Jonah Corona

Who is the Greatest? Humility Cures Worldliness

Introduction

- The prophet Jonah (son of Amittai) had prophesied that Jeroboam II would take power (2 Kings 14:25).
- Jonah means dove- Peace
- Jonah sign of Christ: Matt 12:38-41; Luke 11:29-32

Someone greater

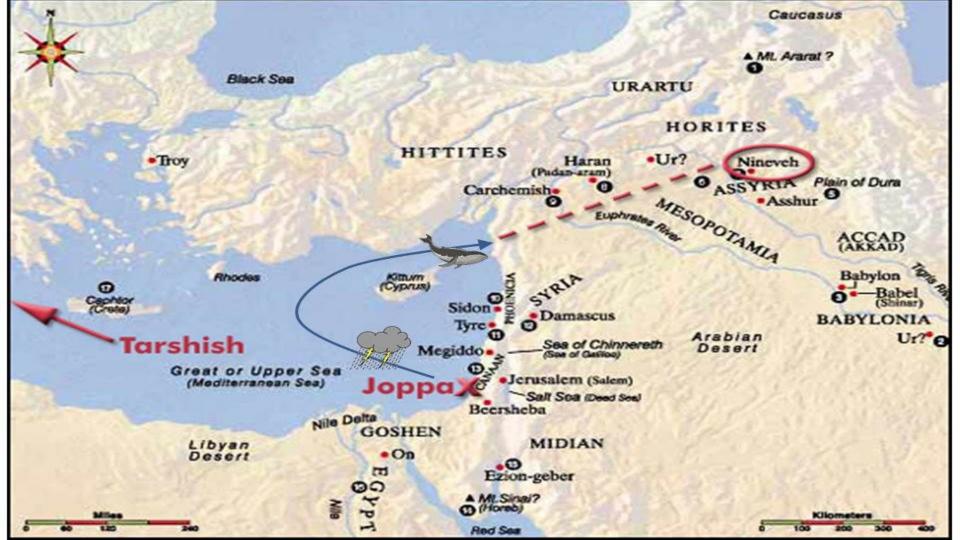
One day some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority." But Jesus replied, "Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Matt 12:38-41 (NLT)

Someone greater

For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. "The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent.

Matt 12:38-41 (NLT)



Observations

- The Lord used the book of Jonah as a prophetic sign of the future redemption in Christ for both Jew and Gentile
- Israel needed to know that God's grace extended equally to all who asked for it, and his judgment fell on all who disobeyed—and that included Israel.
- The deciding factor was **faith** and **obedience**, not ethnic or religious background. That levelling of everyone before God cleared the way for Israel to understand that her world mission was redemption, not condemnation.

Heart of the Prophet

This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry.² So he complained to the LORD about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.³ Just kill me now, LORD! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen."

Jonah 4:1-3 (NLT)

⁸ Cush was also the ancestor of Nimrod, who was the first heroic warrior on earth.⁹ Since he was the greatest hunter in the world, his name became proverbial. People would say, "This man is like Nimrod, the greatest hunter in the world." Genesis 10:8-9 (NLT)

³³ After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" ³⁴ But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." Mark 9:33-37 (NLT)

³⁶ Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."

Mark 9:33-37 (NLT)

About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"² Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them.³ Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. ⁴ So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18:1-4 (NLT)

The World of Greed

I will give their wives to others and their farms to strangers. From the least to the greatest, their lives are ruled by greed. Yes, even my prophets and priests are like that. They are all frauds.

Jeremiah 8:10 (NLT)

Antidote

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matt 5:5,9 (NLT)

Antidote

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

(Humility Cures Worldliness)

⁷<u>Therefore</u> submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:6-7 (NKVJ)

The Great Test

But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.

Matthew 19:30 (NLT)

The greatest among you must be a servant. Matthew 23:11 (NLT)

The Great Test

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.

Matthew 25:35-40 (ESV)

The Great Test

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:35-40 (ESV)