

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

Luke 7:34



2 Kings 14:23 -25

Jonah's mission to Israel around 800 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.

Jonah

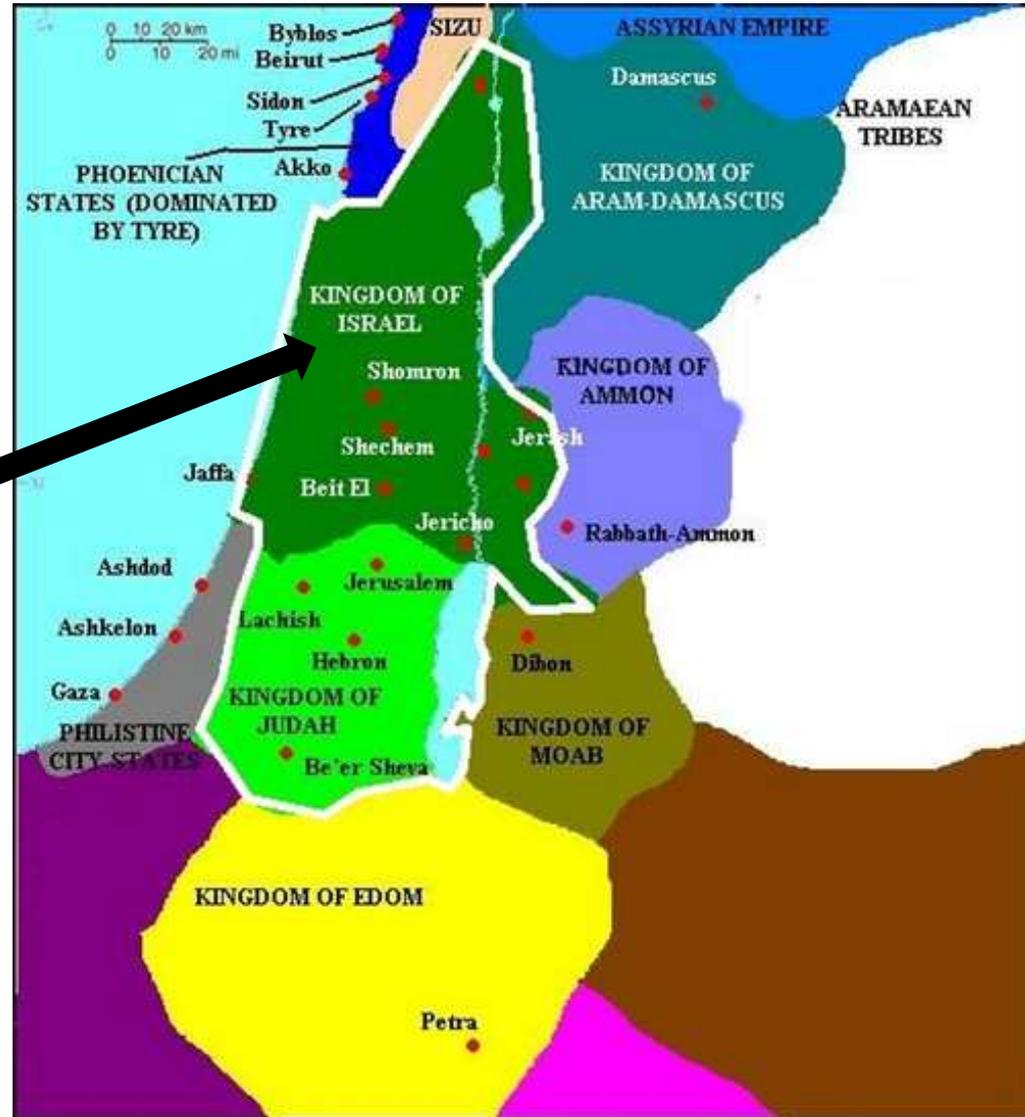
An angry and depressed man



His previous “failed” mission

Around Jonah’s time Hosea wrote:-

Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone! (4:17)



Chapter 4

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left--and also many animals?"



40

DAYS

They came and
went and Nineveh
was still there !

Jonah's reaction

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.



Why was he angry?

Because he'd been made to look a fool and a false prophet?

It hadn't worked out the way he wanted ?

Frustrated by his "success" here and his "failure" back home?

Ephesians 4:26

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Jonah knew God's character

"Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

Why didn't Jonah want them to be blessed ?

Did he think he knew better than God how to deal with Israel ?

Proverbs 19:19

A hot-tempered person must pay the penalty; rescue them, and you will have to do it again.

Proverbs 3:11

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke.

Would you welcome these people into your family ?



Can God save such people?



Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.



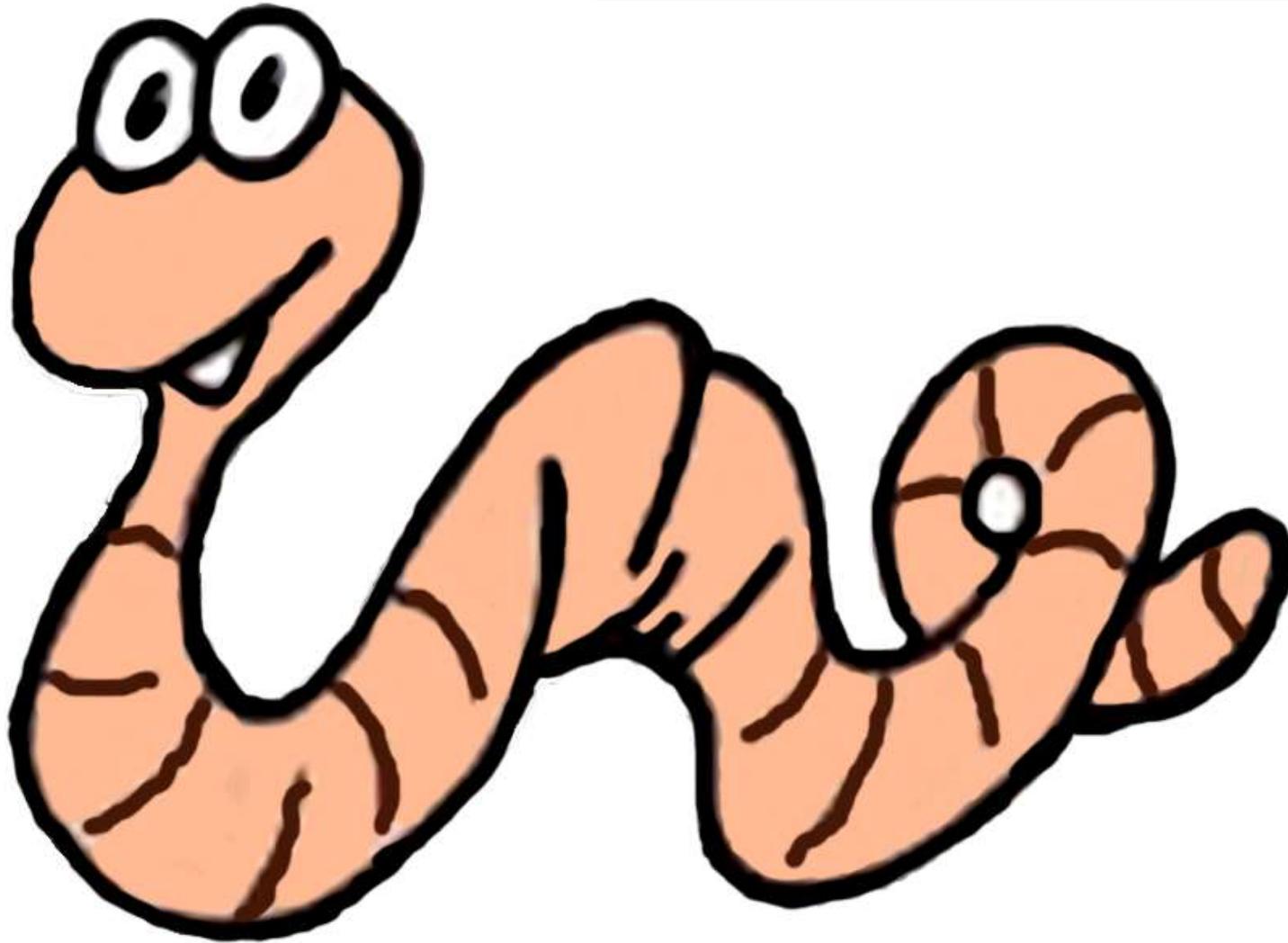
**the
LORD God
provides**

God moves in some mysterious ways !

Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.



But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered.



When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint.



Why did God do that ?

Jonah's reaction

He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah,
"Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

Think about it - Jonah



But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight."



And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left ?

What is the Lord trying to get Jonah to understand ?

L or R ?

120,000 +



And should I not have concern also for many animals?"

Animals ?



Did Jonah “get it” ?



The proof of the Book of Jonah

Do I “get it” ?

The sign of the prophet Jonah



What does the Lord want us to learn from the account of Jonah about : -

Our obedience

God’s wisdom

God’s compassion and ours

God’s grace

Our response to people’s need of God

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