

Major Issues in the Minor Prophets

1) “Salvation is of the LORD”

Jonah – the Divided Kingdom



The House of Jehu (Israel) (all dates BC)

Jehu (c.842-815)
Jehoahaz (c.814-798)
Joash (c.801-786)
Jeroboam II (c.793-753)
Zachariah (c.753-752)

The Warning of Amos

- “The high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword” (Amos 7:9).
- Only about 30 years after the death of Jeroboam II, the Northern Kingdom came to an end with the fall of Samaria (722 BC), and the Assyrian captivity.

Nineveh – “that great city”

- The Mashki Gate (reconstructed). One of the fifteen gateways of ancient Nineveh. The lower parts of the stone retaining wall are original. The gateway structure itself was originally of mud brick.



Nineveh – “A city great unto God” (Jonah 3:2,3)

Note similar expressions elsewhere:

- Nimrod “was a mighty hunter before the LORD” (Genesis 10:9).
- The king of Babylon’s greed and ambition: “Thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ...” (Isaiah 14:13).
- “In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair” – AVm. “fair unto God” (Acts 7:20).
- This is a way of expressing a superlative!

Jonah's cry: repentance or destruction! (Jonah 3:4)

- The apostles carried essentially the same message – see Acts 3:19-24.
- Note the links with Deuteronomy 18:15,18,19 and Genesis 17:9,14. Anyone who is not incorporated into the New Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant that the one like unto the Prophet Moses would introduce, will be cut off from among the people.

The Lachish Room, British Museum



The siege & capture of the city of Lachish in 701 BC



“So shall the sea be calm unto you” (Jonah 1:12,16)

- Jonah 1:12 – The sea became “calm” (Hebrew, quiet / silent).
- See also Mark 4:39: Jesus “arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm”.



“The LORD had prepared a great fish” (Jonah 1:17)

- The Hebrew word here (*manah*), translated “prepared”, does not imply a special creation. It means to count, number, appoint, prepare.
- The same word occurs three times in chapter 4 (vs. 6-8): God “prepared” a gourd, a worm and an east wind.
- In Daniel 1 the term is twice translated “appointed”: “And the king *appointed* them a daily provision of the king’s meat” (verse 5; also verse 10).