

Jonah

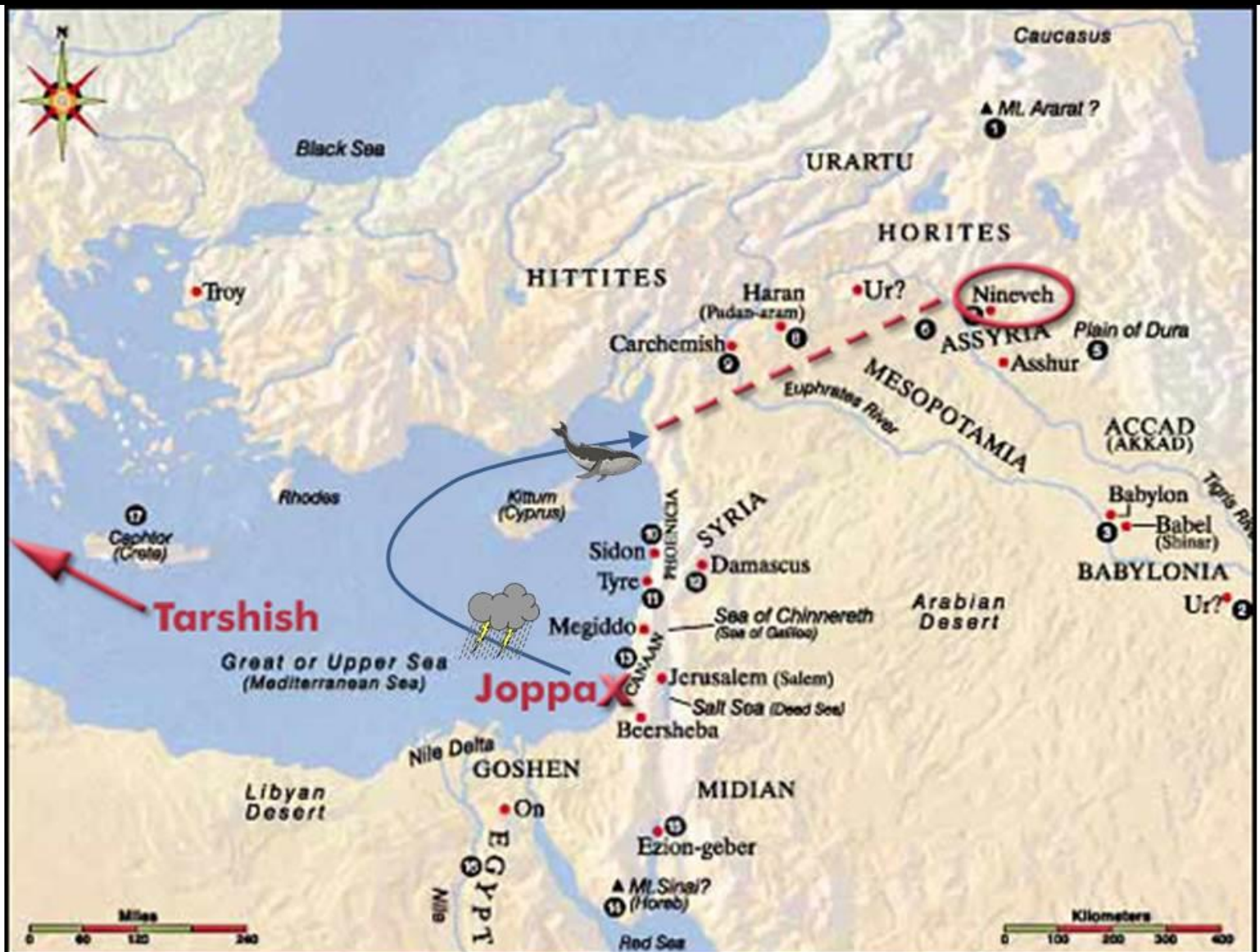
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II Kings 14:25

“He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gath-hepher.”

Luke 11:32

“The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.”



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The “Word of the Lord” in a Pluralist World

- The Pluralist World
 - No god was seen as greater than the other, certainly not the creator of all.
 - The sailors implicitly give credence to the reality of a One True God when they cast lots.
- “The Word of the Lord”
 - How do we testify the Word of the Lord in a pluralistic world? By telling a story
 - Leslie Newbigin, “The Christian faith is...a historical faith not just in the sense that it depends on a historical record, but also in the sense that it is essentially an interpretation of universal history.”

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The Uncompassionate Heart of Jonah

- The theme of the book of Jonah is not so much obedience as it is compassion.
- Because he hates the thought of God being compassionate to ungodly gentiles, Jonah tries to get away from God's presence.
- Jonah can't get away from God's presence.
 - God hurled the wind against the boat (1:4).
 - God caused the lot to fall on Jonah (1:7).
 - God caused the fish to swallow Jonah preserving his life through death (1:17).
- Jonah's lack of compassion is starkly contrasted by the compassion of the ungodly sailors.
- The Gourd and the Worm
- Jonah 2:9, "Salvation is of the Lord."
 - Jonah is saying that only God can save him.
 - Jonah is foreshadowing something here.

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Two Applications:

- When you share the gospel, tell the story of Creation, Fall, Redemption, Reconciliation. Help unbelievers see that our story, the gospel story, is the most logical and compelling interpretation of life.
- Confess your hardness of heart and lack of compassion in not sharing the gospel with others, and pray that God would give you a heart of true compassion for unbelievers.