

**ABATT**  
**Jonah Part Two**  
 Christian Life Assembly  
 Jim Hoffman

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

**“Every Square Inch” is a reference to Abraham Kuyper’s famous quote, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!”**

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- **What is Jonah about?** It is about Jonah's **disobedience** to the race God gave him to run.
- **What is Jonah about?** It is about Jonah's **cold-hearted** disregard for the Assyrian people.
- **What is Jonah about?** It's about how one of the most successful evangelists ever can still be **miserable**.
- **What is Jonah about?** It's mostly about **Jonah**.

4

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

Perhaps the only thing Paul and Jonah had in common. 😊

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ESV

5

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

While science confirms that a sea creature can swallow a man whole, my hope for Christians is that we do not need what God has said to be confirmed by a third party. 😊

If you believe the Bible, you should count that posture as a gift from God.

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

**If your default point of view is to believe the Bible, you are blessed. If you care to validate your default position there is ample validation to be had, but when you do not require validation – now, that is a gift.**

7

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

- Chapter 1 ended with Jonah being swallowed by a great fish. The popular idea that Jonah went straight from the deck of the ship into the fish's open mouth has no support from either the narrative or Jonah's prayer. He was probably half-drowned before he was swallowed. If he was still conscious, sheer dread would have caused him to faint—there is no mention of the fish in his prayer. He can hardly have known what caused the change from wet darkness to an even greater dry darkness. When he did regain consciousness, it would have taken some time to realize that the all-enveloping darkness was not that of Sheol but of a mysterious safety. (Expositor's Commentary)

8

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

- **Jonah 2:2 "I called out to the Lord, out of my distress"**
- Take note, at least from what is written for us, that Jonah makes no specific request of the Lord – he is in such distress that he just cries out to the Lord.
- The man was in the belly of a fish – it would have been dark, smelly, his skin is being eaten through by digestive juices, and it's probably the world's worst place to experience motion sickness.

9

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

Given that Jonah thought he would die in his next few minutes, he probably prayed "forgive me"!

10

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

- You can imagine the credibility that Jonah had when he arrives via the gut of a giant fish. (the Ninevites may have thought their god Dagon, literally a fish, sent him)
- God gives Jonah a second chance to obey – Jonah 3:1 ***Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time:*** 2 "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you."
- I cannot promise that if God calls you to do something, that you will always get a second chance, but Jonah's experience tells us it is more than a remote possibility.

11

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

- Jonah 3:4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "**Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!**" 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ESV (and Jonah probably said, "wait, what?")
- Notice there is no fluffy appeal about how much God loves them, how he longs to fellowship with them, and he has a wonderful plan for their lives - actually Jonah makes no "sales pitch" whatsoever.

12

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- The Holy Spirit had the people of Nineveh ready – **John 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.**
- The Ninevites needed to hear they were lost and headed for hell – they needed to know they are sinners and God’s wrath is hanging over them.
- God knew Jonah was the perfect messenger for them because he will make no attempt to “candy coat” God’s message of doom.

13

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

Before we move on, I want to sow a seed – let's pay particular attention to what happened when the Holy Spirit had Nineveh ready to hear from God.

Maybe we should invest in our unsaved friends and relatives by praying for God to open their hearts to the gospel – then perhaps they will respond to the truth no matter the willingness or eloquence of the messenger.

14

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

**What happened in the hearts of the Ninevites ought to cause us all to stand in awe of our God as he proves that “he is the Lord, and there is none else”.**

15

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- What we see is a “turn or burn” message much like Jonathon Edwards preached in the Great Awakening.
- You could attend the average church in America for years, maybe decades, before you would hear a message on hell.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ESV

16

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- Allow me to remind you that the Ninevites were not offended by preaching on judgment – evidently the Holy Spirit had them prepared to hear the truth.
- **“And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them”.**
- For some reason we’ve been convinced that sinners need to be shielded from the truth. ☹

17

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

**This must be one of the most understated phrases in the bible – Jonah 3:5a “And the people of Nineveh believed God.”**

18

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- Jonah 3:6 The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, 8 but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."
- Gospel preaching really can be one size fits all – the elite and the "not so" elite, the young and the old, all have the same problem.

19

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- While we are not given the exact words Jonah said, we are given this **"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"**
- Did he say more than that? Perhaps, but it is also true that when the Holy Spirit has someone prepared, they only need a "word".
- Romans 2 tells us the gospel is imprinted on our soul so maybe all they needed was just confirmation.

20

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

Romans 2:12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. 14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

21

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- Jonah preaches, Nineveh repents, and Jonah sulks – talk about God using someone with a bad attitude!
- Jonah sits under a plant that he is thankful for, then the plant dies, he loses his shade, and he feels bad for the plant!
- God will refocus him with these words – Jonah 4:10 And the Lord said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?” ESV

22

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- Regarding the phrase, “more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left”.
- The commentators are split on this – was it 120,000 small children or 120,000 people who did not know right from wrong?
- I believe it is the former – again based on Romans 2 where we learn that people are born with a clear sense of right and wrong.

23

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- We do not know what happened to Jonah after his trip to Nineveh – did he stay bitter, or did he get better?
- We do know he wrote down his account of one chapter of his life – a chapter that he tells honestly despite the horrible light it casts on him.
- Maybe his honesty in his writing is a clue to the “bitter or better” question above.

24

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



The Minor Prophets

Jonah at the Bema – do you think he will get gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble for his ministry to Nineveh?

25

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

While we all know that our works play no role in God saving us, what seems to be universally true of Christians is we don't want to stand before God empty handed.

26

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

• **Jonah 4:2** And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ESV

• So here we find clear evidence of what seems to escape so many – that God, while blessing and using Israel in the O.T., has always been about the redemption of the Jews AND Gentiles.

27

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



28

---

---

---

---

---

---

---