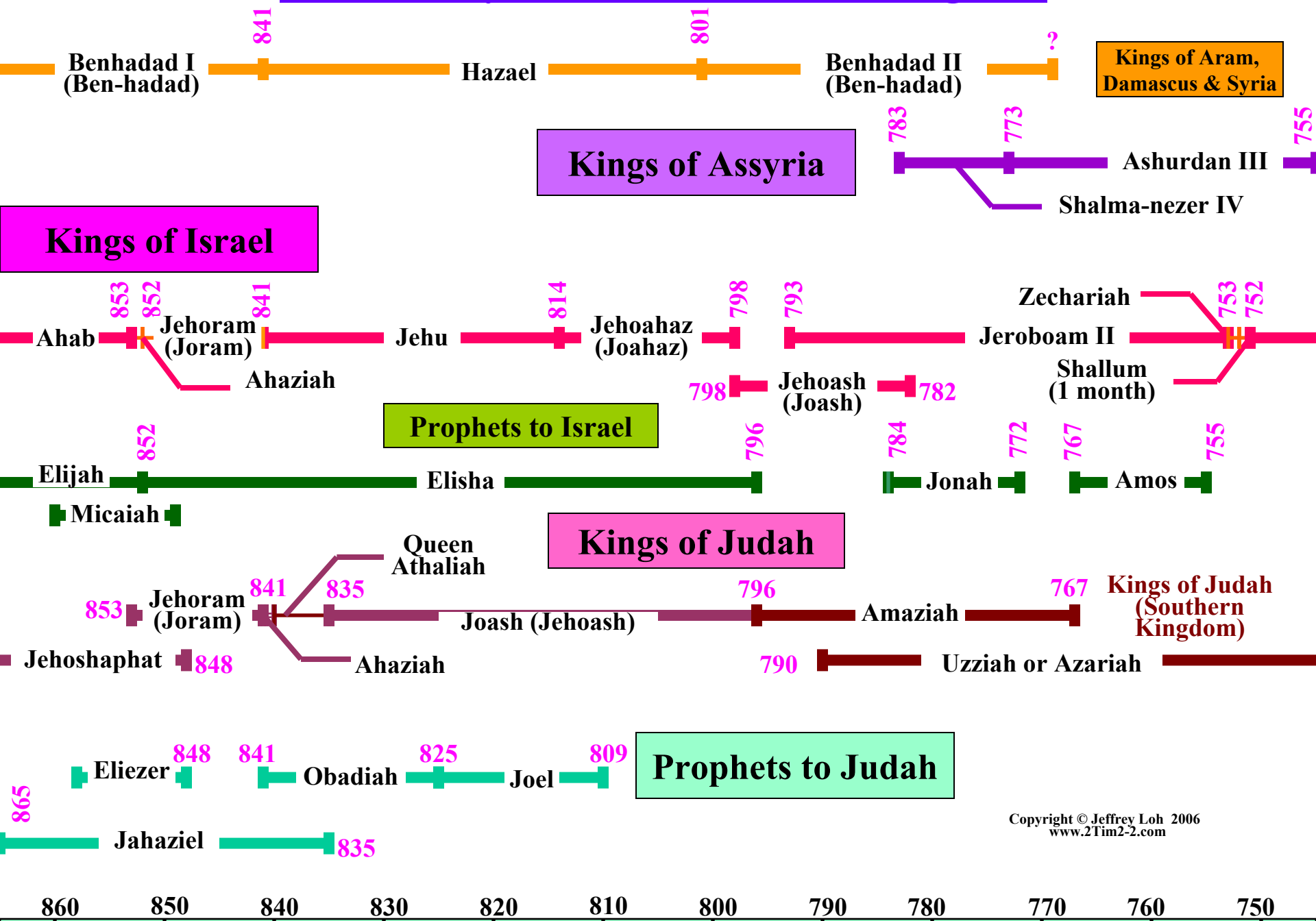
As a leader of the school of prophets after Elisha, Jonah would have achieved some greatness and perhaps even popularity in Israel.

Now, he was called to go to the enemy with a word of judgment against Nineveh. If they repented, God would surely relent and Jonah didn't want them to be saved (see Jonah 4:2a), for he knew that Assyria would be later used to destroy Israel. If this is so, then Jonah showed greater patriotic love for his country rather than for the will of God. He was willing to forgo his prophetic office and flee rather than offer even the slimmest of hope of repentance to wicked Nineveh.

# Prophets of Israel & Judah



# The History of Israel – Divided Kingdom



# The Wickedness of Israel in the Days of Jeroboam II

**Amos 2:6-8, 12** – no justice for the poor, immorality, corrupting the Nazirites, forbidding prophets to prophesy

**Amos 3:14** – judgment pronounced; religious sins

**Amos 4:1-2** – sin of the wives; oppression of the poor, drunkenness; **judgment pronounced**

**Amos 4:7-12** – famine, drought, poor harvest, plague, sword, refusal to repent; **“Prepare to meet your God”**

**Amos 5:10-15; 21-27** – hate reproof, heavy rent on poor; **judgments pronounced**, accept bribes, no mercy on the poor, **instructions to repent; God rejects their festivals, their sacrifices & their songs**, sin of idolatry, **will be exiled beyond Damascus**

**Amos 6:1, 4-8** – **Woes pronounced, the Rich judged**, they didn't grieve over Joseph's ruin, **the Rich to be exiled, God loathes Jacob's pride & citadels, city to be delivered up**

**Amos 9:10** - death by the sword

Israel was enjoying a period of resurgence and prosperity under Jeroboam II. Conditions were looking promising after many bleak years, and nationalistic fervour was probably high. During these years Assyria was in a period of mild decline. Weak rulers had ascended the throne, but Assyria still remained a threat.

The Sins of Israel which Amos denounced include Social Injustice, Oppression of the Poor, Religious Sins, and Moral Depravity

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# Theme: The Grace and Compassion of God

## Title: God's Patience with Man's Disobedience / Go, Proclaim to Nineveh

### Key Words or Phrases:

Jonah, the LORD

The Sailors, Nineveh

1) "great" (14x) - 1:2, 4[2x], 10, 12, 16, 17; 2:5; 3:2, 3; 5, 4:1, 6, 11;

2) "appointed" (4x) - 1:17; 4:6, 7, 8;

3) "the word of the LORD" (3x) - 1:1, 3:1, 3;

4) relent(-s, -ed), (3X) - 3:9, 10; 4:2



### Historical Setting:

1) Wickedness of Nineveh (1:2; 3:8, 10), ready for judgment & destruction (3:4)

2) Wickedness of Israel which Amos denounced: Social Injustice, Oppression of the Poor, Religious Sins, and Moral Depravity

### Purposes:

1) To reveal the power of God in nature (1:2-4) and the mercy and compassion of God in human affairs (chapters 3-4)

2) To reveal that "Salvation is from the Lord" (2:9) and that God extends salvation to all who repent and turn to Him (3:9-10)

3) To teach Israel how to respond to God's pronouncements of judgment and how to repent (chapter 3)

4) To show God's patience with His erring children (chapter 4)

Author: Jonah, son of Amittai (1:1), ministered in the days of Jeroboam II, before the prophet Amos (767-755BC)

When written: in days of Jeroboam II (793-753 BC); in later years, Jonah ministered in 784-772 BC (2Kgs 14:25)

## Theme of Jonah: The Grace & Compassion of God on Sinners

### Title of Jonah: God's Patience with Man's Disobedience / Go, Proclaim to Nineveh

	Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
Titles	Jonah Flees	Jonah Prays	Jonah Preaches	Jonah Pouts
	Disobedience of Jonah	Distress of Jonah	Declaration of Jonah	Displeasure of Jonah
	Jonah's 1 <sup>st</sup> Commission – He Disobeys	Jonah's Desperate Prayer	Jonah's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Commission – He Obeys	Jonah's Angry Prayers
Topics	Fleeing	Fearing	Following	Fuming
	"I won't go"	"I will go"	"I'm here"	"I shouldn't have come"
Major Events	Jonah and the Storm	Jonah and the Fish	Jonah and the City	Jonah and the LORD
	Jonah Flees, Jonah Sleeps, The Storm, The Casting of Cargo, Lots & of Jonah into the Sea , The Calm, The Fish	In the Sea: The Distress, The "Death" Experience, In the Fish, the Prayer the Vow, the Declaration & the Fish Vomits Jonah onto Dry Land	The Recommissioning, the Obedience, the Fast, the Decree, God relents	Jonah's Anger & the Lord's Patience, the Plant, the Worm, the Sun, the Wind, the Lord's Questions
Emotions	Fear of Sailors Indifference of Jonah	Distress, Desperation Gratitude, Determination	Faith, Fear & Repentance God Relents	Displeasure, Anger of Jonah God's Patience

**Author:** Jonah, son of Amittai (1:1), ministered in the days of Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:25) before the prophet Amos (767-755BC)

**Recipients:** Israel      **Other People:** Sailors, Nineveh

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