

Wednesday, May 20, 2015 Bible Study:

“A Deserter Pursued” – Jonah 1:4-6

Reading: [Jonah 1:1-17](#)

Read from the [German translation verses 1-6](#).

Information about Nineveh

Look at a map of the [region around Nineveh](#) including Tarshish, where Jonah *intended* to go. Now look ahead at the last chapter of the Book of Jonah, the [last verse \(11\)](#). We know from that passage that there were at least 120,000 very small children there.

The metropolis of ancient Assyria (called by the Greeks and the Romans), was situated on the east bank of the Tigris River opposite and below the modern Mosul, its origins are traced to the times near the flood. For nearly 15 centuries after it is not mentioned. In the books of Jonah and Nahum, Nineveh is described as an immense city, three days journey in circuit (takes three days to go around the city), containing more than 120,000 young children, probably 600,000 souls. It contained much cattle, numerous parks, garden groves and so forth. Its inhabitants were wealthy and warlike, and far advanced in civilization. It had numerous strongholds with gates and bars and had multiplied its merchants to a great number. It had many crown princes and captains.

With this description, a historian says Nineveh was 21 miles long, nine miles broad, and 54 miles in circumference. Its walls were an hundred feet high and so broad that 3 chariots could drive upon them abreast. The walls had 1500 towers, each one 200 feet high.

One of the things Jonah knew was the wickedness of the city of Nineveh, reminiscent of Sodom and Gomorrah. [Genesis 19](#) describes the depravity of Sodom; also, we see our Lord make a similar comparison of cities of His day to Sodom in [Luke 10](#).

Review from [Chapter 1 last Sunday](#), then continue our study of Chapter 1 from Verse 3.