

The inescapable presence of God

Jonah 2

67

**What was something you broke or
ruined as a child?**

Did you get caught?

68



69



70

...Calvin feels terrible, dad finds out, yells at him, both apologize and forgive...

71



72

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

* **parody: noun** /'per.ə.di/

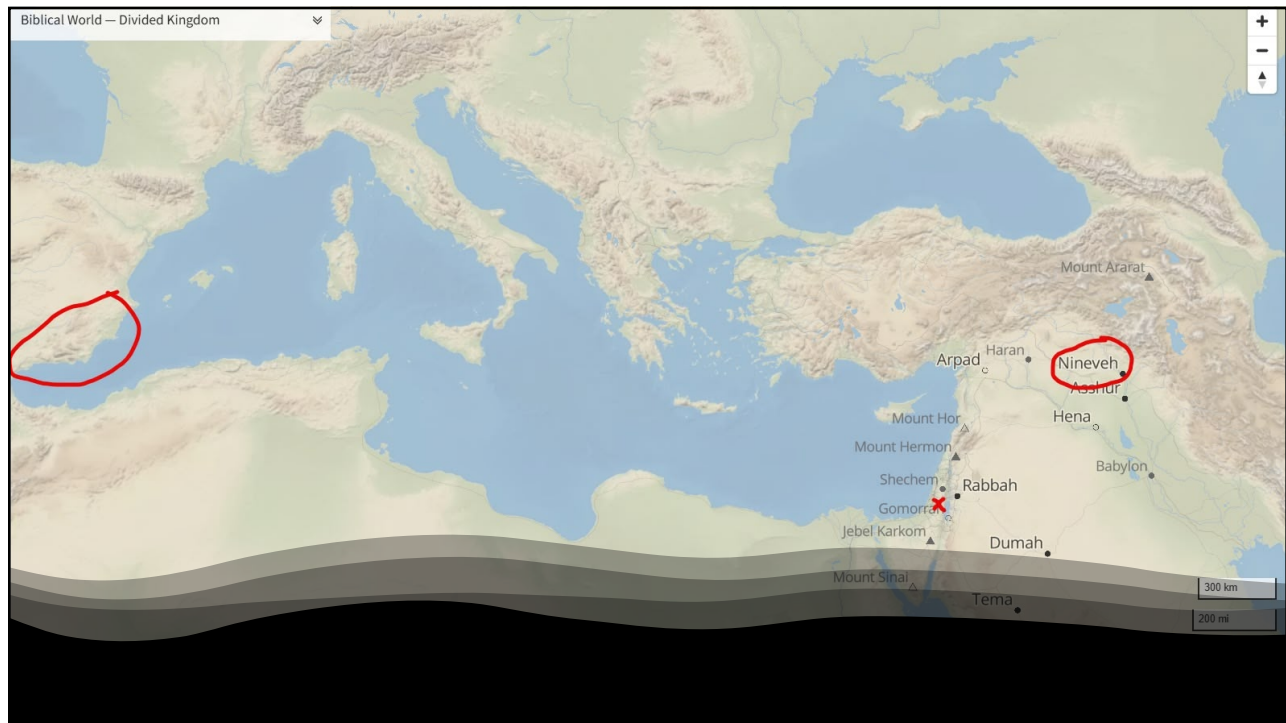
writing, music, art, speech, etc. that intentionally copies the style of someone famous or copies a particular situation, making the features or qualities of the original more noticeable in a way that is humorous

73

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! ↑

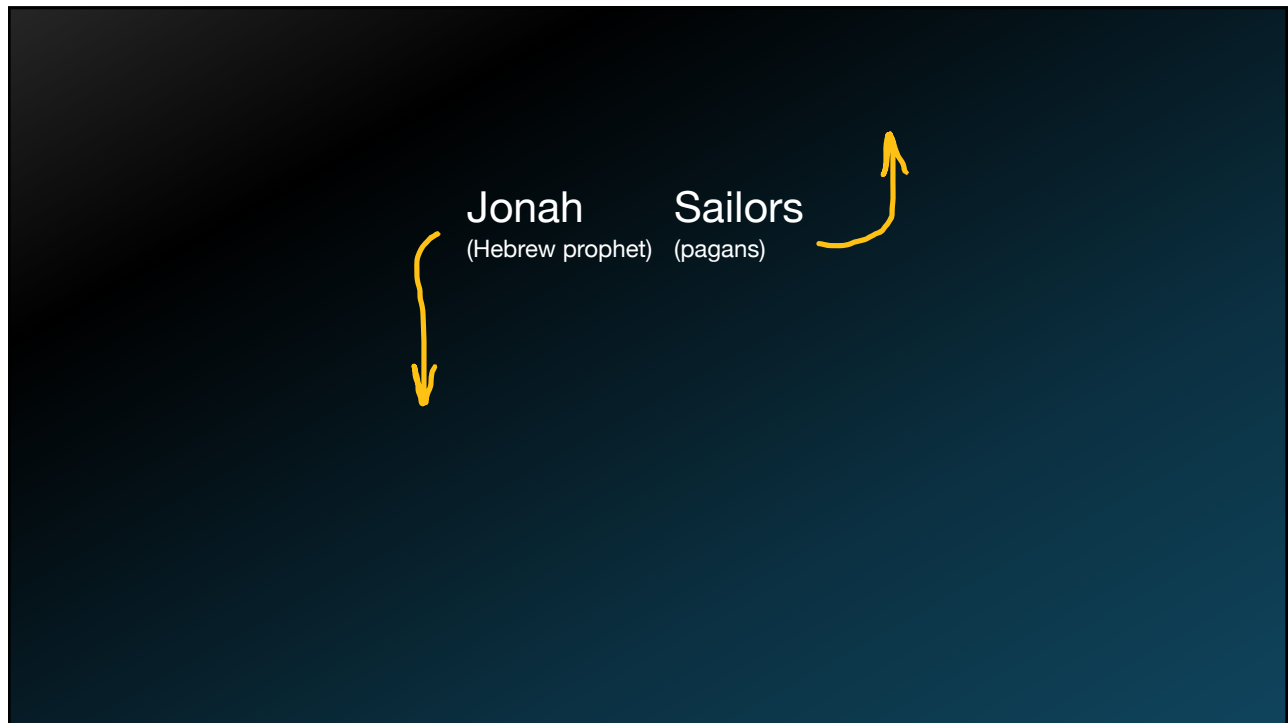
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75

He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” Hearing this, the men became even more afraid and said to him, “What have you done?” (The men said this because they knew that he was trying to escape from the Lord, because he had previously told them.)

76



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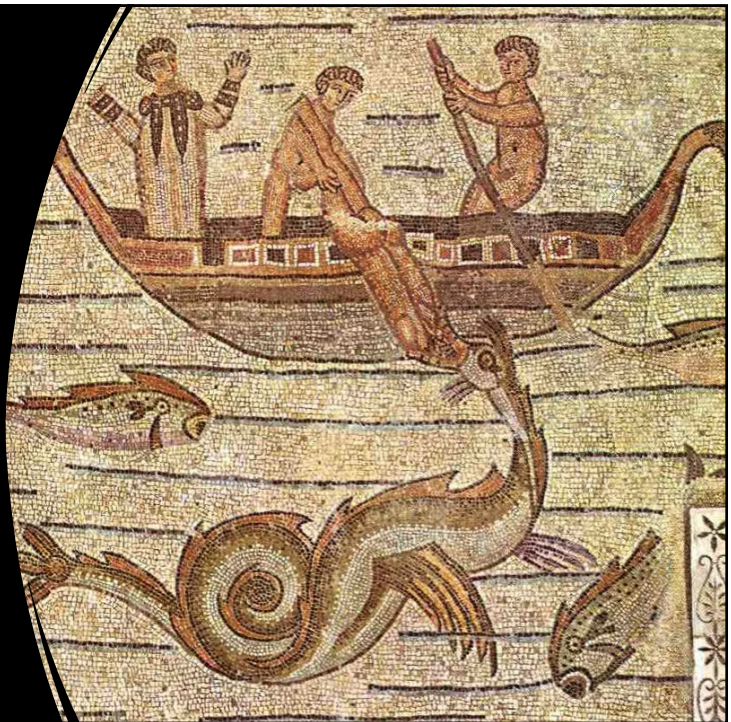
	Jonah (Hebrew prophet)	Sailors (pagans)
<i>Response to Yahweh / storm</i>	Ran, hid, slept	Feared, cried out to gods, hurled cargo (loss of wealth), instructed Jonah to cry out, cast lots, rowed, cried out to Yahweh , hurled Jonah, made vows to Yahweh
<i>Desired</i>	Death	Life
<i>Feared</i>	Nothing	Yahweh

78

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

79

The Prayer/Song of Jonah



80

Other Prayer/Songs in the Bible

Exodus 15

The Song of Triumph

15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said,

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously,
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

2 The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a warrior—
the LORD is his name.

4 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has thrown into the sea,

1 Samuel 2

Hannah Exalts the Lord in Prayer

2 Hannah prayed,

"My heart has rejoiced in the LORD;
my horn has been raised high because of the LORD.
I have loudly denounced my enemies.
Indeed I rejoice in your deliverance.

2 No one is holy like the LORD!
There is no one other than you!

There is no rock like our God!
3 Don't keep speaking so arrogantly.

Proud talk should not come out of your mouth,
for the LORD is a God who knows;
he evaluates what people do.

2 Samuel 22

David Sings to the Lord

22 David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD rescued him from the power of all his enemies, including Saul. ² He said:

3 "The LORD is my high ridge, my stronghold, my deliverer.
My God is my rocky summit where I take shelter,

4 my shield, the horn that saves me, my stronghold,
my refuge, my savior. You save me from violence!

5 I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,
and I was delivered from my enemies.

6 The waves of death engulfed me;
the currents of chaos overwhelmed me.
The ropes of Sheol tightened around me;
the snares of death trapped me.

7 In my distress I called to the LORD;
I called to my God.
From his heavenly temple he heard my voice;
he listened to my cry for help.

81

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

Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish and said,

"I called out to the Lord from my distress,
and he answered me;
from the belly of Sheol I cried out for help,
and you heard my prayer.

You threw me into the deep waters,
into the middle of the sea;

the ocean current engulfed me;
all the mighty waves you sent swept over me.

I thought I had been banished from your sight
and that I would never again see your holy temple.

Water engulfed me up to my neck;
the deep ocean surrounded me;

seaweed was wrapped around my head.
I went down to the very bottoms of the mountains;

the gates of the netherworld barred me in forever,
but you brought me up from the Pit, O Lord, my God.

When my life was ebbing away, I called out to the Lord.
And my prayer came to you, to your holy temple.

Those who worship worthless idols forfeit the mercy that could be theirs.
But as for me, I promise to offer a sacrifice to you with a public declaration of praise;

I will surely do what I have promised.
Salvation belongs to the Lord!"

Then the Lord **commanded** the fish and it **vomited** Jonah out onto dry land.

82

Reluctant Prophet

Both were dwellers
in deep places
(one in the dark
bowels of ships
and great fish
and wounded pride.
The other—
in the silvery belly
of the seas).

Both heard God saying
“Go!”
but the whale
did as he was told.

-Luci Shaw

83

The Prayer/Song of Jonah

Listen for...

- ❖ Down and then up
- ❖ Fragments of Psalms
- ❖ I/me/my vs you/your

Consider...

- ❖ What does this prayer suggest about Jonah's heart posture?

84

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85

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86

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and he answered me;
from the belly of Sheol I cried out for help,
and you heard my prayer.

87

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88

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89

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90

Then the Lord commanded the fish and it vomited Jonah out onto dry land.

91

“Biblical scholars have had as much
difficulty digesting Jonah’s song as
the great fish had with Jonah”

–J. S. Ackerman

92

Jonah **prayed** to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish and said,

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and he answered me;
from the belly of Sheol I **cried out** for help,
and you heard my prayer.

93

Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish and said,

“I called out to the Lord from my distress,
and he answered me;
from the belly of Sheol I cried out for help,
and **you heard my prayer**.

94

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into the middle of the sea;
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95

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96



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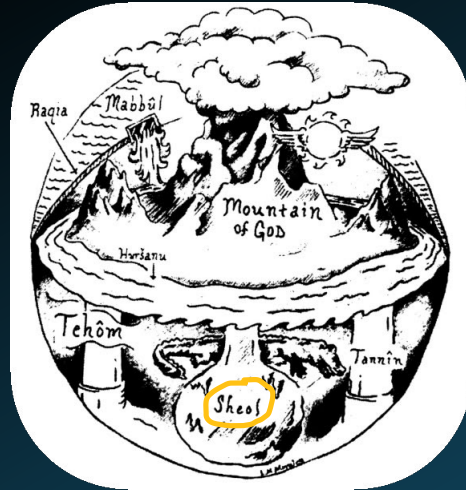
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Water engulfed me up to my neck;
the deep ocean surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.
I went down to the very bottoms of the mountains;
the gates of the netherworld barred me in forever,

98

Where does
Jonah imagine
himself being?



99



but you brought me up from the Pit, O Lord, my God.
When my life was ebbing away, I called out to the Lord.
And my prayer came to you, to your holy temple.

100



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102

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103

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104

Then the Lord commanded the fish and it vomited Jonah out onto dry land.

105

Is Jonah changed?

106

Ch 3: So Jonah **went immediately to Nineveh**, in keeping with the Lord's message.

[Ninevites repent and are spared]

Ch 4: [Jonah] prayed to the Lord and said, "Oh, Lord, this is just what I thought would happen when I was in my own country. This is what I tried to prevent by attempting to escape to Tarshish, because **I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God**, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and one who relents concerning threatened judgment. So now, Lord, kill me instead, because **I would rather die than live!**"

107

Who does Jonah resemble?

108

109

Hosea 6:1-3

Come on! Let's return to the Lord.
He himself has torn us to pieces,
but he will heal us!
He has injured us,
but he will bandage our wounds!
He will restore us in a very short time;
he will heal us in a little while,
so that we may live in his presence.

So let us search for him!
Let us seek to know the Lord!
He will come to our rescue as certainly as the
appearance of the dawn,
as certainly as the winter rain comes,
as certainly as the spring rain that waters the land.

110

Hosea 6:1-3

Come on! Let's return to the Lord.
 He himself has torn us to pieces,
 but he will heal us!
 He has injured us,
 but he will bandage our wounds!
 He will restore us in a **very short time**;  *"two days"*
 he will heal us in **a little while**,  *"three days"*
 so that we may live in his presence.

So let us search for him!
 Let us seek to know the Lord!
 He will come to our rescue as **certainly** as the
 appearance of the dawn,
 as **certainly** as the winter rain comes,
 as **certainly** as the spring rain that waters the land.

111

Hosea 6:4-6

What am I going to do with you, O Ephraim?
 What am I going to do with you, O Judah?
 For **your faithfulness is as fleeting as the morning mist**;
 it disappears as quickly as dawn's dew.
 Therefore, I will certainly cut you into pieces at the hands
 of the prophets;
 I will certainly kill you in fulfillment of my oracles of
 judgment,
 for my judgment will come forth like the light of the
 dawn.
 For **I delight in faithfulness**, not simply in sacrifice;
I delight in acknowledging God, not simply in whole
 burnt offerings.

112

113

II Kings 17

Finally the Lord rejected Israel just as he had warned he would do through all his servants the prophets. Israel was deported from its land to Assyria and remains there to this very day.

[Samaria populated with foreigners]

These nations were worshiping the Lord and at the same time serving their idols; their sons and grandsons are doing just as their fathers have done, to this very day.

114

John 4

So the Samaritan woman said to [Jesus],
“How can you—a Jew—ask me, a Samaritan
woman, for water to drink?” (For Jews use
nothing in common with Samaritans.)

...

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah
is coming” (the one called Christ); “whenever
he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus
said to her, “I, the one speaking to you, am
he.”

115

Big Idea

God is astonishingly merciful. He meets us
even when our repentance is weak, confused,
or incomplete.

116

Big Idea

God is astonishingly merciful. He meets us even when our repentance is weak, confused, or incomplete.

But His mercy is meant to transform us, not merely rescue us from consequences.

117

How should we respond?

❖ Invite the Holy Spirit to show you the truth about yourself

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. John 16:13

...those who live according to the Spirit have their outlook shaped by the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:5

118

How should we respond?

- ❖ Invite the Holy Spirit to show you the truth about yourself
- ❖ Root out unloving attitudes and idols of the heart

And no creature is hidden from God, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

Hebrews 4:13

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2a