

The Book of the Twelve

A Journey Through the Minor Prophets

1

Jonah

- · Main Themes
- God's sovereignty
- God's mercy and compassion
- God's concern for the nations
- The self-righteous and wicked, downward slide of Israel

· Role in the Twelve

 Following Obadiah, Jonah provides an "Edomic image" of Israel who is no better than the nations they hate—and perhaps even worse because of their self-righteousness. It also highlights the cosmic compassion of God, hinted at in Joel and Amos.

2

Implicit Conditionality in Prophecy

- Generally, we see three kinds of predictions—statements about the future—in Scripture:
- Predictions qualified by conditions (e.g., 2 Chron 7:13-14; Isa. 1:19-20; Jer. 7:5-7; 22:4-5)
- Predictions qualified by assurances/guarantees (e.g., Jer. 7:13-16; 14:10-12; Amos 1:3)
- A subset here is futuristic statements that involve a sovereign oath (e.g., "As Yahweh lives..." Isa 54:9-10; Ez. 5:11; Amos 4:2)
 - It's important to remember that relative to the "conditional" predictions, the guaranteed predictions are few in number. Also, they are usually not very specific about the details, nature or timeframe of fulfillment. Finally, they almost always align with covenantal promises.

3

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- Predictions with no qualifications (e.g., Jonah 3:4; 2 Chron. 12:5-8; 2 Kgs. 22:16-20; Micah 3:12; cf. Jer. 26:18-19)
- Jer. 18:7-11 | The Potter's Principle
- Calvin: "Even though [the prophets] make a simple affirmation, it is to be understood from the outcome that these nonetheless contain a tacit condition."
- What about Deut. 18:21-22?

4

Application in Light of Christ

- The inexhaustible mercy of God crystallized, and finalized, in Christ
- Confronting our own self-righteous

5

Micah | Critical & Historical Information

- Micah was a younger contemporary of Isaiah in the South, along with Amos and Hosea in the North. Although his prophecy clearly includes Israel (i.e., the northern Kingdom), the introductory superscription lists only Southern kings (ca. 640-690), perhaps indicating that his ministry was in the South, or that he didn't recognize the kings in the North as true kings.
- Micah hailed from Moresheth, a small town about 20-25 miles southwest of Jerusalem near the fortress town of Lachish. Aside from a name meaning "who is like Yahweh," little else is known about Micah's background.
- A century later, Micah's prophetic legacy was very much alive and well as evidenced by the elders of the land who appeal to his prophecy (Mic. 3:12) to justify sparing the life of Jeremiah (Jer.26:17-19).

6