LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 02 Dec 2012 .......... Hosea 1:1-3.5 .......... Exposing a Broken Relationship
2) 09 Dec .......... Hosea 4:1-7.16 .......... Rebutting Destructive Behavior
3) 16 Dec .......... Hosea 8:1-10.15 .......... Deciding on Discipline
4) 23 Dec .......... Matthew 1:18-2:18 .......... Seeking the Savior
7) 13 Jan .......... Amos 1:1-4.13 .......... Unseal the Indictment
8) 20 Jan .......... Gen 1; Ex 1, Ps 139; Mk 10 .......... Value of Human Life
9) 27 Jan .......... Amos 5:1-6.14 .......... Court is in Session
10) 03 Feb .......... Amos 7:1-17 .......... Can I Get a Witness
11) 10 Feb .......... Amos 8:1-9.15 .......... Let the Verdict be Read
12) 17 Feb .......... Jonah 3:1-2.10 .......... Pursuing Those Called to Tell

INTRODUCTION
- Nineveh was northeast of Israel (modern day Syria), and Tarshish (possibly Spain or Turkey) was west of Israel
- 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 first, to give an answer to the skeptics, how do we show that Jonah's story is even true?

Consider 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 10:4-5
- Jesus confirmed Abel .......... Matthew 23:35
- Jesus confirmed Noah and the Flood .......... Matthew 24:37-39
- Jesus confirmed Moses .......... John 5:46-47

Therefore, since Jesus is historically true, Jonah's story is true

PASSAGE

1:17 The Miracle of Miracles .......... Mt 12:39-41; Luk 11:29-32
- 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 what they asked for – a miracle of miracles, and they chose not to believe

TIME FOR PRAYER
- 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 produce a song
- 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?
- Hebrew vocabulary can be general rather than specific, so the term for fish could also apply to any large sea creature, including a whale
- A whale shark (the world's largest known fish) could swallow a man, but its 300 rows of sharp teeth would easily rip a man to shreds while being swallowed
- Aroral 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 rises 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.”