

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept 2022	Amos 01-02	Listen to God
2) 11-Sept	Amos 03-04	Turn to God
3) 18 Sept	Amos 05-07	Seek God
4) 25 Sept	Amos 08-09	Hope in God
5) 02 Oct	Jonah 01-02	No Escape
6) 09 Oct	Jonah 03-04	No Compassion
7) 16 Oct	Hosea 01-03	The Unfaithful Bride
8) 23 Oct	Hosea 04-07	The Hollow Promises
9) 30 Oct	Hosea 08-12	The Sin Harvested
10) 06 Nov	Hosea 13-14	The Restoration Promised
11) 13 Nov	Micah 01-03	Leaders Needed
12) 20 Nov	Micah 04-06	Humble Beginnings
13) 27 Nov	Micah 07	Hope Found

INTRODUCTION

- We are presented with a story of a man swallowed by a sea creature who lived 3 days in its belly. What are the spiritual & historical merits of this story, and how do we convince skeptics of its truthfulness?
 - Jonah was commanded by God to go and preach, with the intent to convert Israel's arch enemy at the time
 - In short, Jonah ran from God, got caught, got swallowed by a whale, got expelled, and got to preach anyway
- The spiritual ramifications are many – but to give an answer to the skeptics, how do we show that Jonah's story is even historically true?
 - Answer: We start with what Jesus (a trustworthy figure) had to say:

Here's what Jesus said about some OT events and peoples?	
♦ Jesus confirmed the Creation & Adam and Eve	Mark 10:6
♦ Jesus confirmed marriage of 1 man & 1 woman	Matthew 10:4-6
♦ Jesus confirmed Abel	Matthew 23:35
♦ Jesus confirmed Noah and the Flood	Matthew 24:37-39
♦ Jesus confirmed Moses	John 5:46-47
♦ Jesus confirmed Jonah's story	Matthew 12:40; Luke 11:29-30

Passage	Comments
Jonah 1:1-3	<p>Fleeing from God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. Jonah, the son of Amittai. Also found in 2Kings 14:25 regarding a prophecy about King Jeroboam II reconquering territory which was taken from Israel Jonah was the only foreign missionary sent from Israel to an enemy nation with the mandate to preach to it v2. Nineveh was your typical heathen nation steep in idolatry, adultery, and little to no regard for Israel. Yet, God loved them enough to send them a missionary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why didn't God love the Amelikités & Canaanites? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall God had Israel wipe them out utterly It boiled down to their unwillingness to repent v3. But Jonah wanted no part of this. He probably had deep-seated resentment & prejudice against them
1:4-16	<p>Accepting Blame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv4-5. Jonah admits defying God, but not before he fell asleep with no concern for the fate of others How do we prevent a cold heart toward unbelievers? Sailors are often depicted as rude, crude, & socially unacceptable, but they appear in a positive light here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These sailors were simple, honest, hardworking men v7. They believed in false gods but weren't scoffers v8. They were respectful of due process v10. They respected Jonah's claim v11. They sought for a win-win situation vv12-13. They had high regard for human life v14. They eventually acknowledge God And they realized Israel's God was ruling the events, so they sacrificed to Him

Passage	Comments
1:17	<p>The Miracle of MiraclesMt 12:39-41; Luk 11:29-32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pharisees and Sadducees asked Jesus for a BIG miracle to confirm His claims of being sent by God, and Jesus only gave them a prophetic sign from Jonah v17. 3 Days and 3 Nights in the Belly of a Fish would parallel the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Jesus gave the skeptics of his day not what they asked for but what they needed – & they chose not to believe
2:1-10	<p>Time for Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you do for 3 days when you can't go outside to work or play, no one to talk to, and you can't move? You ponder your life; you pray; & you compose a song v3. Notice, Jonah credits God for tossing him into the sea and not the sailors (cf 1:15) v10. ...and God made the fish cough up Jonah at the right time, and at the right place to accomplish His will – What sovereignty, and what love for the lost
Was it a fish or a whale?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hebrew vocabulary can be general rather than specific, so the term for fish could also apply to any large sea creature, including a whale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A whale shark (the world's largest known fish) could swallow a man, but its 300 rows of sharp teeth would rip a man to shreds while being swallowed A rorqual whale (aka blue or humpback whale) could also be a candidate, possessing soft baleen plates A whale of a story of a whaler swallowed by a whale for 3 days in the late 19th century is researched: http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/n/newjonah.htm



CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The acceptance of Gentiles is the core message of the New Testament, but the OT only anticipated the time when nations would one day gather at Jerusalem to seek Israel's God.....[Isaiah 2:1-4](#)
- We can only go so far to convince skeptics of the truth. "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone were to rise from the dead."[Luke 16:31](#)

NEXT WEEK: Jonah 3-4. Jonah becomes the first foreign missionary. His reluctant preaching was successful, and a city once bent on Israel's destruction now eagerly sought Israel's God. Jonah learns that God is "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness, and one who relents concerning calamity."

