

# JONAH

## God's Problem Child



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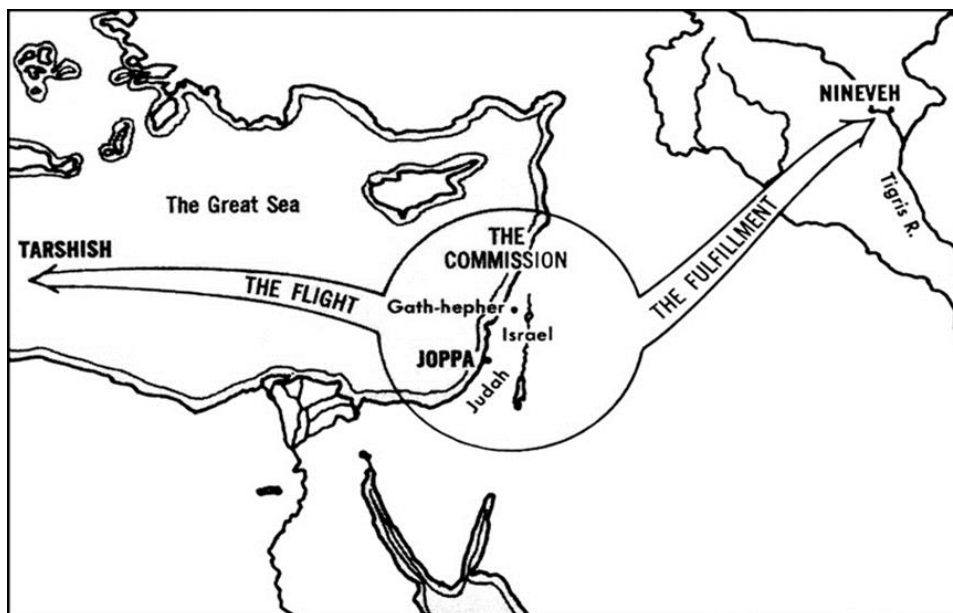
## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

### THIS BOOK SHOWS US:

- How God accomplishes his purposes even if it means doling out a heavy dose of humility on prideful and unwilling hearts.
- How God aligns our hearts to his and how his will is accomplished through fallible humans like us.

### BACKGROUND

- God called Jonah to go to Nineveh and deliver a message of repentance to them.
- God said "Go" -Jonah said "No" and fled toward Tarshish.
- Nineveh was about 500 miles to the east, so he headed for Tarshish, probably what is now Spain, the farthest western location he knew, about 2,000 miles.



### WHO WAS JONAH?

- Jonah was one of the earliest of the OT prophets and the only one commissioned by God to take a message of repentance to Gentiles.

- He was proud, stubborn, disobedient, unfaithful, a grumbler, and altogether a bad-tempered, cantankerous old curmudgeon (Houdmann, S. Michael)
- His name means “dove”!
- God gave Jonah two assignments.
- The first assignment was to go to the Israelite king, Jeroboam II, a fellow Israelite, and tell him that God would restore the borders of Israel taken by the Assyrians (2 Kings 14:25).
- The second assignment was different. Jonah was to carry a message from God to the Assyrians, people hated by the Israelites because of their cruelty to them and other people.
- Jonah refused to carry out this assignment.

### WHO WERE THE NINEVITES?



- The Ninevites were residents of the great city of Nineveh.
- Nineveh was an ancient capital city of the Neo-Assyrian Empire with a population of 120,000 (Jonah 4:11).
- The Neo-Assyrians worshipped the vicious god Ashur and a multitude of other gods and goddesses.

### WHEN DID IT TAKE PLACE?

