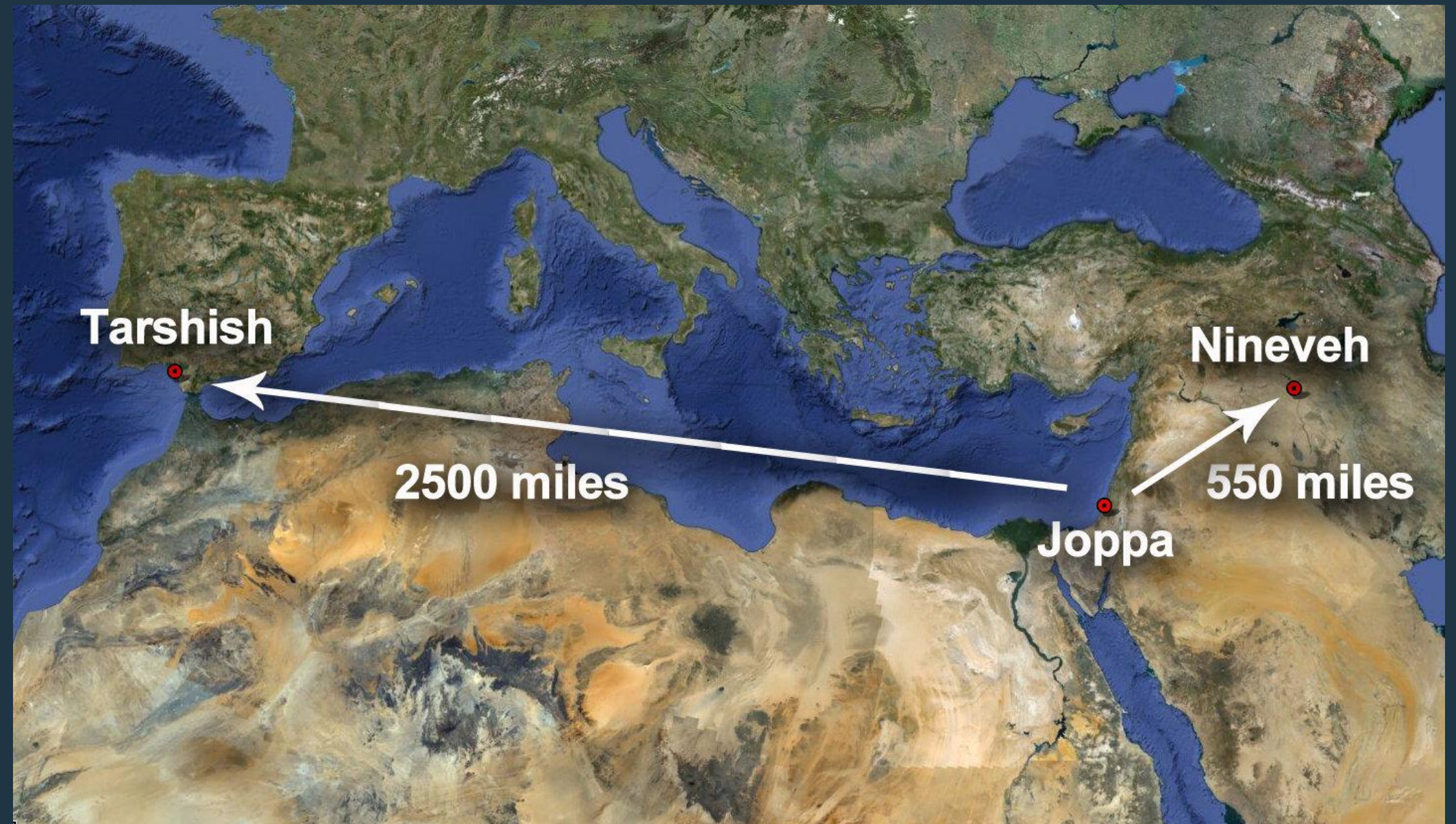


Recap

- Historical narrative: communicates spiritual truth through the recounting of real, historical events; i.e. Book of Ruth
- Jonah – prophet given assignment to go to Nineveh and ‘preach against it’
- Jonah flees
- Storm = Mt 18.12; Shepherd going after lost (wandering astray) sheep
- Thrown into sea in order to calm storm



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Recap

- Jonah begins to drown
- Prays
- God sends 'great fish' to rescue Jonah—possibly sperm whale
- God miraculously sustains Jonah in belly of whale for 3 days/nights during which time Jonah repents
- Whale spits Jonah out on dry land



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JONAH RECAP

Recap

Theological truth

- Providence – God’s ongoing and active sustaining, governing, and purposeful care of His creation
- ‘Unusual’ providence
 - Storm – shepherd pursuing the wandering sheep
 - Whale – means of deliverance from
 - Death
 - Disobedience



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JONAH

3:1-10

3.4: Jonah's message

Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown

- Probably speaking Aramaic – common language across nations
- 40 days – significant timeframe in Bible; alerts us to possibilities
- Overthrown – carries 2 different meanings:
 - Can be used to describe destruction, i.e. Sodom and Gomorrah; probably what Ninevites heard – a warning
 - Can be used to describe transformation (1Sam 10/6) –because we know character of God we can hear an invitation



JONAH

3:1-10

3.5-9:

Ninevite response to Jonah's message

Four elements that indicate genuine repentance

- Absolute/total fast – no food or water
- Put on sackcloth – uncomfortable clothes worn during times of mourning
- Calling on God – general name for God, not personal name (Yahweh); asking for mercy (turn from His fierce anger)
- Giving up evil ways and violence
 - Give up – same word translated 'turn' in v9 and 10; repentance word in this context
 - Evil ways – general term
 - Violence – more specific term; refers to 'extreme wickedness,' like that which caused the Flood
- Why include the animals? Possibly –
 - Don't know what God requires (they don't know Him)
 - Show how seriously they are taking the warning



JONAH

3:1-10

3.10: God's response to Ninevites repentance

- **Relent** – to decide to act otherwise; carries idea of feeling emotional pain
- God responds to actions of people
 - Jer 18.7-10: If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and **if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned.** And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and **if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it**



JONAH

3:1-10

Theological Truths

God loves the nations –

- God loves our enemies
- Hesed – God’s love (agape), unwavering, unrelenting, uncompromising commitment to our well-being
- See hesed towards Nineveh
 - Nineveh is primary threat to Israel; wicked nation; worships other gods
 - God sends Jonah to warn them of impending judgment
 - God intervenes in Jonah’s rebellion with storm and whale to redirect him to Nineveh
- Nineveh is city ‘belonging to God’ – everyone we meet is made in image of God, loved by God, is someone Jesus died to redeem
- Ask the Lord to give you His heart for those who are hard to love



JONAH

3:1-10

Theological Truths

God's providence – God primed Ninevites to repent; either:

- Tie into their religion – worshiped Dagon who was connected to Sea; possibly half fish/half man
- Plagues, famines, enemy attacks + total eclipse in yrs leading up to Jonah
- Jonah is dropped into middle of story of what God is doing in Nineveh
- Ask God to give you eyes to see the part you may play in what He is doing in the lives of others

Father, we thank You that while we were still sinners You sent Jesus to die for us,
and while we were Your enemies we were reconciled to You through Jesus.

Jesus, thank You that even though You are in very nature God,
You did not consider equality with God something to be used to Your own advantage;
but rather You made Yourself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being
made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man,
You humbled Yourself by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross.

And because of Your death and resurrection we can be forgiven and redeemed.

Confess any sin the Holy Spirit brings to mind.



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Father, help me to be like You,
offering forgiveness to those who have sinned against me.

*Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind anyone you need to forgive
or move towards relationally.*

*Pray: Father, I forgive _____ as you have forgiven me.
Give me the grace to move towards _____ in reconciliation,
to live at peace with _____ as much as it depends on me.*

As we take this communion remind us of Your unrelenting, uncompromising
commitment to our well-being and help us to demonstrate that love to others.



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