

Jonah chapter 2 recap

- Jonah came to his senses and prayed to the Lord.
- He repented.
- He worshiped.
- He made a vow to make a sacrifice to the lord.
- The Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah on dry land.

Jonah Chapter 3

Verse 1

- Now the Word (**the command, some would say prophetic spirit**) of the Lord (**sovereign King, all powerful, righteous ruler**) came to Jonah the second time (**for the second time God gives Jonah the gift of prophesy which is a sign of his reconciliation with God and a restoration to his office**).

This second chance to Jonah signifies how great the Lord's mercy is. He is a God of second chances.

Psalm 86:15

But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

- The Bible is full of people who received second chances, and even third and fourth chances: Peter, Jonah, Mark, Samson, David, and others. All examples of God's grace.

Verse 2

- Arise (**wake up, get up, stand up**) go to Nineveh, that great city,
- In the entire book, Nineveh is referred to as a great city 4 times, why?
- Was it great because it had great fortification?
- it had a multitude of towers.
- Or because it had great walls (**height and breadth**),
- Or a great multitude of people (**120,000**)
- Or it had great riches among its citizens.
- It was also great in its multitude of sin.
- This was a city whose gentile inhabitants were considered ignorant and could not tell the difference between their left and right hand. They were very wicked.
- Yet their status warranted the warning of a prophet.
- Spiritually, it had no greatness whatsoever.
- Maybe God used the city of Nineveh as a reproach to Jonah and the Jews who thought that God was only for them and not the gentiles?
- Was it an example of what the Lord meant when He said,

John 10:16

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- In the same way God reprov'd Jonah through the faith of the gentile mariners, God reprov'd the Jews through the quick and genuine repentance of the Ninevites who did not ask for signs and wonders to believe.
- And preach (**proclaim, declare, evangelize**) to it the message (**communication, word**) that I tell (**speak, declare, pronounce to**) you.

Verse 3

- So Jonah arose (**woke up, got up**) and went to Nineveh, according to the word (**command, instruction, order**) of the Lord (**God almighty, sovereign one**).
- Jonah without hesitation this time obeys and leaves to carry out the Lord's wishes.
- Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city (**in size**) about 18.75 miles round, her walls were 100 feet high, it had 1500 towers on its wall which were 200 feet high, each. 1,400,000 men were employed continually for eight years to build it.

Verse 4

- It would take Jonah 3 days to walk through the city. He was eager to share God's message to the people and he shared it after a day's walk.
- Then he cried **out (called out, shouted yelled, proclaimed)** and said "yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (**put an end to by force, abolished, defeated**)

Verse 5

- So the people of Nineveh believed (**trusted, accepted as true, put faith in**) God (**Yahweh, the just one, the God of righteousness, the mighty one**) proclaimed a fast (**fore go, denial, abstinence from food**) and put on sackcloth (**show image**) (**out ward sign of debasement, mourning and repentance**) from the greatest (**noble, high minded, lofty, important**) to the least (**common, ordinary**) of them all.
- Their fasting was an outward show of their desire to break away from sin and to be filled with strength from the Lord. This showed seriousness on their part about what they were determined to do.
- Jonah's message was simple and straight forward. The people of Nineveh believed immediately what they heard because they knew their sin, accepted it, and repented immediately.
- They wore the sackcloth to show how low they had fallen. They did this to show their mourning for all their wickedness. They did this as an outward sign of brokenness, humility and repentance.
- When we repent, there must be an outward sign of repentance.
- Words must be spoken to show repentance.
- There must be actions of a changed person.

- There has to be a new direction taken that is seen by all the aggrieved.

Verse 6

Then word (**news, information, report, intelligence**) came to the king (**who was thought to be a man called Pul-belochus**) of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne (**got down from his royal seat**) and laid aside his robe (**luxury, splendor, comfort**), covered himself with sackcloth (**debasement, mourning, repentance**) and sat in ashes (**ruin and desolation caused by their sin**).

Job 42:6

Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."

Esther 4:1

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

2 He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

3 And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Verse 7

- And he caused it to be proclaimed (**declared, announced**) and published (**spread, circulated**) throughout Nineveh by the decree (**order, command, law, proclamation**) of the king and his nobles (**upper class, aristocracy, ruling class, elite, royalty, high society**), saying, let neither man nor beast (**horses, donkeys, camels**), herd nor flock (**sheep, cattle, goats**), taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink.
- Matthew Poole in his commentary says, "let all, man and beast, forbear to eat or drink, that the fast might be most solemn, that the cry of man, seconded with the cry of hungry cattle, might enter the ears of God, who preserveth man and beast."

- This was done to show how solemn and heartfelt the fast was meant to be. A sign of deep repentance.
- I don't think there was anywhere else in the bible where even animals were called to fast in repentance.
- When there is heartfelt, deep repentance from the Ruler to the least in a country, there is forgiveness for the whole nation.

Verse 8

- But let man and beast (**horses and camels were adorned with rich clothing as well**) be covered with sackcloth (**mourning and repentance**), and cry (**beg, plead, petition**) mightily (**with all your strength**) to God (**Yahweh, the merciful, the redeemer**).
- Yes, (**certainly, emphatically, undoubtedly, so be it**) let everyone (**great and small, poor or rich, young and old**) turn (**desist, stop, reform, discontinue**) from his evil way (**wickedness and sinfulness**) and from the violence (**pillage, plunder, oppression which was the chief sin**) that is in his hands (**acted upon physically by each person of their own accord.**)

Verse 9

- who can tell if God (**Eloah, mighty, strong, prominent, integrity, jealous**) but also stands for (**compassion**)
- Will turn and relent (**grow less severe, have pity, be merciful**), and turn away from His fierce (**furious, terrible, violent**) anger, so that we may not perish (**be destroyed, cease to exist, not only physically but spiritually.**)

Matthew 10:28

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Verse 10

- Then God (**Jehovah Shalom, of peace, mercy**) saw their works (**physical endeavors, efforts**), that they turned from their evil ways (**Of injustice, pillage, oppression and idolatry**) and He did not do it.

Our God is a God of not only second chances but a God of another and another and another chance. He is a patient, loving, long suffering God whose main aim is to see all His children restored to Him no matter what.

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.

He is also a jealous God and will not share our affections with anything else.

Exodus 34:14 '(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

He is also a Holy and Righteous God and will not stand or stomach any wickedness and evil.