

# JONAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

32

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

4

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



## OVERVIEW

The book contains the story of Jonah and the great fish. God calls Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh, who were known for their cruelty and misdeeds. Jonah attempts to flee and hide, but ultimately God's will prevails.



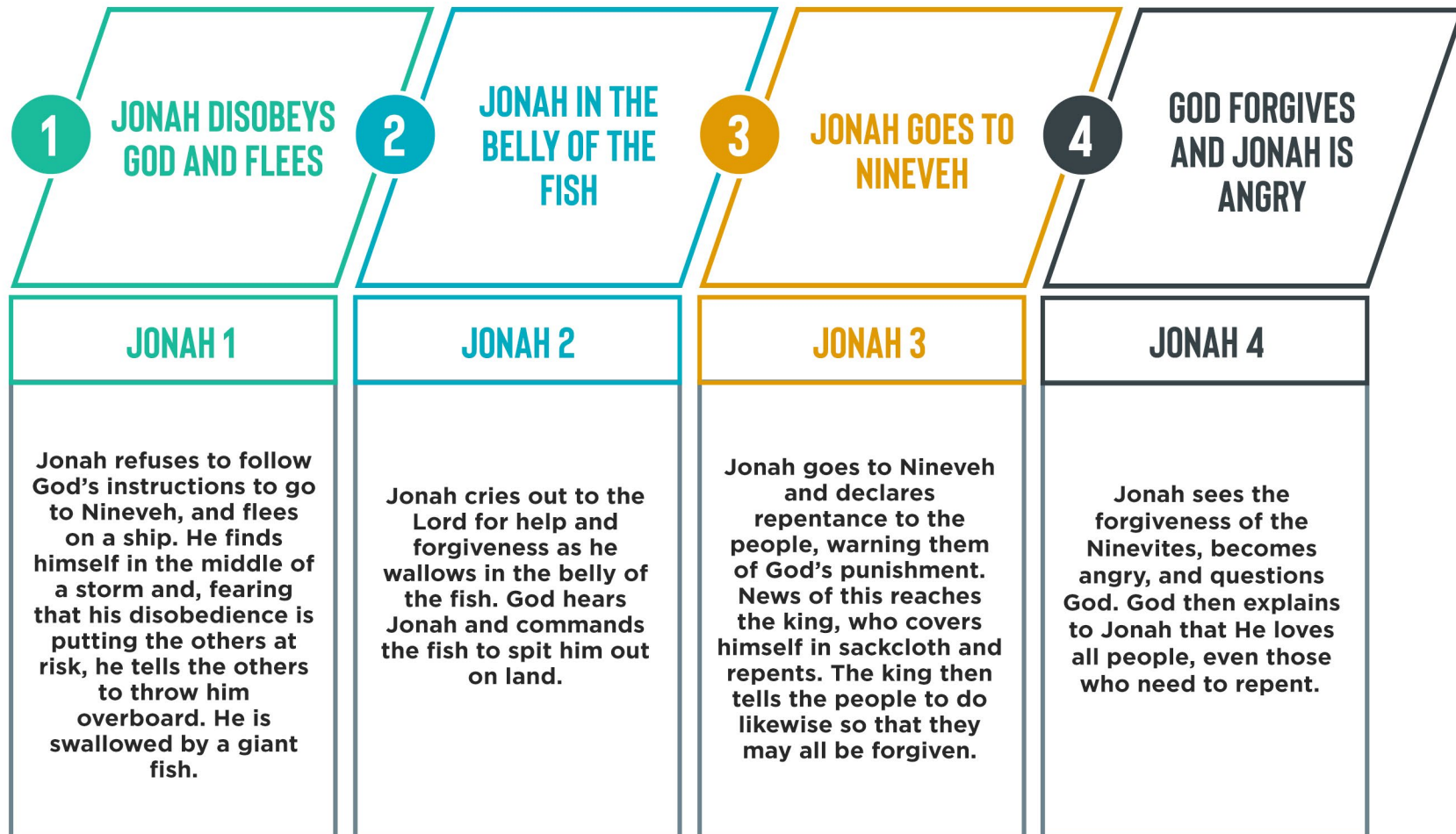
WRITTEN  
780 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED  
775 BC



AUTHOR  
Jonah the Prophet



# JONAH

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Book of Jonah**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Minor Prophecy (Jonah is the fifth of 12 Minor Prophets)**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**780 BC**



#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Jonah was a prophet before writing the book of Jonah, but his other prophecies did not make our Bible and remain unknown. The first two chapters detail the story of Jonah being told by God to prophesy to the people of the city of Nineveh.

Jonah rejected God's command. Like many people of Israel, he thought Nineveh was filthy and beneath him. When he tried to escape to Tarshish on ship, it met up with a great storm. Reluctantly, the men on the ship threw Jonah overboard after he confessed that God's wrath was upon him.

A big fish swallowed Jonah and threw him up on the shores of the Great Sea, probably somewhere west of Jerusalem.

Jonah then traveled to Nineveh and delivered God's warning and judgment. He was surprised when the king repented and the nation followed along. God reasoned with his snobbish attitude, saying that he cared about the people of Nineveh and even their livestock.

The book contains not only one of the most famous Bible miracles, but it also a great study on what can happen when we behave like snobs. Jesus mentioned the story of Jonah and the giant fish as a foreshadowing of his own pending death—including three days in the belly of the earth.



#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

The second chapter of Jonah tells what the prophet said while inside the belly of the giant fish! Though he surely wrote it down later, it can be said that Jonah Chapter 2 was created inside of live fish guts!



#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Jonah was the first of the minor or major prophets to speak. He is sometimes dismissed by Bible scholars as less interesting, because his prophecies don't involve Jewish calamities like the Babylonian invasion, the coming of Christ, the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD or the end times. However, because of his recounting of the story of the giant fish swallowing him, Jonah has lived on in the hearts of Jews and Christians of all ages. Jesus mentioned him in comparison to his own time following his death in "the belly of the earth."