

We will now begin the first lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Today we will study the book of Jonah. /The name of the book is "Jonah." /The book was named "Jonah" after the author of the book. /The name "Jonah" means "dove" in Hebrew.

/The prophet Jonah recorded the book of Jonah. /No one other than Jonah could have recorded this book in such a vivid way. /2 Kings 14:25 briefly mentions Jonah. /Jesus also spoke about Jonah. /Matthew 12:40.

/Jonah was a prophet from Galilee. /Jonah was active during the time of King Jeroboam II of northern Israel. /King Jeroboam reigned from 793-753 BC. /Hence, this book records the time between 824 BC and 783 BC.

/The book prophesies about Nineveh through Jonah. /Nineveh was a great city at the time. /1:2. /3:3. /Nineveh controlled many cities. /Genesis 10:11, 12.

/In Matthew 12:40, Jesus spoke about Jonah. /Matthew 12:40. /Jesus spoke about the sign of Jonah. /This prophesied that Jesus would die and be put in a tomb, and then resurrect in three days.

/Jesus taught the Bible through an exemplary and prophetic point of view.

/Now we will begin the lecture on the book of Jonah. /The title of chapter 1 is "Flee."

/First, the Lord sends Jonah to Nineveh. /Verses 1-2. /Second, Jonah flees to Tarshish. /Verse 3. /Third, Jonah meets a storm. /Verses 4-10. /Fourth, Jonah is thrown into the sea. /Verses 11-16. /Fifth, Jonah is swallowed by a great fish. /Verse 17.

/Read verses 1-2. /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."

/2 Kings 14:25 mentions the prophet Jonah. /God told Jonah to go preach in the city of Nineveh. /This meant that Jonah was to do mission work in Nineveh. /It says that the wickedness of the city of Nineveh had reached God.

/The city was going to be destroyed because of its sins. /Thus, God sent the prophet Jonah to go warn the city. /It says that Nineveh was a great city. /This city was located in the upper region of the Tigris River.

/Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria. /Its region was historically about 145 kilometers. /There were a hundred and twenty-thousand people who couldn't tell their right hand from their left. /4:11.

/Therefore, it is estimated that the city had a high population. /3:3. /God told Jonah to go and preach against it. /Jonah was to go and warn the people about judgment. /They would all be destroyed in forty days if they did not repent.

/It says that the people's wickedness had come up before God. /God sees all of man's sins. /God judges when man becomes filled with sins. /Genesis 6:5. /God judged the people of Noah's times because their sins were great. /Sodom and Gomorrah also received God's judgment because of their sins.

/Verse 3. /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 Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

/Jonah did not go to Nineveh, but ran away to Tarshish. /He defied God's command. /He ran away from the Lord. /We cannot run away from God. /Psalm 139:8-10. /God is present in the entire universe.

/There is no place where God isn't present. /Therefore, we cannot hide from God. /Jonah went to Joppa. /Joppa was a harbor located along the coast of the Mediterranean in western Israel. /Tarshish was located in the far end of western Israel, and it was about 3,000 kilometers away in the region known as present-day Spain.

/Why did Jonah not want to go to Nineveh? /There was a chance that he might be killed if he went to Nineveh. /Nineveh was a wicked city. /It was a powerful nation. /It was Israel's enemy.

/Also, Jonah was not going there to give good news, but to tell them that they would be destroyed if they did not repent. The people at Nineveh would not want to hear this. /The people of Nineveh would hate Jonah. /The officials might put Jonah in prison, or even kill him.

/Anyone would certainly be angry if someone came and said, "You will be destroyed if you do not repent." /Why else did Jonah not want to go to Nineveh? /Assyria was an enemy nation.

/Thus, Jonah thought, "I hope Assyria is destroyed." /If the people did not repent, they would ultimately be destroyed. /Hence, Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. /He was fine with the enemy nation of Assyria being destroyed.

/Jonah thought that it was fine if they didn't repent and was destroyed. /What were Jonah's faults here? /First, he was self-centered. /He did not think of God's will, but he was selfish. /He was greedy.

/He thought only of himself. /He did not think about God's will. /Second, Jonah was flesh-centered. /He considered his physical life more important. /He disobeyed God's command.

/He considered his physical life more important than his spiritual life. /Jonah became his own idol. /Third, /he did not consider other people's lives worthy. /He did not love

others.

/God is not happy when the wicked are destroyed. /1 Timothy 2:4. /Ezekiel 18:23, 24.  
/God is merciful and full of compassion. /Jonah went to the Harbor called Joppa. /He happened to come across a ship bound for Tarshish.

/When Jonah avoided God and went to Joppa, he found a ship bound for Tarshish. /The population at the time was not very high, so there were not too many ships. /Ships that were bound for Tarshish were not always around.

/There were maybe one or two ships bound for Tarshish in a month. /However, Jonah found a ship right when he went down to Joppa. /He paid for his fare, and he ran away to the west on the ships.

/Jonah did not think about God's will. /He disobeyed God's command. /He thought that everything would go well for him. /He thought that nothing would stand in his way.

/However, disobedience to God leads to ruin. /Things may seem to go well at first, but God will discipline those who disobey. /Even if we are troubled and face hardships and persecution, we must obey God's commands.

/That is the road to blessings. /God helps us when we obey his commands. /We will live. /We may seem low, but God will lift us up. /Even if things seem difficult when we obey, God will make sure that everything turns out well.

/Verse 4. /Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

/God punished Jonah for his sins. /God sent a great wind on the sea. /The ship was about to break. /Psalm 104:4. /The wind is God's servant. /God punished Jonah.

/God wanted Jonah to repent. /Thus, Jonah repented through this violent storm. /God disciplined Jonah because he loved him. /Hosea 2:6.

/God wanted to bless Jonah. /Jonah was stuck. /God brought pain upon Jonah so that he was on the verge of dying. /God wanted Jonah to repent and then bless him.

/Verse 5. /All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.

/The ship was about to sink. /The sailors threw the cargo into the sea to make the ship lighter. /Then they called on their own gods. /However, it was all useless. /The idols of the world are all useless.

/Our Lord God created the entire universe, /and he governs over all of creation. /It was of

no use for the sailors to cry out to their gods. /Man's efforts were useless.

/They threw their things into the sea /and called on their gods, but it was all useless.  
/However, Jonah was asleep below deck. /This shows that Jonah was in spiritual darkness. /He was overcome with spiritual darkness.

/His heart became dark because he left God. /His heart was not at peace. /He did not have peace in his conscience. /Therefore, he decided to forget all his troubles and sleep below deck on the ship.

/Sleep does not solve our basic problems. /People who do not have peace in their hearts seek corners. /They also like to sleep. /This does not calm the storm. /We must walk with God.

/We must be in harmony with God. /We must follow God's will. /We must use our conscience. /We must obey even if it is difficult. /We must always be awake and carry the cross, /and remain awake. /Then God will open doors for us.

/Verse 6. /The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish."

/The captain of the ship woke Jonah up. /Jonah was a prophet, and yet he was rebuked by the captain. /When we, the salt, lose our taste, the people of the world will step all over us. /God's valuable prophet was rebuked by the captain of the world.

/The captain woke Jonah up. /Ephesians 5:14. /We must receive the light. /We must go towards the light through rebuke. /Foreign gods are all empty. /It is useless to ask foreign gods for help.

/Thus, the captain asked Jonah to pray to God, thinking that maybe Jonah's God could save them.

/Verse 7. /Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

/The people cast lots. /The people of the world also cast lots. /In the Old Testament times, there were times when God revealed his will through the casting of lots. /Joshua 7:16-18. /1 Samuel 10:19-21.

/In Proverbs 16:33, it says, /"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD." /However, we do not cast lots in the New Testament times. /The standard revelation of the Bible has come to an end.

/Today, the Holy Spirit allows us to understand through the Bible. /Ephesians 3:1-6. /It was God's providence that the lot fell on Jonah. /It was revealed through a storm.

/God revealed Jonah's sins so that he would repent. /When believers sin, God uses different ways to reveal their sins. /God makes us realize our sins. /God makes us repent.

/When Balaam did wrong, his donkey rebuked him. /When Hezekiah did wrong, God made him physically sick to make him realize.

/Verse 8. /So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

/The people believed that there was a great storm because Jonah sinned. /The people asked Jonah questions.

/Verses 9-10. /He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

/Jonah honestly answered their questions. /He said that there was this great storm because he ran away from God. /God judges man of his sins. /God can cause great storms. /God can also make the storm calm.

/Here, Jonah revealed God to the people on the ship. /When Jonah repented and became humble, he revealed God's glory. /We will become more ashamed if we do not repent.

/Yet, God forgives all who repent. /When we attempt to hide our sins, we will not be well. /Proverbs 28:13. /God is pleased when we honestly confess to him. /God has mercy on us and forgives us if we confess our sins and throw our sins away.

/Verses 11-12. /The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

/The sea was getting rougher and rougher. /They asked Jonah, "What should we do?" /Then Jonah told them to throw him into the sea. /Jonah here acknowledged his sins and genuinely repented. /He genuinely repented by even risking his life.

/Jonah knew that he was a sinner worthy of death. /He was determined not to sin even if he needed to die. /This was true repentance.

/Jonah did not repent only with his words, but truly repented. /He thought that it was right for him to die for his sins. /Matthew 5:26. /When we repent, we must repent with all sincerity.

/Jonah said, "I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." /Jonah

here took responsibility for the storm. /We must not pass on our responsibilities to others.

/We must each confess, "This happened because of my sins." /Daniel 9:16. /Exodus 32:32. /Romans 9:1. /There are storms in our families. /There are storms in our churches. /When this happens, we must each take responsibility.

/Verses 13-14. /Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased."

/The men on the ship did not want to sacrifice Jonah. /They tried to row back to land. /Yet, it was all of no use. /The sea grew even wilder and the waters became more rough. /The men could not do anything.

/Thus, they sought God. /The foreign men learned how to pray through Jonah. /The foreign people believed in God through Jonah.

/Then they prayed, "Do not let us die for taking this man's life." /"Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man." /If they killed Jonah here, they would have shed the blood of an innocent man.

/They thought that they would be killing an innocent man if they killed Jonah. /Therefore, they prayed, "Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man." /They did not want to be held responsible for throwing Jonah into the sea.

/Verses 15-16. /Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

/When the men threw Jonah into the sea, the sea immediately became calm. /The men believed that the sea grew calm as Jonah said. /Then the men realized, "The Lord God is God who is in control over the storm."

/They greatly feared the Lord God, and they offered a sacrifice to God and made vows to him. /They believed God when the storm became calm.

/Verse 17. /But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

/Jonah was in the stomach of a fish for three days and three nights. /Jonah thought that things would go well when he tried to run away to Tarshish. /However, Jonah met a storm and ended up in the stomach of a fish. /We cannot run away from God.

/God is present wherever we go. /Jonah faced disaster when he disobeyed God's command. /He sinned before God, and hence, faced great hardships.

/Jonah eventually ended up in the stomach of a fish. /God prepared this fish in advance. /The fish waited and swallowed Jonah right when he was thrown into the sea. /God planned the timing to be perfect.

/Jonah ended up exactly in the stomach of a fish. /What kind of fish was this? /We are not sure what kind of fish it was. /However, it was big enough for it to swallow a human being.

/Today, we can face great hardships and pain if we disobey God's commands. /No one can do anything if he ends up in a fish's stomach. /The fish probably tried to swallow Jonah and digest him.

/Yet, the fish could not. /It would have been difficult for Jonah to breathe in the stomach of the fish. /God helped him breathe. /There are times when we end up in the stomach of a fish when we disobey God.

/We become stuck, /and we cannot do anything with our own humanly strength. /Still, we must continue to pray to God.

/Next in chapter 2, Jonah prays sincerely before God. /We will now begin with chapter 2. /The title is "Prayer of Repentance."

/First, Jonah calls out to the Lord from inside the fish. /Verses 1-2. /Second, Jonah prays with hope inside the fish. /Verses 3-5. /Third, Jonah prays with confidence of the Lord's salvation in his despair. /Verses 6-9. /Fourth, the Lord saves Jonah from the fish. /Verse 10.

/Read verse 1. /From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.

/Jonah did not die but he prayed to God from inside the fish. /This was God's miraculous work. /We too live in places where we should die because of God's power. /Jonah earnestly repented and prayed.

/Jonah could not come out of the fish with his own strength. /He had no choice but to earnestly cry out to God with all he had.

/Verse 2. /He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

/“The depths of the grave,” or “sheol” indicate hell. /“Sheol.” /“Sheol.” /This refers to the grave, the state of death, or hell. /Jonah called the stomach of the fish, “sheol.”

/Jonah said, “In my distress I called to the LORD.” /The stomach of the fish was pain beyond words. /Jonah encountered great pain and crisis. /He had no choice but to pray.

/King Hezekiah prayed. /Isaiah 37:1. /Daniel prayed before the lions' den. /Daniel 6:10. /Acts 1:4. /Genesis 32:10. /This was genuine prayer in a life-and-death situation.

/Therefore, we must pray completely before God. /Then God will answer our prayers. /Psalm 50:15.

/Verses 3-4. /You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'

/Jonah felt that he was banished from the Lord's sight. /He was in despair. /However, he thought of God and put his hope in God. /Jonah said, "I will look again toward your holy temple."

/This shows that Jonah prayed while firmly holding on to hope. /Even if believers feel hopeless, they must not lose hope. /God never forsakes believers. /Isaiah 49:15, 16.

/God watches us as the apple of his eye. /God is sovereign. /Isaiah 45:7. /It says, "all your waves and breakers." /This means that God is in control over the waves.

/Therefore, it is God who causes high waves and who calms the seas. /Therefore, we must rely on God's sovereignty, and we must believe that all storms will grow calm when God works.

/Verse 5. /The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

/Jonah said the engulfing waters threatened him. /Jonah did not only face physical sufferings, but spiritual sufferings as well. /He faced severe sufferings. /He said, "the deep surrounded me."

/This indicates severe pain. /This refers to a state of deep hopelessness. /The place was so deep that it was difficult to come out. /It was difficult for Jonah to breathe in the stomach of the fish, where its intestines were moving about.

/Jonah also said, "seaweed was wrapped around my head." /This was a poetic expression. /He was confused. /He was disturbed in heart. /We become frustrated in our hearts when we encounter trials. /Our hearts become confused.

/Still, we must look upon God even in such times. /We must look upon God in the midst of great pain. /God saves us from the deep sea. /God saves us from the stomach of the fish.

/God saves us from the valley of the shadow of death. /Therefore, we must repent when we encounter hardships. /God will save us when we cry to him and repent.



/Here we will conclude the first lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Thank you.