

EVERYTHING HAPPENS SOMEWHERE

Joppa



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/Dorcus; 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?

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?