




# JONAH

**AN UPSIDE DOWN GOSPEL**



**The book of Jonah is one of the few books  
that make Christians uncomfortable and  
gives others reason to scoff**

**Jonah is the upside down view of the world**



**“I have spoken of Jonah, and of the story of him and the whale. — A fit story for ridicule, if it was written to be believed; or of laughter, if it was intended to try what credulity could swallow; for, if it could swallow Jonah and the whale it could swallow anything.”**

**Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason**



**The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. **Announce my judgment against it** because I have seen how wicked its people are.” **Jonah 1:1-2****

# Context

**Jeroboam II recovered the territories of Israel between Lebo-hamath and the Dead Sea, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had promised through **Jonah** son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath-hepher. **2 Kings 14:25****

# Context

As a result of these events, it seems that Jonah became a **well-liked and popular prophet**.

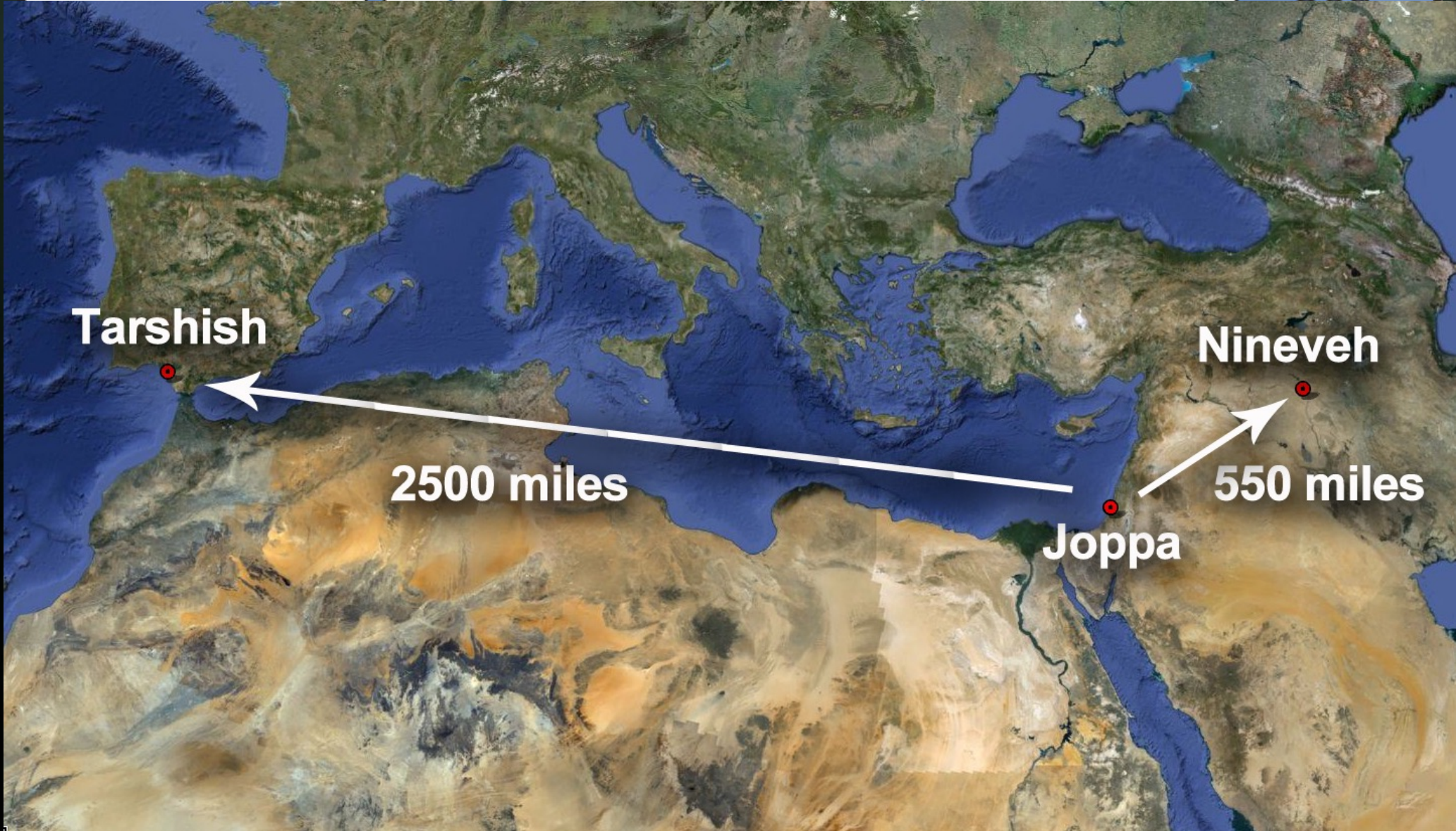
People viewed his prophecy about the expansion of Israel's territory as evidence that God was on their side, that God was blessing them as a nation, and that maybe this was just the first step in Israel finally receiving the full allotment of land promised to them by God

# Context



**The only real concern, however, was that off to the east, there was another nation which was also expanding in territory, power, and might. This other nation was Assyria. The capitol was **Nineveh****

Hattusas CAUCASUS Caspian Sea



EGYPT El Amama ARABIA Bible History Online



# The Whale




**Now the Lord had arranged for a **great fish** to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. **Jonah 1:17****

**Greek word (ketos) to translate the Hebrew word (dahg, fish)**

**Best translation is large sea creature**


**“The nineteenth century is the last time when it was possible for an educated person to admit to believing in miracles like the virgin birth without embarrassment. When pressed, many educated Christians are too loyal to deny the virgin birth and the resurrection. But it embarrasses them because their rational minds know that it is absurd, so they would much rather not be asked.” Richard Dawkins**




**It is difficult for us to reconcile the  
natural and super natural**

**It's a balance and a tension**

**The supernatural/miraculous has become  
a topic most Christians are uncomfortable  
with and avoid**



**The Christianity of the Bible is a religion that is uncompromisingly supernatural. If we take away the supernatural, we take away Christianity. At the heart of the worldview of both Testaments is the idea that the realm of nature is created by One who transcends that nature. That God Himself is “supra” or above and beyond the created universe.**



**“Jesus recognized early on that the excitement generated by miracles did not convert into **life-changing faith**” Philip Yancey**

# **Inhibitors to the Miraculous**



## **selfish ambition**

**When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives [James 4:3a](#)**

## **belief**

**“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” [Mark 9:24b](#)**

## **obedience**

**He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” [Luke 11:28](#)**

# Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

1. "A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth."
2. "God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions."
3. "The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself."
4. "God does not need to be **particularly involved in one's life** except when God is needed to resolve a problem."
5. "Good people go to heaven when they die."

# **Supernatural in the Book of Jonah**



**The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai**

**Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm...the lots identified Jonah as the culprit.**

**Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time  
people of Nineveh believed God's message**

**When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying..."People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence."**

**And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there**

**But God also arranged for a worm!**



# Your Faith is Supernatural

Jesus replied, “I assure you, **no one can enter the Kingdom of God** without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, **but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life**. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ **John 3:5-7 NLT**

Jesus said, “**My kingdom is not of this world**. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” **John 18:38**

And it is **impossible to please God without faith**. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.  
**Hebrews 11:6**

# **Your God is Supernatural**



**“Here is your God”  
Isaiah 40:9**

**Job 26:5-14**

**Job 40:6-24**

**Isaiah 40:10-26**

# **Your Future is Supernatural**

**There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendour of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendour of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendour, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendour. So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. **If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:40-43****



**“Heaven is reality itself. All that is fully real is Heavenly. For all that can be shaken will be shaken and only the unshakeable remains.”**

**C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce**



**So God created mankind in **his own image**, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27****

**Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living being.**

**Genesis 2:7**

**Our original design was something more than merely human**