

Welcome to the
Connecting Class

Connecting with God

Connecting with His Church

Connecting with His World

Through

Exposition of light in Scripture

Experience of life in community

Expression of love in ministry

aptoteach.org



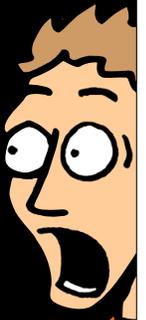
Colossians 3:15

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your heart.”

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“And let the peace of Christ rule in your heart.”

“There are few things more terrifying than facing God’s will without sharing His heart.”



Just ask Jonah

Take your baptism seriously because God does.



Jonah

A study of God’s heart and human dissonance.



Old Testament

Law

History

Poetry & Wisdom



Old Testament

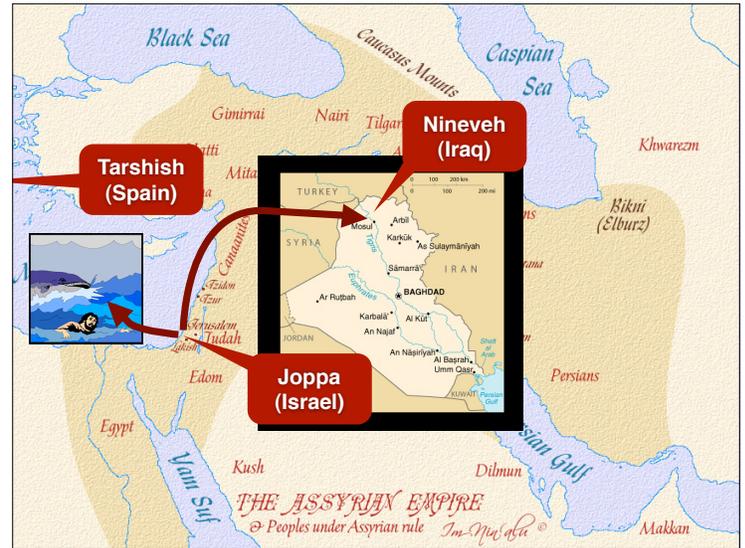
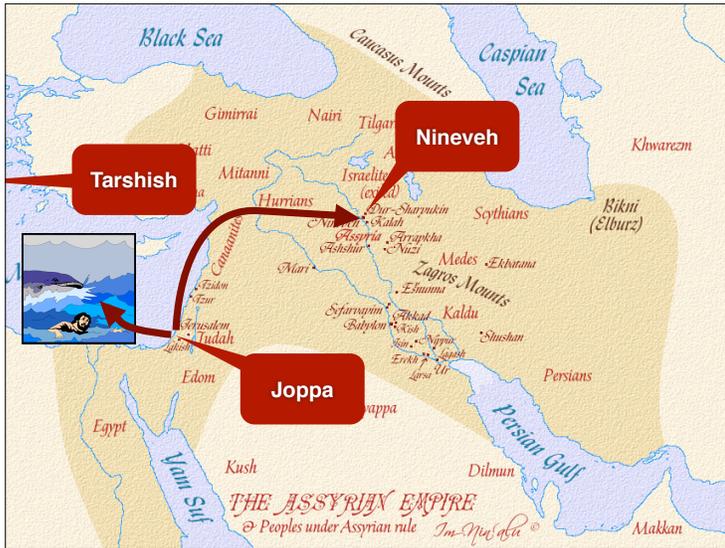
Major Prophets

Minor Prophets



General observations

1. We **do not know** for sure who wrote the book. Jonah prophesied between 782-753 B.C. The book is mentioned in the 2nd. cent. B.C.
2. Jonah is unique in that it is a **narrative** of the prophet’s experience rather than a prophetic discourse.
3. Jonah is the only minor prophet **cited by Jesus**.
4. Jonah is read by Jews in the afternoon service of **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement).



1. God calls Jonah to offer forgiveness to his enemies.
2. Jonah flees from God and gets in trouble.
3. God sends a fish to rescue Jonah.
4. Jonah offers gratitude and worship to God.
5. Jonah reluctantly obeys with dramatic results.
6. Jonah gets depressed and angry in response to God's grace.
7. God provides a plant to comfort Jonah.
8. God makes His point to Jonah and to us.

The structure of the book of Jonah

Jonah's lesson about compassion
4:5-11
"should I not have concern for the great city Nineveh?"

Jonah's grateful prayer
1:17-2:10

Jonah's angry prayer
4:1-4

Jonah and the pagan sailors
1:4-16

Jonah and the pagan Ninevites
3:3b-10

Jonah's calling and flight
1:1-3

Jonah's recall and compliance
3:1-3a

How much of Jonah is historically accurate?

Reasons to believe there is an historical basis for Jonah

1. The prophet Jonah is mentioned in **2 Kings 14:25**.
2. Jesus mentions Jonah and the conversion of Nineveh in **Matthew 12:38-42**.
3. **Josephus** and the **Apocrypha** mention Jonah as an historical character.

How much of Jonah is historically accurate?

Reasons to question its historicity

1. Is the **TOTAL** conversion of Nineveh realistic?
2. Was Nineveh **truly** converted?

Note: Assyria conquered Israel 50 years after Jonah was written and it was conquered by the Babylonians 100 years later as other Hebrew Prophets predicted.
3. Are Jonah's three days in the belly of the fish to be taken **literally**?

Could Jonah be an allegory of Israel?

Jeremiah 51:34

“Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has devoured me and crushed me, he has set me down like an empty vessel; **he has swallowed me like a monster**, he has filled his stomach with my delicacies; he has washed me away.”

Jeremiah 51:44

“I will punish Bel in Babylon, and **I will make what he has swallowed come out of his mouth**; and the nations will no longer stream to him.”

How should we view Jonah?

1. **Historical narrative** - accurate in every detail?
2. **Historically based story** - with some poetic license?
3. A **Parable** like the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) or the Prodigal Son (Luke 15)?



Jonah 1:1, 3

“Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah . . . saying,”

“But Jonah rose to flee . . . from the presence of the Lord.

Three Initial Thoughts

1. Life's greatest dissonance is **spiritual** in nature.
2. Our response to God's voice is the strongest **testimony** to our sharing His image and thus being true to our humanity.
3. Knowing God's will is no substitute for sharing God's **heart**.

Life's greatest dissonance is spiritual in nature.

1. Like Eve, Jonah's troubles start with his **negative response** to God's Word.
2. When we fail to resolve the **core issues** of life, we are destined to face fear, anxiety, guilt, and bitterness in the other areas of life. Jas.4:1-2
3. Jonah's discomfort with God's will reflected his **distrust** of God's -
 - a.) plan as it affects Jonah's **wellbeing**.
 - b.) sense of **justice**.

SHALOM

Casual longings

Critical longings

Core longings



Our response to God's voice is the strongest testimony to our sharing His image and thus being true to our humanity.

1. Our human dissonance bears **witness** to our spiritual nature.
2. Our longings for shalom can **draw** us to Christ.
3. Spiritual **health** is seen in the expression rather than the repression of spiritual dissonance.
4. Ultimately it is the human quest for and experience of shalom that constitutes the **background** of the Biblical story of the Gospel. It is our story and Christ's story.

Knowing God's will without sharing God's heart is a recipe for great dissonance.

1. We **wrongly think** that our dissonance comes from uncertainty about God's will.
2. Knowing God's will **increases** our dissonance if it does not also involve sharing God's heart.
3. Spiritual maturity is all about the installation and expression of **God's Spirit** not just His laws.
4. How do we **read and teach the Bible**? Is it for knowing God's will or seeking God's heart?

How can we access God's heart in Scripture?

1. **Words** - What does the dialogue between God and Jonah reveal about God's heart? - What adjectives describe it?
2. **Actions** - How do Jonah's actions reflect his heart? - What adjectives describe Jonah's heart?
3. **Parallels** - How many parallels can you see between Jonah and yourself? - between Jonah and Jesus?
4. **Contrasts** - Expect the unexpected - the Kingdom of God is often at odds with the values and thinking of this age.
5. **Personalize** - Put yourself into the textual situation and imagine a number of different scenarios from differing motives and attitudes.
6. **Audit** - Evaluate your own actions and take steps to make needed corrections.

