

# The Upside Down

## Prophet

Jonah 1

1

Who's your favorite antihero\*?

\* **Antihero: *noun*** /'æn.tj, hɪr.əʊ/  
a protagonist or notable figure who is conspicuously  
lacking in heroic qualities

2

What's the appeal of  
that character for  
you?

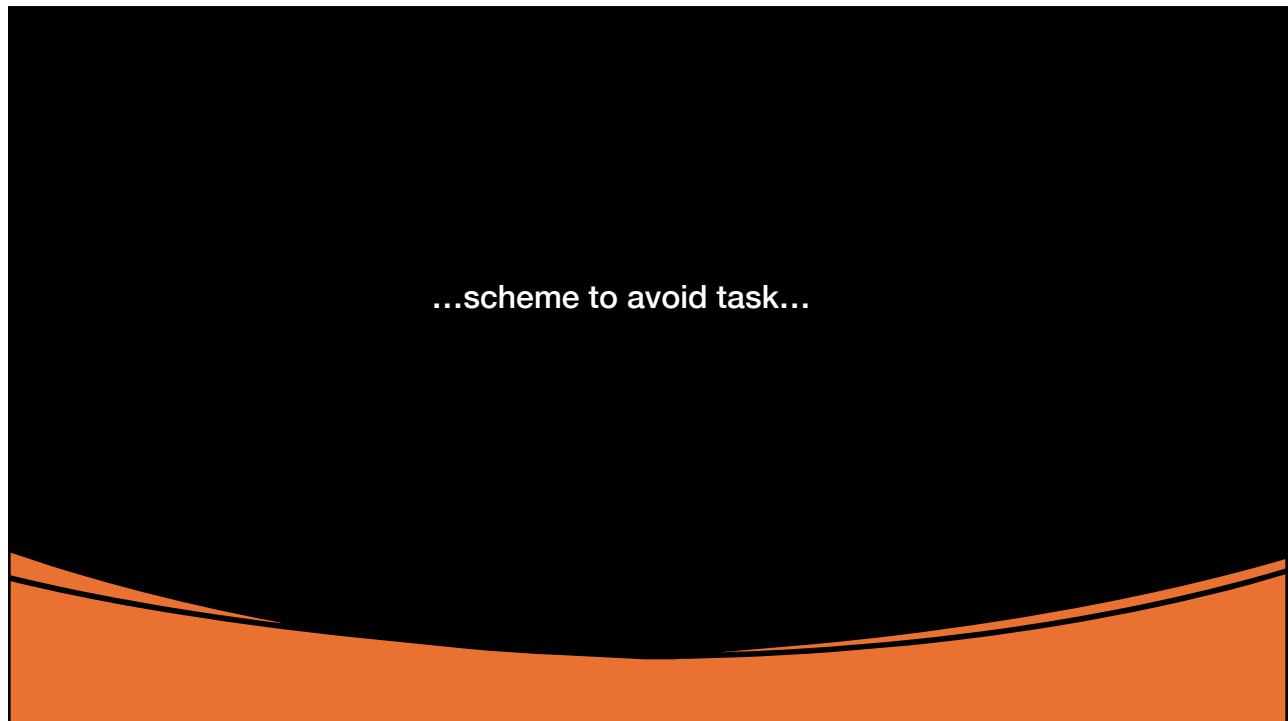
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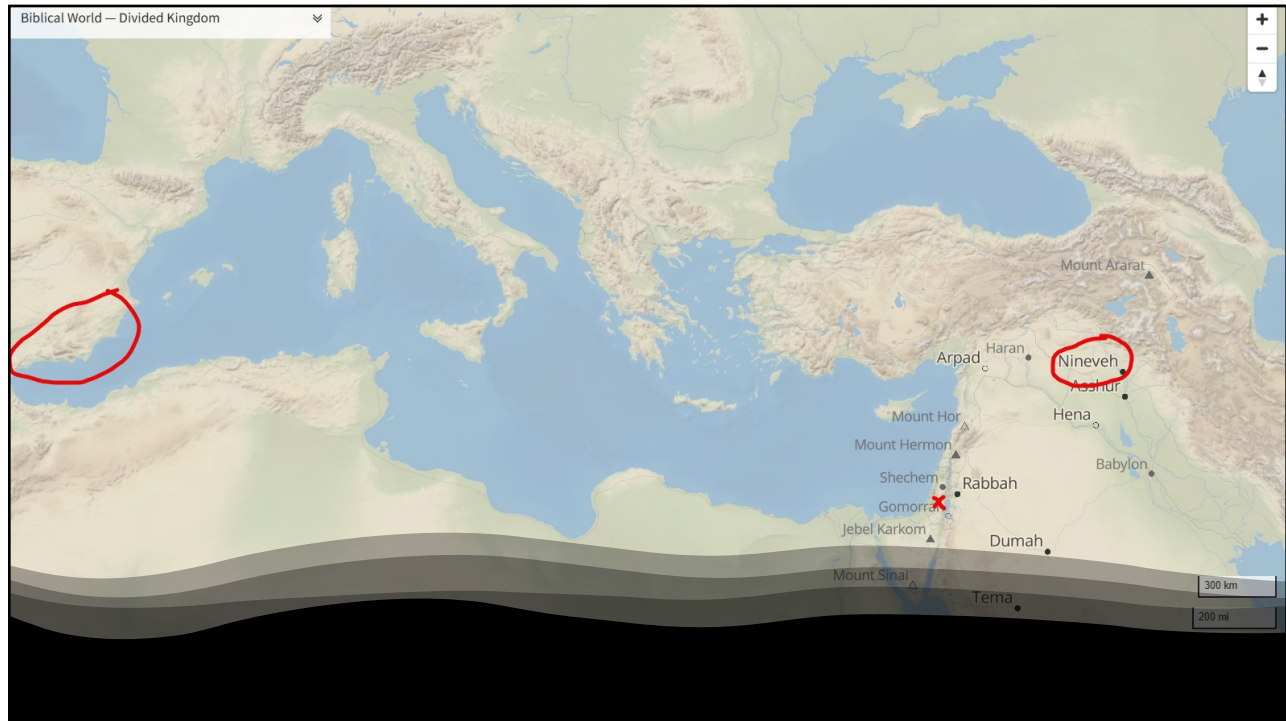
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Jonah can be understood as  
an “inverted parody\* portrait”  
of a prophet

\* **parody:** *noun* /'per.ə.di/

writing, music, art, speech, etc. that intentionally copies the style of someone famous or copies a particular situation, making the features or qualities of the original more noticeable in a way that is humorous

8



9

## Nineveh

Cush was the father of Nimrod; he began to be a valiant warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord. (That is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord.”) The primary regions of his kingdom were Babel, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen, which is between Nineveh and the great city Calah. (Gen 10: 8-12; NET)

10

## Nineveh

Woe to the city guilty of bloodshed!

She is full of lies;

she is filled with plunder;

she has hoarded her spoil! (Nahum 3:1 NET)

11

## Tarshish

“the ends of the earth”

For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. (Is 66:18-19 ESV)

12

# Tarshish

“means of illegitimate wealth” (esp. by ship)

For the Lord of hosts has a day  
against all that is proud and lofty,  
against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low;  
against all the cedars of Lebanon,  
lofty and lifted up;

...

against all the ships of Tarshish,  
and against all the beautiful craft.  
And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled,  
and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low,  
and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

(Is 2:12-17 ESV)

13

## Themes to listen for...repeated words/ideas.


- Hurling/flinging
- Fear/worship
- Visibility and proximity to God (near/far...seen/hidden)

14

## Dramatic Reading

15

The LORD's message came to Jonah son of Amittai, "Go  
immediately to Nineveh, that large capital city, and announce **Cry out!**  
judgment against its people because their wickedness has come  
to my attention."

Arise, go! 


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Instead, Jonah immediately headed off to Tarshish to escape from the commission of the LORD. He traveled to Joppa and found a merchant ship heading to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went aboard it to go with them to Tarshish, far away from the LORD.

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**Arose to flee**


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But the LORD hurled a powerful wind on the sea. Such a violent tempest arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break up! The sailors were so afraid that each cried out to his own god and they flung the ship's cargo overboard to make the ship lighter.

Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold below deck, had lain down, and was sound asleep. The ship's captain approached him and said, "What are you doing asleep? Get up! Cry out to your god! Perhaps your god might take notice of us so that we might not die!"

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The sailors said to one another, “Come on, let’s cast lots to find out whose fault it is that this disaster has overtaken us.” So they cast lots, and Jonah was singled out. They said to him, “Tell us, whose fault is it that this disaster has overtaken us? What’s your occupation? Where do you come from? What’s your country? And who are your people?”

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30

Because the storm was growing worse and worse, they said to him, “What should we do to you so that the sea will calm down for us?”

He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea so that the sea will calm down for you, because I know it’s my fault you are in this severe storm.”

31

Instead, they tried to row back to land, but they were not able to do so because the storm kept growing worse and worse.

So they cried out to the Lord, “Oh, please, Lord, don’t let us die on account of this man! Don’t hold us guilty of shedding innocent blood. After all, you, Lord, have done just as you pleased.”

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Instead, they tried to row back to land, but they were not able to do so because the storm kept growing worse and worse.

So they cried out to the Lord, “Oh, please, Lord, don’t let us die on account of this man! Don’t hold us guilty of shedding innocent blood. After all, you, Lord, have done just as you pleased.”

So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging.

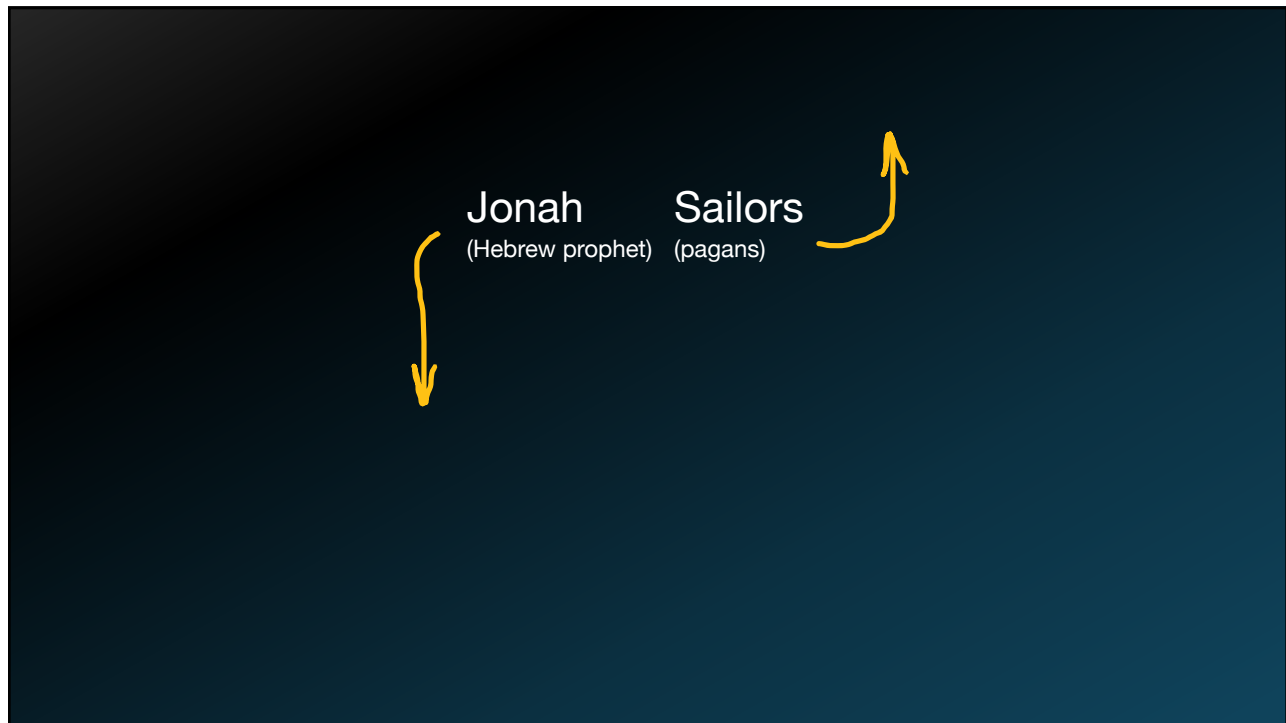
The men feared the Lord greatly and earnestly vowed to offer lavish sacrifices to the Lord.

33

The Lord sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.



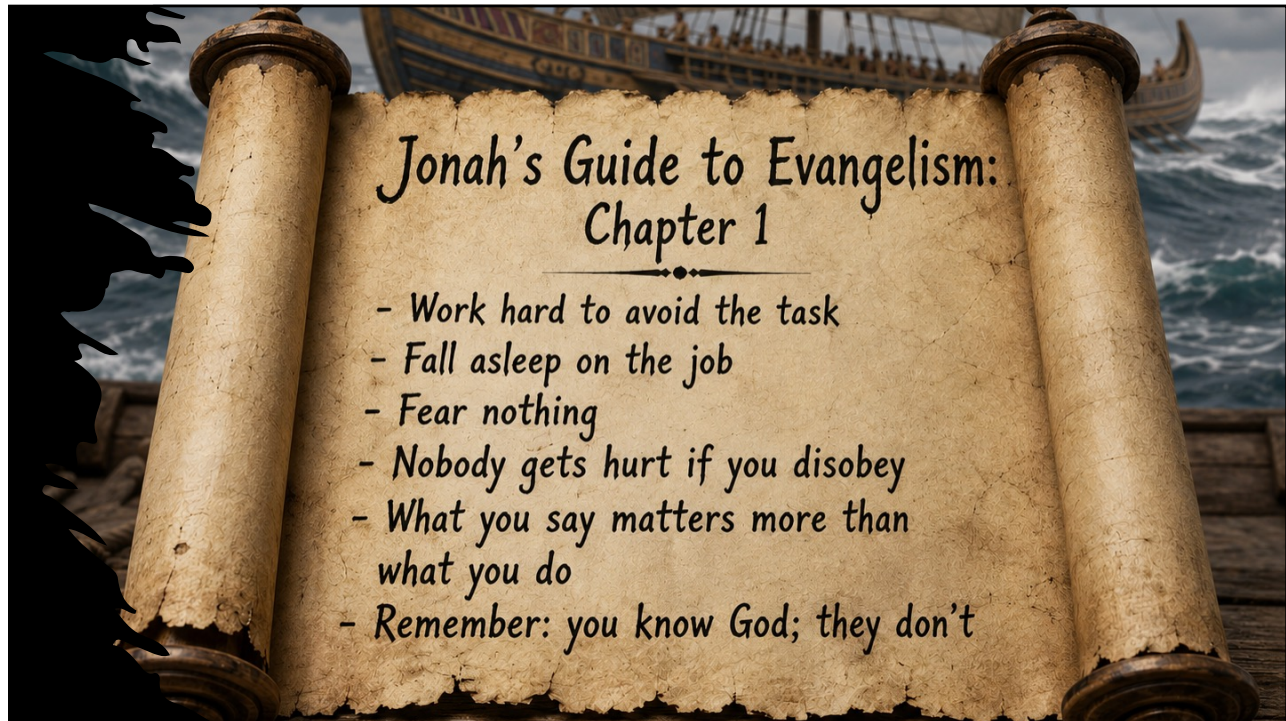
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	Jonah (Hebrew prophet)	Sailors (pagans)
<i>Response to Yahweh / storm</i>	Ran, hid, slept	Feared, cried out to gods, hurled cargo (loss of wealth), instructed Jonah to cry out, cast lots, rowed, cried out to Yahweh, hurled Jonah, made vows to Yahweh
<i>Desired</i>	Death	Life
<i>Feared</i>	Nothing	Yahweh

36



37

O Lord, you examine me and know me.  
 You know when I sit down and when I get up;  
 even from far away you understand my motives.  
 You carefully observe me when I travel or when I lie down to rest;  
 you are aware of everything I do.

...

Where can I go to escape your Spirit?  
 Where can I flee to escape your presence?  
 If I were to ascend to heaven, you would be there.  
 If I were to sprawl out in Sheol, there you would be.  
 If I were to fly away on the wings of the dawn  
 and settle down on the other side of the sea,  
 even there your hand would guide me,  
 your right hand would grab hold of me.

(Psalm 139 NET)

38

Now a great windstorm developed and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was nearly swamped. But [Jesus] was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. They woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are about to die?”

So he got up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Be quiet! Calm down!” Then the wind stopped, and it was dead calm. And he said to them, “Why are you cowardly? Do you still not have faith?” They were overwhelmed by fear and said to one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and sea obey him!”

(Mark 4:35-41 NET)

39

Then some of the experts in the law along with some Pharisees answered him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

For just as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. The people of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it because they repented when Jonah preached to them—and now, something greater than Jonah is here!



(Mt 12:38-42 NET)

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## How should we respond?

- ❖ Repent and believe

*Salvation belongs to the LORD!* Jonah 2:9

*For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek,  
for the same Lord is Lord of all, who richly blesses all who call on him.  
For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.* Romans 10:12-13

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## How should we respond?

- ❖ Repent and believe
- ❖ Live as a disciple / apprentice of Jesus

*...make every effort to add to your faith excellence...knowledge...self-control...perseverance...godliness...brotherly affection...unselfish love.*

*For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately.* 2 Peter 1:5-8

42

## How should we respond?

- ❖ Repent and believe
- ❖ Live as a disciple / apprentice of Jesus
- ❖ Join in his mission, share in his heart for lost people

*Then Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

*And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20

43

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44