

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Dec 2012 ..... Hosea 1:1-3:5 ..... Exposing a Broken Relationship
- 2) 09 Dec ..... Hosea 4:1-7:16 ..... Rebuking Destructive Behavior
- 3) 16 Dec ..... Hosea 8:1-10:15 ..... Deciding on Discipline
- 4) 23 Dec ..... Matthew 1:18-2:18 ..... Seeking the Savior
- 5) 30 Dec ..... Hosea 11:1-12:14 ..... Remembering Compassion
- 6) 06 Jan 2013 ..... Hosea 13:1-14:9 ..... Restoring the Repentant
- 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 1:1-2:10 ..... Pursuing Those Called to Tell**
- 13) 24 Feb ..... Jonah 3:1-4:11 ..... Pursuing Those Who Need to Hear

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 10:4-6
♦ Jesus confirmed Abel .....	Matthew 23:35
♦ Jesus confirmed Noah and the Flood .....	Matthew 24:37-39
♦ Jesus confirmed Moses .....	John 5:46-47
♦ <b>Jesus confirmed Jonah’s story .....</b>	<b>Matthew 12:40; Luke 11:29-30</b>

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

Passage	Comments
Jonah 1:1-3	<p><b>Fleeing From God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Jonah, the son of Amittai. Also found in 2Kings 14:25 regarding a prophecy about King Jeroboam II reconquering territory which had been taken from the kings of Israel</li> <li>• Jonah was the only foreign missionary sent from Israel to an enemy nation with the mandate to preach to it</li> <li>• v2. Nineveh was your typical heathen nation steep in idolatry, adultery, and who knows what else – God loved them enough to send them a missionary</li> <li>• v3. But Jonah wanted no part of this mission. He probably had some deep-seated resentment and prejudice against these foreigners</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Accepting Blame</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv4-5. Jonah admits defying God, but not before he fell comfortably asleep with no concern of the fate of others</li> <li>• <b>How do we prevent a cold heart toward unbelievers?</b></li> <li>• The Gentiles appear in a very positive light (sailors are often depicted as rude, crude, &amp; socially unacceptable)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ These sailors were simple, honest, hardworking men</li> <li>♦ They were respectful of due process..... v8</li> <li>♦ They respected Jonah’s claim ..... v10</li> <li>♦ They believed in false gods but they weren’t scoffers</li> <li>♦ They sought for a win-win situation ..... v11</li> <li>♦ They had high regard for human life..... vv12-13</li> <li>♦ They eventually acknowledge God..... v14</li> <li>♦ And they realized Israel’s God was ruling the events, so they sacrificed to Him ..... v16</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1:17	<p><b>The Miracle of Miracles.....Mt 12:39-41; Luk 11:29-32</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• v17. 3 Days and 3 Nights in the Belly of a Fish would parallel the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus</li> <li>• Jesus gave the skeptics of his day what they asked for – a miracle of miracles, and they chose not to believe</li> </ul>
2:1-10	<p><b>Time for Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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; &amp; you produce a song</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
Was it a fish or a whale?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ 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</li> <li>♦ A orqual whale (aka blue or humpback whale) could also be a candidate, possessing soft baleen plates</li> <li>♦ A whale of a story of a whaler swallowed by a whale for 3 days in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century is researched: <a href="http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/n/newjonah.htm">http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/n/newjonah.htm</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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.”



God calls Jonah to travel to Nineveh and preach. Jonah goes with plan B. **Jonah 1:1-3**