

THE UPSIDE DOWN PROPHET

A Second Chance

Jonah 3



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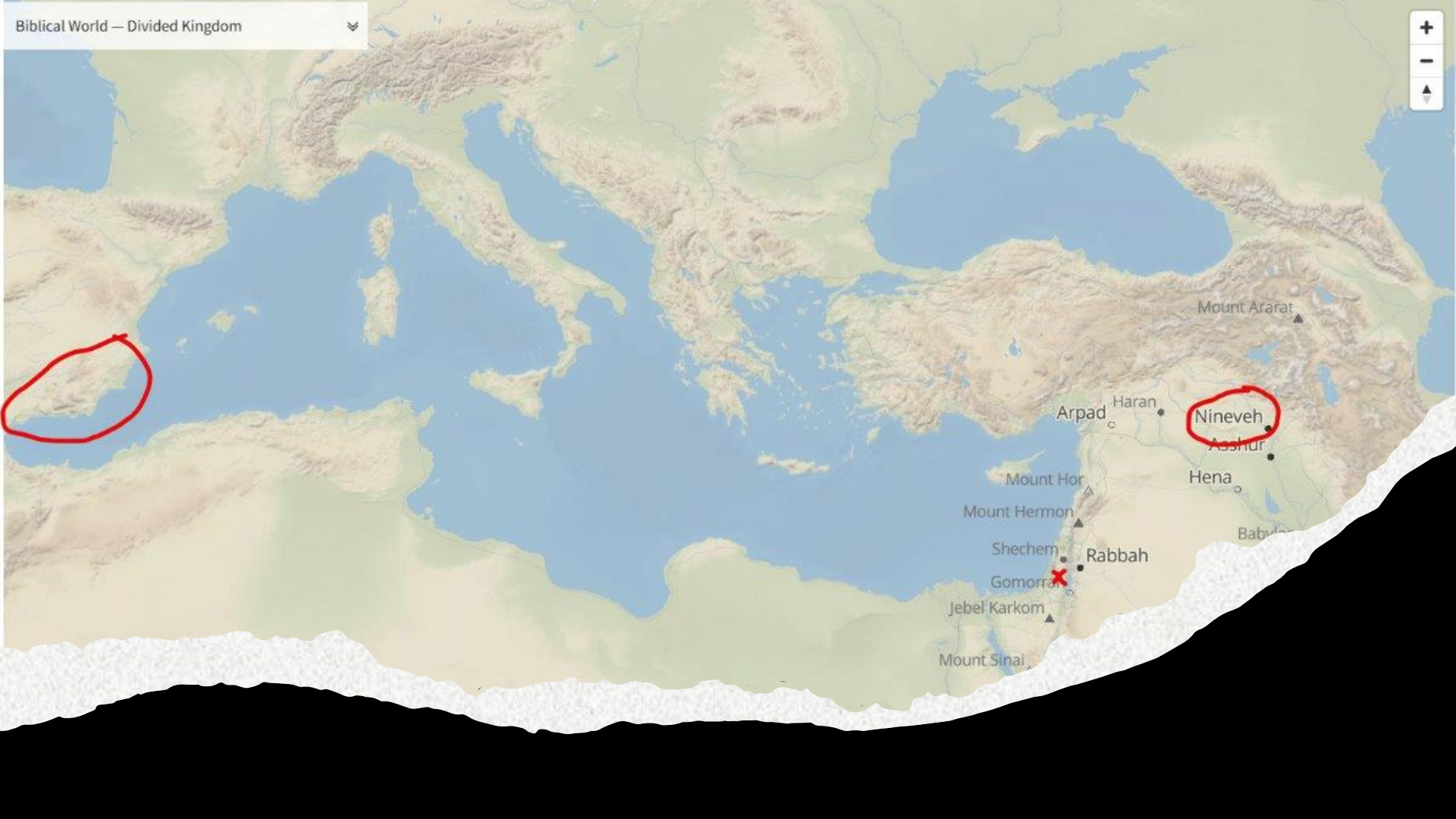
Recap: Jonah 1–2

Chapter 1

Arise, go!



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."



Jonah 1

Jonah: ran, hid, slept

Yahweh: hurled a storm

Sailors: requested intercession, rowed...cried out to Yahweh, feared Yahweh, made vows to Yahweh

Jonah: did not intercede; sought death

Recap

Chapter 2

Recap: Jonah 2

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.

Recap

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

Jonah 3

The LORD's message came to Jonah a second time, "Go immediately to Nineveh, that large city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah went immediately to Nineveh, in keeping with the LORD's message. Now Nineveh was an enormous city—it required three days to walk through it! Jonah began to enter the city by going one day's walk, announcing, "At the end of 40 days, Nineveh will be overthrown!"

Jonah 3

The people of Nineveh believed in God, and they declared a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. He issued a proclamation and said, “In Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, cattle or sheep, is to taste anything; they must not eat and they must not drink water. Every person and animal must put on sackcloth and must cry earnestly to God, and everyone must turn from their evil way of living and from the violence that they do. Who knows? Perhaps God might be willing to change his mind and relent and turn from his fierce anger so that we might not die.”

Jonah 3

When God saw their actions—that they turned from their evil way of living—God relented concerning the judgment he had threatened them with and did not destroy them.

Jonah 3:1–2

The LORD's message came to Jonah **a second time**, “Go immediately to Nineveh, that large city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

What changed in the command?

Jonah 1:2

“Go immediately to Nineveh, that large capital city, and **announce judgment against** its people because their wickedness has come to my attention.”

Jonah 3:2

“Go immediately to Nineveh, that large city, and **proclaim to it the message that I tell you.**”

Jonah 3:3

So Jonah went **immediately** to Nineveh,
in keeping with the LORD's message.

Jonah 3:3

So Jonah went immediately to Nineveh,
in keeping with the LORD's message.
Now Nineveh was an **enormous city**—it
required **three days** to walk through it!



“a great city to God/gods”

Jonah 3:4

Jonah began to enter the city by going **one day's walk**, announcing, “At the end of 40 days, Nineveh will be overthrown!”

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Jonah 3:5

The people of Nineveh **believed in God**,
and they declared a fast and put on
sackcloth, from the greatest to the least
of them.

Jonah 3:6

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he **got up** from his throne, **took off** his royal robe, **put on** sackcloth, and **sat on** ashes.

Jonah 3:7

He issued a proclamation and said, “In Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, cattle or sheep, is to taste anything; they must not eat and they must not drink water.

Jonah 3:8

Every person **and animal** must put on sackcloth and must **cry earnestly** to God, and everyone must **turn from** their evil way of living and from the violence that they do.

Jonah 3:9

Who knows? Perhaps God might be willing to change his mind and relent and turn from his fierce anger so that we might not die.”

Jonah 3:10

When God **saw their actions**—that they turned from their evil way of living—God relented concerning the judgment he had threatened them with and did not destroy them.

Jonah 3

The LORD's message came to Jonah a second time, "Go immediately to Nineveh, that large city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah went immediately to Nineveh, in keeping with the LORD's message. Now Nineveh was an enormous city—it required three days to walk through it! Jonah began to enter the city by going one day's walk, announcing, "At the end of 40 days, Nineveh will be overthrown!"

The people of Nineveh believed in God, and they declared a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. He issued a proclamation and said, "In Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, cattle or sheep, is to taste anything; they must not eat and they must not drink water. Every person and animal must put on sackcloth and must cry earnestly to God, and everyone must turn from their evil way of living and from the violence that they do. Who knows? Perhaps God might be willing to change his mind and relent and turn from his fierce anger so that we might not die." When God saw their actions—that they turned from their evil way of living—God relented concerning the judgment he had threatened them with and did not destroy them.

What does Yahweh expect of a Gentile nation?

Is Yahweh unjust or inconsistent?

What does corporate repentance look like?

The expectations of Yahweh

- ❖ What does Yahweh expect of a Gentile nation?

What are Gentile nations judged for?

Nation or city	Sin within the society	Passage
Nineveh (Assyria)	Violence, lies, plunder, and predatory exploitation	Nahum 3:1–4
Sodom	Pride, excessive prosperity, complacency, and neglect of the poor and needy	Ezekiel 16:49–50
Babylon	Oppression, unjust gain, exploitation, and violence in building its prosperity	Habakkuk 2:6–12
The nations generally	Violence, corruption, oppression, ignoring the needy and vulnerable	Psalms 9:17–18; 94:20–23

Nahum 3:1

Woe to the city guilty of **bloodshed**!
She is full of **lies**;
she is filled with **plunder**;
she has hoarded her spoil!

Ezekiel 16:49–50

See here—this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters had **majesty, abundance of food, and enjoyed carefree ease**, but they **did not help the poor and needy**. They were **haughty** and practiced **abominable deeds** before me. Therefore, when I saw it I removed them.

Habakkuk 2:6

But all these nations will someday taunt him and ridicule him with proverbial sayings: 'Woe to the one who accumulates what does not belong to him (how long will this go on?)—he who gets rich by extortion!'

Habakkuk 2:7–8

Your creditors will suddenly attack; those who terrify you will spring into action, and they will rob you. Because you robbed many countries, all who are left among the nations will rob you. You have **shed human blood** and committed **violent acts** against lands, cities, and those who live in them.

The good laws Yahweh gave Israel

Exodus 22

Loan law

Return a coat taken as a pledge by sundown.

The good laws Yahweh gave Israel

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Deuteronomy 24:17–22

Gleaning laws

Leave the second pass for the foreigner, orphan, and widow.

The expectations of Yahweh

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is **able to judge the desires and thoughts 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**. (Heb 4:12-13)

The consistent character of Yahweh

- ❖ Is Yahweh unjust or inconsistent?
- ❖ What does it mean for God to “relent”?

Jeremiah 18:3-4

I went down to the potter's house and found him working at his wheel. Now and then there would be something wrong with the pot he was molding from the clay with his hands. So **he would rework the clay** into another kind of pot **as he saw fit**.

Exodus 34:5-7

The LORD passed by before [Moses] and proclaimed: “The LORD, the LORD, the **compassionate** and **gracious** God, **slow to anger**, and **abounding in loyal love and faithfulness**, keeping loyal love for thousands, **forgiving** iniquity and transgression and sin. But he **by no means leaves the guilty unpunished...**”

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being **patient** toward you because **he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

Genesis 18:18

Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and **all the nations on the earth may receive blessing** through him.

Hold onto both

Justice

Love

The call of Yahweh

- ❖ What does corporate repentance look like?

Jonah 3:8

...everyone must turn from their evil way of living and from the violence that they do.

“Everyone must turn, each one from his evil way”

Singular and plural

Personal

Familial

Communal

Systemic

"I"

"we"

"Everyone must turn, each one from his evil way"

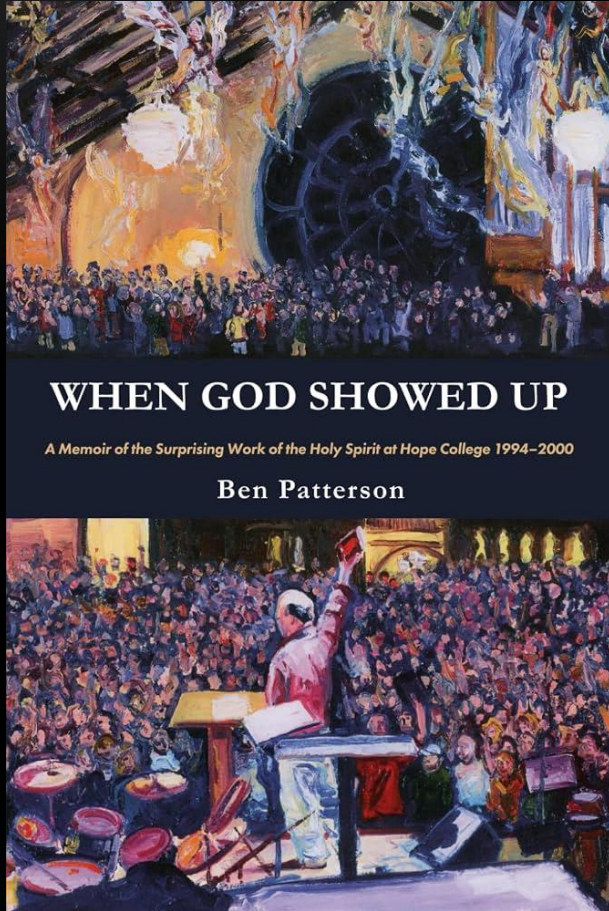


WHEN GOD SHOWED UP

A Memoir of the Surprising Work of the Holy Spirit at Hope College 1994–2000

Ben Patterson





[It was] like a divinely ordered choreography...

Surprising to me, but not to anyone familiar with revival, the meetings were peppered with tears and smiles, laughter and singing.

Although the pain in many lives was palpable, more poignant was the way after each and every student spoke, he or she would be gently "mobbed" by friends-hugging, praying, encouraging, and assuring them of God's love and forgiveness as well as their own.

Jonah, a blunt instrument for revival...

Abraham

interceded for Sodom
and Gomorrah

Moses

Interceded for Israelites

Jeremiah

Interceded for Judah

Jonah the bare minimum...and yet...
Nineveh repented. Yahweh relented.

**The one who is greater than
Jonah lives to intercede for us**

Look to Jesus.