

## INTRODUCTION

### **2021 (Feb 16 – March 23) Tuesday Lenten Bible Study: JONAH**

#### Resources

Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible: Jonah by Phillip Cary; Brazos Press  
Interpretation (A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching): Hosea - Micah  
by James A. Limburg; John Knox Press

Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer; Lifeway

The Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia Publishing House

The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah & the Mystery of God's Mercy by Timothy Keller; Viking

#### Map

**Below is a link to a map of Jonah's Journeys**

[https://visualunit.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/jonah\\_map1.pdf](https://visualunit.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/jonah_map1.pdf)

Questions for Personal Reflection *from* Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer; Lifeway

**Have your life plans ever been interrupted?**

**Have you ever run away from God?**

**If your life is being interrupted right now in some way, what "comforts" are you having the most difficult time leaving behind to follow God's directives?**

**Consider the following equation:**

**Insignificant Person + Insignificant task = Interruption**

**Significant Person + Significant Task = Divine Intervention**

***Explain the meaning of the equation in your own words.***

#### Outlines

**Outline** Interpretation (A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching): Hosea - Micah

by James A. Limburg; John Knox Press

1:1-3 In the land of Israel: the Lord and Jonah

1:4-16 At sea: Jonah and the sailors

1:17-2:10 In the fish: The Lord and Jonah

3:1-10 In Nineveh: the Lord, Jonah, and the Ninevites

4:1-11 Outside Nineveh: The Lord and Jonah

*See also separate document:*

**Outline of Parallel Scenes in Jonah** *from* The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah & the Mystery of God's Mercy by Timothy Keller; Viking

## Jonah Reference in the Old Testament

### **2 Kings 14:25**

He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. *ESV (English Standard Version)*

### Proposed Timelines

**Timeline A** *from The Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia Publishing House*

931 BC Israel divided under Rehoboam

793-753 BC Reign of Jeroboam II (Israel)

**c 790 BC Jonah written**

722 BC Samaria (Israel) falls to Assyria

715-686 BC Reign of Hezekiah (Judah)

**Timeline B** *from Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible: Jonah by Phillip Cary; Brazos Press*

“Most scholars think that the book of Jonah is postexilic, which is to say written after the Babylonian exile of the Judeans.

*[Judeans return from exile beginning 538 BC with Cyrus’ decree from The Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia Publishing House]*

This means it was written a long time after the lifetime of Jonah son of Amittai, indeed long after the Assyrian exile of the Israelites and the subsequent destruction of the Assyrian Empire itself ...

The book Jonah was addressed to the people of Judah, the returning exiles of the southern kingdom, but it tells a story about a prophet from Israel, the lost northern kingdom, in which the Judeans were not doubt meant to see themselves. Jonah’s experience with Nineveh clearly derives its meaning from Israel’s experience with the Assyrian Empire, whose capital was Nineveh, and just as clearly points to Judah’s experience with the Chaldean Empire, whose capital city was Babylon.”

**LORD & God** *from Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible: Jonah by Phillip Cary; Brazos Press*

“... it is always important how the deity is referred to in the text: whether by the generic term *Elohim*, translated “God,” or by the proper name of the God of Israel, translated “LORD.” In the ancient world everybody knows about God, but very few people outside Israel know the name of the Lord.”

**Key Verse**    *from The Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia Publishing House)*

**Jonah 4:2**

And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; **for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.**  
*ESV (English Standard Version)*

**New Testament References**

**The Sign of Jonah**                    *from The Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia Publishing House*

“Mentioned three times in the Gospels (Matthew 12:39; 16:4; Luke 11:29)”

**Reference to Luke 15:11-32**                    *from The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah & the Mystery of God’s Mercy by  
Timothy Keller; Viking*

“Many students of the book have noticed that in the first half Jonah plays the “prodigal son” of Jesus’ famous parable (Luke 15:11-24), who ran away from his father. In the second half of the book, however, Jonah is like the “older brother” (Luke 15:25-32), who obeys his father but berates him for his graciousness to repentant sinners. The parable ends with a question from the father to the Pharisaical son, just as the book of Jonah ends with a question to the Pharisaical prophet.”