

Jonah (Hebrew word meaning dove)

Prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel 2 Kings 14:25

Prophet in the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel (782-753 BC)

From Gath Hepher – 3 miles north of Nazareth.

Jonah was a prophet from Galilee. The Jewish leaders wrongly said that no prophet had arisen from Galilee (John 7:52).

Jonah was sent to Nineveh – Great City

He tried to get far away to Tarshish – West on the Mediterranean Sea (Spain)

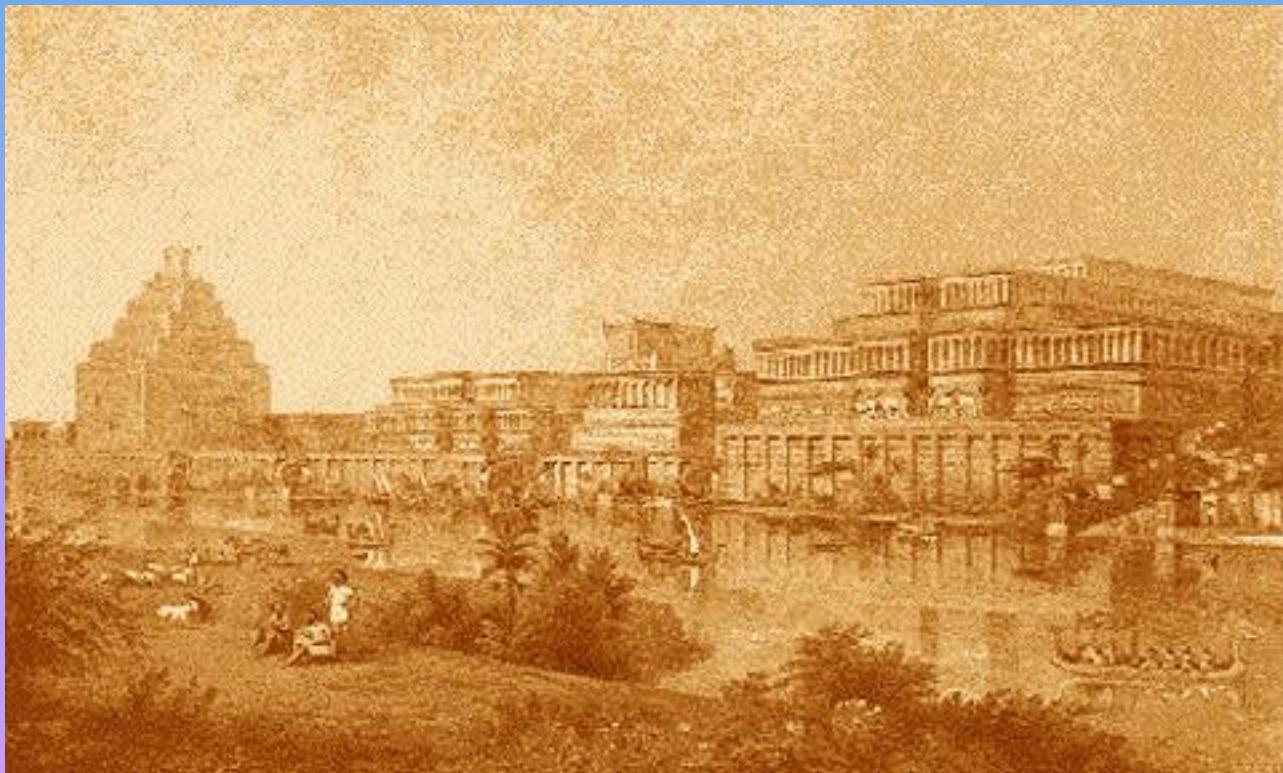
Jonah prophesied after Elisha but before Amos and Hosea.

The repentance of Nineveh probably took place during the reign of **Ashurdan III (773 – 755 BC)**

Date of the book of Jonah: c. 758 BC

Ashurdan III (reigned 773 – 755 BC)

King who repented through the preaching of Jonah



The city of
Nineveh
by the Tigris
River

Nineveh may have been prepared to hear message from Jonah.

Sickness

There had been two plagues (765 BC and 759 BC)

Natural phenomena

a solar eclipse on June 15, 763 BC.

Revolt

There had also been a revolt which lasted from 763 BC to 759 BC.

Assyria.

Known for their
cruelty to captives.

Captured prisoners
being flayed by the
Assyrians after
battle at Lachish.

British Museum



Hebrew idiom – a day and a night

Christ held to the authenticity of the book of Jonah

Matthew 12:39-41

Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

The expression a day and a night means any portion of a day and a night.

Three days and three nights means a period extending into three days and three nights.

Therefore it may be a small part of the first and third day.

Jonah

Chapters 1-2

Jonah's disobedience and miraculous deliverance

Chapters 3

Jonah's preaching and the repentance of Nineveh

Chapter 4

Jonah's anger over God's mercy