

Christ in the Old Testament



Jonah the Prophet

THE MINOR PROPHETS (Update)

Prophet	Date (B.C.) Approx	Name Meaning	Prophecies To/About	King at Time (assumption)
Obadiah	845-750	'Servant of the Lord'	Israel/Edom	Jehoram (Ju) Joram (Is)
Joel	835-796	'Yahweh is God'	Judah	Joash (Ju) Jehu/Jehoahaz(Is)
Jonah	793-753	'Dove'	Nineveh	Jeroboam 11 (Is) Amaziah/(Ju)
Hosea	753-715	'Salvation'	Israel	Jotham/Ahaz (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah/Hoshea (Is)
Amos	760-755	'Burden-bearer'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Uzziah (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah (Is)
Micah	770-710	'Who is like unto the Lord'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Ahaz/Hezekiah(Ju) Zechariah – Hoshea (Is)
Nahum	655	'Consolation'	Nineveh	Manasseh (Ju) *
Zephaniah	625	'Yahweh hides'	Judah/Assyria. And Nations	Josiah (Ju)
Habakkuk	610	'Clings to'	Judah/Nations	Josiah/Jehoahaz/Jehoiakim
Haggai	520	'My Feast'	Judah	N/A
Zechariah	520	'Yahweh has remembered'	Judah	N/A
Malachi	460 - 420	'My Messenger'	Judah	N/A

Kings of Judah and Israel

Saul	1050-1010 BC
David	1010-970
Solomon	970-930

Judah (and Benjamin)					Israel (Ten Northern Tribes)				
King	Reign		Character	Prophets	King	Reign		Character	Prophets
1. Rehoboam	931-913	17 years	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910	22 years	Bad	Ahijah
2. Abijah	913-911	3 years	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	2 years	Bad	
3. Asa	911-870	41 years	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	24 years	Bad	
					4. Elah	886-885	2 years	Bad	
					5. Zimri	885	7 days	Bad	
					6. Omri	885-874*	12 years	Bad	Elijah Micaiah
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	25 years	Good		7. Ahab	874-853	22 years	Bad	
5. Jehoram	848-841*	8 years	Bad		8. Ahaziah	853-852	2 years	Bad	
6. Ahaziah	841	1 years	Bad		9. Joram	852-841	12 years	Bad	Elisha
7. Athaliah	841-835	6 years	Bad		10. Jehu	841-814	28 years	Bad	
8. Joash	835-796	40 years	Good	Joel	11. Jehoahaz	814-798	17 years	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea
9. Amaziah	796-767	29 years	Good		12. Jehoash	798-782	16 years	Bad	
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740*	52 years	Good	Isaiah Micah	13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	41 years	Bad	
11. Jotham	740-732*	16 years	Good		14. Zechariah	753-752	6 mo	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716	16 years	Bad		15. Shallum	752	1 mo	Bad	
13. Hezekiah	716-687	29 years	Good		16. Menahem	752-742	10 years	Bad	
14. Manasseh	687-642*	55 years	Bad-repent	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah	17. Pekahiah	742-740	2 years	Bad	
15. Amon	642-640	2 years	Bad		18. Pekah	740-732*	20 years	Bad	
16. Josiah	640-608	31 years	Good		19. Hoshea	732-712	9 years	Bad	
17. Jehoahaz	608	3 mo	Bad		722 BC Fall of Isreal / Assyrian Captivity				
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	11 years	Bad						
19. Jehoiachin	597	3 mos	Bad						
20. Zedekiah	597-586	11 years	Bad						
Destruction of Jerusalem, 9th Av, 586 BC, Babylonian Captivity									

Jonah in Four Chapters

Chapter 1: Running From God

The prophet who fled

Chapter 2: Praying To God

The prayer from the deep

Chapter 3: Preaching For God

Nineveh repents

Chapter 4: Arguing With God

God's heart for the lost



Jonah: Content Outline

I. Running from God's Will (1:1-17)

- ❑ The Commission of Jonah (1:1,2)
- ❑ The Flight of Jonah (1:3)
- ❑ The Pursuit of Jonah (1:4-16)
- ❑ The Preservation of Jonah (1:17)

II. Submitting to God's Will (2:1-10)

- ❑ The Helplessness of Jonah (2:1-3)
- ❑ The Prayer of Jonah (2:4-7)
- ❑ The Repentance of Jonah (2:8,9)
- ❑ The Deliverance of Jonah (2:10)

III. Fulfilling God's Will (3:1-10)

- ❑ The Commission Renewed (3:1,2)
- ❑ The Prophet Obeys (3:3,4)
- ❑ The City Repents (3:5-9)
- ❑ The Lord Relents (3:10)

IV. Questioning God's Will (4:1-11)

- ❑ The Prophet Displeased (4:1-5)
- ❑ The Prophet Rebuked (4:6-11)

The MacArthur Bible Commentary
by John MacArthur



Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III



Nineveh at the time of Jonah

Jonah outside the Book of Jonah (2 Kings 14)

23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years.

24 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.

25 He 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 Hopher.

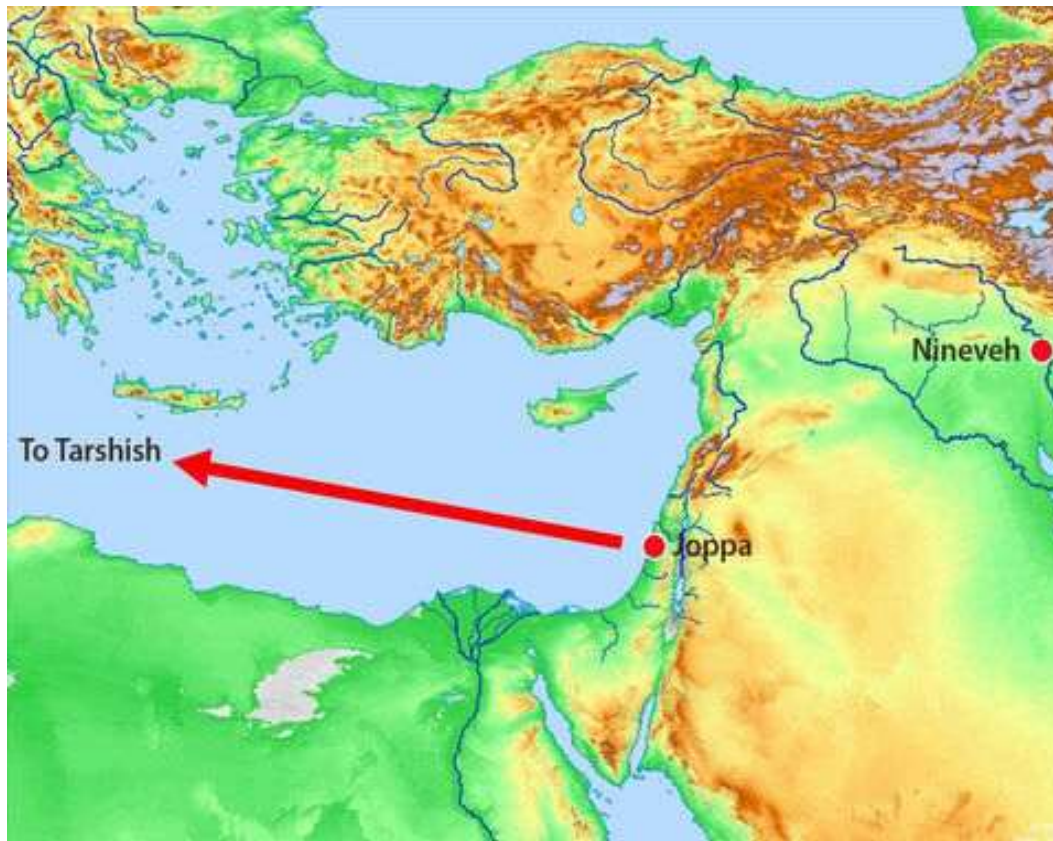
26 The Lord had seen how bitterly everyone in Israel, whether slave or free, was suffering; there was no one to help them.

27 And since the Lord had not said he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash.

Timeline: Israel, Assyria, and Jonah

1. 841 BC: Jehu on the Black Obelisk
2. 793 - 753 BC: Jeroboam II reigns over Israel
3. 780s - 760s BC: Jonah ministers
4. 760s - 750s BC: Amos and Hosea prophesy
5. 722 BC: Northern Kingdom conquered by Assyria
6. 625 - 612 BC: Nahum prophecies
7. 612 BC: Assyria conquered by Babylon

Chapter 1: Running From God



1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai:

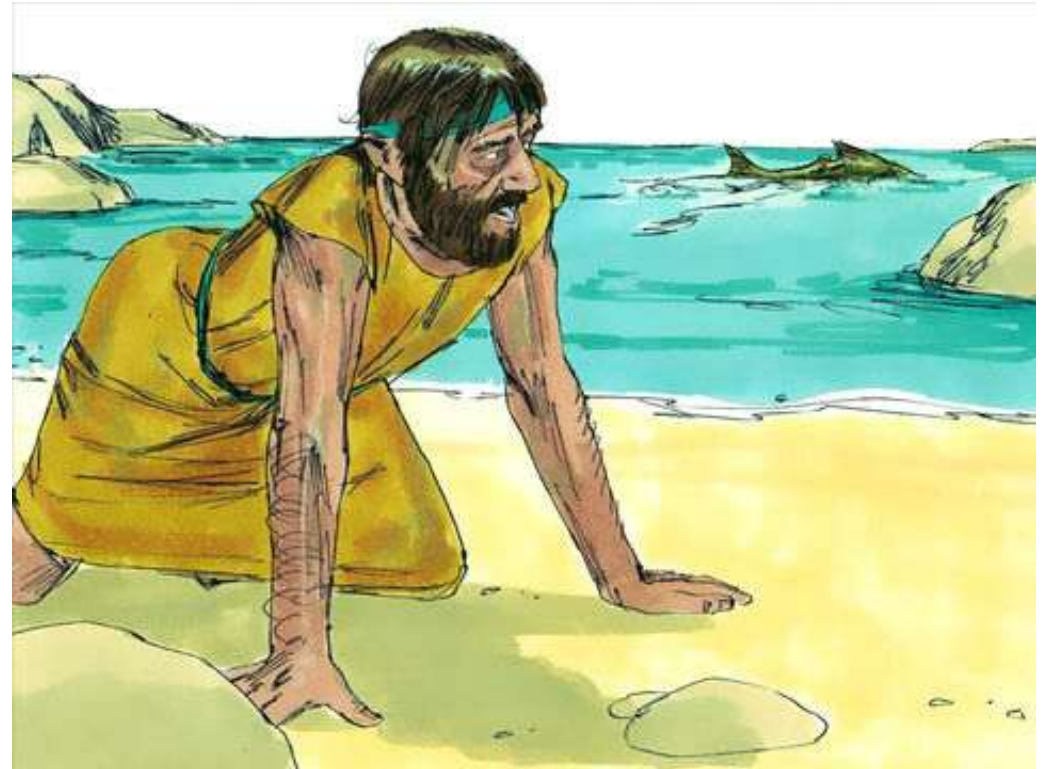
2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

4 Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

5 All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.

Chapter 2: Praying To God



1 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.

2 He said: "In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened
to my cry.

3 You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and
the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept
over me.

...

8 "Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for
them.

9 But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have
vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'"

10 And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry
land.

Jesus and “the Sign of Jonah” (Matthew, 12&16)

12:38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

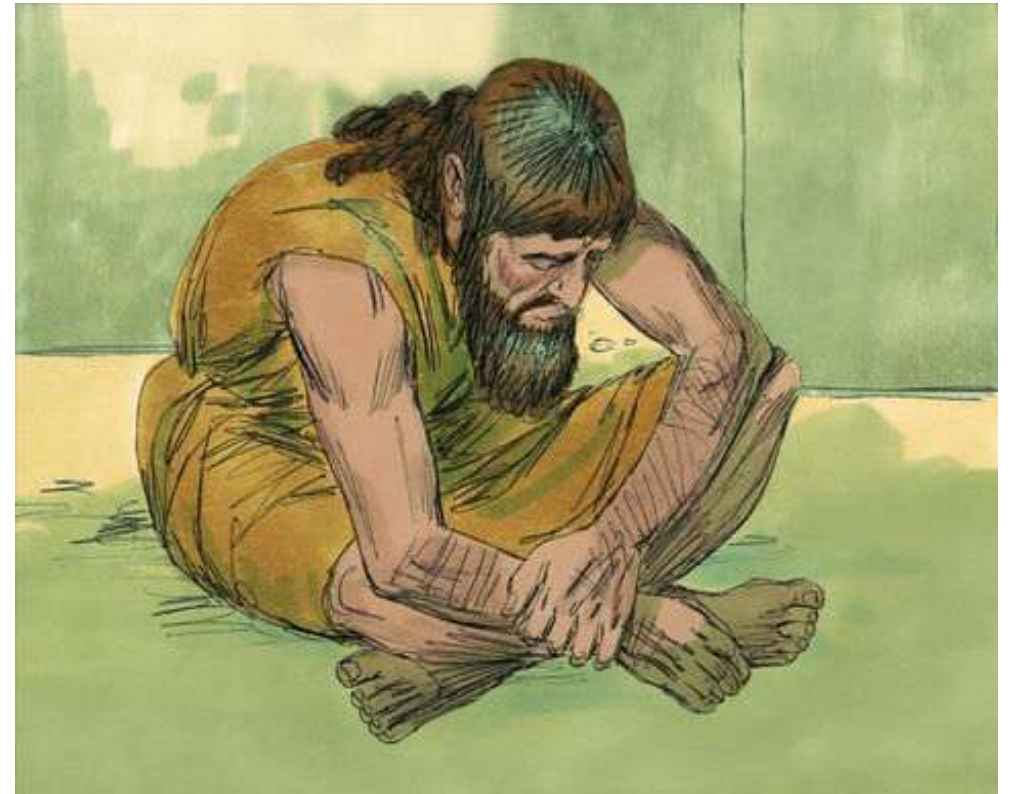
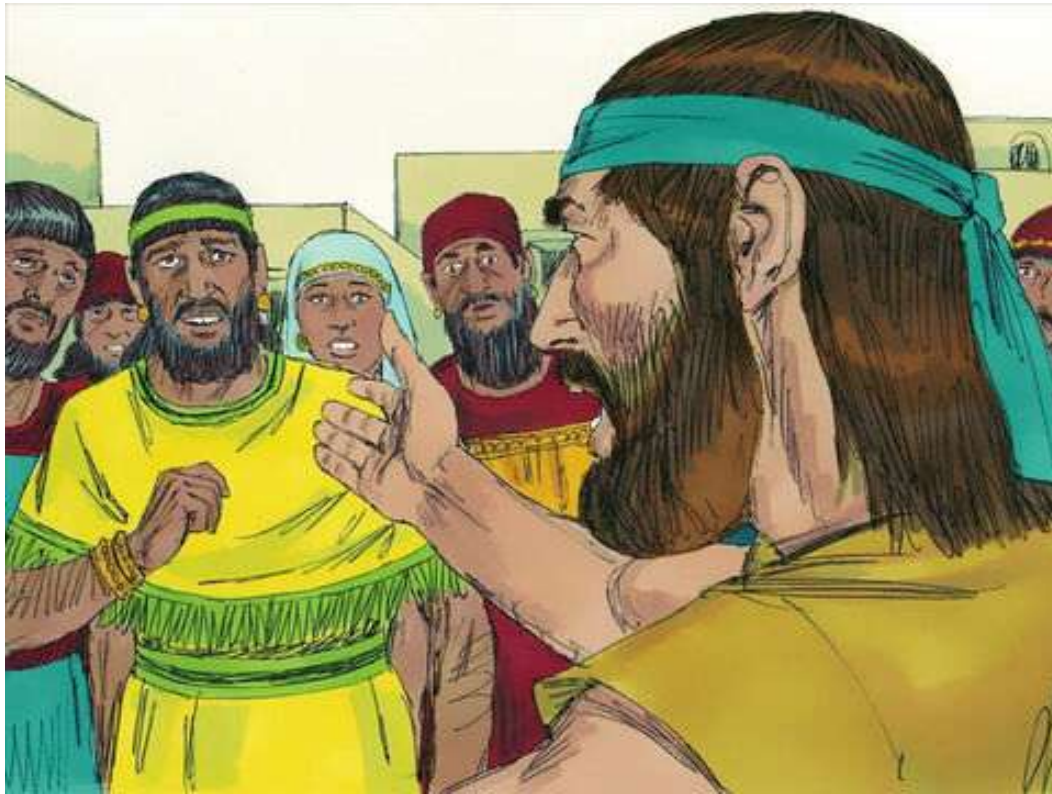
39 He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

40 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.

41 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.

16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away.

Chapter 3: Preaching For God



1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time:

2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

3 Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

4 Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Chapter 4: Arguing With God



1 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.

2 He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

...

9 But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

10 But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.

11 And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

UNIQUE AMONG THE PROPHETS:

WORDS OF A PROPHET

vs.

STORY ABOUT A PROPHET

JONAH'S ONE OTHER APPEARANCE in the OLD TESTAMENT:

GOD'S FAVOR IS WITH YOU!

NO! GOD'S JUSTICE IS AGAINST YOU!

JONAH
2 KINGS 14:23-25

JEROBOAM II
(REALLY BAD KING)

AMOS
6:13-14

PROPHET WHO REBELS

PAGAN SAILORS WHO REPENT

JONAH

THE SUBVERSIVE STORY OF A REBELLIOUS PROPHET WHO HATES GOD FOR LOVING HIS ENEMIES

DISTINCT NARRATIVE STYLE:

Satire

EXTREMELY COMPROMITING HUMOR AND IRONY

POWERFUL KING WHO HUMILES HIMSELF

EVEN COWS REPENT!

THIS BOOK IS TRYING TO MESS WITH YOU:

ARE YOU OKAY WITH GOD LOVING YOUR ENEMIES?

AREN'T YOU GLAD GOD LOVES HIS ENEMIES?

1 JONAH AND THE SAILORS

GO TO NINEVEH AND PREACH AGAINST ITS EVIL! (1:2)

TARSHISH

NINEVEH

WHY DOES HE RUN...??

I WORSHIP THE BEARD, WHO MADE THE SEA AND THE LAND...

IS ANYBODY LET HIS BLISS BE ON OUR WINDS? THIS SHOULD WORK.

2 JONAH'S 1ST PRAYER OF REPENTANCE (...SORT OF)

THIS FISHES LICKING ME!!!

NEVER TECHNICALLY REPENTS, BUT... THING GOD FOR NOT ABANDONING HIM AND... PROMISES TO OBEY FROM THIS POINT ON.

ONLY ONE RESPONSE

BLECH!

3 JONAH AND THE NINEVITES

GO TO NINEVEH AND PREACH WHAT I TELL YOU. (3:2)

NINEVEH

NO MORE NINEVEH

A SHORT GOD SERMON

- no mention of:
- ★ NINEVEH'S SIN
- ★ HOW TO RESPOND
- ★ GOD!

NEVERTHELESS...

FORTY MORE DAYS AND NINEVEH SHALL BE OVERTURNED!

IS THIS PROPHECY SABOTAGE???

FORGIVE US, OH GOD!!

JONAH'S MEANING: "OVERTHROWN" "DESTROYED" (SEE GENESIS 19:21)

WHAT HAPPENED: "TRANSFORMED" "CHANGED" (SEE 1 SAMUEL 10:6)

OVER TURNED

4 JONAH'S 2ND PRAYER A CRITICISM OF GOD'S MERCY

HERE'S WHY HE RAN:

I KNEW YOU ARE COMPASSIONATE AND LOVE TO FORGIVE! (EXODUS 34:6)

JUST KILL ME NOW.

JONAH IS YOUR ANGER JUSTIFIED? (4:4)

YES, JUST LET ME DIE.

AREN'T HUMANS MORE VALUABLE THAN VINCS?

SHOULDN'T I BE CONCERNED ABOUT NINEVEH, THAT GREAT CITY?

THE END.

Sheol – “The Depths”

Jonah 2:2 *“From the depths of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.”*
(*Sheol = the realm of the dead (NIV) or Hell (KJV)*)

What Sheol is in the OT:

- The place of the dead – all people go there: righteous + wicked
- Cut off from the land of the living – darkness, weakness, silence Ps 6:5, Eccl 9:10
- But not cut off from God – *“If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there”* Ps 139:8
- God can rescue from it – Ps 16:10, 30:3

Sheol → Hades → ?

OT Hebrew: Sheol

NT Greek: Hades – same concept Luke 16

Not final: Rev 20:14 *“Death and Hades thrown into the lake of fire”*

The Jonah → Jesus link

Matt 12:40: *“3 days and nights in the belly of a huge fish”* = *“3 days in the heart of the earth”*

Death → Despair → Deliverance

NINEVEH, THE LIBRARY, AND TODAY

780s BC: Jonah preaches in Nineveh during a time of relative Assyrian weakness

650s BC: King Ashurbanipal builds the Great Library at Nineveh - over 30,000 clay tablets

WHAT WAS IN IT

- Royal records, treaties, science, and literature
- Includes the 12-tablet 'Epic of Gilgamesh'
- Found in 1853 by Hormuzd Rassam at Nineveh"

19TH CENTURY DISCOVERY

- British excavations revealed palaces, winged bulls, and wall reliefs
- 1872: George Smith translated the Flood tablet from Gilgamesh
- First proof that Bible cities like Nineveh were real

MODERN DESTRUCTION

- Nineveh – a highly cultured and sophisticated city, evidence in so many different ways
- 2014-2017: ISIS damaged Nineveh's walls and destroyed artifacts in Mosul Museum
- Most library tablets survive in the British Museum and Istanbul