God Speaks to a People at Ease
Studies in Jonah, Amos, Hosea

Salvation is of the LORD
Lesson 1
Jonah 1-2

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 4, 2016
The Minor Prophets

- Hebrew Bible – 24 books; Christian O.T. – 39 books
- Single books: Ezra/Nehemiah, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, 12 minor prophets
- Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah/Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor Prophets:
  - To Israel: Jonah, Amos, Hosea
  - To Judah: Joel, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
  - To Post-exile Israel: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
Jonah

- A rebellious prophet
- God’s work of salvation
- Key verse: Jonah 2:9b – “Salvation is from the LORD”
- Jonah 1-2
  - God’s call (1:1-2)
  - God’s pursuit (1:3-17)
  - Jonah’s prayer (2:1-10)
God’s Call (1:1-2)

- “The Word of the LORD came to Jonah . . .”
- “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it”
  - Forgotten role of Israel
  - The reluctance of the godly (Jonah, early church and Peter)
- Predicts a future age
God’s Pursuit (1:3-17)

- Jonah fled from the face of God (1:2, 3, 10; 2:4)
  - Psalm 139:1-3; 7-12 – no escape
  - A deliberate attempt
- The LORD hurled a great wind (1:4)
- Psalm 107:1, 23-31, 43; 136 – His lovingkindness
- Is this the wrath of God?
- Proverbs 3:11-12 – the “instruction of the LORD”
Sailors Fear – Jonah Sleeps (1:5-7)

- Sailors feared death, not God (Rom 1:18f)
- Sailors prayed to their gods and threw out cargo (1:5)
- Jonah’s spiritual dullness – presumptive peace (1:5)
- The call of the captain (1:6)
- The sailors cast lots (1:7)
  - Proverbs 16:33 – . . . every decision from the LORD
  - God’s loving-kindness for Jonah and the sailors
Jonah’s 1st Missionary Journey (1:8-14)

- A dual project – for Jonah and by Jonah
- A strange witness
  - A Hebrew
  - Fear the LORD God of heaven – Creator of all
  - Trying to escape Him
- A strange response: What must we do to be saved?
- A strange answer: murder!
The Sailors Pray (1:14-16)

- They accepted the Word of the prophet of God
- They accepted the sovereign mercy of God
- They threw Jonah into the sea
- The storm ceased
- They feared the LORD greatly
  - Offered a sacrifice
  - Made vows
The LORD Appointed a Great Fish (1:17)

- A wonderful act
- A typical act – the death and resurrection of Christ (Matt 12:40; 16:4)
- A saving act
Jonah’s prayer (2:1-10)

- Jonah’s faith (2:1-2)
  - Finally, Jonah calls upon the LORD
  - Called out of distress – from the depth of Sheol
  - No other option for a believer
  - Confidence that the LORD hears those who call upon Him
  - No personal basis for God to hear or respond
Jonah’s Distress (2:3-6)

- God cast him into the sea – expelled from God’s sight
- Buried in the depths of the sea
- Jonah called for help
- God answered
- Psalm 18 – God delivers the righteous
- You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God
Jonah’s God (2:7-10)

- Jonah remembered God (Ps 25:4-7)
- Prayer came to the LORD in His holy temple (Ps 138:2-3)
- "vanities of worthlessness" (2:8)
- Lovingkindness of God (2:8)
- Comes with sacrifice
- Comes with thanksgiving
- Salvation is from the LORD – God spoke to the fish
SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

- God begins a good work
- God continues and completes this good work
- God’s ways directed by His lovingkindness
  - Exodus 15:13 – lovingkindness of God leads His people
  - Psalm 23:6 – lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life . . .
- No condemnation (Romans 8:1)