

# The Minor Prophets

## Jonah – From Rebellion to Repentance

Please pray and ask the Lord for understanding of His Word before you begin.

### Read Jonah Chapters 1 & 2

Nineveh was a great city on the banks of the Tigris River about 500 miles NE of Israel. (Genesis 10:8-11) It was great in power as well as size and was the capital of Assyria. The population was about 600,000; think Denver! The people of Nineveh worshipped a fish goddess called Nanshe and Dagon a fish god who was half man half fish. Can you imagine? The god Dagon had a bit of a run-in with the Ark of God. You can read about it in 1 Samuel 5:1-5.

We know Jonah was a real person and that he was a prophet in the northern kingdom. (2 Kings 14:25) He was a contemporary of Amos and Hosea. We know from our study in Hosea and Amos that Israel was in a period of great prosperity in material wealth and power but great emptiness spiritually and God was warning the nation of judgment coming.

### Chapter 1 – Running away from God

1. Read verses 1-3. Now look at Jeremiah 20:7-9. What do you learn from these passages, specifically, the reactions of each prophet to God's command?

a. Have you ever wanted to run away from, or ignore, something you knew God wanted you to do? For instance, forgive someone, love a difficult person or speak the gospel?

2. The Assyrians were very cruel people; but there was more to Jonah's reluctance to go preach to them.

a. What does Genesis 12:1-3 and Galatians 3:8 tell us about God's plan for Israel?

b. What was the general attitude of the Jews towards the Gentiles? (Acts 10, pay special attention to verse 28.)

3. Read verses 4-17. There are 5 miracles in these verses. List them.

4. What do you learn about the crew of this ship as you read this passage?

5. What do you learn about Jonah?

### **Chapter 2 – Jonah’s prayer and deliverance**

6. According to verse 17 in chapter 1 Jonah was in the belly of the fish for 3 days before he finally prayed.

- a. Can you relate to this in your own walk with God?
- b. Why is it that God must break us before He can use us?

7. In Jonah’s prayer, verses 1-3, what is he acknowledging about God?

8. In verses 4-9 we see Jonah \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

9. In verse 8 “worthless idols” is translated “lying vanities” in the King James Version. It’s obvious that Jonah knew the Scriptures yet he believed worthless lies.

- a. What were some of them?
- b. Are there worthless lies you believe about God and are you ready to be rid of them?

10. What important lesson is found in verse 9?

11. Do you see another miracle in this chapter, if so what is it?

12. Is there a verse or passage that made an impression on you? Explain why and share it with us please.

Consider memorizing it.

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.” Psalm 147:3-5