



Jonah

Rebellion, Repentance
& Redemption

Introduction

- **Prophet:** Jonah, Gath-heper- *w. of Sea of Galilee*
- **Setting:** Prosperity yet poverty (2 Kgs. 14:23f)
- **Author/Date:** Unknown (8th c. B.C.)
- **Genre:** Story or history? (cf. Matt. 12:38f, 16:4)
- **Theme:** Rebellion, Repentance, Redemption
- **Message:** Highlighted by a contrast of Jonah's *repeated rebellion* with *pagan repentance*, God proclaims His sovereign mercy to offer *redemption* to whomever He chooses.

Brief Outline

Panel One:

- A. Jonah's Commission (1:1-3)
- B. Jonah & Pagan Sailors (1:4-16)
- C. Jonah's Pious Prayer (2:1-10)

Panel Two:

- A. Jonah's Re-commission (3:1-3)
- B. Jonah & Pagan Ninevites (3:4-10)
- C. Jonah's Angry Prayer (4:1-4)
- D. YHWH's Compassion (4:5-11)

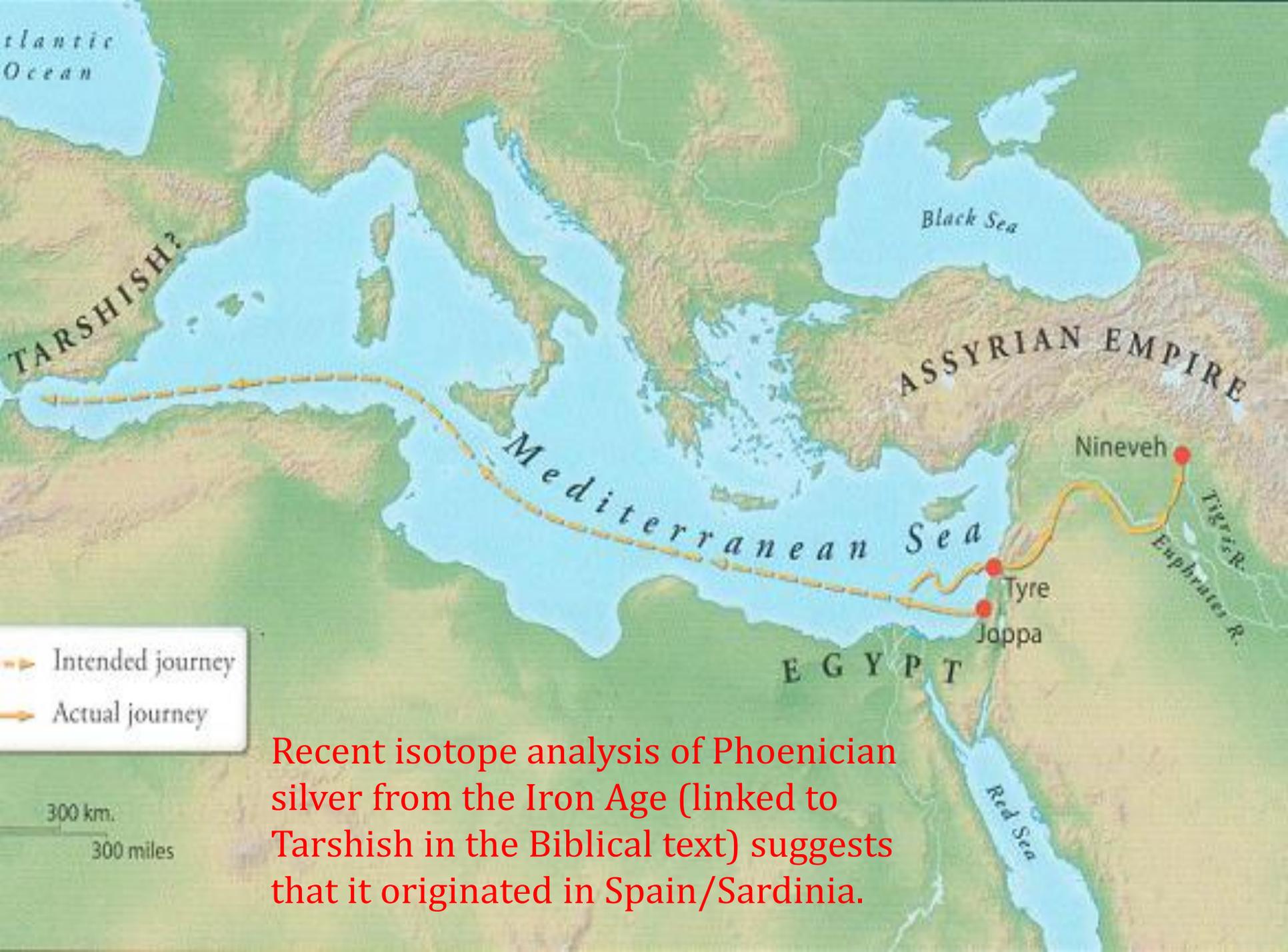
Jonah's Commission (1:1-3)

- **Call**: 'Go to Nineveh . . . cry out against it'
[near Mosul, Assyrian capital, population: 120K, 4:11]
- **Cause**: 'Their **evil** has come before Me' [*distinguish*]
"Adad-nerari, strong king, king of the universe, king of Assyria, son of Shalmaneser . . . mustered troops . . . He received the tribute of Joash of Samaria" (796 BC)
Assyria's continued oppression of Israel would have been fresh in the mind of God's prophet!
- **Contrast**: *But* Jonah flees 'away from YHWH' 3x
[Spain, **went down** to Joppa, into ship, into inner part, Sheol]

Assyria & Israel



“I received the tribute of Jehu, son of Omri” (841 BC)



Recent isotope analysis of Phoenician silver from the Iron Age (linked to Tarshish in the Biblical text) suggests that it originated in Spain/Sardinia.

Jonah & Pagan Sailors (1:4-16)

- **Intense**: “YHWH ‘hurled’ a great storm . . . so that ship ‘threatened’ to break apart” [*personification*]
- **Inactive**: Sailors ‘hurl’ cargo overboard, pray to their gods, while God’s passive prophet is asleep!
[*Called to confront evil, Jonah becomes source of evil*]
- **Invite**: pagan sailors ask Jonah about mission
[*Won’t go to Assyria, tells sailors about Yahweh; I fear?*]
- **Irony**: solution to ‘hurl’ overboard (death/repent?)
[*Cf. sailor’s hesitancy, prayer, fear, sacrifice vs. Jonah*]

Jonah's Pious Prayer (1:17-2:10)

- **Prayer**: Jonah prays to YHWH from belly of fish
 - *Source*: much of this prayer is drawn directly from Psalms, (*thanks*) public praise for God's past deliverance (Ps. 18:4-6; 30:1-3; 42:5-7; 31:6-7, 22; 116:12f)
 - *Sorrow?* Praise for God's rescue, but no change of heart, absence of repentance, 1st pers, 27x; 2-3rd pers, 15x
"Its still idolatry to want God for His gifts, not Himself!"
Do I focus more on God's gifts to me or His work in me?
- **Plan**: God directs fish to vomit Jonah (repent?)

“Those who pay regard to vain idols
have abandoned their *hope of* covenant love;
But with a voice of thanksgiving I will sacrifice to you
what I have vowed I will pay.” (Jonah 2:8-9)

“I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,
but I trust in the LORD.

I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love”

(Psalm 31:6-7)

Anything different or lacking here?