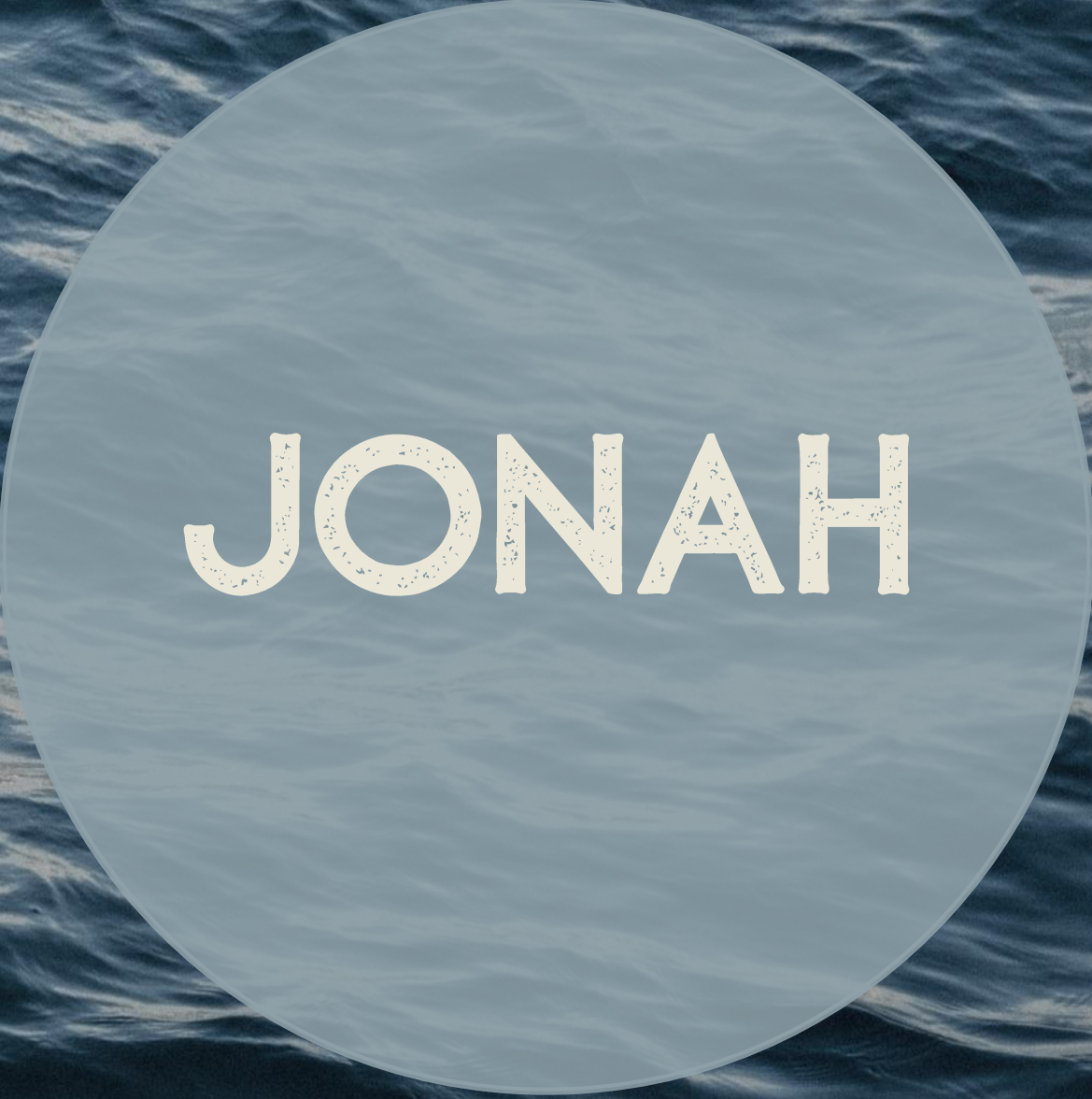




JONAH

Book of Jonah

- **Non-historical:** communicates spiritual truth through fictional story; i.e. Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Satirical parable – through use of humor, irony, and exaggeration author critiques hard-heartedness of Israel and their narrow view of God's mercy



JONAH

1:1-17

Book of Jonah

- **Historical narrative:** communicates spiritual truth through the recounting of real, historical events; i.e. Book of Ruth
 - Most straight-forward reading of book
 - Most of Church history has read as historical
- Jesus refers to events from Jonah as if they happened:
 - **Mt 12.4-41: For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish,** so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah,** and now something greater than Jonah is here.



JONAH

1:1-17

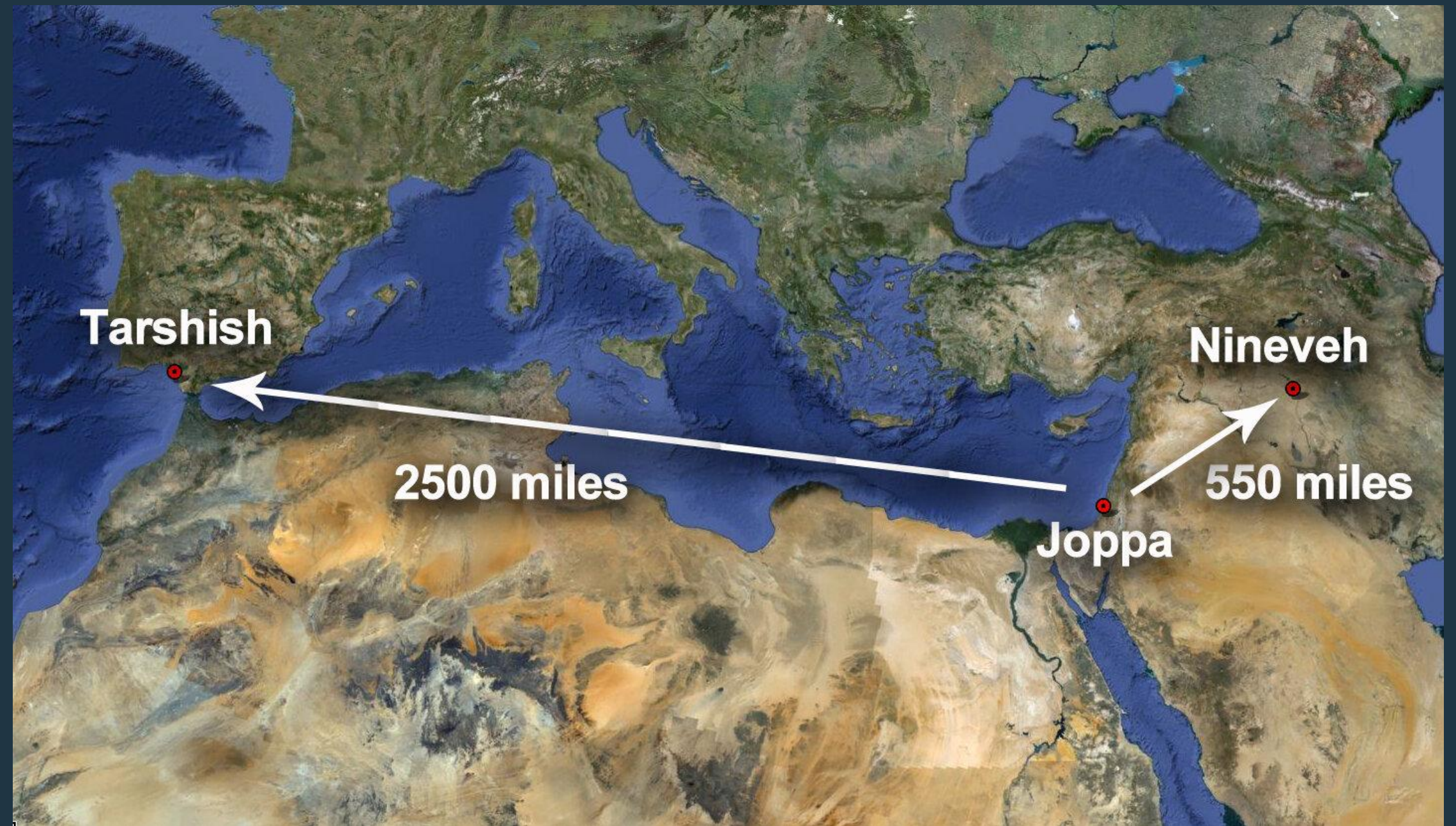
Jonah

- 2Kgs 14.25 – He (King Jeroboam II) was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, **spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher.**
 - Prophet – responsible for delivering God’s word to a group of people
 - From Gath Hepher – town in Galilee in Zebulun’s territory
 - Estimated time of activity- 800-750BC

Jonah's Flight:

Nineveh

- Important city in Assyrian Empire
- Assyrians – known for cruelty/brutality
- Greatest enemy of Israel at the time



STONEBRIDGE
CHURCH



JONAH

1:1-17

- **Arise** – Jonah’s disobedience
 - V2 – Arise, go to the great city of Nineveh
 - V3 – But Jonah arose to go to Tarshish
 - V6 – Get up (arise) and call on your God – invitation to return to the Lord
- **Threw** –
 - Consequence of Jonah’s disobedience
 - V4 – the Lord sent (threw) a great wind – God throws a storm at Jonah to turn him around
 - Attempts to deal with consequence of Jonah’s disobedience
 - V5– the sailors threw the cargo into the sea – their attempt to deal with the storm
 - V12 – throw me into the sea – Jonah’s proposal for dealing with the storm
 - V15 – then they threw Jonah overboard – calms the storm



JONAH

1:1-17

Fear – sailors moving towards Lord as Jonah runs from Him:

- V5- all the sailors were afraid – of the storm
- V10 – this terrified them – knowledge of who Jonah's God was (One who made land and sea)
- V16 – at this the men greatly feared the Lord – because the sea immediately calmed after throwing Jonah into it the sailors worshipped Yahweh



JONAH

1:1-17

Don't run from the Lord

- When making a move ask: am I running to something or away from something?
 - Wherever you go, your heart goes too
 - Be honest about your motivation
 - Heart friends are helpful here
- When asked to do a hard thing: realize it is difficult to maintain relationship with the Lord while actively disobeying Him, so pay attention to:
 - Justification – I am not disobeying/what I am doing is ok
 - Disengagement – gradual withdrawal from relationship with Him



JONAH

1:1-17

Don't run from the Lord:

- Good News – He doesn't let us go easily
- Mt 18.12 – What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them **wanders away (goes astray from the right path)**, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?