

# JONAH

## Chapter Four

- 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:* What a glorious day it must have been in heaven when the entire city of Nineveh repented! The angels must have been singing and glorifying God like never before to see such an evil and adulterous society humble themselves before God. There is nothing more beautiful and more awesome to behold.

This should be a loud and convicting message for all of us. There are those people that we are so quick to write off, assuming they will NEVER change their evil ways. God saw that the people of Nineveh had hearts that He could touch... so he sent His servant Jonah to them. Was the message one of love and forgiveness? No. It was pretty much, "Turn or burn!" God knew what they needed to hear and He delivered. Because Jonah was willing to go and to speak for God and they were willing to repent... a great city was spared. ☺

*Looking Ahead:* Jonah is still struggling with his attitude problem. He is angry with God's willingness to forgive the inhabitants of Nineveh. The Ninevites were evil, they were brutal, they were ruthless... they were so undeserving of forgiveness, but not from God's point of view. Jonah has some time to waste. You see, the projected demise of the city was several days off and Jonah wouldn't return home until he "saw" what would happen.

During this "wait and see" period, Jonah will be on a rollercoaster of emotions where his anger will get the best of him. Instead of rejoicing in the wonderful work that God has done, Jonah finds himself battling with his flesh.

Hopefully, this book closes with a changed and thankful Jonah. Perhaps he will praise God for His great love and compassion, or not. How will it all end? We know one thing for sure... God is true to form and He displays a tender heart of reconciliation toward anyone who will turn to Him in sincerity and truth.

This weeks Memory verse is **Proverbs 14:29**. Begin memorizing the verse(s) today.  
*Ask the Holy Spirit to help you memorize this passage and for opportunities to apply it...*

**"He who is slow to anger has great understanding,  
But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly."  
Proverbs 14:29**

Write out **Proverbs 14:29** 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 4:1**

1. Re-read Jonah 3:10. What was it that "displeased" Jonah? (v.1a) \_\_\_\_\_

A. The people of Nineveh were not alone in their need to repent. God often uses others to reveal the sin within our own heart. Why do you believe Jonah was so "displeased" at the marvelous work of a complete city of sinners being forgiven? \_\_\_\_\_

**(P)ersonal:** This is very sad... and yet even believers may be tempted to become "displeased" with fellow believers! You know the one that receives "something" that you so long for, or someone is healed physically, immediately - when you have been so faithfully praying. Ladies, we could list 100's of examples, however, the most important one is the one that just "popped" into your mind/heart. Confess! Repent! He wants to forgive you... but you must ask! Write out and pray Psalm 139:23-24. \_\_\_\_\_

\* Thank Him for revealing this to you...

B. In addition to displeasure, what emotion was Jonah now displaying? \_\_\_\_\_

1. What do the following verses say in regard to to anger?

**Mix & Match**

- 1. Proverbs 12:16    \_\_\_    It resides in the bosom of a fool
- 2. Proverbs 14:29    \_\_\_    produces strife
- 3. Proverbs 15:18    \_\_\_    is a fool and is known at once
- 4. Proverbs 30:33    \_\_\_    stirs up strife
- 5. Ecclesiastes 7:9    \_\_\_    exalts folly

a. Which of the above ministers to &/or convicts you, why? \_\_\_\_\_



Time to practice our memory verse. Fill in the blanks: "He who is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_, But he who is \_\_\_\_\_ - tempered \_\_\_\_\_ folly." \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY TWO**

Pray, then read **Jonah 4:2-4**

1. Is Jonah's prayer a "prayer of repentance"? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

A. What **FACTS** did Jonah acknowledge about God? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jonah, himself, had experienced these attributes of God, and yet was unwilling to rejoice when God chose to bestow them on Nineveh. Using your "study tools/helps", why do you believe Jonah was so resistant to God's will and plan for Nineveh? Share your resource.

2. According to v.3, what is the desire of Jonah's heart? \_\_\_\_\_

A. Contrast Jonah's attitude with that of the Apostle Paul found in Philippians 1:19-26. When facing extreme affliction...

\* What was Paul's heart? (v.20b) \_\_\_\_\_

\* What was Paul's dilemma? (v.22-23) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Ultimately, who was Paul most concerned for? (v.24-26) \_\_\_\_\_

\* What is Paul's "bottom line"? (v.21) \_\_\_\_\_

♥ Ladies, we should be "longing" to be in Heaven... but not to avoid our trial. Read Matthew Henry's comment on this verse and then share your thoughts:

"Jonah being now in the midst of his usefulness, and is therefore fit to live. He was one whose ministry God wonderfully owned and prospered. The conversion of Nineveh might give him hopes of being instrumental to convert the whole kingdom of Assyria; it was therefore very absurd for him to wish he might die when he had a prospect of living to so good a purpose and could be so ill spared. Jonah being now so much out of temper and therefore unfit to die. How durst he think of dying, and going to appear before God's judgment-seat, when he was actually quarrelling with Him? Was this a frame of spirit proper for a man to go out of the world in? But those who passionately desire death commonly have least reason to do it, as being very much unprepared for it. Our business is to get ready to die by doing the work of life, and then to refer ourselves to God to take away our life when and how He pleases. Matthew Henry

♥ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is God's question for Jonah? (v.4) \_\_\_\_\_

A. Read Genesis 4:1-8. What is God's solution for an angry/bitter heart? (v.6-7) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* How might Jonah have "done well" in his situation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Time to practice & write out **Proverbs 14:29** \_\_\_\_\_

***DAY THREE***

Pray, then read ***Jonah 4:5-8***

1. Where did Jonah go? \_\_\_\_\_

A. What did he do \_\_\_\_\_

B. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. As Jonah sat, waiting to see what would happen to Nineveh, what did the Lord do? (v.6) \_\_\_\_\_

***4:6 a plant.*** Probably the castor oil plant, whose large leaves provided welcome shade from the sun's heat. It's swift growth was an act of God. Ryrie Study Bible

A. What was this plant's "purpose"? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe Jonah's reaction. \_\_\_\_\_

a. Jonah was "extremely happy" about the plant. According to Psalm 128:1-2, where is true happiness/blessings found? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. As Jonah enjoyed the shade God had "appointed" for him, what happened? (v.7) \_\_\_\_\_

A. What was this worms "appointed" purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

4. God "appointed" a great fish to swallow Jonah (Jonah 1:17). Now, in this chapter, He "appointed" the plant to grow up (v.6), then He "appointed" a worm to attack the plant (v.7). What now does God "appoint"? (v.8) \_\_\_\_\_

A. Define: appoint \_\_\_\_\_

1. Consider God's Sovereignty for a moment. According to Psalm 89:11, what is NOT under God's control? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How does Jonah react to the sun and the scorching east wind? (v.8b) \_\_\_\_\_

A. Jonah wanted to die again! Compare v.3 with v.8b. Why do you believe Jonah was so despairing of life this time? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Consider where you are today... a place of shade, a place of withering, being attacked by a worm, facing scorching east winds... Where is God in all of these "places"? Use Scripture to support your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

 Time to practice & write out **Proverbs 14:29** \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY FOUR**

Pray, then read **Jonah 4:9-11**

1. Write out God's question to Jonah? (v.9) \_\_\_\_\_

A. What was his answer? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Wow! Is anything really more important than the salvation of the people of Nineveh? Is there a something more important in your life right now that is causing you to *hate* someone around you? If so, tell the Lord you are sorry, change your attitude, pray and write out Philippians 2:3-4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does v.10-11 confirm to you about His love and care for all of His creation? \_\_\_\_\_

A. God chose to have compassion on the inhabitants of Nineveh. Read Romans 9:15-16.

\* What did God say to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

\* v.16 says, "So then it does NOT depend upon \_\_\_\_\_ but on \_\_\_\_\_ who has \_\_\_\_\_."

1. Define: mercy \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

"God used the plant as an object lesson to teach Jonah this important truth: if Jonah was justified in being so upset about the loss of a plant to whose existence he had contributed nothing, was not God justified in showing love and concern for the people of Nineveh, whom He had created? The population must have been around 600,000 if there were 120,000 children. A final irony, as if to say, "Jonah, even if you approve of the destruction of hundreds of thousands, think of the waste of the livestock that would be involved." Ryrie Study Bible Note / NASB

 Write out **Proverbs 14:29** without looking. \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY FIVE**

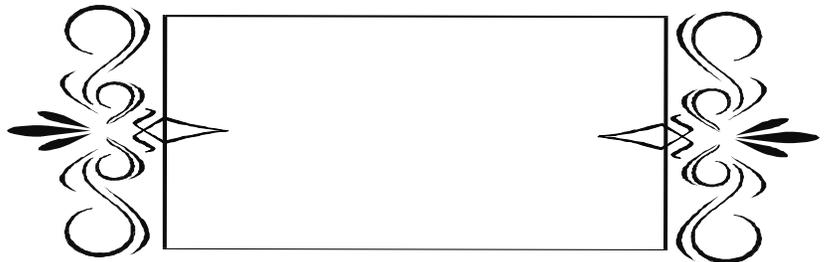
Pray, then read ***the following...***

"From all this we may learn,  
(1.) That though God may suffer His people to fall into sin, yet He will not suffer them to lie still in it, but will take a course effectually to show them their error, and to bring them to themselves and to their right mind again. We have reason to hope that Jonah, after this, was well reconciled to the sparing of Nineveh, and was as well pleased with it as ever he had been displeased.  
(2.) That God will justify Himself in the methods of His grace towards repenting returning sinners as well as in the course His justice takes with those that persist in their rebellion; though there be those that murmur at the mercy of God, because they do not understand it (for His thoughts and ways therein are as far above ours as heaven above the earth), yet He will make it evident that therein He acts like Himself, and will be *justified when He speaks*. See what pains He takes with Jonah to convince him that it is very fit that Nineveh should be spared. Jonah had said, *I do well to be angry*, but he could not prove it. God says and proves it, *I do well to be merciful*; and it is a great encouragement to poor sinners to... hope that they shall find mercy with Him, that He is so ready to justify Himself in showing mercy and to triumph in those whom He makes the monuments of it, against those whose eye is evil because His is good. Such murmurers shall be made to understand this doctrine, that, how narrow soever their souls, their principles, are, and how willing soever they are to engross divine grace to themselves and those of their own way, there is one *Lord over all, that is rich in mercy to all that call upon him*, and in every *nation*, in Nineveh as well as in Israel, *he that fears God and works righteousness is accepted of Him*; he that repents, and turns from his evil way, shall find mercy with Him." Matthew Henry

1. Please share a few things that you learned from the book of Jonah that YOU will begin applying in your life today.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. Give an appropriate title to the Book of Jonah...



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

*"May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your counsel!  
We will sing for joy over your victory,  
and in the name of our God we will set up our banners.  
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions."  
Psalm 20:4-5*

