

The Sign of the Prophet Jonah

**BUILDING
BLOCKS**

SEARCHING FOR THE **K I N G**

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah... “Arise, _____ to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” (Jonah 1:1-2)

Nineveh was a “great city” where more than 120,000 people lived. But they didn’t know or obey God! So God wanted Jonah to go to them. “But Jonah rose to _____ to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD” (Jonah 1:3). **Why?** The answer can be found in Jonah’s prayer to God in [Jonah 4:2](#):

“O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a _____ God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.”



Jonah didn’t **want** the people of Nineveh to listen to God.

He didn’t **want** God to be gracious to them. He wanted them to be punished. But could Jonah **REALLY** run from God? Not at all ([1:4-16](#)). Eventually, Jonah was thrown into the sea and swallowed by a great fish. “And Jonah was in the belly of the fish _____ days and _____ nights” ([1:17](#)).

But what does all of this have to do with our search for our King? Listen carefully to what happened many years later in [Matthew 12:38-41](#):

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered [Jesus], saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet _____. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something _____ than Jonah is here.”

What did Jesus mean? What do we need to understand? **Let’s talk about it...**

FOUNDATION STONES



- 🔍 Can you find [Jonah 4:2](#) again in your Bible? What did Jonah know about God?
- 🔍 In [Jonah 4:4](#), God asked Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry?” What did he mean? What was Jonah’s biggest problem?
- 🔍 What did Jesus mean by “the sign of the prophet Jonah” in [Matthew 12:39-40](#)?



For NEXT Sunday:

We'll look into the prophecies in [Micah 5](#), [Zechariah 12-13](#), and [Malachi 4](#). What do they teach us about the Shepherd-King from Bethlehem? We'll talk about it...