

## Jonah and Amos: Love, Justice, and Mercy

*[1] Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, [2] "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." [3] But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. [Jon 1:1-3 ESV]*

### Jonah

1. Time period: 780-750 B.C.
2. Historical setting: A time when the Assyrians were a cruel, heartless people, hated by the people of Israel.
3. The people of God are reluctant to acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for the nations.
4. Overall structure...
  - A. Jonah's \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
  - B. Jonah's Repentance (2)

*[1] Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, [2] saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice... [6] ...you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God... [9] ...I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" [10] And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land. [Jon 2:1-2, 6, 9-10]*

### C. Assyria's Revival (3)

*[1] Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, [2] "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." [3] So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. [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... [9] Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." [10] When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. [Jon 3:1-5, 8-10]*

### D. Jonah's Rebellion (4)

*[1] But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. [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. [3] Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ...*

*[6] Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. [7] But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. [8] When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." [9] But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." [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?" [Jon 4:1-3, 6-11]*

5. Imagine reading this from the \_\_\_\_\_ of an Israelite.
6. Connect the story of Jonah with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's blessing in Genesis 12:1-3.

*[1] ...the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." [Gen 12:1-3 ESV]*

*[39] ..."An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. [40] For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. [41] The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. [Matt 12:39-41 ESV]*

## Amos

*[1] The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa... [Amos 1:1 ESV]*

*[14] ...Amos answered... "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. [15] But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' [Amo 7:14-15]*

*[24] ...let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. [Amo 5:24 ESV]*

1. "Amos" = "\_\_\_\_\_."
2. Time Period: 765-750 B.C. (see 2 Kings 14:23-15:7)
3. Historical setting: Prophesying in a time of \_\_\_\_\_ approximately 25 years before Israel's destruction.
4. God has rejected Israel's religious and social practices.
5. Overall structure...
  - A. Amos looks around and sees - Judgment on the Nations (1-2)
  - B. Amos looks \_\_\_\_\_ - Judgment on God's People (3-6)

*[6] Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals-- [7] those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted; a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned;... [Amo 2:6-7 ESV]*

*[1] "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!' [2] The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks. [Amo 4:1-2 ESV]*

*[4] For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live;... [6] Seek the LORD and live... [14] Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. [15] Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. [Amos 5:4-6, 14-15 ESV]*

*[1] "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria... [4] "Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, [5] who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, [6] who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!... [8] The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it." [Amo 6:1, 4-6, 8 ESV]*

*[4] Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, [5] saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, [6] that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?" .. [Amos 8:4-6 ESV]*

*[11] "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land-- not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. [12] They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it. [Amo 8:11-12 ESV]*

C. Amos looks ahead - Visions of Destruction and Ultimate Restoration (7-9)

*[14] I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. [15] I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God. [Amo 9:14-15 ESV]*

6. See two primary offenses against God:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ syncretism (1:7-8; 4:4-5; 5:21-26; 8:10, 14).
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ injustice (2:6-8; 3:9-10; 4:1; 5:7, 10-13, 15, 24; 6:12; 8:4-6).
7. Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ between these two offenses and the two great commandments in the New Testament.

**Love God, Love People, Seek Justice, Love Mercy!**

