

## **Jonah**

### **Summary**

People assume that Jonah was swallowed by a whale but the translated words from the bible say "Large Fish." Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, which conquered the northern kingdom in 722 BC. Assyrians were known to be cruel and ruthless to their captives. Jonah is different from other books in that it focused on the prophet versus prophecies. Only one verse summarized his message. Jonah's time in the fish has been compared to Jesus's death and resurrection.

### **Author and Date:**

Jonah (son of Amittai). The book of Jonah is anonymous. But if Jonah did not write it, he was presumably the source of the story. 780 BC.

### **Audience/ Setting:**

Northern Kingdom Israelites living in Samaria. Nineveh's repentance must have been short lived because the city was destroyed in 612 BC.

### **Purpose:**

God told Jonah to give his message to Nineveh in the Assyrian empire. The book of Jonah shows God's compassion for repentant people, no matter who they are and what they've done. It also shows the extent of God's grace and that salvation is for everyone. It is mainly about the character of God. The message was that God loves all people, Jews and Gentiles. It shares a message of grace because God gave the Ninevites a forty-day window in which to repent. Our hearts should reflect the same desire.

### **Key People:**

Jonah; ship's captain and crew; and the people of Nineveh.

### **Key Places:**

Joppa, Nineveh

## **References**

NLT Life Application Study Bible  
Tony Evans Study Bible