

For the Living of These Days

Session 1: Jonah – Running Away from God

Minor Prophets message for the living of these days!

Who are they?

Messengers of God; namely, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

Why are they called minor prophets?

They are not called minor because they are unimportant but because of the size of their books.

Major message from these minor prophets!

Twelve 'so called minor' prophets spoke the truth about God during hostile times in their world. They demonstrated God's faithfulness to keep His promises throughout the turmoil and chaos of sin and destruction in the world. They spoke of hope and redemption in a time when the world seemed dark and meaningless. We read the minor prophets to see God's love of His people, no matter what.

Jonah the best known of the minor prophets

Jonah became a prophet in 793BC under the reign of Israel's second king Jeroboam and continued to serve as God's messenger until 753BC

II Kings 14:25

Jonah was member of the company of prophets mentioned in II Kings 2:3.

Company of prophets was like a school, a gathering of disciples around a recognized prophet. In this case, Elijah and Elisha

Jonah's name in Hebrew means "dove."

In the story of Noah in the book of Genesis, a dove finds "no place to set its foot" and instead heads back to the boat.

Jonah's mission from God

"The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.' Jonah 1:1-2

Ninevah, the most important city of Assyria, was guilty of:

- 1) Evil plots against God (Nahum 1:9)
- 2) Exploitation of the helpless (Nahum 2:12)
- 3) Cruelty in war (Nahum 2:12,13)
- 4) Idolatry, Prostitution and witchcraft (Nahum 3:4)

How is the city of Ninevah connected to the living of these days?

Jonah's response to God

But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Trashish to flee from the Lord." Jonah 1:3

Nineveh was 500 east of Israel (about 220 miles NW of present day Baghdad.)

Jonah headed west to Tarshish (SW Spain.)

God had a specific job for Jonah but he didn't want to do it so he ran away not only from the job but also from God.

One cannot run away from God .

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," Psalm 139:7-11 New International Version

Ever feel like running away?

Result of his running away – Jonah 1:4-17

Jonah's disobedience to God impacted the lives of the ship's crew. 1:5-7

Jonah takes responsibility for causing their troubles 1:8-12

Sailors' response to Jonah's confession 1:13-16

- They tried to row out of the storm rather than drowning Jonah
- When they couldn't they eventually throw him off the boat all the while praying for God's mercy
- The storm calms and they make a sacrifice to the one true God

God uses the incidents in our lives for His glory compare 1:5 with 1:14-16

God provides a fish to swallow Jonah 1:17

How does this portion of Jonah's story impact your living of these days?