



WHY WAS JONAH SENT TO NINEVEH?

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Introduction

Why did God choose to send Jonah, a Hebrew prophet, to the Gentile city of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, in Jonah 1:1-2? This was the only time in recorded history that a Hebrew prophet was sent to a Gentile nation! Why?

Egypt, Assyria's main rival, was flourishing at that time, and Babylon was beginning to increase in might. Why wasn't Jonah sent to either of them? What was so special about Nineveh that God sent Jonah there?

Old Testament Types and Shadows

As we begin this lesson, it is important to know that **the Old Testament examples** give types and shadows of **New Testament truths**. In doing so, it does NOT have to be exact in every detail. An approximate likeness is all that is necessary (**HEB. 8:5; 10:1; ROM. 15:4**).

As it has been said, the New Testament is **concealed** in the Old, and the Old Testament is **revealed** in the New!

A Brief Typical Outline of the Book of Jonah

The prophet Jonah preached during the reign of King Jeroboam II of the northern kingdom of Israel from 753-712 BC (**2 KINGS. 14:23-25**). At this time in history, the Assyrian and Egyptian empires were rivals and preceded the Babylonian Empire.

Jonah is a type of the prophetic nation of Israel and his name means "dove" (**PSA. 74:19; HOS. 11:11**). His father, Amittai, whose name means "truthful" (**PSA. 19:9; JN. 1:14**), is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, who said in Ex. 4:22, "Israel is my son," and in Jn. 14:6, "I am ... the truth."

Now, turn to the book of Jonah, and follow along.

JONAH 1:2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Jonah was called to preach to Nineveh, the largest and most feared Gentile city in that day. But he knew from previous prophecies

(**HOS. 9:3**) that God would, in time, use Assyria to severely judge the kingdom of Israel. He felt strongly that if he preached to Nineveh and it repented, God in His mercy (**JONAH 4:2**) would spare this terrible adversary. Once Nineveh was spared from God's judgment, it would be free to accomplish its purpose on Israel. Jonah could NOT allow that to happen! In his view, the Gentiles were unclean "dogs" (**MT. 15:26**) and deserved everything that was coming to them. So, instead of doing God's will, Jonah (Israel) fled in the opposite direction. In response, God also went in the opposite direction, and gave the power and glory that should have rested on Israel to Gentile kingdoms instead!

JONAH 1:3,5 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went **down** to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went **down** into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. ... Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone **down** into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

JONAH 2:6 I went **down** to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

Jonah went "down" four times as he fled from God. Likewise, Israel went progressively downward spiritually as it came under the power of four successive Gentile empires. These four empires were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Pagan Rome (**DAN. 7:4-7**).

JONAH 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

In type, this happened during the time of the Early Church. Jonah, the Hebrew prophet who turned away from his God, came in contact with the "ship on the sea" and its Gentile crew. This "ship" is a picture of the Early Church led by the apostles as it turned from a strictly Jewish outreach (**ACTS 13:45-46**) to include the Gentile nations, the symbolic "sea" (**ISA. 60:5**). Jesus **showed** it would happen by His symbolic actions in Mt. 13:1-2, and **said** it would happen this way in Acts 1:8.

Jonah fled through the same seaport, Joppa, from which God would later call Peter, **the son of Jonah** (**JN. 1:42; 21:15-17**), to go **north** to the **Gentile** household of Cornelius (**ACTS 10**)!

JONAH 1:16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

As Jonah (Israel) turned his back on God, the Gentile crew turned towards Him and away from their pagan gods. They began to worship Jonah's God, Jehovah, the great I AM. This same Jehovah is our Savior Jesus Christ (**JN. 8:58; ACTS 28:28**).

JONAH 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

The great fish that swallowed Jonah was a picture of the Gentile nations that successively swallowed the Jewish people after the Roman Empire destroyed their nation in AD 70 (**PSA. 74:13; JER. 51:34; EZK. 29:3; 32:2; 36:3,24**). Jonah was in the fish for three days and nights. If we use the key of "a day for 1,000 years" (**2 PT. 3:8; PSA. 90:4**), and apply it to the prophecy of Hos. 6:1-3, then after two days, or 2000 years, and during the third day, or the 1000-year reign of Christ, the LORD will bring Jonah (Israel) completely out of his grave-like condition.

JONAH 2:1-2 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

JONAH 2:9-10 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

For Israel, this will **initially** occur towards the end of the 7½ years of the Latter Rain Church (**JMS. 5:7**), as the 144,000 Jews (**REV. 7: 1-8**) begin to receive our LORD as their true Savior. Then the first half of the last hour (15 years) will be over, and "Jonah" will be back once again in the land of Israel (the dry land, **EX. 14: 21-22; ISA. 11:15**).

JONAH 3:1-2 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

Then Jonah was called the second time to go to Nineveh, which was **north** and **east** of Israel! This time, Jonah went! (**DT. 4:30-31; ISA. 11:11**)

JONAH 4:1-3 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

But, just as Jonah had feared, Nineveh did repent. Then Jonah, in his fear for Israel, became angry with God! What Jonah did **after** Nineveh repented is highly prophetic.

JONAH 4:5-6 So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the **EAST SIDE** of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city. And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

After he preached to Nineveh and the city repented, he went to wait on the **east** side of the Gentile city. This is the very same direction that the restored Jewish ministry will go during the next 1,000 years (**REV. 16:12**). But **at this particular time**, Jonah's only concern was for the "booth" in which he lived and for the "gourd" that shaded him from the fierce sun. The "booth" shows Israel's fragile, **temporary life** in this world for 3,500 years (**LEV. 23:40-42; NEH. 8:14-18**). Just as the LORD allowed a pillar of cloud and of fire (**EX. 13:21**) to rest briefly upon Israel for comfort and protection, so the "gourd" grew up suddenly over Jonah and made him exceedingly glad.

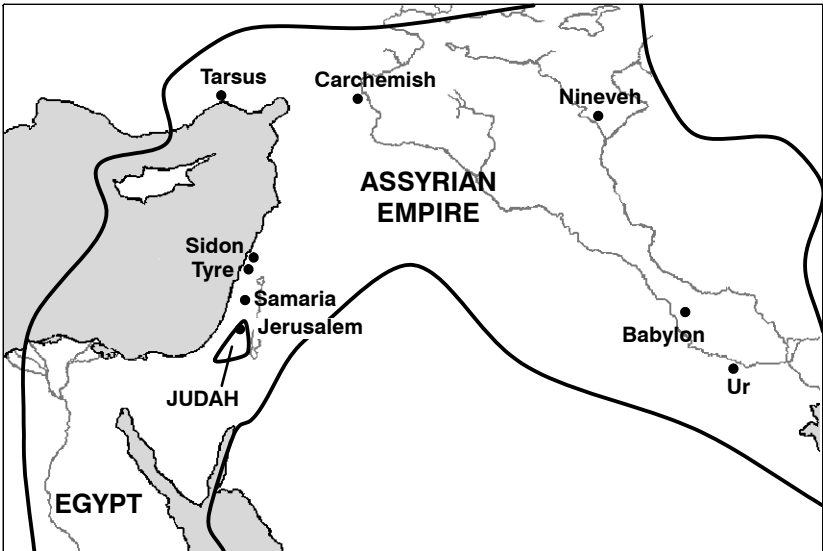
JONAH 4:7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

But the LORD saw that Israel's heart was still unconverted, and He knew that its disobedience to His will would eventually bring corrective judgments upon the nation. Down through the centuries, these judgments were often in the form of invading Gentile armies (**JOEL 1:4; 2:25**), which would smite Israel just as the "worm" smote the "gourd" over Jonah!

JONAH 4:8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

Suddenly, even while the LORD continued to deal with Jonah (Israel) to lift his very selfish eyes from off himself, and to consider instead the miserable world of hopeless creatures that desperately needed the life-changing love and mercy of Jonah's God (**ROM. 11:12,15**), a **vehement east wind** arose and swept across the land, and Jonah **died!** Yes, all of his terrible suffering finally caused Jonah to die out to his will, and to become alive to God's divine purpose for the world!

☞ This terribly destructive wind is a picture of the battle of Armageddon. We see that the same kind of wind appeared at the time **of the exodus from Egypt under Moses** (**EX. 14:21; ISA. 11:15**;



ISA. 27:8; DAN. 2:35; HOS. 13:15). With these dramatic events, the book of Jonah abruptly closes!

In the natural, many questions are left unanswered! For example, between 753 and 712 BC, Jonah prophesied against Nineveh with such force that even this violent city repented! But their repentance was evidently only temporary, because in 640 BC (100 years later), Assyria brutally conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, and Jonah's worst fears were realized. Later on, the prophet Nahum arose, and he also prophesied destruction on Nineveh. Then in 532 BC (about 200 years after the ministry of Jonah), the city was finally destroyed. So, what was really accomplished by all of this action? **It is obvious that the main purpose of the book of Jonah is in the understanding of the spiritual, not the natural, meaning of the events recorded in this book!**

Before we leave this brief outline of the book of Jonah, you will notice that we have purposely NOT identified **the modern equivalent of ancient Assyria, or of the city of Nineveh**, to which Jonah was sent!

The Revived Assyrian Empire

The latter revival of the ancient Assyrian Empire began under King Tiglath-Pileser III (665-647 BC, **2 KINGS. 15:29**) and his vigorous war machine. The Assyrians were mighty warriors and the very worst of the robber nations. Their nation was built on the spoils of constant

warfare and they practiced their craft with **great cruelty**. They skinned their prisoners alive, cut off their body parts, and made mounds of human skulls in order to **terrorize** those whom they kept alive. Later on, Jonah's greatest fear was realized when the ten tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel were taken captive and deported to the north by this revived empire.

For more than 130 years, Assyria terrorized not only the southern kingdom of Judah, but also the entire near eastern world. This went on until the kingdom of Babylon defeated it and **absorbed** its territory. Yet the LORD, through the prophet Isaiah, called Assyria His rod and His staff of correction for the people of Israel (**ISA. 10:5-6**). But the LORD also said that when Assyria had performed all of His purpose on His people, He would then in turn destroy the Assyrians! (**ISA. 10:12**) This was accomplished in 532 BC, when the Medes and the Babylonians destroyed Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire came to an end.

Modern Babylon

As the dramatic events of the book of Jonah reach down to this present day in type and shadow, can we see a **modern equivalent of the Assyrian Empire and of the city of Nineveh in particular**? Yes, we can!

But first, let us allow the Bible to identify **the modern equivalent of the ancient Babylonian Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar**. Babylon rose to power **directly after** Assyria.

Babylon in Revelation

In the book of Revelation, the word "Babylon" is found six times (**REV.14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2,10,21**). In the Bible, six is the number of a man; in particular, the man of sin (**REV. 13:18; 2 THES. 2:3-4**). In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John drew on material from the prophetic books of Isaiah and Jeremiah, in particular, to prophesy against **spiritual Babylon**.

But, let us not forget that these prophecies were **originally made** against the **natural** Babylonian Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar. Thus, the words spoken against spiritual Babylon in the book of Revelation are based on **the pattern** of those spoken against natural Babylon in the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.

The Origin of Babylon

The roots of **natural Babylon** can be traced back to the city and tower of Babel (meaning “confusion,” **GEN. 11:9**) under Nimrod, the mighty hunter, who taught the people of his day to rebel against God (**GEN. 10:8-10; 11:1-9**). In time, Babel’s power grew and later on became known as the Old Babylonian Empire under King Hammurabi (called Amraphel in **GEN. 14:1**). Then it declined, and was later revived under King Nebuchadnezzar II, and became known as the Neo (or New) Babylonian Empire (525-482 BC).

Natural Babylon versus Spiritual Babylon — The Fall and Rise

Just as **natural Babylon** rose to greatness, then declined in power and rose again, so spiritual Babylon will follow this same pattern.

After defeating the powers of the Grecian Empire, **the Roman Empire** ruled the world until AD 476. Then, the empire broke apart into ten kingdom-nations (**DAN. 7:7**, 10 horns = 10 kingdoms). These ten kingdoms were ruled by the spiritual kingdom of the papacy for 1260 years (AD 538-1798). After a brief decline, its rule was revived in 1929 and, today, the “ten horns” are closer to unity than they have been for hundreds of years.

☞ **The resurrected “Roman Empire” of Europe (REV. 17:3-5, 9-11)** will be **the natural power base** for the beast system of Revelation 13, which is also referred to as “Babylon.” The European Common Market nations encompass **ROUGHLY** the same geographical area of the ancient Roman Empire. It does **NOT** have to be comprised of exactly ten nations to fulfill prophecy, as the number **TEN** in the Bible means *judgment or a proving time* (**REV. 17:12-13,17**).

Spiritual Babylon Ruling

The book of Revelation describes **spiritual Babylon** in the two beast systems of chapter 13. It will consist ultimately of the merger of the first beast system (Catholicism), of verses 1-10, with the second beast system (Protestantism and Pentecostalism), of verses 11-18. The resultant beast system will be given its **natural power** by an interlocking network of civil governments. These governments will enforce the political-religious doctrines of Rome on a worldwide scale. (See also **REV. 17** and **18**).

Europe Today — A Spiritual Wasteland

Most of Europe today is a spiritual wasteland. Long ago, it turned away from whatever light and power it had in the days of the Protestant Reformation. Presently, it is 70% Catholic, and is once again ripe for takeover by the pope of Rome, who has recently stated that the emerging union of European nations will return the land to its “Christian (Catholic) roots.”

Two Super Powers in the 20th Century

The twentieth century has rightly been called “The Century of Death.” During this time, there has been violence on a scale never before imagined. There have been two world wars and numerous bloody conflicts, along with all the recent technological advances to facilitate even more death and destruction.

Also within this century, the world has been effectively polarized between **two great super powers**. These two powers are the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (the USSR) and the United States of America (the USA).

Introduction to 20th Century Russia

The Assyrian and Egyptian empires preceded the revived Babylonian Empire, and **violence and cruelty** were prominent characteristics of **the Assyrians**. When we seek a modern super power with like traits, one stands out above all the rest. Let us now take a closer look at **the history of the USSR, and Russia in particular**, in this century.

For 74 years (1917-1991), the USSR under the doctrine of Communism killed some 100 million of **its own people**, while its daughter, China, did the same. It promised paradise, but delivered mass starvation, poverty, and police-state terror. At the same time, it promoted **worldwide** strife and hatred by pitting one race, class, and religion against another. Terror, torture, and **Moscow-directed** wars of national liberation spread Communist “brotherhood, peace, and social justice” throughout our present world.

☞ **In the Nation of Russia**, first expanded to the USSR, then recently renamed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), we can see **the modern equivalent of the ancient Assyrian Empire**.

☞ **So the city of Moscow is the modern equivalent of Nineveh!**

Just as the Assyrian Empire was “absorbed” into the greater Babylonian Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar, so Russia today is

in the process of being “absorbed” into the greater spiritual Babylonian Empire — the beast system of the book of Revelation.

20th Century Russia — A History Supplement

As a direct result of World War I and the Russian Civil War that followed it (1918-1922), 18 million Russians died. In October of 1917, the Communist Party came to power in Russia. The next year, the Secret Police was formed; concentration camps were set up, and by 1921 more than 12,000 people had been executed.

In 1923, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was formed, with Russia as the largest Republic. Then in 1924, Lenin, who was the prime mover of the 1917 Russian Revolution, died, and Stalin took complete control of the USSR. Stalin believed that Russia was 50 to 100 years behind the advanced countries of the world. He could not feel secure until his power equaled that of his greatest potential enemy. So he launched a series of ruthless 5-year plans for the state collectivization of farms in order to provide adequate food for the country. There were also plans activated for the rapid development of industry across the nation in order to make the economy, and the country, world-competitive. Every industry was given goals to reach, and failure to do so meant either a Siberian camp or execution.

During the collectivization effort in 1932-1933, 9 million people died as a result of famine alone. By the late 1930s, Stalin had executed all of the 184 original leaders of the 1917 Russian (Bolshevik) Revolution. It is also estimated that during the great purge/terror (1936-1941), 10 million people were arrested and 3 million were executed. Then, in 1941, Germany attacked Russia and the war caused suffering and destruction beyond imagination.

At the end of World War II in 1945, 25 million Russians were dead and 100 million East Europeans had been drawn into the Soviet Bloc. By 1949, the Soviet Union had acquired its own atomic bomb. Then finally, on March 5, 1953, Stalin died. While it is true that under him Russia became the second superpower in the world, it did so at the price of its own inner stability.

The Communist Party, which comprised a membership of only about 6% of the total population, controlled every walk of Russian life. Stalin’s successors, however, had inherited a system and ideology that had begun to lose its credibility. Within its borders a strong Jewish national consciousness began to emerge. By 1970, Soviet

foreign influence was strongly felt in Africa, Central America, and Asia. But by the 1980s, nationalists within the fifteen Republics of the Soviet Union began to pull it apart. Most of the population of the southern Islamic territories, numbering about 60 million Moslems (or 21% of the population of the former Soviet Union) began to go their own way. Then suddenly, in 1991, the USSR was formally dissolved. From its ruins, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was formed.

Is the former USSR gone forever from the world power picture? No, not at all! It is presently being cleverly re-packaged in one of the greatest deceptions of all time so that it might be effectively “absorbed” into unified Europe! This is necessary in order for the beast system to dominate the world. World domination, as projected by Lenin, would be accomplished in three stages:

1. Take Eastern Europe captive;
2. Then, the masses of Asia;
3. And finally, encircle a weakened and deceived United States and cause it to fall.

Presently, with stages one and two already accomplished, stage three is nearing completion! Of course, Lenin’s focus centered on Russia, whereas the Bible shows us that **our focus should be on unified Europe**.

☞ As an important link to this Bible truth, it is interesting to note that in the breakup and reformation of Russia, it is not the ideology of Communism that is the unifying force of the future, but rather the **Russian Orthodox Church (the twin sister of the Roman Catholic Church)**. So, in one form or another, it is now clear that the Orthodox Church will be at the center of Russian life in the next century.

Egypt — Assyria’s Rival

As mentioned earlier, in the time of ancient Assyria, its most active rival was the Egyptian Empire. At the same time, natural Babylon was growing ever stronger. In the same way in this century, the USSR (Russia) has warred increasingly against the USA, while spiritual Babylon has continually increased in power.

The Egyptian Empire

In ancient times, natural geographic borders effectively isolated Egypt from the rest of the near eastern countries. This isolation

allowed for an uninterrupted development of the distinctive Egyptian civilization. Blessed with a stable climate and extremely fertile lands, regularly watered by the Nile River, the Egyptians developed a rich agricultural economy. Early on, Egypt became the granary of the ancient Near East, especially in the times of famine.

Ask yourself this question:

Today, which superpower feeds the world?

Later, as Assyria revived and sought to control Egypt through a series of native puppet-rulers, large numbers of foreigners began to settle into the country as either traders or mercenaries. More and more, Egypt found that it was not strong enough to significantly influence the outcome of the swiftly changing political situation in Western Asia between the Assyrians, the Medes, and the Babylonians.

In time, Assyria began to relax its grip on the Egyptian region. As it did so, Egypt in turn tightened its grip on the kingdom of Judah. **Judah was then subject to Egypt until the battle of Carchemish in 525 BC, one of the most strategic battles of ancient history.** At Carchemish, the Babylonian Empire (**JER. 25:9; 27:6; 43:10**) defeated **both** the Assyrian army and the Egyptian army (**2 CHR. 35:20-22**), and although the Babylonians never succeeded in occupying any part of Egypt, they remained a constant threat for many years thereafter (**2 KNGS. 24:7; JER. 46:20-24; EZK. 30:24-25**).

☞ Thus, noting the striking similar patterns of history both in the past and in the present, we see **in the nation of the United States of America the modern equivalent of the ancient Egyptian Empire!**

Joseph in Egypt


From the very beginning of the Bible, Egypt has played an important role in the affairs of Israel. In Genesis, Joseph, the favored son of Jacob, was sold by his brothers into Egypt, which is to the **west of the land of Promise**. Later, Joseph was reunited with his eleven brothers in the land of Egypt.

Today, common religious teaching views “Egypt” as the Gentile world. But in the days of Joseph’s restoration from prison, elevation to power, and reunion with his brothers, **Egypt appears to identify with the western hemisphere of our world**, and in particular, with **the United States**. For, at least to begin with, it is within the United States that the storehouses of “spiritual corn” for the Latter Rain Church (**JMS. 5:7**) will be found (**MAL. 1:11; ECC. 1:5**).

You will recall that Joseph (Jesus) with an Egyptian (Gentile) wife produced two sons (the two parts of the manchild, **REV. 12:5,17**) **before** the seven years of great famine came (**GEN. 41:45,50**). It was during the years of famine that Joseph was reunited with his Hebrew brothers.

Moses in Egypt

Later, the man Moses, who was raised in Egypt and fled from it, was sent back to Egypt by the LORD to lead the Israelites out. **After** he married a Gentile wife, and had two sons by her (**EX. 2:21-22; 18:2-4**), Moses met the LORD at the burning bush (**EX. 3:2-5**), a symbol of the Latter Rain Church in order, which will be mainly in **the United States**. The burning bush is another symbol for the Tree of Life (**REV. 2:7**), and the seven golden candlesticks (**REV. 1:12-17**).


After a series of destructive plagues similar to those in the book of Revelation, Moses, at the LORD's direction, led about 3 million Israelites out of Egypt (**EX. 12:37** = 600,000 men + wives + 3 children each). He led them **from the west** towards the land of promise, through the Red Sea, in the morning watch just as a strong east wind arose (**EX. 14:21-24**). (**Note:** See  on page 168)

For 1,000 years afterwards, this exodus from Egypt was the primary example in the minds of the children of Israel of the great delivering power of their God!

Jeremiah — A Greater Exodus from the North

Then, 1,000 years later, as the Assyrians grew weaker and the Babylonians grew steadily stronger, the prophet Jeremiah spoke clearly of yet another exodus: **a future exodus of Jewish people from the north**, which would be even **greater** than the former exodus from Egypt (**JER. 16:14-15; JER. 23:7-8; ISA. 49:12; JER. 3:12,18; 51:44; ZEC. 2:6**).

Jonah in Nineveh

Now, let us return for a moment to the prophet Jonah in the city of Nineveh. **Why was Jonah sent there?**  Beyond the immediate geo-political considerations of that day, the long-term reason, in type and shadow for this present day, was to create a “door of repentance.” This would appear in the activities of **the modern**


equivalent of Nineveh; that is, the city of Moscow, the capital of Russia! This “door of repentance” would allow **the entrance** of God’s mercy to be manifested to a cruel and godless people who would be, at that time, under the sevenfold judgments of God’s end time plagues. It would also provide a way of **escape** for the multitude of Jews still living in the north country; an exodus that will exceed the original exodus from Egypt under Moses!

Conservative estimates of the number of Jews presently living in Russia range between 3 and 5 million. Approximately **3 million** Israelites were delivered by Moses. In light of this Bible pattern, **5 million** Jews fleeing through this northern “door of opportunity” is a reasonable figure; **for a combined total of 8 million!** (ECC. 11:1-2)

Nineveh/Moscow Repentance

Why would Nineveh/Moscow repent? The events we are reviewing will happen during the time when the seven angels of the book of Revelation (the Bride of Christ) pour out the seven vials of horrible plagues upon the earth. Countries such as Russia, which have severely abused their environment, will be particularly hard-hit. Great catastrophes will strike **modern Assyria (Russia and its capital, Moscow)** one after another for 7½ years. It is not difficult to imagine the response of the people of such a land when a Jonah-like ministry from Israel “trumpets” forth yet additional awesome judgments upon them, even exceeding all that has happened; unless they repent!

Two Exodus Accounts

Since both “exodus accounts,” Jonah/Jeremiah’s from the north and Moses’ from the west, happen just prior to the battle of Armageddon,  in type and shadow, is it possible that the prophet Jeremiah was telling us not only of a great exodus out of the north, but also **at the same time**, of a lesser exodus out of the west? Not just one exodus, but actually two! (ISA. 11:11-16; 19:19-25; 43:5-6; 48:20; 49:12; HOS. 11:1,10-11; ZEC. 8:7-8; 10:10-11)

Remember, Joseph’s (Jesus’) bones came **from the west** to the land of promise, not from the north! (GEN. 50:24-26; EX. 13:19; JOSH. 24:32)

In the exodus from the north country (Russia), the escape routes would lead **westward** through European countries to the sea, and then onward to Israel. But, if some Jews went **eastward** out of Russia,

they could use the land bridge of the Bering Strait to cross into Alaska and reach the United States. If, in fact, this would happen, then according to the Bible pattern, a Moses-like ministry would be in the United States (Egypt) to receive them and to lead the fleeing Jews, along with those still living in the west, through the “Red Sea” to the “dry land” of Israel! ☞ The “**Red Sea**” is a picture of the nations of the world overflowing the land of Israel at the end of the last hour. This action will trigger the battle of Armageddon (**ISA. 8:7-8; 43:16; 59:19; JER. 47:2; 51:42,55,64; JOEL 2:20; ZEC. 10:11**). ☞ Likewise, the “**dry land**” is a picture of the land of Israel after the invading armies of the world have been destroyed in Armageddon and their forces have receded (**GEN. 1:9-10; EX. 14:21-22; ISA. 11:15; JONAH 2:10**).

The Bible gives us **an additional example** of this strong possibility in the closing events of the life of the prophet Jeremiah. The Babylonian Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar finally conquered Jerusalem and deported the remaining two tribes of Judah and Benjamin into the north country (☞ note this point!). At this time, the king looked favorably upon Jeremiah because of his many prophecies that urged Judah and Jerusalem to cooperate with Babylon. Jeremiah chose to remain in Judah. But as soon as the Babylonian army departed, Jewish rebels overthrew the interim government and fled, with Jeremiah as a prisoner, **to the land of Egypt!** (**JER. 43:8-13**) Thus, the book of Jeremiah **closes** with the prophet, **in type and shadow, in the United States** (Egypt) while **spiritual Babylon** rules our present world for one hour (15 years).

Why? you ask. Evidently, the LORD allowed this additional example of Jeremiah in Egypt to be recorded to **strengthen** the original example of Moses in Egypt. In this way, the LORD reminds His people in the very midst of Jeremiah’s promises of the dramatic exodus from the north country, not to forget that another exodus will take place also **at the same time** from the west! (**ISA. 11:11,15; 19:20-25; 27:13; 43:5; 49:12; 59:19**)

Closing Thoughts

So, as we draw to a close, it is clear from the example of scriptures that, ☞ in type, King Nebuchadnezzar of natural Babylon agrees with the pope of Rome (the king of the bottomless pit, **REV. 9:11**; whose kingdom was full of darkness, **REV. 16:10**). The pope will be

the visible head of spiritual Babylon during the last hour. In fact Daniel 3 and 4 also fit the last hour very well in type. The events of Daniel 3 generally fit the time of the first half-hour (7½ years); whereas those of Daniel 4 fit the last half-hour.

In Daniel 3, the king who had worldwide authority erected an image of himself, and demanded total worship or death. This was done within a certain “hour” (in type, 15 years, **DAN. 3:6,15; 4:33**). The three Hebrew men refused to bow. They represent three overcoming groups of God’s people from: the Early Church, the Latter Church, and the restored Jewish ministry.

Then, **in Daniel 4**, the king of Babylon went **insane** for **seven years** (seven times, **DAN. 4:16,23,25,32**). This agrees with the last half hour (**REV. 8:1**), and the subsequent actions of the papacy, especially regarding Israel.

A thought for future study: King Antiochus IV of Syria (**DAN. 8:9-14**) persecuted the Jews severely for 2,300 days (**verse 14**), which is a time just short of **seven years**. His self-proclaimed title was “The Illustrious,” but his subjects called him “**The Madman.**” **His mental state and term of Jewish persecution agree closely with those of King Nebuchadnezzar, in Daniel 4!**

It is during this last half hour that most of the events of this lesson take place. As God used Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to gather the ancient empires of **Assyria and Egypt** under his power before God judged and destroyed him (**ISA. 47:6, 11; JER. 49:18-21 with 50:9,17, 40-46; 51:44**), so the LORD will use the king of spiritual Babylon (the pope) to gather the present empires of **the USSR and the USA** under his authority before God judges and destroys him!

— Why is this so very important? Because, there can be **no restored Israel** as long as Russia, the United States, and ultimately Europe, are strong and productive empires! Therefore, the LORD is using Europe to bring about a decline in the power of both the USSR and the USA. When that is done, the “ten kings” will turn on the “king” of Rome, and Armageddon will destroy Europe (**REV. 17:16**), as well as the rest of the greater Gentile world!

As a result, after Armageddon, Jerusalem will be the center of the world (EZK. 5:5) for the next 1,000+ years, and will be called the throne of the LORD (JER. 3:17-18; REV. 21:2-3). Glory!

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