

ROUTE 66

Session Number Ten

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

The Minor Prophets

Tonight: **Hosea / Joel / Amos / Obadiah / Jonah**

HOSEA

Chapters 1 - 3 Hosea's Personal Story - A Shattered Home

Chapters 4 - 14 God's Urgent and Last Call to Israel to Come Home

Tonight, beginning with Hosea and ending with Malachi next week we encounter twelve biblical sagas known as the 'minor prophets.' Ostensibly they are so named because the books are shorter; however, in the case of Hosea, his book is longer than Daniel's. The 'minor prophets' certainly are not minor; they are major insights into the mind and heart of God.

Hosea was a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel and was a contemporary of Amos whom we will study tonight. He lived at the same time as Isaiah and Micah were ministering to the southern kingdom of Judah. Hosea's ministry lasted a long time (in the mid 700's B.C.) and the grand prophet lived to see the demise of his nation at the hands of the Assyrians in 721 B.C. This gave him something in common with Jeremiah who saw the fall of Jerusalem later.

The story behind the prophecy of Hosea was the tragedy of a broken home. His wife left Hosea and the sanctity of their home and children to live the life of a prostitute. The broken-hearted prophet never gave up on her and finally purchased her in a slave auction. God used this story to tell the people of the northern kingdom of Israel that they had forsaken Him; however, He would redeem them and take them back if they would only come to Him.

The key verse is Hosea 2:23: **And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.**

The following is a message on Hosea I preached on *Revivaltime* in 1984:

Hosea 1:2

When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so some of her children will be born to you from other men.

1 ***This will illustrate the way my people have been untrue to me, openly committing***
2 ***adultery against the Lord by worshiping other gods."***

3
4 *What a shocking verse of Scripture! And what an equally shocking story! It was the*
5 *beginning of the very end for Israel, the northern kingdom of ten tribes.*

6
7 *When King Solomon died (931 B.C.), Israel went through civil strife. The southern*
8 *kingdom of Judah (two tribes) stayed with temple worship under the leadership of*
9 *Solomon's son Rehoboam. But the northern kingdom of Israel rebelled not only against*
10 *taxation but against their Creator God. The old pagan superstitions and religions of the*
11 *Canaanites were rekindled. When King Menahem assumed the throne of Samaria in 752*
12 *B.C., he pledged allegiance not to God but to Assyria and its gods. He led his people*
13 *into satanic and cultish horrors almost too crude and vulgar to discuss in mixed*
14 *company. Into this situation came a man from God, a prophet, sent to lead his people*
15 *back to the worship of the God of Moses. His name was Hosea. But the Israelites had*
16 *no desire to worship any god who took away the pleasures of today.*

17
18 *Hosea's call was a superb visual. God would show the people the error of their*
19 *idolatrous ways through the dramatic love story of the prophet and the prostitute.*

20
21 *Sin hung like a choking mist over Israel. Within twenty years four kings had been*
22 *assassinated. During Hosea's lifetime, the Assyrians invaded the land and carried off a*
23 *great part of the nation. And near the time of Hosea's death, the kingdom of Israel*
24 *collapsed completely.*

25
26 *Added to this misery was Hosea's home life, a miserable failure. Little wonder that Bible*
27 *scholars refer to him as "the prophet with a sorrowful heart."*

28
29 *Somewhere along the way Hosea had met a delightful enchantress named Gomer. It*
30 *was rumored that she was not virtuous, that she had many lovers. But the stories meant*
31 *nothing to Hosea. He loved her more than anyone in the world and after a time of*
32 *courtship she became his wife. Besides that, God had instructed Hosea to marry her as*
33 *a living example of the wretched union between the people of Israel and Jehovah.*

34
35 *Three children were born to the couple. Evil apparently coursed through Gomer's veins.*
36 *She began to cast a flirtatious eye at other men and found herself deeply involved with*
37 *them. She sank deeper and deeper into sin until finally she had become a woman of the*
38 *streets. She had long since left Hosea and the children and had sown a garden of*
39 *iniquity that defied imagination. Before many years passed, Gomer had become a slave,*
40 *sold from one man to another - a toy, a plaything, a possession. At each sale her worth*

1 was reduced. The beauty had left her face. Her body was diseased. She had become a
2 virtual old hag. But Hosea never stopped loving her. He inquired about her
3 continually. No matter what she had ever done, she was still the dearest person in the
4 entire world to him.

5
6 This is a magnificent picture of God's love for the world. And it is a shattering portrayal
7 of the viciousness of sin. Gomer's adultery had reduced her from a beauty to a pathetic
8 old crone. And her sin had broken Hosea's heart to pieces. The great preacher, G.
9 Campbell Morgan, said, "Sin, in the last analysis, in its most terrible form is infidelity to
10 love. It hurts God. It destroys the sinner."

11
12 Hosea learned eternal truths about the nature of sin of his people in Israel. They were
13 playing the harlot, forsaking God's love, bartering His gifts in lewd traffic with other
14 lovers. As Hosea suffered over Gomer, he realized how God suffers over the sin of His
15 people.

16
17 That's the basic story of Hosea and Gomer. Throughout the rest of this short book, God
18 lists His complaints against the people of Israel. In chapters 4 and 5 He cites
19 lawlessness, Immorality, **Ignorance of God's Word** and Idolatry. You will note I have
20 highlighted "ignorance of God's Word." Oh my friend, in all too many churches today
21 God's Word is being "dumbed down." In 2 Timothy 4, Paul admonished young
22 Timothy to PREACH THE WORD - not preach "about" the Word. There is a big
23 difference in those two positions. That's why these series on Wednesday nights are
24 so important. Ignorance of God's Word is a foundational cause for so much of the
25 calamity of our nation.

26
27 Hosea 5:7 **For they have betrayed the honor of the Lord, bearing children that**
28 **aren't his. Now their false religion will devour them, along with their wealth.**

29
30 Throughout this noble book, God interchanges the name Ephraim with Israel. Ephraim
31 was just one of the 12 tribes of Israel; however, it was the very center of idolatry in Israel.
32 Jeroboam set up a golden calf at Bethel and a second one was set up in Samaria.
33 Idolatry is the sin that brought Israel down. What is idolatry? IDOLATRY IS ANY
34 CONSIDERATION OF GOD TO BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN WHO AND WHAT
35 HE REALLY IS! Idolatry could mean a fetish in the corner of a house....a statue on the
36 dashboard of an automobile....it could be a house or car....it could be a sport fanaticism.
37 If it takes the place of God....then it is an idol. AND any consideration of God that
38 diminishes His true form and nature is sinful. Then how do we know God? By strong
39 knowledge of His Word.
40

1
2

SNAKES IN WEST VIRGINIA

News in the last week or so has included the death of a pastor in Kentucky who died of snakebite. It was the eighth time he had been bitten. He did not seek medical relief and died rather quickly. Last Sunday his son took his place, saying he would never turn away from his father's belief in handling serpents in church. He cited the following scripture:

Mark 16:17-18

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

The fellows in Kentucky make the mistake of misinterpreting what the Scriptures teach. Picking up snakes or drinking poison is not to be made a religious ritual or made into a trial by ordeal in order to prove one's spirituality. These are promises given to believers who encounter such dangers while faithfully fulfilling the Great Commission given us by Jesus Himself. We remember, do we not, that Paul was shipwrecked on the coast of Malta enroute to stand trial in Rome before Emperor Nero. While gathering firewood on the shoreline he was bitten by a venomous snake. The apostle shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no noticeable effect from the snakebite. This is what the scriptural promise in Mark 16 concerned.

Many strange beliefs and customs are formed by poor handling of God's Word.

3

4 I have been asked who I think wrote this book of Hosea. My own presumption would be
5 Hosea himself; however, there is no hard-and-fast evidence of it. So it is best to
6 conclude that we don't know the authorship for sure.

7

8 The rest of Hosea contains prophecies concerning Israel - then and in the future.

9

JOEL

10

11

12 This small (3 chapters) book of the Old Testament is a blockbuster, especially to those of
13 us who are Pentecostal in belief and action. We don't know much about this prophet
14 other than what we learn in the very first verse:

15

Joel 1:1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

1 We do know that Joel's ministry was in and around Jerusalem, so he ministered primarily
2 in the southern Kingdom of Judah. It is possible he was a contemporary of Elijah and
3 Elisha.

4 5 The Day Of The Lord

6
7 Joel makes reference to this event five times: Joel 1:15; 2:1-2; 2:10-11; 2:30-31 and
8 3:14-16. The Day of the Lord is a technical expression in Scripture that includes the
9 Millennial Kingdom which will come at the second coming of Christ. However, Joel
10 concludes that it will also include the Great Tribulation Period (the final 3.5 years of the
11 awful ordeal).

12
13 In chapter 2, the prophet calls out: Joel 2:15 **Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a**
14 **fast, call a solemn assembly.** What was he writing about?

15
16 A TRUMPET IN ZION - 800 - 750 B.C. (Excerpt taken from a book written by Pastor
17 Betzer several decades ago)

18
19 *The strategic road that led from Joppa to Jerusalem was seldom used anymore. For*
20 *nearly four desolate years, the people of the southern kingdom had avoided being out-of-*
21 *doors except when necessary. One never knew that lay around the next corner or*
22 *huddled in the silhouette of trees across the field.*

23
24 *The solitary figure on the road had no such fears; but he, too, usually avoided the area.*
25 *Joel could remember the happy years in Judea, and he had been faithfully taught of the*
26 *golden era of the great kings, David and Solomon.*

27
28 *The prophet began a descent into the valley of Ajalon that would soon lead to his home in*
29 *Bethhoron, a few miles northwest of Jerusalem. What historical memories were brought*
30 *to his troubled mind as he looked across the barren hollow. It was in this valley that*
31 *Joshua had long ago commanded the sun to stand still while he discomfited the Amorite*
32 *kings in his defense of the Gibeonites (Joshua 10). Joshua had chased the five kings and*
33 *their soldiers over this very pass to Bethhoron. Years later the Philistines fled along*
34 *this route after they had been defeated at Michmash. (I Samuel 13-14)*

35
36 *It scarcely seemed possible now that anything good had ever happened in this place of*
37 *desolation. But Joel knew what had happened to negatively change Judah's destiny – in*
38 *one horrifying word, IDOLATRY!*

39
40 *His warnings, along with those of other men of God, had fallen upon unhearing ears.*

1 *There had come the danger signals: the successful forays of the invaders across the river,*
2 *the ever-increasing economic difficulties of the province, and the national morality which*
3 *had really become no morality at all.*

4
5 *The divine judgment had begun four years ago with the first sweep of the dreaded locusts.*
6 *These diminutive enemies traveled in clouds of millions, making their way across the*
7 *victimized countryside in bizarre movements, first crawling and then leaping. Anything*
8 *that lay in their pathway was devoured. Fields of wheat and barley, vineyards, mulberry*
9 *orchards and groves of olive, fig and other trees were shortly stripped of every green*
10 *blade and leaf, the very bark often being consumed.*

11
12 *It had been faithfully documented that an infant, left asleep in its cradle under some*
13 *shady trees in Tekoah (five miles from Bethlehem), was found partly eaten by the insects.*
14 *Small wonder the Romans called the locusts, 'the burners of the land,' which is the literal*
15 *meaning of the word locust.*

16
17 *Joel had watched them move across the land, hiding the very earth from sight. Once,*
18 *watching from the vantage point of a rocky promontory, the prophet thought to himself*
19 *how much the insects resembled a cloud of dust or sand rising several feet from the*
20 *ground. Nothing could stop them. At night they would pause on the vegetation until the*
21 *morning sun revived them. Then they would devour their sleeping place and continue on*
22 *their devastating march. When a wall or building was in their pathway, they climbed*
23 *straight up, going over the top to the other side. If there were open doors or windows,*
24 *the locusts found the openings and caused havoc inside. When they came to water, they*
25 *never tried to avert it, but leaped in and were drowned. Soon enough of the dead locusts*
26 *formed a bridge over the water and the remaining insects continued on. Only a wind,*
27 *blowing the locusts into the sea, could stop these four years of horror. How often Joel*
28 *had prayed! How many times he had called to God for respite from judgment. But*
29 *instead of answering his pleas, God had instructed the prophet-poet to faithfully write*
30 *what his eyes had seen:*

31
32 *"Listen, you elders; hear me, all you who live in the land: has the like of this happened in*
33 *all your days or in your fathers' days? Tell it to you sons and they may tell theirs; let*
34 *them pass it on from generation to generation. What the locust has left, the swarm eats;*
35 *what the swarm has left, the hopper eats; and what the hopper has left, the grub eats. A*
36 *horde has overrun my land, mighty and past counting. They have ruined my vines and*
37 *left my fig trees broken and leafless. They have plucked them bare and stripped them of*
38 *their bark. They have left the branches white. Our fields are ruined, the parched earth*
39 *mourns. The vintage is desperate and the fig trees have failed; pomegranate, palm and*
40 *apple, all the trees of the countryside are parched, and none make merry over harvest.*

1 *To thee I cry, O Lord, for fire has devoured the open pastures, the very cattle of the field*
2 *look up to thee; for the water channels are dried up. O LORD, BLOW A TRUMPET IN*
3 *ZION!"*

4
5 *Beginning the ascent on the other side of Ajalon, Joel smiled bitterly. "Blow a trumpet*
6 *in Zion, indeed! There will never be an end to this bitterness. No laughter will ring*
7 *across this vale again."*

8
9 *Grief overcame the prophet and he dropped by the edge of the road. On his knees he*
10 *cried out, "Spare thy people, O Lord, thy own people, expose them not to reproach, lest*
11 *other nations make them a byword and everywhere men ask, 'Where is their God?'"*

12
13 *Then the Lord's love burned with compassion for His people. He answered Joel's cry*
14 *and said, "I will send you corn, and new wine, and oil, and you shall have your fill; I will*
15 *expose you no longer to the reproach of other nations. I will remove the northern peril*
16 *far away from you and banish them into a land parched and wasted, their vanguard into*
17 *the eastern sea and their rear into the western. O, people of Zion, rejoice and be glad*
18 *in the Lord your God who gives you good food in due measure and sends down rain as of*
19 *old. The threshing floors shall be heaped with grain, the vats shall overflow with new*
20 *wine and oil. So I will make good the years that the swarm has eaten, hopper and grub*
21 *and locust, my great army which I send against you. And you shall eat, and praise the*
22 *name of the Lord your God who has done wonders for you, and you shall know that I am*
23 *present in Israel, that I and no other am the Lord your God; and my people shall not*
24 *again be brought to shame."*

25
26 *And so it was that the desolation of Judea was taken away and once more than land*
27 *flourished. BUT THERE WAS MORE TO THE PROPHECY GOD GAVE JOEL THAT*
28 *DAY. HE SAW FIRST HAND THE FULFILLMENT OF THE EARLY PART OF THE*
29 *PROPHECY, BUT THE LATTER PART OF IT WAS FOR ANOTHER TIME AND*
30 *PLACE, ONE THAT NOT EVEN JOEL COULD COMPREHEND.*

31
32 -0-0-

33
34 **It was not just earthly blessings that would come, Joel prophesied, but spiritual: Joel**
35 **2:28-32 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all**
36 **flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream**
37 **dreams, your young men shall see visions: [29] And also upon the servants and upon**
38 **the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. [30] And I will shew wonders**
39 **in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. [31] The sun**
40 **shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the**

1 terrible day of the Lord come. [32] And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall
2 call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem
3 shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall
4 call.

5
6 Fast forward a few hundred years: Acts 2:1-16

7 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one
8 place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty
9 wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto
10 them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were
11 all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit
12 gave them utterance. [5] And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men,
13 out of every nation under heaven. [6] Now when this was noised abroad, the
14 multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them
15 speak in his own language. [7] And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one
16 to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? [8] And how hear we
17 every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? [9] Parthians, and Medes, and
18 Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in
19 Pontus, and Asia, [10] Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya
20 about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, [11] Cretes and
21 Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. [12]
22 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth
23 this? [13] Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

24 [14] But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them,
25 Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and
26 hearken to my words: [15] For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but
27 the third hour of the day. [16] But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

28
29 And then Peter quoted the passage I have already given you from Joel chapter 2. Today
30 over 500 million people around the world have experienced their own personal 'day of
31 Pentecost' and have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

32 33 34 AMOS

35
36 Amos ministered to the northern kingdom of Israel somewhere around 750 B.C. He was
37 actually a native of Judah to the south, coming from the little village of Tekoah (not far
38 from Bethlehem). He was a shepherd, who supplemented his income by taking care of
39 sycamore (wild fig) trees. God called him into the prophetic ministry while he was
40 watching his sheep. Although a native of Judah, Amos prophesied in the Northern

1 Kingdom and aroused such antagonism that he returned to Judah where he committed his
2 message to writing. Though a shepherd, Amos was well-educated as is confirmed by his
3 knowledge of history. His language skills were among the finest literary styles in the
4 Old Testament.

5
6 Amos believed and preached that righteousness in a person was exhibited truly by that
7 person's sense of ethics and justice. He challenged the hypocrisy and blindness of the
8 current religious leaders of his day to whom the sufferings of people around them meant
9 very little. Amos believed that religion was not worthy of practice of the name if it did
10 not result in justice. He based his plea on the nature of God and a person's leaning upon
11 God for proper living.

12
13 Immediately in his writings we become aware of Amos' beliefs: Amos 1:1-2

14 **The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw**
15 **concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam**
16 **the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. [2] And he said,**
17 **The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the**
18 **habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.**

19
20 In chapter 1 the prophet referred to the sins of Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, and Ammon
21 and continued in chapter 2 with condemnation upon Moab, Judah and Israel.

22
23 He railed against allying with unrighteous neighbors or nations: Amos 3:2-6

24 **You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you**
25 **for all your iniquities. [3] Can two walk together, except they be agreed? [4] Will a**
26 **lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if**
27 **he have taken nothing? [5] Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no gin is**
28 **for him? shall one take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all? [6]**
29 **Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil**
30 **in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?**

31
32

Couples - one saved and the other not - should take great heed in Amos' warnings. I would never knowingly marry a couple divided spiritually for I rarely see such marriages do well over a long period of time. "Be ye not unequally yoked" (2 Corinthians 6:14) is still a valid warning to those who want fulfilling and happy lives.
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33
34 Chapter 5 is a strong call for repentance: Amos 5:1-5

35 **Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of**
36 **Israel. [2] The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon**
37 **her land; there is none to raise her up. [3] For thus saith the Lord God; The city that**

1 went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an
2 hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.

3 [4] For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live:
4 [5] But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beer-sheba: for Gilgal
5 shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.

6
7 This book closes with a strong hope for Israel (which I believe we are seeing fulfilled, at
8 least in part, now):

9
10 Amos 9:11-15

11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the
12 breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of
13 old: [12] That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which
14 are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this. [13] Behold, the days come,
15 saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of
16 grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the
17 hills shall melt. [14] And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and
18 they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards,
19 and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.
20 [15] And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out
21 of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.

22 OBADIAH

23
24
25 This is the smallest book in the Old Testament, one chapter and 21 verses. There are
26 four prophets in Old Testament scripture about which we know little or nothing: Obadiah,
27 Habakkuk, Haggai and Malachi. Based on one of Obadiah's references, we might
28 conclude that he was a contemporary of Jeremiah: Obadiah 1:11 **In the day that thou**
29 **stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his**
30 **forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou**
31 **wast as one of them.** (That, of course, was certainly the situation when the
32 Babylonians ransacked Jerusalem in 586 B.c.)

33
34 However, the main thrust of Obadiah is the tiny country of Edom. Obadiah 1:6 **How**
35 **are the things of Esau searched out! how are his hidden things sought up!**

36
37 Edom was the area in and around Petra. What was the sin here? Pride: Obadiah 1:3

38 **The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the**
39 **rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to**
40 **the ground?**

1 One concludes from Scripture that PRIDE is the ultimate sin against God. Proverbs
2 6:16-19 **These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto**
3 **him: [17] A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, [18] An**
4 **heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,**
5 **[19] A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**
6

7 Pride was the sin of Satan and it caused his ejection from God's throne room. Isaiah
8 14:12-14 **How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art**
9 **thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast**
10 **said in thine heart, [I] will ascend into heaven, [I] will exalt my throne above the stars**
11 **of God: [I] will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:**
12 **[14] [I] will ascend above the heights of the clouds; [I] will be like the most High.**
13

14 Edom was a small nation, but strong people inhabited it. They were proud of themselves
15 and felt God was not really needed. How did God react? Obadiah 1:4 **Though thou**
16 **exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I**
17 **bring thee down, saith the Lord.**
18

19 Edom was a violent nation, actually cheering on the Babylonians as they wiped out
20 Jerusalem and killed multitudes of Jews. How did God feel about that? Obadiah 1:13
21 **Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their**
22 **calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their**
23 **calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity;**
24

25 Again we are warned from a 2500 year old prophecy: **DON'T MESS WITH ISRAEL**
26 **OR THE JEWS!**
27

28 J O N A H

29

30 The story of Jonah has been criticized by un-thinking and apparently poorly-read people
31 for generations. These critics have dismissed Jonah and his story as fictitious, at best.
32 The truth is - Jonah was a real man; the creature that consumed him in the Mediterranean
33 was real; and the reasons for Jonah's early refusal to go to Nineveh, as God directed him,
34 are both political and geographic. And, good friend, the most honest and brilliant man
35 who ever walked this earth believed the story. His name was Jesus: Matthew 12:39-41
36 **But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh**
37 **after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:**
38 **[40] For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the**
39 **Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. [41] The men of**

1 **Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because**
2 **they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.**

3
4 **The Setting**
5

6 Most commentators date the story at somewhere prior to 756 B.C. At this time, the
7 kingdom of Assyria was a world power-house. Nineveh was the capital. It would soon
8 destroy the northern kingdom of Israel (721 B.C.). The people of Israel were quite
9 content to allow God to destroy the Assyrians and get them 'off their back.' So when
10 God called Jonah to go preach to the people, Jonah thought, "Good.....perhaps God will
11 destroy them and we won't worry about them anymore."
12

13 **Jonah 1:1-3**

14 **Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, [2] Arise,**
15 **go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up**
16 **before me. [3] But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the**
17 **Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid**
18 **the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the**
19 **presence of the Lord.**
20

21 Tarshish was a city on the Atlantic coastline of Spain. So Jonah's planned escape from
22 God's call would have taken him the whole width of the Mediterranean Sea, past Cyprus,
23 past the southern coastlines of Turkey, Greece, and Rome, past the northern countries of
24 Africa into Spain. Of course, he never got there as a storm disrupted his journey.
25

26 The book of Jonah introduces us in a way to the resurrection of Jesus. Just as Jonah was
27 in the sea creature, so Christ's dead body was in the grave for three days. Another vital
28 lesson of Jonah's story is that **GOD'S WILL IS GOING TO BE DONE.** Our question is
29 simple: are we going to get into it or not?
30

31 We also learn that God is gracious. He preserved the Assyrians when they repented of
32 their transgressions.
33

34 Here's our memorization update:
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36 **THE TORAH** 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy
37 **THE HISTORICAL BOOKS** 6. Joshua 7. Judges 8. Ruth 9 and 10. I and II
38 Samuel 11 and 12 I and II Kings 13 and 14 I and II Chronicles 15. Ezra 16.
39 Nehemiah 17. Esther
40 **THE POETICAL BOOKS** 18. Job 19. Psalms 20. Proverbs 21. Ecclesiastes
41 22. Song of Solomon

1 THE MAJOR PROPHETS 23. Isaiah 24. Jeremiah 25. Lamentations 26.
2 Ezekiel 27. Daniel
3 THE MINOR PROPHETS 28. Hosea 29. Joel 30. Amos 31. Obadiah 32.
4 Jonah
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7 Next Wednesday night we will conclude the list of the minor prophets.
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