

**reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

What is an ambassador to do?

“One beggar telling another beggar where to find food.”

Using Acts 1:8 as our guide, let's determine who our Nineveh is.

Jerusalem- our neighbors, co-workers, family

Samaria- City, community, state, nation

Remotest part- Mexico, Canada, Europe, South America and so on.

Start where you live. Make a list of people with whom you want to have the opportunity to share Christ. If you don't know what to share, use a tract like the “4 Spiritual Laws.”

“The Reluctant Prophet” is first in a series titled, “The Book of Jonah.”  
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## **The Book of Jonah** The reluctant prophet – Part 1

Jonah 1:1-2 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

**Setting:** [Where & When]

Where: Israel, Joppa, Tarshish, Nineveh, Mediterranean Sea

Focus: Nineveh

\*ancient city that has been around since after the flood  
[2000+ years] Genesis 10

\* Capital of the Assyrian empire located on the east bank of the Tigris River.

\* God will use this gentile nation to exact judgment on the Northern Kingdom, Israel. [722 BC]

\* One city by name but made up of parts; Nineveh proper included Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and Resen that made one big city that took Jonah 3 days to walk through [one pass through] [Jonah 3:3]

When: About 760 BC, during the reign of Jeroboam 2, King of Israel. [Ref 2 Kings 14:23-27]

**Characters** [who]

Main Characters: God and Jonah

Supporting characters: sailors & the people of Nineveh

Other important players: A fish and a plant

God- \* Lord “word of the Lord” came to the prophet...

\* audible

\* Jonah recognized God’s voice

\* Creator God

\* Instigator of the events

Jonah- \* Jonah was not the only prophet of the time: Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Nahum

\* He was a direct prophet to Jeroboam 2 of Israel  
2 Kings 14:25

\* He was from Gath-Hepher [only 3 miles from Nazareth]

\* tribe of Zebulun

\* He was the son of Amittai

Situation [plot] God approached Jonah to go to a gentile city, Nineveh, to tell them that He, God, will initiate destruction on the people of Nineveh if they don’t take care of their wickedness [Jonah 3:3]

### Significance

**The book has prophetic importance to Jesus.**

Matthew 12:38-41 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

### Jonah’s Mission

1:2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city, and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

3:2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city, and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.” 3:4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day’s walk; and he cried out and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

Ultimately God has a plan and a commission for all of us. Let’s fast forward to the present. What is our mission?

### Our Mission

#### Topic

Hebrews 1:1,2

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

#### Testimony

John 15:26-27

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

#### Power Witness to the world

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

#### Mission: ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:14-20

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore, from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. **Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ**