

# JONAH – THE SIGN OF RESURRECTION

- 1) Jesus' reference to the sign of Jonah
- 2) What is the sign of Jonah?
- 3) What is the purpose of the sign of Jonah?
- 4) How does this sign affect us?
- 5) Questions?

By John Williamson

# JONAH - OVERVIEW CHAPTER 1

- 1) God's word comes to Jonah (1:1)
- 2) Jonah rejects the word of the LORD (1:3)
- 3) God judges Jonah (1:4)
  - a) God's word comes to the sailors through Jonah (1:12)
  - b) The sailors reject the word of the Lord (1:13)
  - c) God judges the sailors (1:13)
  - d) The sailors repent (1:14)
  - e) God forgives & relents concerning judgment (1:15)
  - f) The sailors feared, sacrificed to & praised God (1:16)

# JONAH - OVERVIEW CHAPTERS 2-3

- 1) Jonah repents (2:1-9)
- 2) God forgives & relents concerning judgment (2:10)
- 3) God's word comes to Jonah, and he obeys (3:1-3)
  - A. God's word comes to Nineveh through Jonah (3:4)
  - B. Nineveh repents (3:5-9)
  - c. God forgives & relents concerning judgment (3:10)

# JONAH - OVERVIEW CHAPTER 4

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- 1) Jonah rejects God's forgiveness of Nineveh & goes east of the city in hopes to see it destroyed (4:1-5)
- 2) God shows grace to Jonah through the plant (4:6)
- 3) God judges Jonah through the worm & wind (4:7-8)
- 4) God reasons with Jonah to repent (4:9-11)

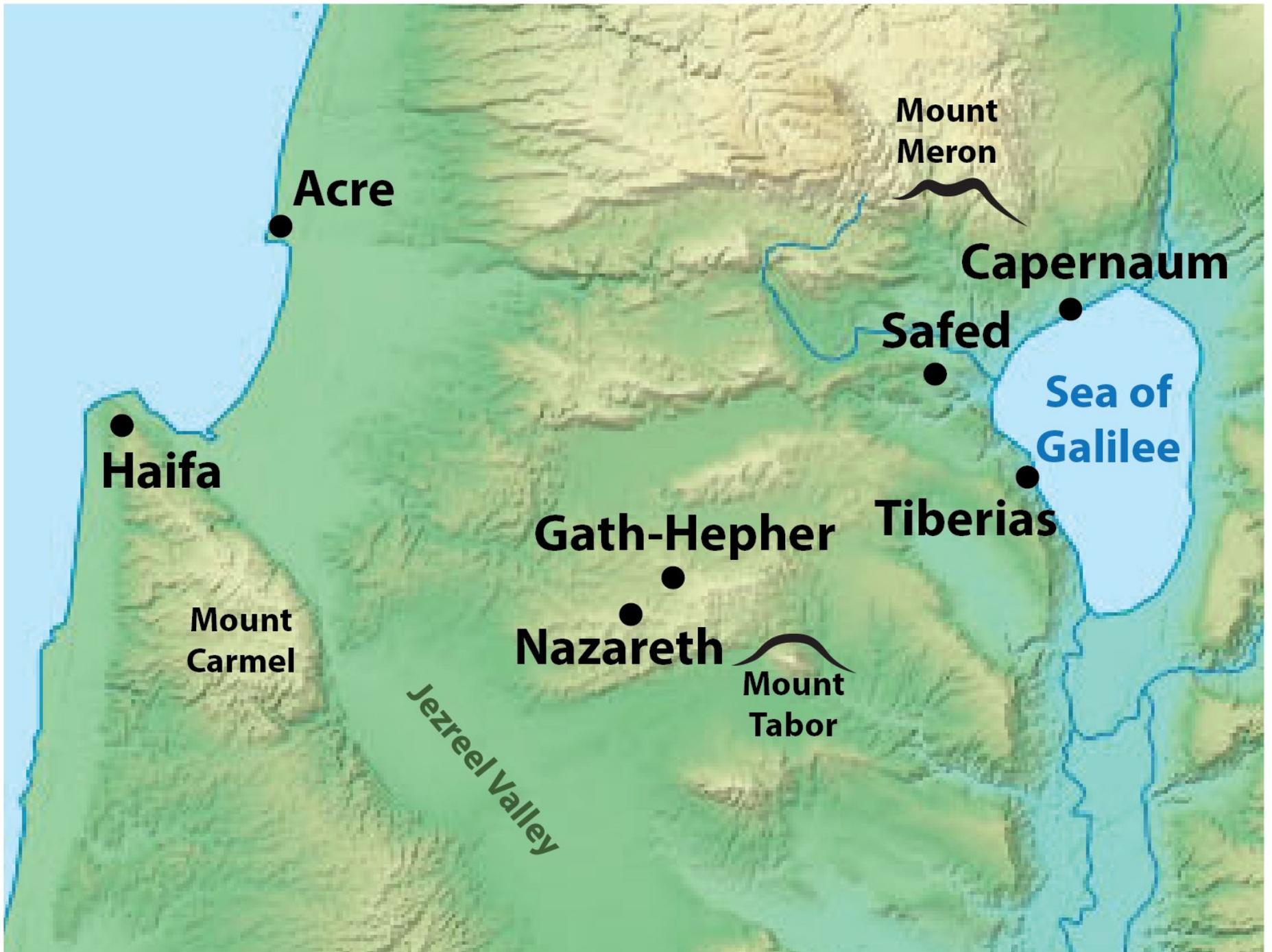
# JONAH – CHARACTERS AND LOCATIONS

- 1) Jonah the son of Amittai
- 2) Israel during the reign of King Jeroboam II
- 3) Nineveh (Assyria)

## 2 KINGS 14:23-26

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In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, *and reigned* forty-one years. He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin. He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was of Gath-hepher.



**Acre**

**Mount Meron**

**Capernaum**

**Safed**

**Sea of Galilee**

**Haifa**

**Tiberias**

**Gath-Hepher**

**Mount Carmel**

**Nazareth**

**Mount Tabor**

*Jezreel Valley*

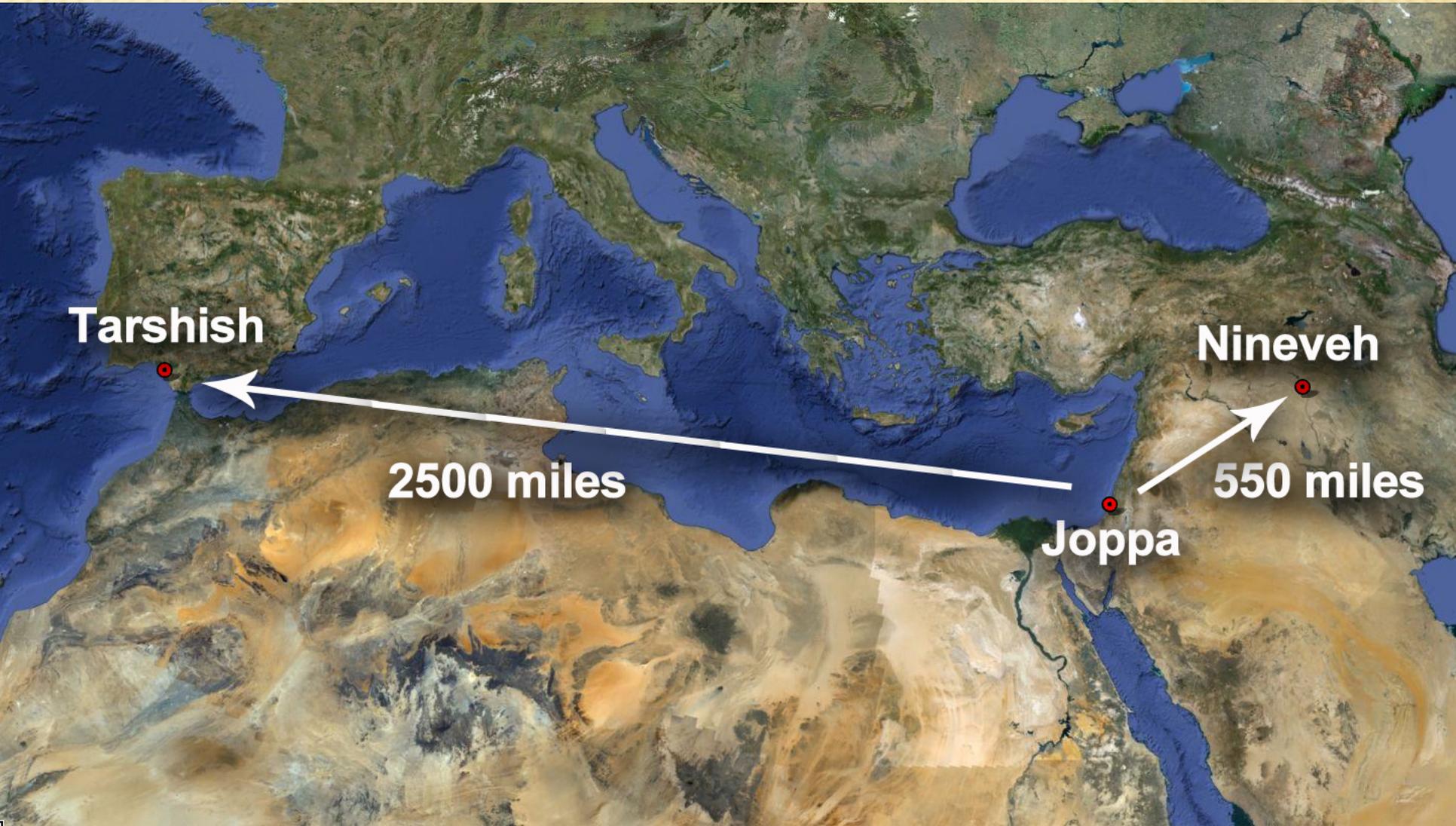
**Israel and Judah at the Time of Jeroboam II**  
786–746 BCE

- Israel
- Judah



0 50 km  
0 50 miles

# JONAH GOES THE OTHER WAY



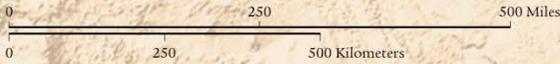
# GENESIS 10:8-12

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Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.” The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

# THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

- City
- ◉ Jerusalem/Judah is a free zone within Assyria
- Core of Assyria (time of Assur-uballit I - c. 1350 BC)
- Expansion of Adad-nirari I (c. 1300 BC)
- Expansion of Tukulti-ninurta I (c. 1225 BC)
- Expansion of Ashurnasirpal II (c. 875 BC)
- Expansion of Shalmaneser III (c. 850 BC)
- Expansions of Tiglath-pileser III (c. 735 BC)
- Expansions of Sargon II (c. 720 BC) and Sennacherib (c. 700 BC)
- Expansions of Esarhaddon (c. 675 BC)
- Expansion of Ashurbanipal (c. 650 BC)



Bronze relief from Balwat: Shows 3 spikes each with 8 male heads standing like a totem pole



# ASHURNASIRPAL, KING OF ASSYRIA

“I flayed as many nobles as had rebelled against me [and] draped their skins over the pile [of corpses]; some I spread out within the pile, some I erected on stakes upon the pile ... I flayed many right through my land [and] draped their skins over the walls.”

Bronze relief from Balwat: Severed heads hang from the walls of Kulisi as flames devour the city. A dismembered prisoner is impaled on a stake and an Assyrian soldier grasps the hand of a captive missing his other extremities. Notice the dismembered hands and feet.



# ASHURNASIRPAL, KING OF ASSYRIA

“I felled 50 of their fighting men with the sword, burnt 200 captives from them, [and] defeated in a battle on the plain 332 troops. ...With their blood I dyed the mountain red like red wool, [and] the rest of them the ravines [and] torrents of the mountain swallowed. I carried off captives [and] possessions from them. I cut off the heads of their fighters [and] built [therewith] a tower before their city. I burnt their adolescent boys [and] girls.”

Relief of the  
Siege of  
Lachish from  
the palace of  
Sennacherib:  
Jewish soldiers,  
defenders of  
Lachish, are  
executed by  
being impaled  
on spikes.  
Notice the  
prisoners are  
handcuffed and  
naked.



From the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III: Captioned “The tribute of Jehu, son of Omri” This occurred in 841 BC. Jehu, King of Israel, is prostrate before the Assyrian King Shalmaneser III.



# ASHURNASIRPAL, KING OF ASSYRIA

“In strife and conflict I besieged [and] conquered the city. I felled 3,000 of their fighting men with the sword ...I captured many troops alive: I cut off of some their arms [and] hands; I cut off of others their noses, ears, [and] extremities. I gouged out the eyes of many troops. I made one pile of the living [and] one of heads. I hung their heads on trees around the city.”

Relief of the Siege of Lachish from the palace of Sennacherib:  
Two naked Jewish prisoners are being flayed alive by Assyrian soldiers, meanwhile (left) Jews, witnessing the torture, are being deported as slaves.



# JESUS PROCLAIMS THE SIGN OF JONAH

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;

(Matthew 12:38-41)

# JESUS PROCLAIMS THE SIGN OF JONAH

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. (Matthew 12:38-41 )

# JESUS PROCLAIMS THE SIGN OF JONAH

The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.*’ And in the morning, ‘*There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.*’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot *discern* the signs of the times? An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.” And He left them and went away.

(Matthew 16:1-4)

# SO, WHAT IS THE SIGN OF JONAH?

Question: What does it mean to be in the heart of the earth for 3 days and 3 night?

Answer: To be dead and buried in a tomb.

# SO, WHAT IS THE SIGN OF JONAH?

Question: What happened to Jonah after being in the belly of the fish for 3 days and 3 nights?

Answer: Jonah came (was vomited) out of the fish onto dry land.

# SO, WHAT IS THE SIGN OF JONAH?

Question: What would Jesus do after being in the heart of the earth of 3 days and 3 nights?

Answer: Come out of the earth, like Jonah came out of the fish!

# SO, WHAT IS THE SIGN OF JONAH?

The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body. So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken. (Matthew 16:1-4)

# SO, WHAT IS THE SIGN OF JONAH?

Question: What then, is the sign of Jonah to which Jesus referred?

Answer: The sign of the resurrection from the dead!

# HISTORICAL RESURRECTIONS IN THE BIBLE

- 1) Elijah raises the widow of Zarepath's son (1 Kings 17)
- 2) Elisha raises the son of the Shunammite (2 Kings 4)
- 3) A man is raised when his corpse is thrown into Elisha's tomb and touches Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13)
- 4) Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7)
- 5) Jesus raises the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5)
- 6) Jesus raises Lazarus (John 11)
- 7) Saints raised upon the crucifixion of Jesus (Matt 27)
- 8) Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas (Acts 9)
- 9) Paul raises Eutychus (Acts 20)

# JOHN – THE BOOK OF SIGNS

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- 1) Jesus turns water to wine (2:1-11)
- 2) Jesus heals the royal official's son (4:46-54)
- 3) Jesus heals the paralytic at Bethesda (5:1-9)
- 4) Jesus feeds the 5,000 (6:1-14)
- 5) Jesus walks on water (6:15-21)
- 6) Jesus restores sight to a man born blind (9:1-41)
- 7) Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (11:1-44)
- 8) **Jesus rises from the dead (John 20)**

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE SIGNS?

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.  
(John 20:30-31)

# WHAT DID THAT SIGN SHOW ABOUT JESUS?

...who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, (Romans 1:4)

## ROMANS 6:3-4

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Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

## ACTS 13:16-41

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Paul, in the synagogue of Psidian Antioch, argues on the basis of Psalm 2:7 and Psalm 16:10 that God proclaimed Jesus to be His Son through the resurrection, and in so doing fulfilled the promise to Israel.

# ULTIMATELY, WHAT IS OUR HOPE?

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. (1 Thess. 4:13-14)

## ACTS 2:38

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Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

# ACTS 2:38

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Question: Why did Peter say they needed to repent to receive the Holy Spirit?

Answer: Tune in next week!