

Obadiah and  
Jonah

About so much more  
than a fish!

Yvon Prehn, Teacher

# Both of these prophets

- Wrote at approximately the same time
  - 786 B.C.-746 B.C. years of Jeroboam II reign
- Also both deal with some of the same issues
- Main one:
  - What do we do when people treat us horribly?
  - How does God treat them?
  - How should we act?



# Overview Background of Obadiah

- Obadiah, God's judgment of Edom
- Challenges with dating primarily because of continuous nature of the story
- Began with Jacob and Esau
- Esau=Edom, married pagan wives, disregarded birthright, threatened to kill brother, eventually reconciled, but moved away
- Continuous war between the two nations



Map showing kingdom of Edom (in red) at its largest extent, c. 600 BC. Areas in dark red show the approximate boundary of classical-age Idumaea

# Finally

This is what the Sovereign LORD says about Edom— We have heard a message from the LORD:

An envoy was sent to the nations to say,  
“Rise, let us go against her for battle” —

<sup>2</sup> “See, I will make you small among the nations;  
you will be utterly despised.

<sup>3</sup> The pride of your heart has deceived you,  
you who live in the clefts of the rocks  
and make your home on the heights,  
you who say to yourself,

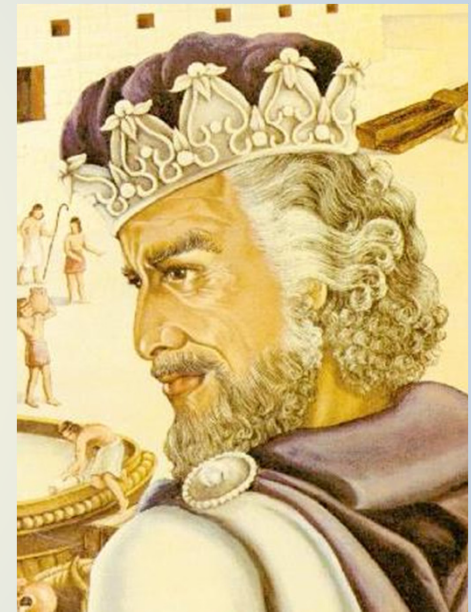
‘Who can bring me down to the ground?’

<sup>4</sup> Though you soar like the eagle  
and make your nest among the stars,  
from there I will bring you down,”  
declares the LORD.



# Background of Jonah

- Prosperous time in Israel
- <sup>3</sup> In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. <sup>24</sup> He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit. <sup>25</sup> He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea in accordance with the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher. <sup>26</sup> The LORD had seen how bitterly everyone in Israel, whether slave or free, was suffering here was no one to help them. <sup>27</sup> And since the LORD had not said he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash.



# Assyria the major power



# Jonah comes into this world

- Had been a very successful prophet
- Didn't want to see mercy on Israel's enemies
- He wanted to decide how to serve God
- Did not want to follow God to do a difficult job
- So he ran in the opposite direction





*Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. **Salvation comes from the LORD.**" And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*

iam JONAH

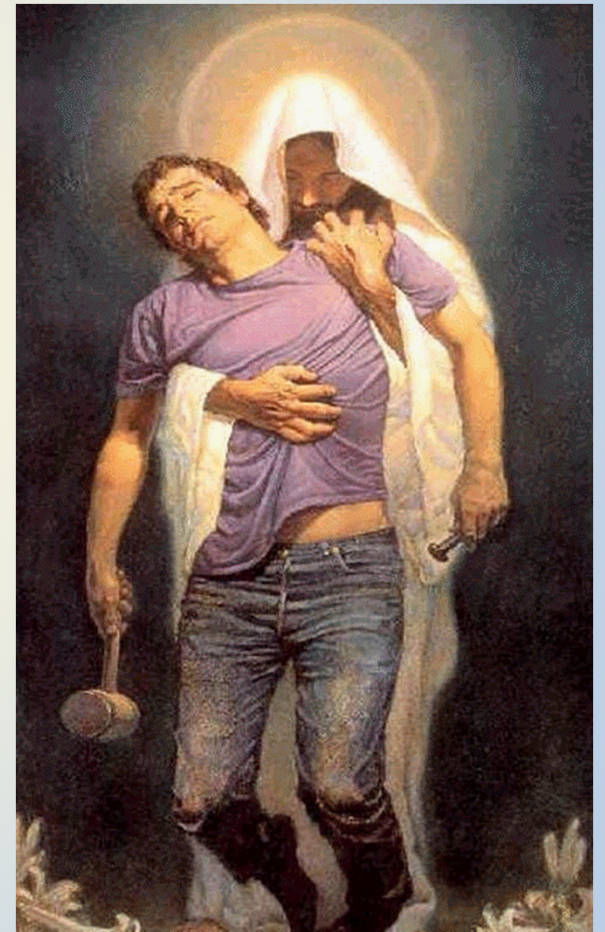


# The rest of the story

- Truth of “great fish” swallowing Jonah, from Jesus  
He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.  
(Matt. 12:39-40)
- After God’s mercy Jonah carries on His job
- A second chance for great ministry
- Jonah, bad attitude
- God causes repentance in Nineveh
- Jonah isn’t happy about it
- Instead of ending with rejoicing it ends in rebuke

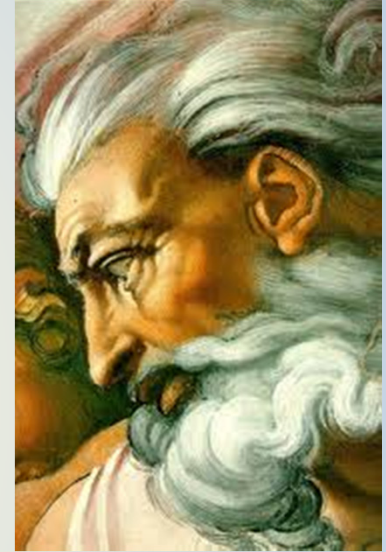
# Application Jonah

- When Old Testament God of vengeance mentioned—
- Tell them about Jonah and the Nineveh
  - Also answer for “those who haven’t heard”
- God loves and is more merciful than we can imagine
- Anyone can repent
- God gives second chances
  - But sin will be judged—Nahum
- God’s will **will** be done
- Our attitude determines our joy & blessing or not



# Application Obadiah & Jonah

- When God judges enemies, it is HIS job
- When He gives mercy, HIS choice
- What is important is our reaction
- Do not gloat when your enemy falls;  
when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice, or the LORD will see and disapprove  
and turn his wrath away from them.  
Prov. 24:17, 18
- If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;  
if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. Prov. 25:21



# To do that shows your trust in God

- 2 Kings 6: Story of Elisha and the army from Aram
- <sup>16</sup> “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered.  
“Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” <sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
- Response, the king fed them, the armies did not return

# Message repeated in NT

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> ***Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.***

<sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:9-21**

# In Sermon on the Mount

- Matt. 5:7 Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy. . . .
- Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God. . . .<sup>43</sup>  
“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your  
neighbor and hate your enemy.’<sup>44</sup> But I tell you,  
love your enemies and pray for those who  
persecute you,<sup>45</sup> that you may be children of  
your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise  
on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the  
righteous and the unrighteous.<sup>46</sup> If you love  
those who love you, what reward will you get?  
Are not even the tax collectors doing that?<sup>47</sup>  
And if you greet only your own people, what  
are you doing more than others? Do not even  
pagans do that?<sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as  
your heavenly Father is perfect.



# Perfect=teleios

- 1) brought to its end, finished
  - 2) wanting nothing necessary to completeness
  - 3) perfect
  - 4) that which is perfect
    - a) consummate human integrity and virtue
    - b) of men
      - 1) full grown, adult, of full age, mature
- We all want to be mature Christians, this lesson tells us how to do that





# If we want to be complete, perfect in God's eyes

- Anybody can be wealthy, lazy, prosperous and self-absorbed and
- Anybody can go to church and praise God when things are going well—
- It takes divine power —Jesus in you—to be kind to mean people who threaten you, who hurt and take from you.
- And to trust God for justice
- In His time



# Questions

- What was your opinion of Jonah before the class?
- How does the book of Jonah help us answer accusations the God of the OT was only one of wrath and judgment?
- What do both books tell us about how to treat those who have wronged us or who are evil?
- What does the rest of the Bible tell us about this?
- How can we be mature spiritually in God's eyes?
- In practical ways, how can we do this?