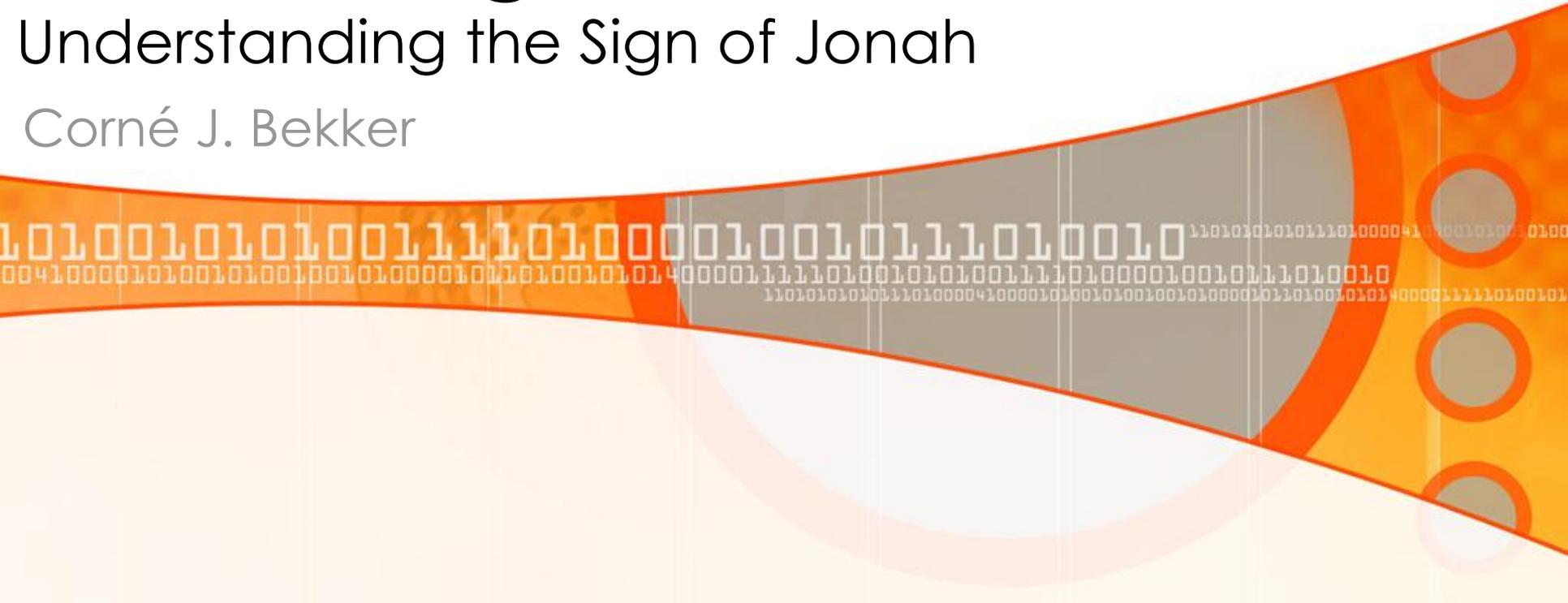


Discerning the Present Time

Understanding the Sign of Jonah

Corné J. Bekker



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The Need to Discern the Present Time



“You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.”

- Jesus of Nazareth
(Matthew 16:3)



Jesus and the Future

Pharisees

Sadducees

Zealots

Dead-Sea
Community

Gnostics

Jesus



The Indictment of Jesus

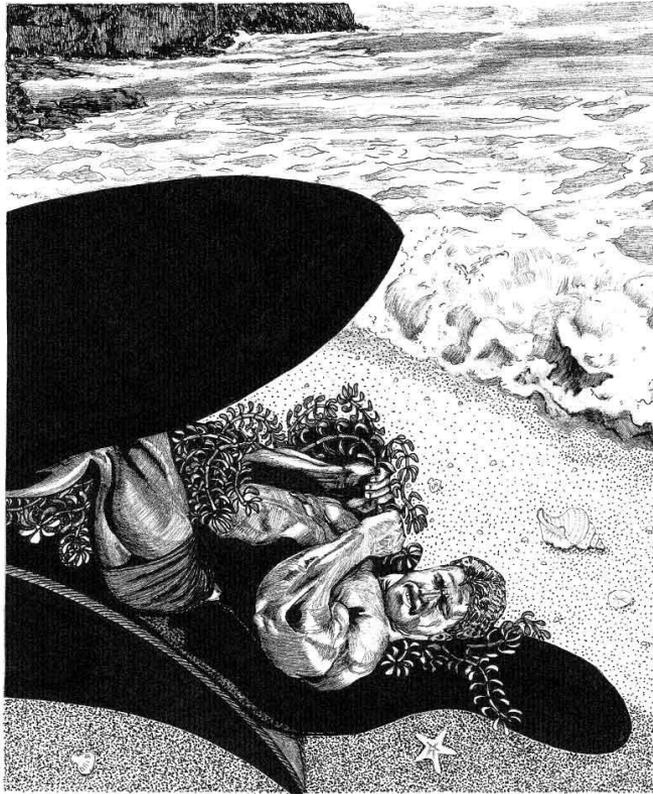


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The Sign of Jonah



Great Fish Vomits Jonah

Jonah 2:10

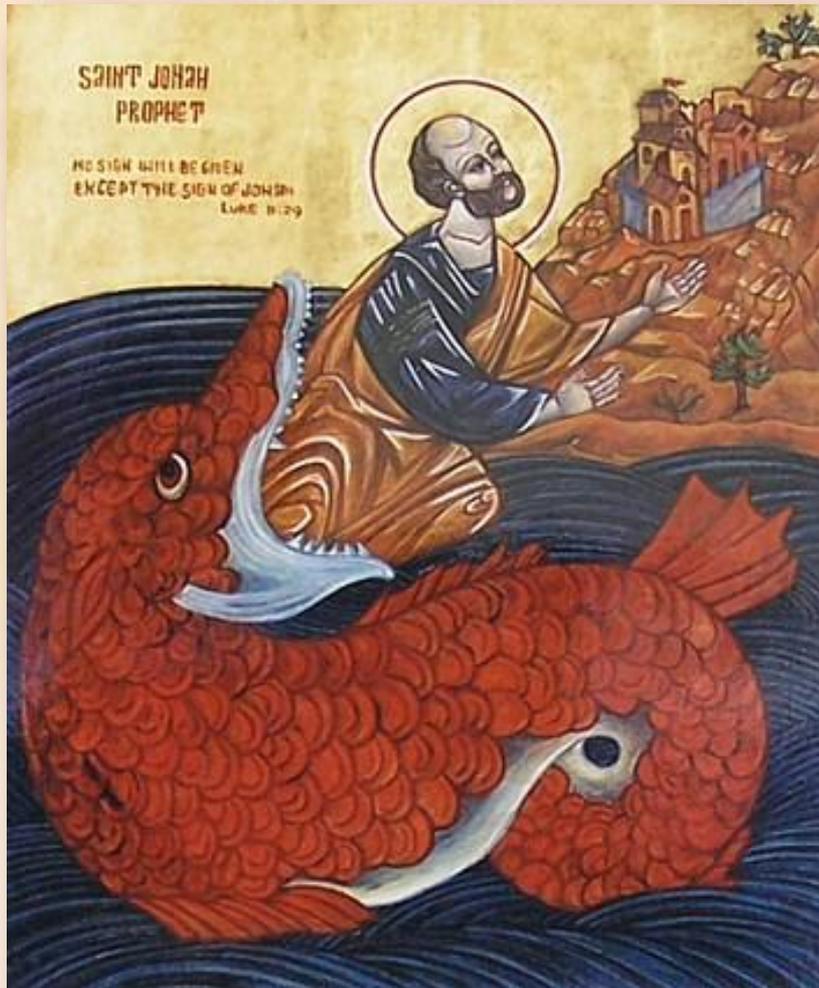
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“A Wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except **the sign of the prophet Jonah.**”

- Jesus of Nazareth
(Matthew 16:4)



Jonah, The Prophet



“He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, 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.”

- (2 Kings 14:25)

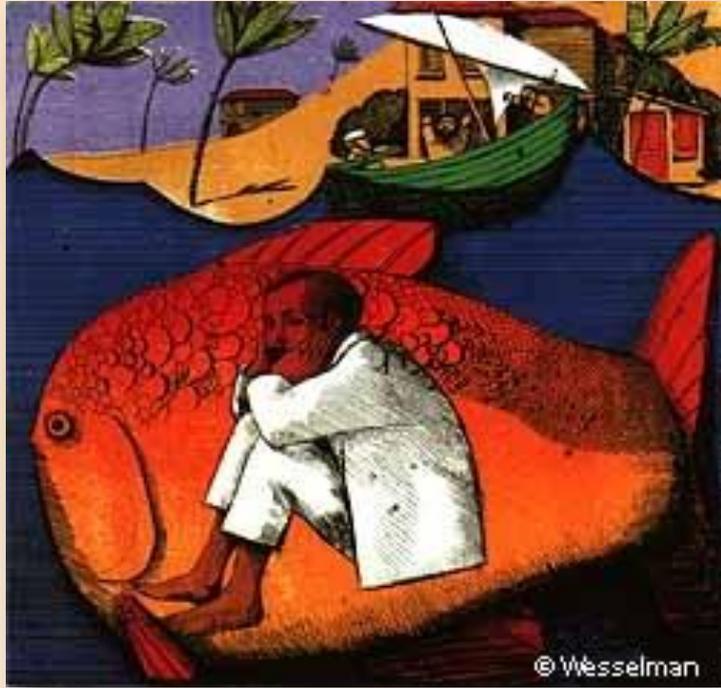


The Problem of Nineveh



Nineveh embodied all the present problems of Israel – it symbolized their darkest hour.

The Sign of Jonah



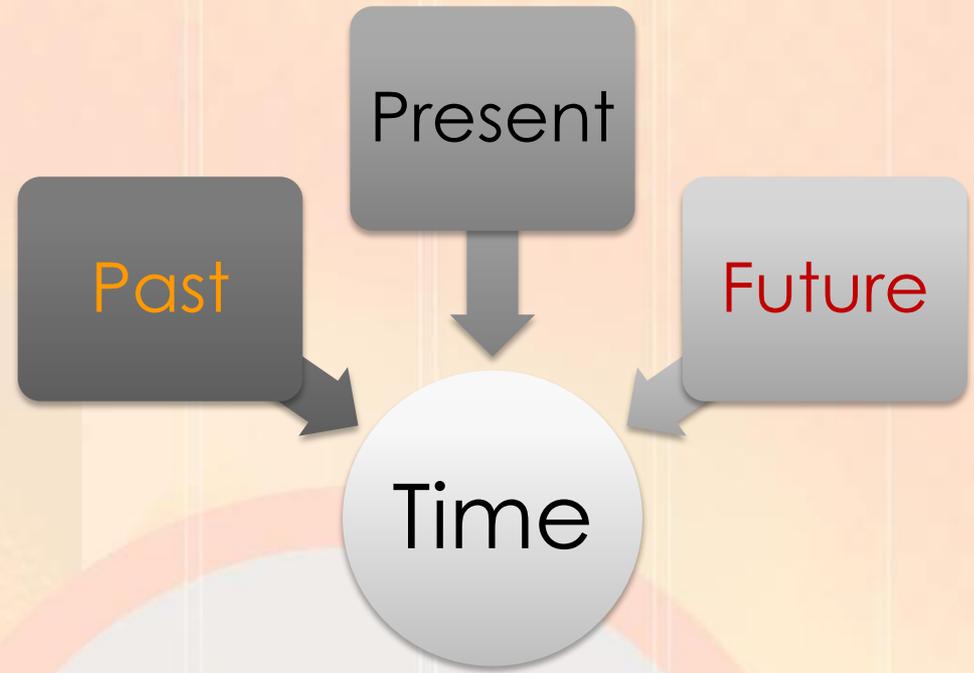
Jonah was locked only into the present moment and forgot the mission/lessons of the past.



The Christian Discipline of Discerning the Time

“My past is my wisdom to use today. . .
my future is my wisdom yet to experience.
Be in the present because that is where life resides.”

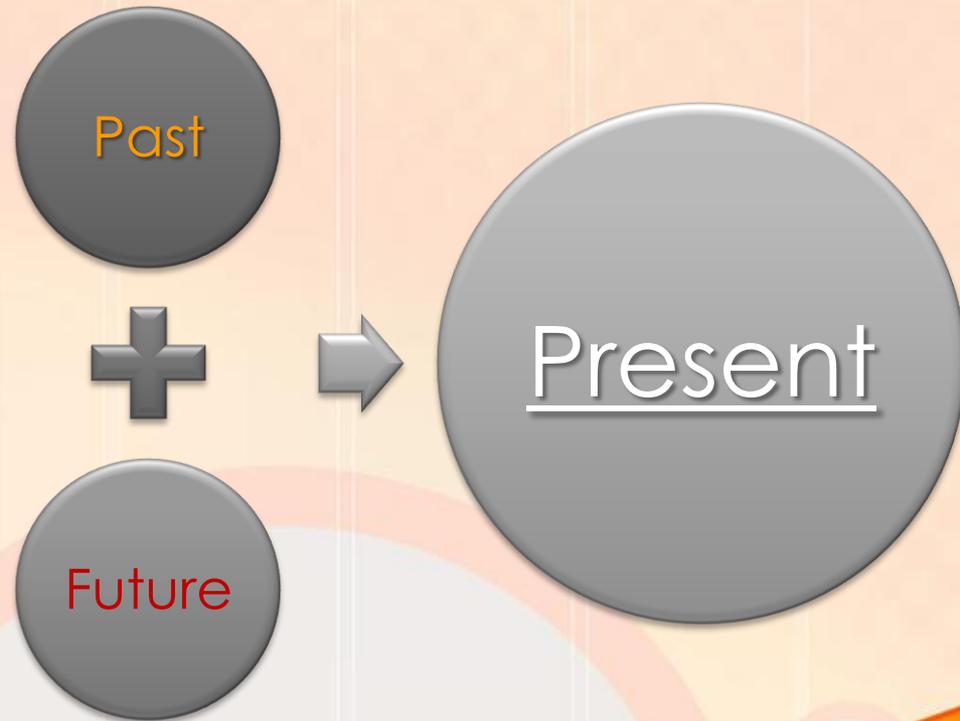
- Gene Oliver



The Christian Discipline of Discerning the Time

“Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’”

- Revelation 4:8



The Historic Mission of Israel (Past)

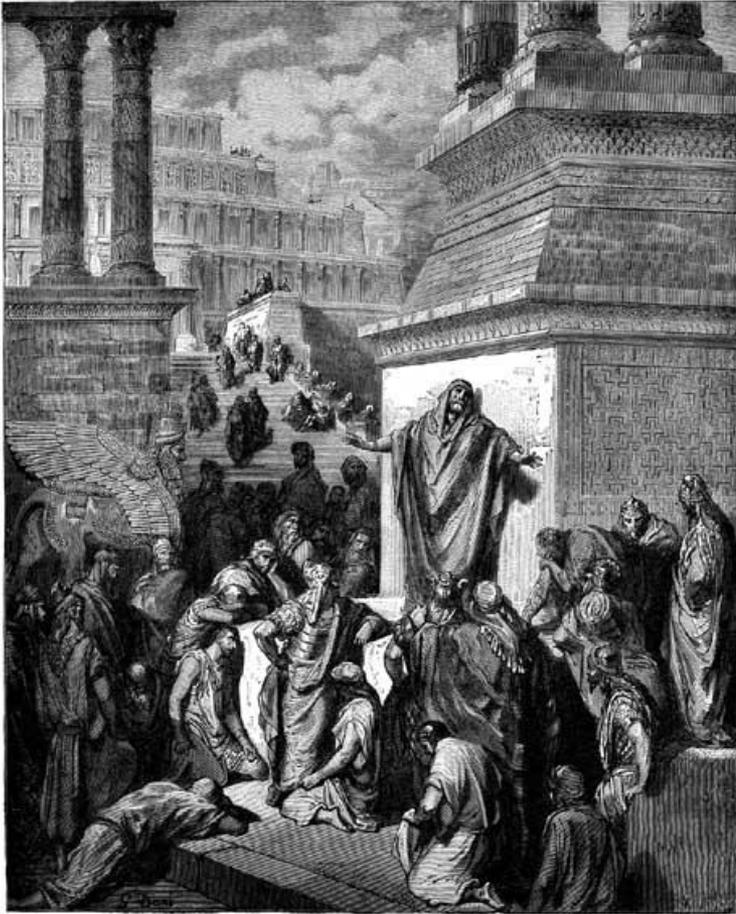


“And you shall be to Me a Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation.”

- Exodus 19:6



The Future Mission of Israel (Future)

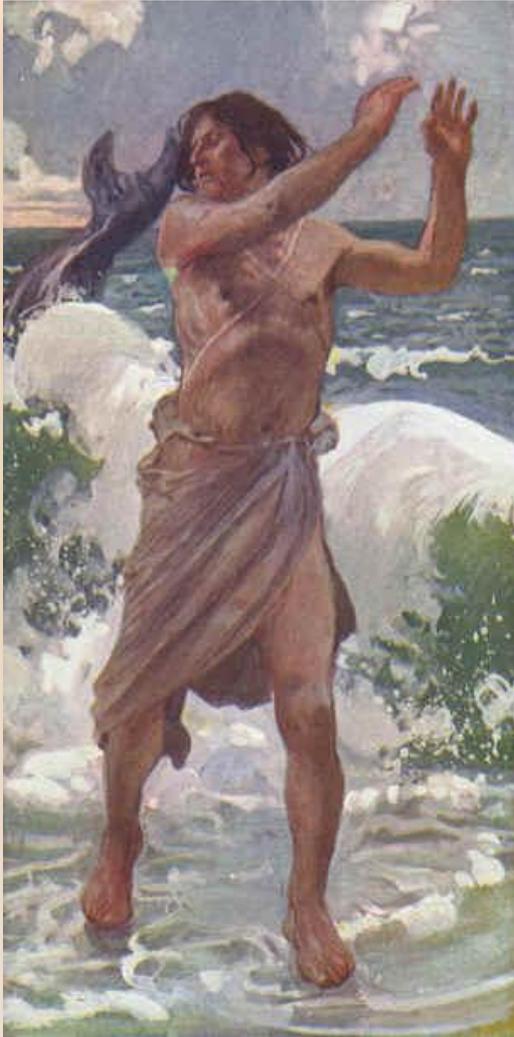


“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

– Genesis 12:3

The Present Mission of Israel (Present)



“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

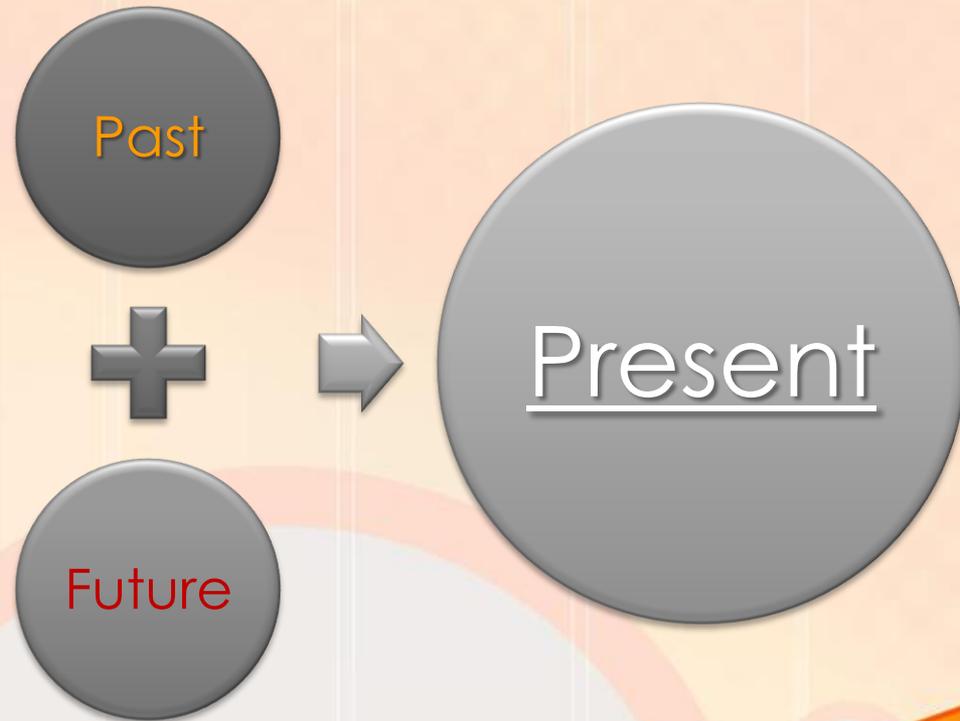
– Jonah 1:2



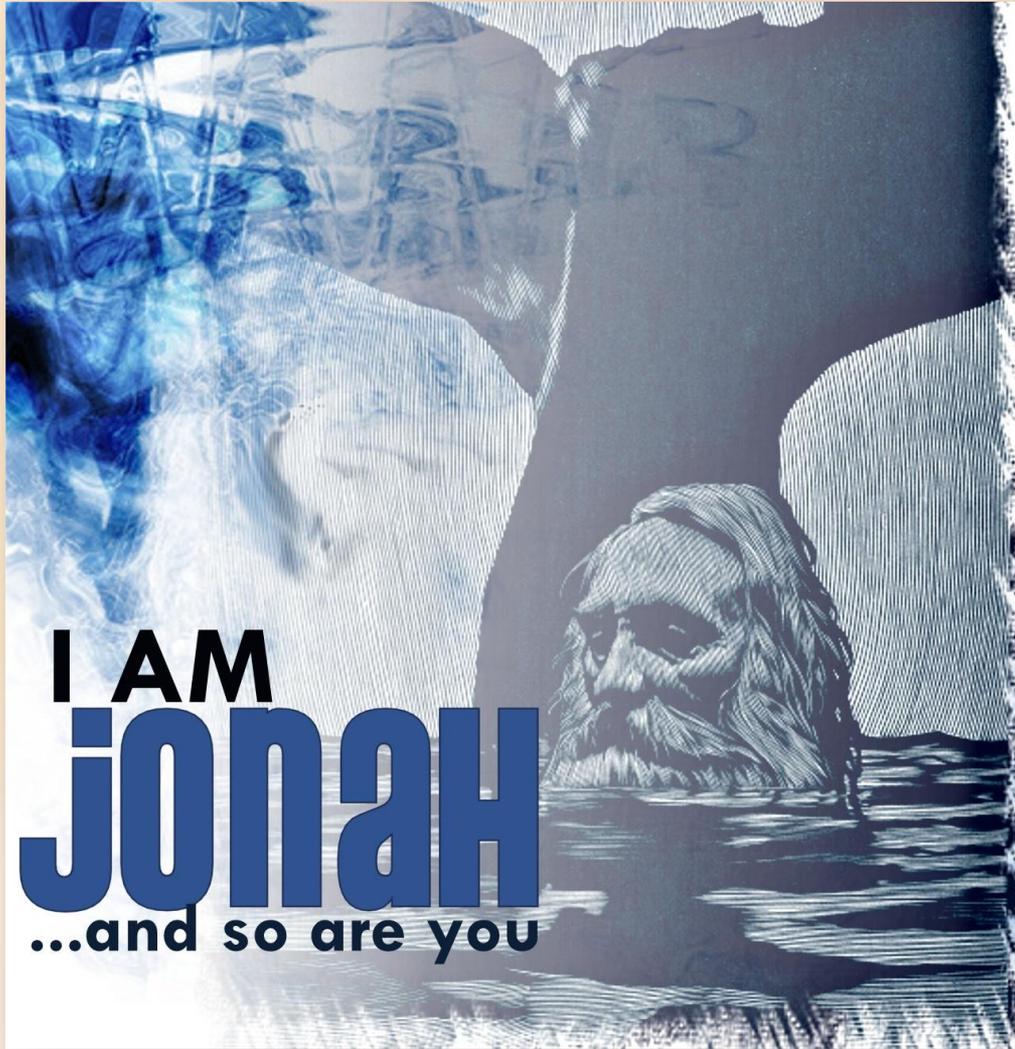
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The Sign of Jonah



What is
your
Nineveh?



The Church and the Present Time



"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- Matthew 16:17-19

Building the Church

Ekklesia = Call out Ones

Ekklesia = Remnant

Ekklesia = Set Apart

Ekklesia = Inserted Back



The Historic Mission of the Church (Past)

“For the LORD has chosen
Jacob to be his own,
Israel to be his
treasured possession.”
- Psalm 135:4



The Future Mission of the Church (Future)

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.””

- Revelation 21:1-3



The Present Ministry of the Church (Present)

“Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:18-20

