

# JONAH

## Chapter Three

- The New American Standard Bible (NASB) has been used to prepare this Study.
  - If another version is used as reference, it will always be cited.
- When a question instructs you to use your "study tools/helps", this means to use your personal concordance, dictionary or other resource. We will, from time to time, make a "List" available to you

*Looking Back:* Last week we saw a soggy, yet repentant Jonah crying to the Lord from the belly of the great fish. For three days and three nights, this man had the opportunity to contemplate the decision he had made. Was it worth it? Absolutely not! Even though Jonah is "slow" to repent.. he repents. He knows exactly why this has happened to him and he knows exactly WHO is in charge. Aren't you encouraged by Jonah's experience? How often we choose to do things our own way, only to find ourselves in a huge mess! Like Jonah, if we acknowledge our disobedience and sincerely turn to the Lord for help... He's always there for us. Second chances are His specialty.

God's next conversation with the great fish may have gone something like this, "I know this has been a huge belly-ache for you, but it's gonna get a bit worse before it gets better. You want this "irritant" out of you... you're going to get extremely nauseous and when that happens... head for the beach... relief is on the way." ☺

*Looking Ahead:* Jonah's back on track. He walks throughout the great city with a disturbing message, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown". For many days Jonah will be in this massive city... observing their practices... hearing their conversations... watching the children play, etc. He had the opportunity to feel compassion for at least the children and the animals. Will this happen? Well, we won't discover this until chapter 4. What we will discover in this chapter is how the message was received. The Ninevites were extremely wicked people, so what are the chances that any good could come from this? Was the message of doom and gloom heeded or rejected? Got your curiosity? Let's jump right in to the Bible Study and see how this all turns out...

This weeks Memory verse is **2 Peter 3:9**. Begin memorizing the verse(s) today.  
*Ask the Holy Spirit to help you memorize this passage and for opportunities to apply it...*

**"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9**

Write out **2 Peter 3:9** here: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write this verse(s) on your index cards... keep one with you & post the other in a prominent place...*

**DAY ONE**

Pray, then read **Jonah 3:1-2**

1. Jonah had already received God’s proclamation to go to Nineveh (Jonah 1:2), yet refused to go. Now the Lord tells Jonah a second time... “Arise, \_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the great city and proclaim to it the \_\_\_\_\_ which I am going to tell you.”

- A. Define proclamation: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Read Matthew 21:28-32. Focusing on v.28-29, what similarity do you see between the man’s son and Jonah? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. How does James 4:17 shed some additional light on this subject? \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal:** Aren’t you glad that our God is a God of second chances? Is there an area within your life today in which, you, have mouthed the words “YES Lord!”, and have not followed through, or have even said “NO Lord!”? \_\_\_\_\_ Perhaps the Holy Spirit is prompting you to “regret” your disobedience, repent and receive a second chance to do what He asked... like the son, and Jonah. If you are able, briefly share your story. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In Jonah 1:2a & 3:2a, Nineveh is referred to as “the great city”. What do you think this is in reference to, especially considering its wickedness? Share your resource, or you may use the one provided on pages 5-6... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 Time to practice: Fill in the blanks: “The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ about His \_\_\_\_\_, as some count slowness, but is \_\_\_\_\_ toward \_\_\_\_\_, not wishing for \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ but for \_\_\_\_\_ to come to \_\_\_\_\_.” \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY TWO**

Pray, then read **Jonah 3:3**

1. Did Jonah go?  Yes  No

A. Jonah went to Nineveh “according to the word of the Lord”. At this point, Jonah was ready to relinquish his own will for God’s will. Whether or not he was excited about going to Nineveh, he chose to be obedient to the Word of the Lord. **In your own words**, what is the message of I Samuel 15:22-23? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

♥ We all need a heart change sometimes... 1 an’a 2, all together now ...   
Change my heart O God, make it ever true... change my heart O God, may I be like You (repeat)  
You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.  
Change my heart O God, make it ever true... change my heart O God, may I be like You ~

B. What was the desire of David’s heart? (Psalm 40:8) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. We've already established Nineveh was a "great city". The New International Version translates this verse, "...Now Nineveh was a very important city..." Why do you believe this city was so "important" that God sent Jonah there? Not a clue? Peek ahead to Jonah 4:11. \_\_\_\_\_

A. How long would it take a man to walk through Nineveh? \_\_\_\_\_

B. In a spiritual sense, let's consider the importance of our old residence verses our new residence. According to Ephesians 2:1-10...

\* What were you saved from? (v.1-3) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Who showed you mercy? (v.4a) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Why? (v.4b,c) \_\_\_\_\_

\* When? (v.5a) \_\_\_\_\_

\* The result? (v.5b) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Where does God see you, right now? (v.6) \_\_\_\_\_

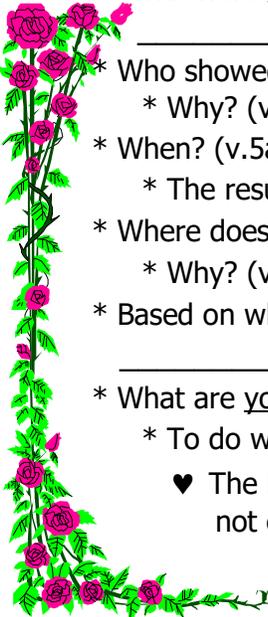
\* Why? (v.7) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Based on what? Beauty? Good works? Weight? Height? Status? (v.8-9) \_\_\_\_\_

\* What are you? (v.10a) \_\_\_\_\_

\* To do what? (v.10b,c) \_\_\_\_\_

♥ The Lord will NEVER ask you to go somewhere, or to do something that He has not equipped you for. We don't have to "MAKE" good works, or "GO DIGGING" for good works... simply "DISCOVER" the good works He has ALREADY created...



 Perfect segue to practice & write out 2 Peter 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

### **DAY THREE**

Pray, then read ***Jonah 3:4-5***

1. At what point did Jonah begin to proclaim the Word of the Lord? (v.4) \_\_\_\_\_

A. What did Jonah "cry out"?: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Challenge:** What does the number 40 represent in Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Some more BIG 40's **Mix & Match**...

- |                        |     |   |
|------------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Exodus 24:12-18     | ___ | Moses lived in Egypt 40 years                               |
| 2. Deuteronomy 9:15-29 | ___ | Moses was in the mount to receive the Law 40 days           |
| 3. I Samuel 4:12-18    | ___ | Christ proclaimed the Gospel 40 days after His resurrection |
| 4. I Kings 11:42       | ___ | Eli judged Israel 40 years                                  |
| 5. Matthew 4:2-3       | ___ | Israel under Solomon 40 years                               |
| 6. Acts 1:1-3          | ___ | Jesus fasted 40 days & was then tempted by the Devil        |
| 7. Acts 7:20-24        | ___ | Moses intercedes <u>after</u> golden calf incident 40 days  |

2. What did the people of Nineveh do to show a heart of repentance? (v.5) \_\_\_\_\_

A. Who participated? \_\_\_\_\_

 Time to practice & write out 2 Peter 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

## **DAY FOUR**

Pray, then read **Jonah 3:6-9**

1. What did the king "do"? (v.6) \_\_\_\_\_

A. What did the king issue? \_\_\_\_\_

B. "Who" would participate in this "decreed" fast? \_\_\_\_\_

1. What were they told not to partake of? \_\_\_\_\_

2. According to v.8b, what else were they to "turn from"? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Joel 2:12-14. This reveals the heart of God toward rebellious Judah.

\* How were they exhorted to return?(v.12) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Describe the character of God revealed here. (v.13) \_\_\_\_\_

\* God has been known to not only relent, but what? (v.14) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the hope of the king? (v.9) \_\_\_\_\_

**(P)ersonal:** Is there an area of "wickedness and/or violence" infecting your walk? Before you answer, define: wickedness \_\_\_\_\_

violence \_\_\_\_\_

These are such "ugly and hard" words we may be tempted to read right past them. Not today. Take a few minutes to ask the Lord to reveal any offensive way and then apply 1 John 1:9. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins AND to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

cleanse-purify from all filthiness, so that henceforth we more and more become free from the presence of sin through the Spirit of sanctification  
unrighteousness-offensive to Him who "is just" or righteous; called "sin," 1 John 1:7 because "sin is the transgression of the law," and the law is the expression of God's righteousness, so that sin is unrighteousness. A. R. Faussett

 Write out 2 Peter 3:9 without looking. \_\_\_\_\_

## **DAY FIVE**

Pray, then read **Jonah 3:10**

1. What did God "see"? (v.10) \_\_\_\_\_

A. What did God "do"? \_\_\_\_\_

1. What do you believe it means for God to "relent/repent"? \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Chuck explains it like this: "The prophet had said, "Forty days and then comes destruction." The people all repented. The destruction did not come. So we in using our finite terms to describe it say, "Well, it repented God," or, "God changed and He did not destroy them." No, God knew all the time that they were going to repent, that's why He sent Jonah to them. God knew all the time that the judgment would not come. But yet, had they not repented, the judgment would have come. But God knows the end from the beginning. And you say, "Oh, but I can't understand it." Of course you can't, because you have only finite, limited understanding and God is infinite. God says, "My ways are not your ways: My ways are beyond your finding out." And so it's only an exercise of frustration to try to understand the full aspects of the character and nature of God." Selah~

2. Read I Kings 21:17-29. Like Nineveh, King Ahab also was graciously given the opportunity to repent. According to v.29, what especially blessed God? \_\_\_\_\_

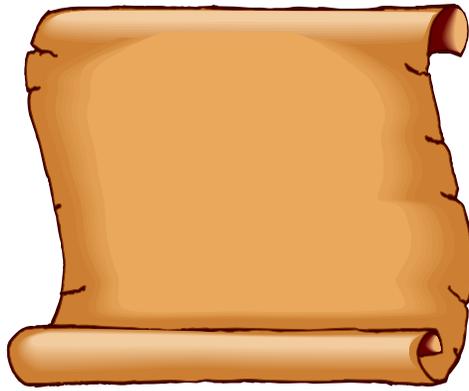
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A. What can we all learn from this? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Give an appropriate title to Jonah, Chapter 3...



 Write out **your memory verse** without looking. \_\_\_\_\_

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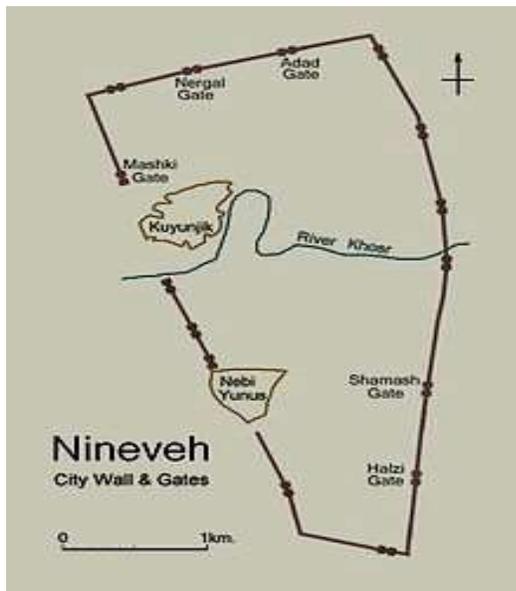
*"But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One."*

*Luke 23:34-35*

**"Nineveh was an exceeding great city,** literally, "great to God," that is, before God. All greatness was, in the Hebrew mind, associated with GOD; hence arose the idiom [expression]". A. R. Faussett **"a city great to God,** so the Hebrew phrase is, meaning no more than as we render it, *exceedingly great*; this honour that language does to the great God that great things derive their denomination from Him. The greatness of Nineveh consisted chiefly in the extent of it; it was much larger than Babylon, such a city, says Diodorus Siculus, as no man ever after built. It was 150 furlongs long and 90 broad, and 480 in compass; the walls 100 feet high, and so thick that three chariots might go a-breast upon them; on them were 1500 towers, each of them 200 feet high. It is here said to be of *three days' journey*; for the compass of the walls, as some relate, was 480 furlongs, which, allowing eight furlongs to a mile, makes sixty miles, which may well be reckoned *three days' journey* for a footman, twenty ... miles a day. Or, walking slowly and gravely as Jonah must when he went about preaching, it would take him up at least *three days* to go through all the principal streets and lanes of the city, to proclaim his message, that all might have notice of it." Matthew Henry

# City Wall and Gates - WIKIPEDIA

Simplified plan of ancient Nineveh showing city wall and location of gateways.



The ruins of Nineveh are surrounded by the remains of a massive stone and mudbrick wall dating from about 700 BC. About 12 km in length, the wall system consisted of an ashlar stone retaining wall about 20 ft high surmounted by a mudbrick wall about 33 ft high and 49 ft thick. The stone retaining wall had a foresticking stone towers spaced about every 59 ft. The stone wall and towers were topped by three-step merlons (see below)



The city wall was fitted with fifteen monumental gateways. In addition to serving as checkpoints on entering and exiting the city, these structures were probably used as barracks and armories. With the inner and outer doors shut, the gateways were virtual fortresses. The bases of the walls of the vaulted passages and interior chambers of the gateway were lined with finely cut stone orthostats about 3 ft high. A stairway led from one of the interior chambers to the top of the mudbrick wall...



Mashki Gate; Reconstructed