

MINOR PROPHETS STUDY

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Winter 2024–Spring 2025

Session Six: Jonah – The Truth about Crossing Cultures

BACKGROUND

Who: Jonah (“Dove”)

When: 790BC (Israel fell in 722; Hosea, Amos, Joel all active around this time)

Jonah 1

Read 1:1–3

What is God’s commission to Jonah? Why?

How does Jonah respond? Why (see 4:2)? (NOTE: geography involved)

Read 1:4–16

Note the parallels:

- vv.4–5a;15–16
- vv.5b–6;12–14
- vv.7–8;11
- This structure would make vv.9–10 the crux. Why?

How is God already using Jonah as his prophet?

Discuss: folly of opposing God...

Jonah 2

First, 1:17 –the most well-known aspect of Jonah’s story? Possible? Likely?

Read Chapter 2 – what strikes you most?

Was the “great fish” a punishment to Jonah? (note the language of 1:17)

Matthew 16:1–3 (Part I)

Jonah 3

vv.1–3: What was God’s commission (again)? What is Jonah’s response now?

- Anything interesting about the description of Ninevah? Who are they anyway?

vv.4–10: What resulted? (NOTE: archaeological evidence for this)

Matthew 16:1–3 (Part II)

Jonah 4

vv.1–4: How does Jonah respond? Why?

vv.5–11: What happens now and what does it reveal?

Matthew 16:1–3 (Part III) [think of Mark 11:12–25]