

EVERYTHING HAPPENS SOMEWHERE

# Joppa



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## Discussion

Joppa is an ancient walled seaport in Palestine (modern Jaffa) along the Mediterranean Sea located 35 miles west/north-west of Jerusalem. The city is named on a list of conquered cities by Thutmose III (1490-1436 BC) and assigned to the tribe of Dan. Simon Peter was active in Joppa staying at the house of tanner. (Acts 9:36-42 Tabatha/Dorcas; 9:43-10:23 Cornelius).

The city of Joppa brings to mind Jonah (meaning: Dove) whose narrative is in the Bible. What insight does George share about this reluctant prophet (Jonah 1:4-16)?

What happens to Jonah after he left the port of Joppa?

Describe the image of the god Dagon and how might that play into the narrative?

Jonah proclaims 5 words to the Assyrians and their King in Nineveh (Jonah 3:4) – what are they? And what is the impact on the king and the people?

What do you think is the most amazing thing about the Jonah account?

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Read Matthew 12:38-41 What is Jesus saying is the “sign of Jonah”?

Read Matthew 16:13-17 In the context of a conversation with His disciples at Caesarea Philippi, what does Jesus say to “Simon”? Does that connect to the Jonah account?

## **Applying His Truth**

From these accounts, what do you see as God's desire for His people?

When Peter is in Joppa, how does he act as a "reluctant prophet"? What is the meaning of his dream about unclean food? (Acts 10:9-15) What is Peter's struggle with the Holy Spirit's calling?

For what "astounding" purpose was Peter called to Caesarea and the house of Cornelius?  
(Acts 10:16-48)

How do believers act at times "inclusively" and/or "exclusively" as people? What is God's expectation?

What thoughts came to mind when George said: "without God, I can do nothing ... without us, it seems He won't"

What insight did you gain from this lesson for your walk with Christ?