

Between a Pillow
and a Soft Place

Jonah 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**.

Jonah 1: 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.



Tarshish

Nineveh

2500 miles

550 miles

Joppa

Scripture portrays “Tarshish” as a
“paradise”.

1 Kings 10: 22 For the king had the ships of Tarshish at sea with Hiram's ships; once every three years the ships of **Tarshish** would come carrying gold and silver, ivory, monkeys, and peacocks. (cf. 1 Kings 22:48)

Isaiah 23: Wail, you ships of **Tarshish!**

For Tyre is destroyed
and left without house or harbor.

Psalms 48: 4-6 The kings assemble
themselves together...they saw and were
stunned...with the east wind **you break the
ships of Tarshish.**

Tarshish is a man-made paradise
Jonah was using to flee the Lord's
will.

Scripture portrays “Tarshish” as a
“paradise”.

God’s not in “paradise”. He’s in
Nineveh.

Jonah 2: 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,

Jonah 2: 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.

Jonah 2: 4 I said, 'I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.'

Jonah 2: 5 The engulfing waters
threatened me, the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.
6 To the roots of the mountains I sank
down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.
But you, Lord my God,
brought my life up from the pit.

Jonah 2: 7 “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

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

Jonah 2: 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.'"

Jonah 2: 4 ...I will look again
toward your holy temple.'

7...my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

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

Tarshish (pillow)

Jonah

Jerusalem (the Temple) (soft
place)

Matthew 16: 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

The Church of Christ was always
intended to reside in the
“Ninevehs” of this world.

Matthew 18: 15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over...17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the **church**; and if they refuse to listen even to the **church**, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

The earmark of a mature Christian
is their willingness to do the
difficult aspects of their faith.

Jonah 2: 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.’”

“Salvation” (The Lord Saves)

Yeshua (ישועה)

“Jesus”

The Lord is Salvation

Incomplete Assumption

Salvation awaits us in Heaven

Philippians 2: 13 ...work out (presently).
your **salvation** with fear and trembling...

Salvation is something
we already have.

1 Timothy 6: 12 Take hold of the eternal life
to which you were called when you made
your good confession in the presence of
many witnesses.

Salvation is not limited to
escaping hell.

It also occurs when God rescues us
and others from a hellish life.

Jonah viewed salvation as a
reason to avoid Nineveh.

Jonah viewed salvation as a
reason to avoid Nineveh.

Do we do the same?

John 17: 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

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