**INTRODUCTION TO JONAH**

Minor Prophet—48 vs.—4 chapters

It is the most Narrative of all the minor prophets

 Read “The Journey with Jonah”, by Madeline L’Engle

 Listen to “Nothing Much in Tarshish,” a children’s song by Justin Roberts

Jonah occurs during the time of 2nd Kings,

During the years 786—746 BC

 The king was Jeroboam II

 Jonah was the son of Amittai

 From the little town of Gath-Hepher

Jonah was cranky, leading us to the principle below of how our attitude affects our faith.

His mission was to go to Nineveh—in what is in modern Iraq, near the Euphrates river

He headed for Tarshish, which today would be on the East coast of Spain

Who were the Ninevites?

 From the “big city.” Rich and powerful

 They were intimidating enemies of Israel—Oppressors

We find one significant reference to Jonah in the New Testament:

 In Matthew 12:39—41 and Luke 11:29—32 we see mention of the “sigh of Jonah”

 It refers to Jesus being in the grave for three days, like Jonah was in the belly of the fish.

 This concept will not be a topic of our discussion during these sermons.

There will be two key points that we come back to in his series:

1. God’s sovereignty always wants our best

2. Attitude is choice