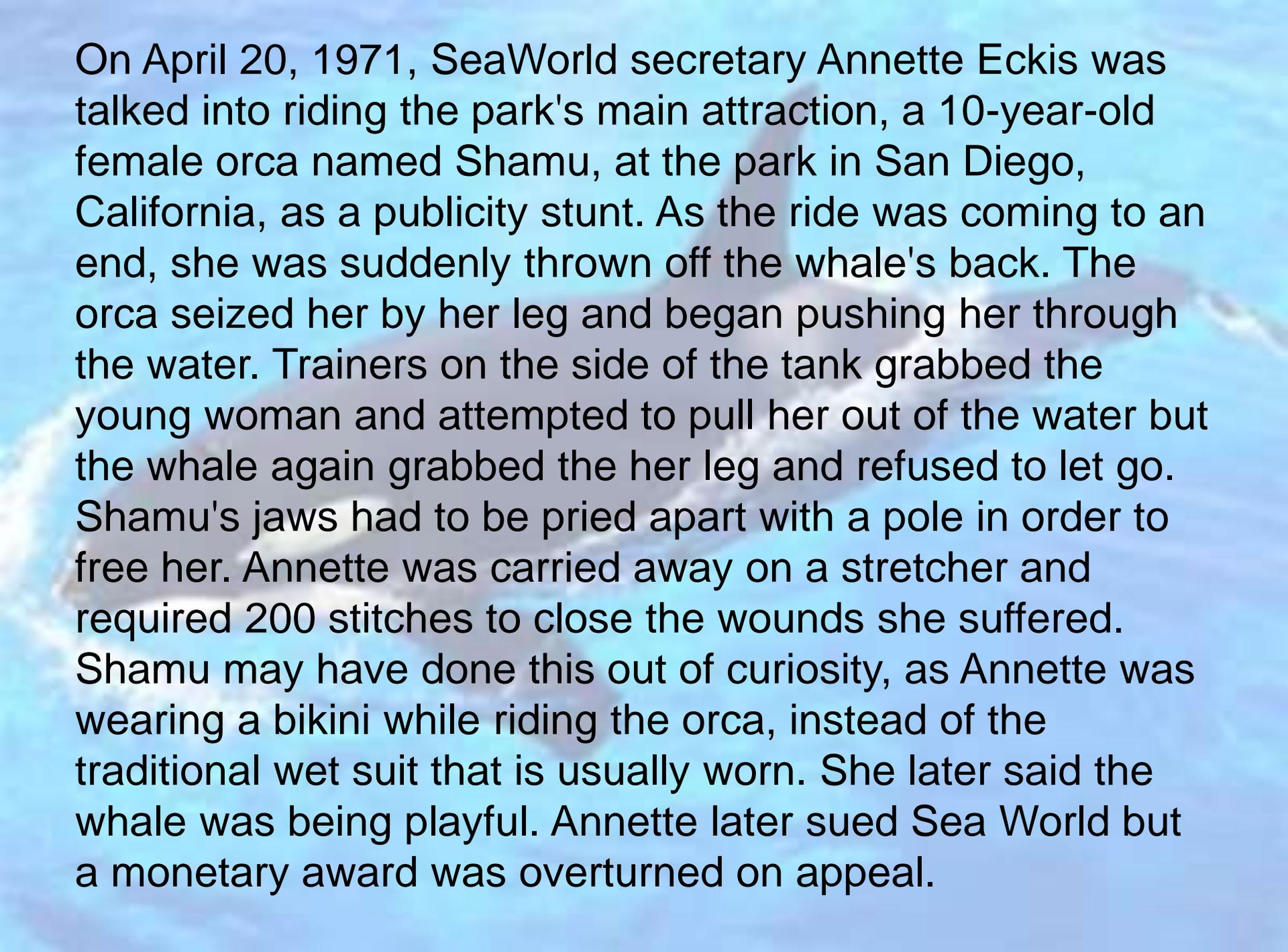


The “Tail” of Jonah and the Whale

Or “You really can trust the Bible when it tells you something”.



Written up after the events but does 3:3 mean 200+ years ?
(report of ‘holiday’ visit to big city)

The background of the slide is a blurry, light-colored image showing a person riding an orca. The person is wearing a bikini and is positioned on the back of the whale. The orca is partially visible, with its dark back and white belly. The overall scene is set in a large body of water, likely a tank at SeaWorld.

On April 20, 1971, SeaWorld secretary Annette Eckis was talked into riding the park's main attraction, a 10-year-old female orca named Shamu, at the park in San Diego, California, as a publicity stunt. As the ride was coming to an end, she was suddenly thrown off the whale's back. The orca seized her by her leg and began pushing her through the water. Trainers on the side of the tank grabbed the young woman and attempted to pull her out of the water but the whale again grabbed her leg and refused to let go. Shamu's jaws had to be pried apart with a pole in order to free her. Annette was carried away on a stretcher and required 200 stitches to close the wounds she suffered. Shamu may have done this out of curiosity, as Annette was wearing a bikini while riding the orca, instead of the traditional wet suit that is usually worn. She later said the whale was being playful. Annette later sued Sea World but a monetary award was overturned on appeal.

2Ki 14:23 -25

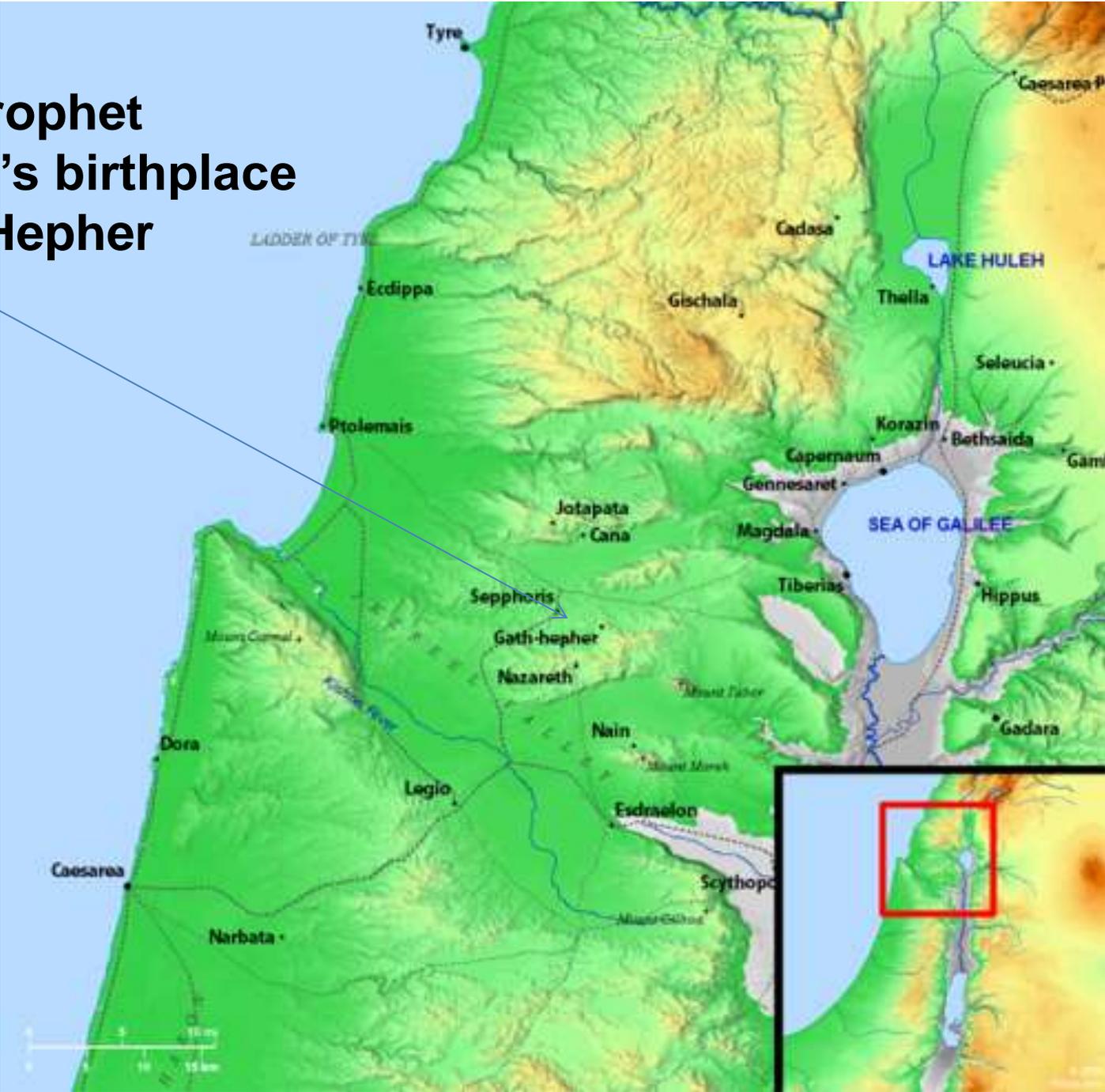
Jeroboam II 793 – 753 BC

In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years.

He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit. He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher.

So Jonah was born and ministered before 800 BC

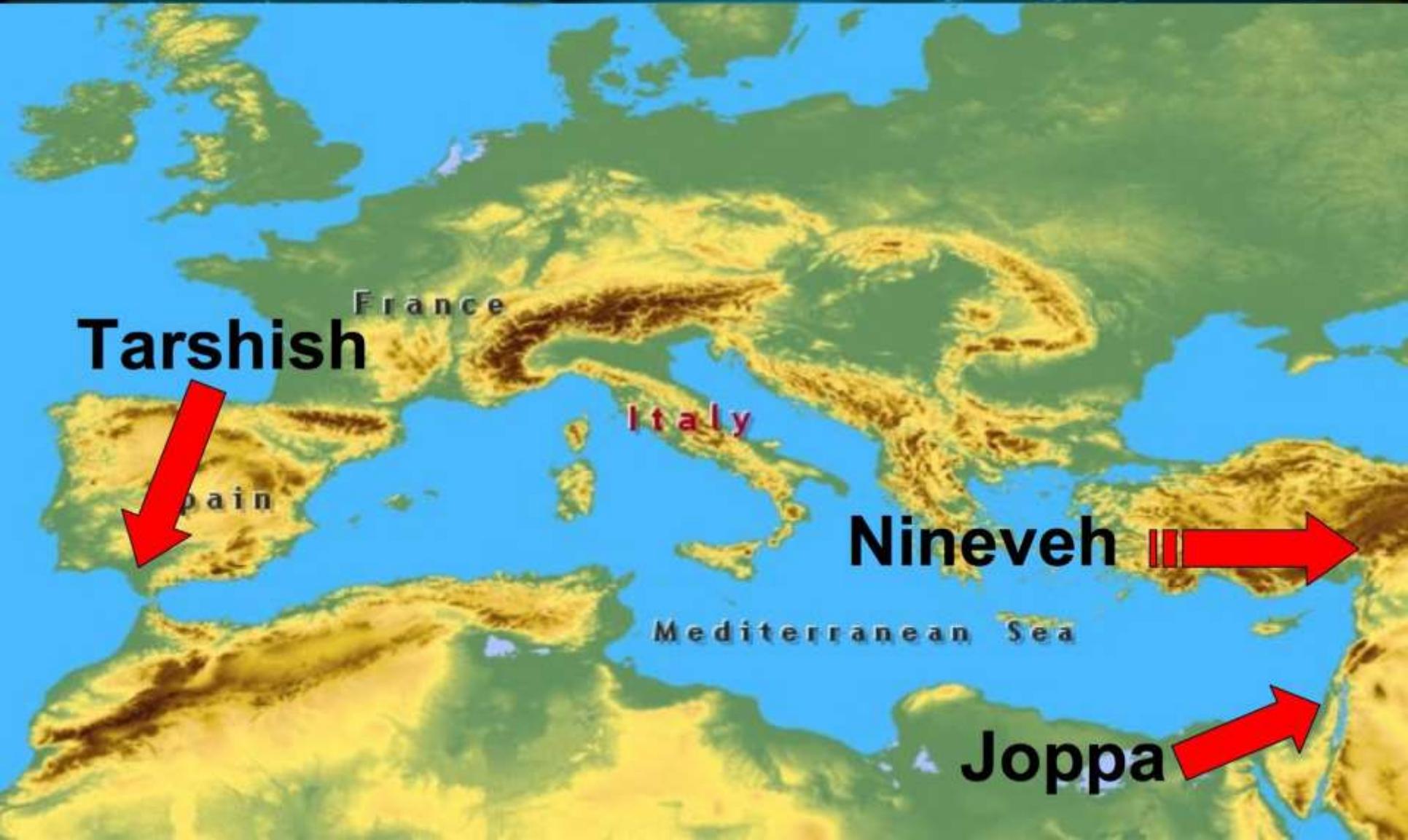
The prophet Jonah's birthplace Gath Hopher



Present-day Gath Hopher



Jonah runs!



Nineveh ???

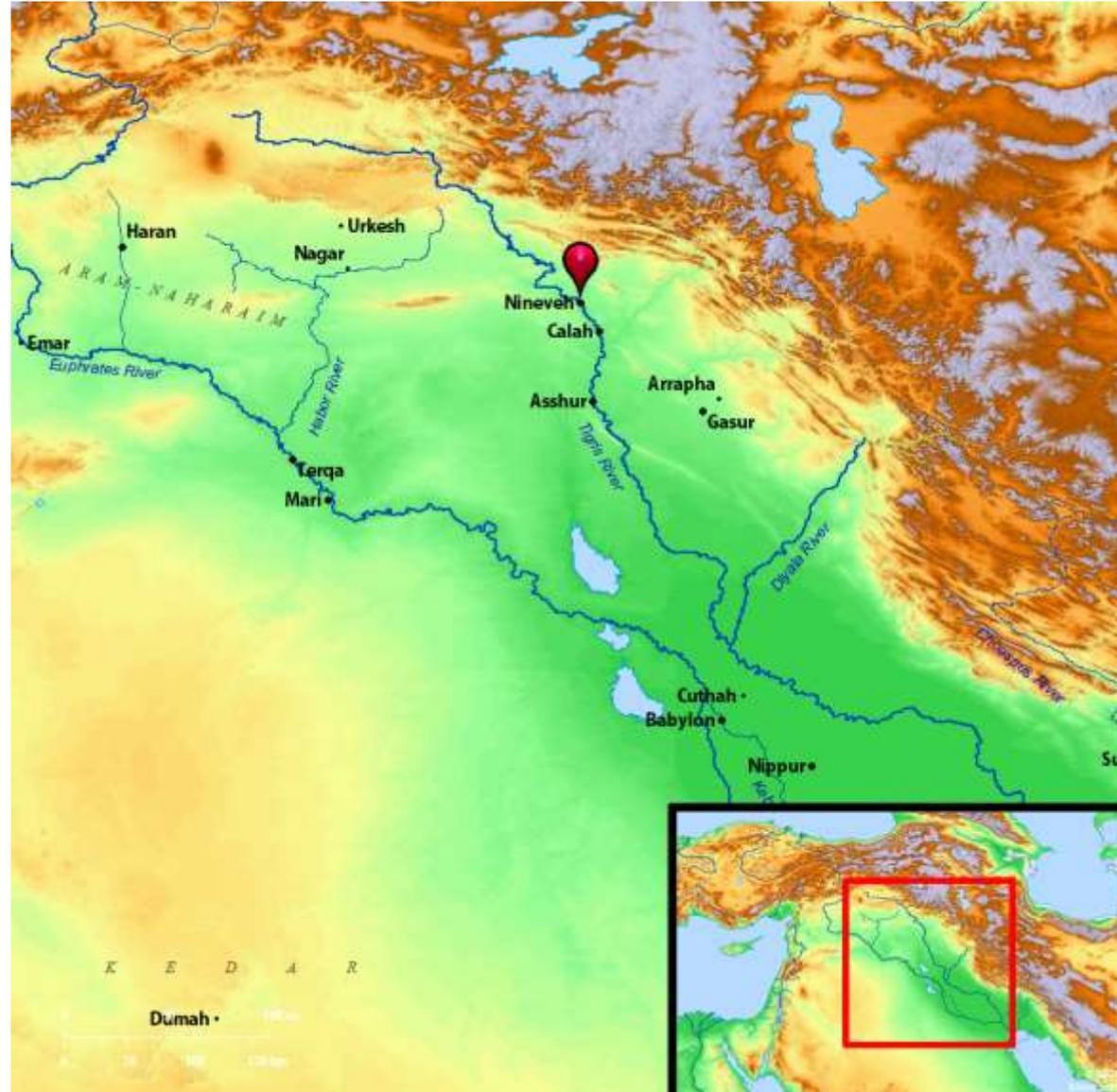
Before the great archaeological excavations in the second half of the 19th century, there was almost no historical knowledge of the great Assyrian empire and of its magnificent capital. Other cities that had perished had left ruins to mark their sites and tell of their former greatness; but of this city, imperial Nineveh, not a single vestige seemed to remain, and the very place on which it had stood became only matter of conjecture.

Before then, what do you think had become the prevailing view about the Bible's references to Nineveh?

Lesson to learn?

Nineveh

Nineveh's location is marked by two large mounds, Kouyunjik and Nabī Yūnus "Prophet Jonah", and the remains of the city walls (about 7 miles in circumference). The mound, Nabī Yūnus, has not been as extensively explored because there was a Muslim shrine dedicated to the prophet Jonah on the site. (Note: ISIS destruction)

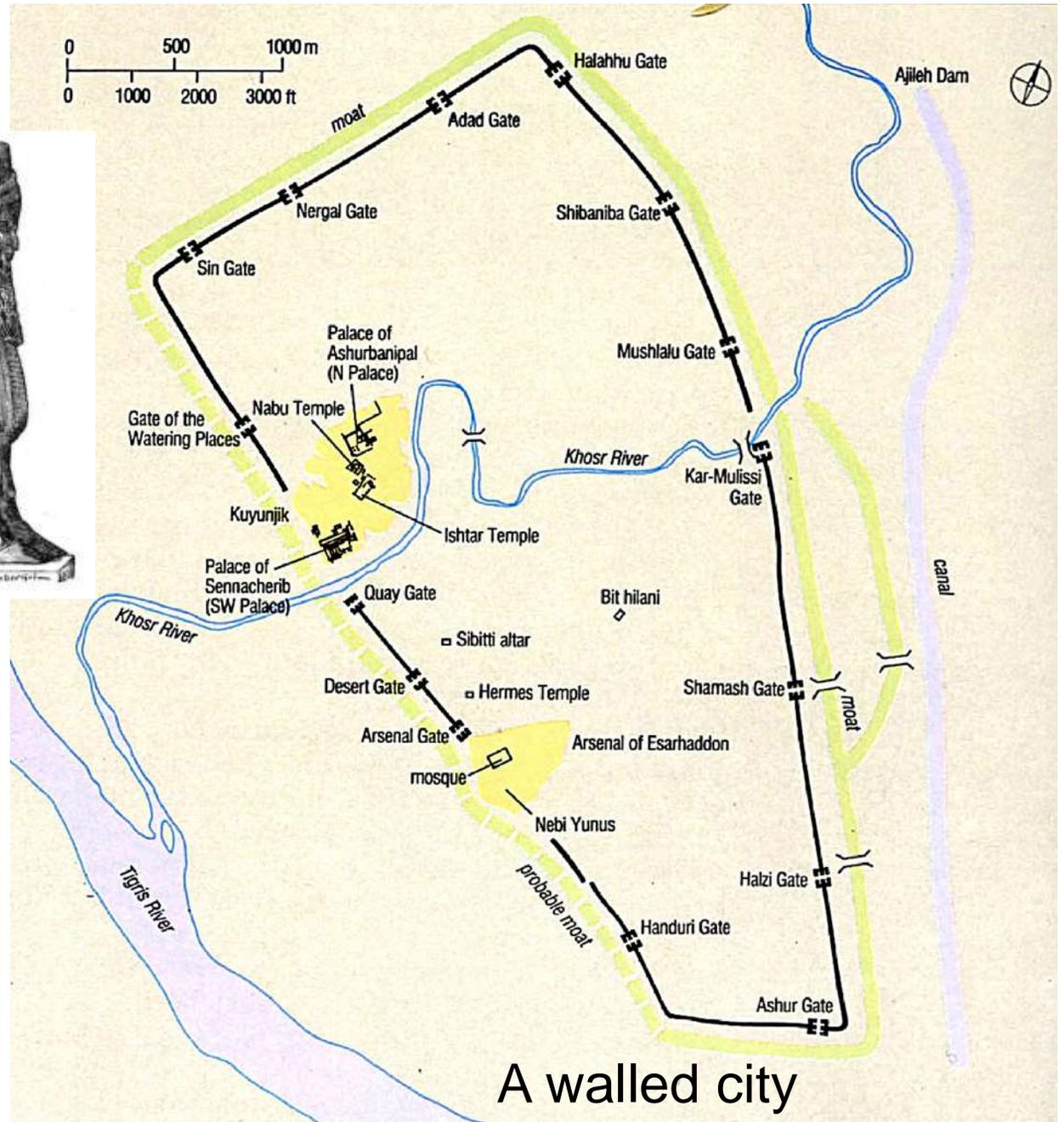


They found

statues



libraries



A walled city

"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." Jonah 1:2



3: 3 (30 - 60 miles) cf. London & Greater London

"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because **its wickedness has come up before me.**" Jonah 1:2



Taking captives

Counting heads



These were the people of the future Assyria.

It was not until the Neo-Assyrian Empire (911–608 BC) and the forced deportations of Arameans into Assyria itself that the Assyrians and Babylonians began to speak Aramaic. *(This became one of the Bible languages)*

Mass relocations of other peoples were enforced by Assyrian kings and it was during this period, long after Jonah's time, that many Israelite Jews would be deported to Assyria by Shalmaneser (722 BC) and Sennacherib (700 BC)



Assyrians

Why is there no archaeological record of the repentance of the people in the earlier period?

Just 1 generation (no Bible teaching?)

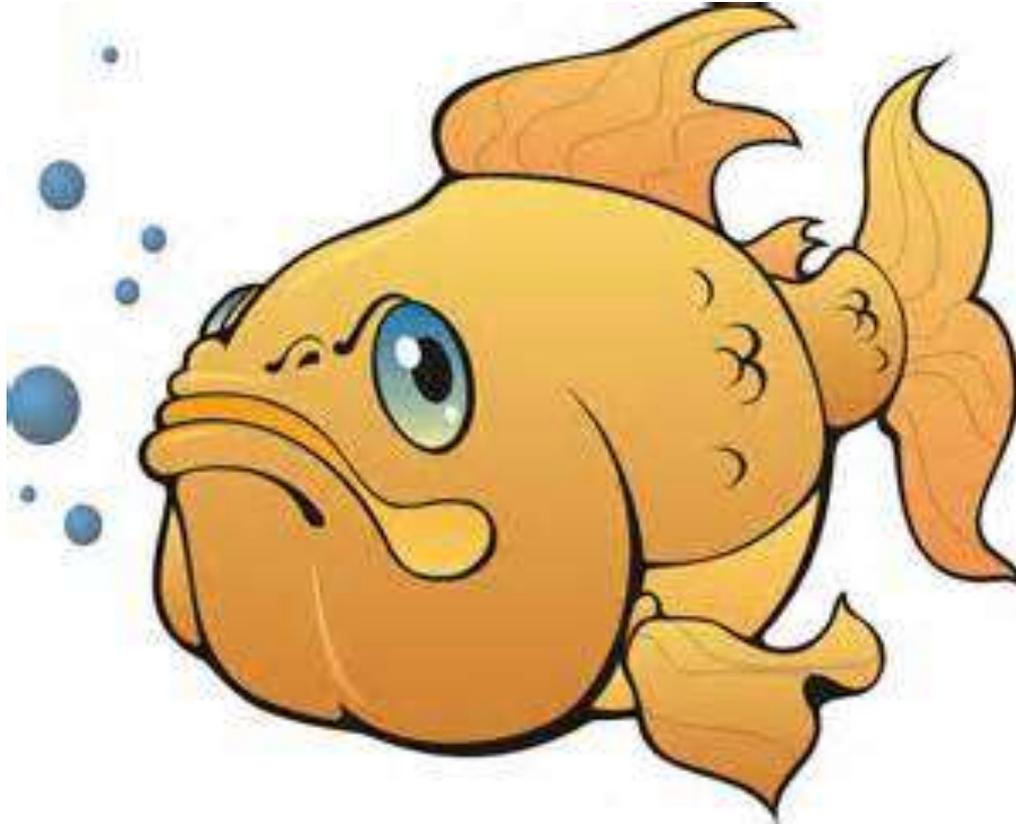
Political history records “victories” and ignores/destroys embarrassing stuff.

Nineveh

It was the largest city in the world for some fifty years until, after a bitter period of civil war, it was sacked in 612 BC. Its ruins are across the river from the modern-day major city of Mosul.



What about the Fish ???



the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah 1:17

Species not declared.. possible contenders?

Sperm whale



Males are typically 16-18m (8 people) long and females 12-14m. The largest of the toothed whales and is the largest toothed animal in the world. The reason for the existence of the teeth is not known for certain. It is believed that they are not necessary for feeding on squid. In 1955 a 405 lb squid was found inside one! The current idea is that the teeth may be used for aggression between males of the same species.

Orcas, Killer whales



Most males probably reach a length of 8 to 9 metres. Their diet includes seals.

An Interesting Story

James Bartley (1870-1909) is the central figure in a late nineteenth-century urban legend according to which he was swallowed whole by a sperm whale.

The story as reported is that during a whaling expedition off the Falkland Islands, Bartley's boat was attacked by the whale and he landed inside the whale's mouth. He survived the ordeal and was carved out of the stomach by his peers when they, not knowing he was inside, caught and began skinning the whale because of the hot weather which would have rotted the whale meat. It was said that he was in the whale for 15 hours and it was also said that his skin had been bleached by the gastric juices, and that he was blind the rest of his life. He was, however, supposed to have returned to work within three weeks in some accounts. He died 18 years later and his tombstone in Gloucester says "James Bartley- a modern day Jonah.

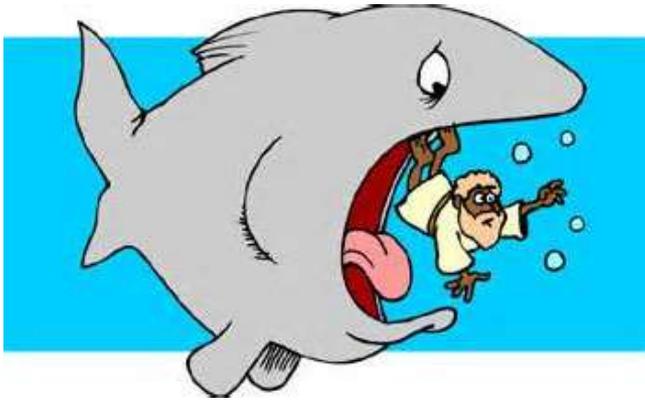
Why the scepticism?



- 1, Variations in accounts?
- 2, A sailor's yarn?
- 3, Something to do with the story of Jonah?

Jonah

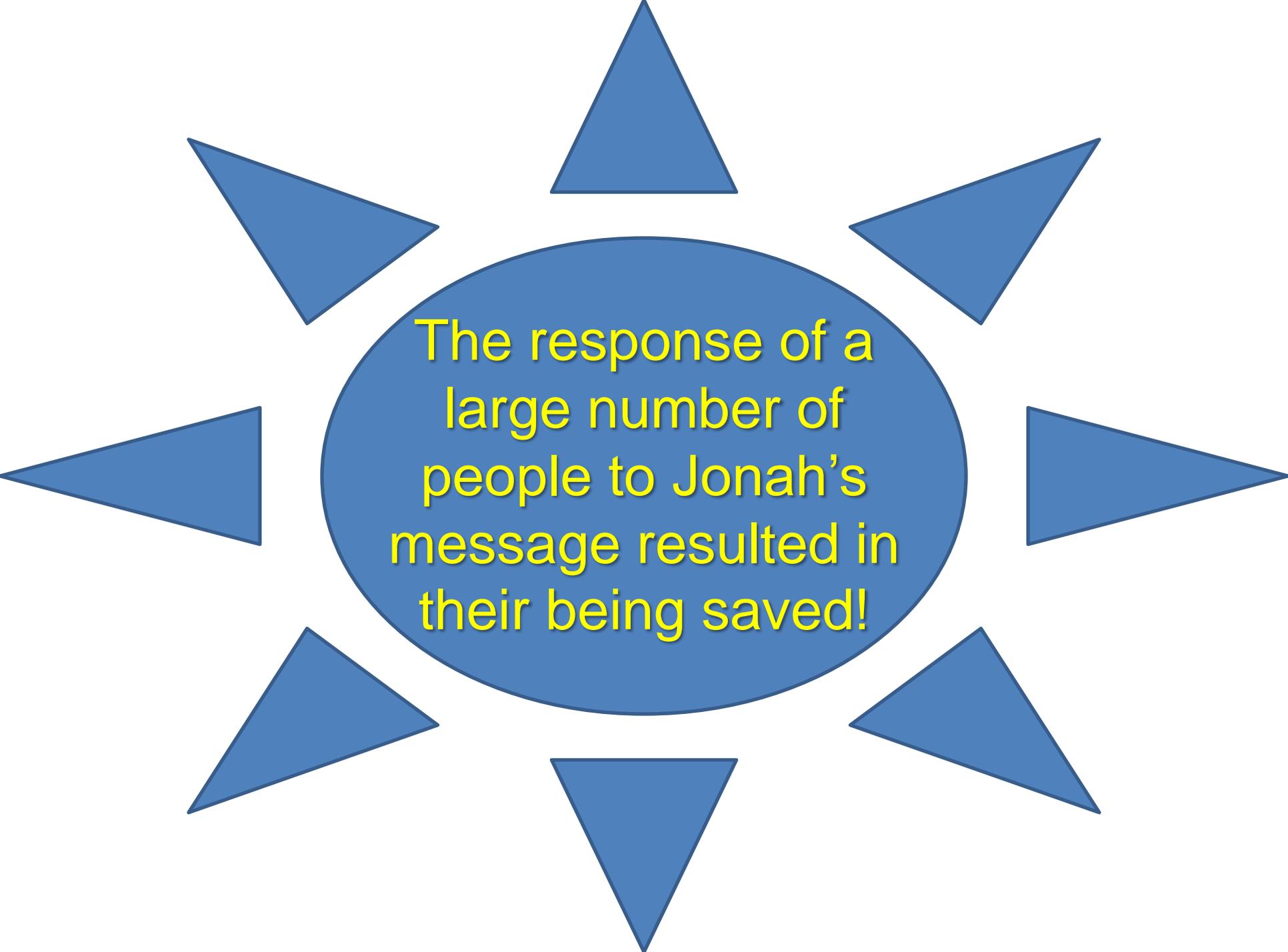
A bit of a tale ?
A parable?
Real history?



Jesus said,

“No sign will be given to this generation **except the sign of the prophet Jonah**. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.”



The response of a
large number of
people to Jonah's
message resulted in
their being saved!

What is “the sign of the prophet Jonah”?

