

Although archaeology contains no direct reference to Jonah it does tell us a good bit about Ninevah, the city where his activities were centered. Assyria, in his time, was not the great threat that it would become in a few years. But Ninevah had been an important city and a very large one. The city accomodated what was called "greater Ninevah" (like Greater Philadelphia, etc.) and was thought to have a circumference of about 60 miles. Modern archaeologists have shortened this a bit but still leaving it a very large place well able to support the sort of population figure suggested by Jonah 4:11 and the size indicated by 3:3.

Keys for a better understanding of Jonah will include these items: Why was Jonah reluctant to go immediately as God had said? To what degree do we understand 1:10? Does chapter two record a death and resurrection sequence? Why was the king of Ninevah so quickly impressed with Jonah's prophecy?

Study aids include our regular suggestion..that you read the book at a single sitting...not being very long this is easily done. Look up the locations mentioned in your Bible atlas and see the use given to Jonah in the New Testament. Be sure to read the background notes on Jonah's ministry in 2 Kings 14: 25 (very brief).

Further reading on Jonah will include the notes in Lewis: THE MINOR PROPHETS. For those further interested in Ninevah, the work of Andre Parrot: NINEVAH AND THE OLD TESTAMENT is recommended.

Tradition tells us that Jonah died at Ninevah and one of the mounds of ruins at the cite is named for him. The accuracy of such traditions is always a doubtful matter but it is interesting to speculate on the possibility of this servant of God dying at the place of great success..a success that he did not welcome apparently and a victory in which he took no delight.

b. Further discussion on Jonah...there being no need of any further outlining you will want to think through the following rather closely:

- the theological implications of God's outreach to Ninevah
- the attitude of God to those who repent
- difficulties in determining the will of God
- the miracle of the fish and the mystery of the gourd
- and, finally, how do you react when God blesses your enemies?

6. A Survey Study of Micah (Taylor's stuff)

a. An overview

By the inscription this is a work of Micah the Morasthite penned between 745 and 720 BC. (1:1) His home site is near the Philistine city of Gath and reference is made historically to his ministry in Jeremiah 26:18 and is an approximate contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea. The historic background is clouded with the threat of Assyrian domination and the political difficulties incurred through the compromising period of the rule of Ahaz. In such a setting Micah stands at the very threshold of doom with a challenge