

# The Wrath of God

## Jonah Chapter 3 – Nineveh

Jonah, the reluctant and rebellious prophet finally arrives at that great city of Nineveh. For three days he walks through the city preaching repentance and judgment to come. Rabbi's taught that his voice could be heard throughout the city. Conviction and repentance was almost immediate. Something was going on here that was not the normal response to preaching. God was at work.

*"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me." – Jonah 1:2*

### Chapter 3 (NIV)

1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: 2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." 3 Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit required three days. 4 On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."

5 The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. 6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with **sackcloth** and sat down in the dust. 7 Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence."

9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." 10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

## KEY HEBREW WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

The words marked in bold followed by a number indicates the Hebrew number to the word as organized by Strong in Strong's Concordance. Using a computer program or an online program you can click on that number and see the definition and use of that word in Hebrew and elsewhere in the Bible.

- 1 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,
- 2 **Arise** <06965>, **go** <03212> unto Nineveh, that **great** <01419> city, and **preach** <07121> unto it the **preaching** <07150> that I **bid** <01696> you.
- 3 So Jonah **arose** <06965>, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an **exceeding** <0430> **great** <01419> city of three days' journey.
- 4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he **cried** <07121>, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be **overthrown** <02015>.
- 5 So the people of Nineveh **believed** <0539> God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on **sackcloth** <08242> from the greatest of them even to the least of them.
- 6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he **arose** <06965> from his throne and he **laid** <05674> his robe from him, and **covered** <03680>) *him* with **sackcloth** <08242>, and sat in ashes.
- 7 And he caused *it* to be **proclaimed** <02199> and **published** <0559> through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:
- 8 But let man and beast be covered with **sackcloth** <08242>, and **cry** <07121> mightily unto God, yea, let them **turn** <07725> every one from his **evil way** <01870>, and from the **violence** <02555> that *is* in their hands.
- 9 Who can tell *if* God will **turn** <07725> and **repent** <05162> and **turn away** <07725> from his fierce anger that we **perish** <06> not?
- 10 And God saw their works <04639>, that they **turned** <07725> from their **evil** <07451> **way** <01870>; and God **repented** <05162> of the **evil** <07451>, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

### Key words to understand:

- Preach – calling/crying out, <07121> and proclaiming <07150>
- Believed – was this saving faith? To become certain <0539>/NT <4100> pisteuo
- Proclaimed <02199> Published <0559>
- Repent <05162> Repent/turn away <07725>
- Sackcloth and ashes – an outward sign of an inward work
- The Evil – their evil <07451>, and the evil <07451> God would have done.

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### 1. Wicked Nineveh – exposition of the passage and words used in Jonah 3

- The city – review its size and importance
- The enemy – Assyrians were the enemies of Israel
- The sin – evil lifestyle and violence
- The repentance – amazing revival broke out with true heart-felt repentance

### 2. Preaching of Judgment

- Billy Graham – His last book, on Heaven and Hell, *Where I'm Going*
- Francis Chan – *Erasing Hell* vs Rob Bell, *Love Wins*
- Jonathan Edwards – *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*
- L.L. King – *The Lostness of Man*

### 3. The Wrath of God – and the Mercy of God

- Isaiah 1:9 – we would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah
- Romans 2:4 – the goodness of God leads you to repentance
- Lamentations 3:22 – we would have been consumed
- Hebrews 10:31 & 12:29 – hands of a living God, consuming fire
- Jude 1;7, 14-16 – Sodom & Gomorrah – snatching them out of the fire
- Romans 1:18-32 – Wrath of God is revealed on men hold the truth in unrighteousness
- John 3:36 – the wrath of God abides on him
- John 5:24 – shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death to life

### 4. Praying for the Lost & Reaching out to the Lost

- How can you graciously witness/warn the lost?
- How can you show compassion on the lost?
- Who do you know that is lost?
- How to pray for the lost?

### Word Studies

- “Repent”
- “Believe”
- “Wrath of God”
- “Perish”
- “Sodom and Gomorrah”
- “Condemnation”
- “Assyrians”
- “Hell” in New Testament

## Research

To understand Jonah's hatred on Ninevah one must understand the history of Israel and Judah's dealings with the Assyrians. (See Word Study of "Assyrians")

- Pul the king of Assyria also called, Ashur-nirai V (755-745)
- Tilgathpilneser III king of Assyria (745-727 BC)
- Sargon II king of Assyria (722-705 BC)
- Sennacherib the king of Assyria (705-681 BC)
- Ashurbanipal king of Assyria (668-627 BC)

## Discussion Starters

God's Concern for Lost Things

- Have you every lost your checkbook, wallet, a gem, jewels? Tell us about it?
- Have you ever lost a child in a crowd? Stories of missing children.
- Stories of lost people, survival, crown jewels,

## Discussion Topics

1. Look over the "Lost Things" Jesus spoke of in Luke 16.
2. Does God "repent" or change His mind?
3. The Book of Revelation is a scary book. Why? What scary things do you see?
4. Read L.L. King's *The Lostness of Mankind.* What do you think?
5. Read or hear Jonathan Edwards, "*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.*"
6. Read and discuss the difference between Rob Bell's *Love Wins*, and Francis Chan's book *Erasing Hell.*