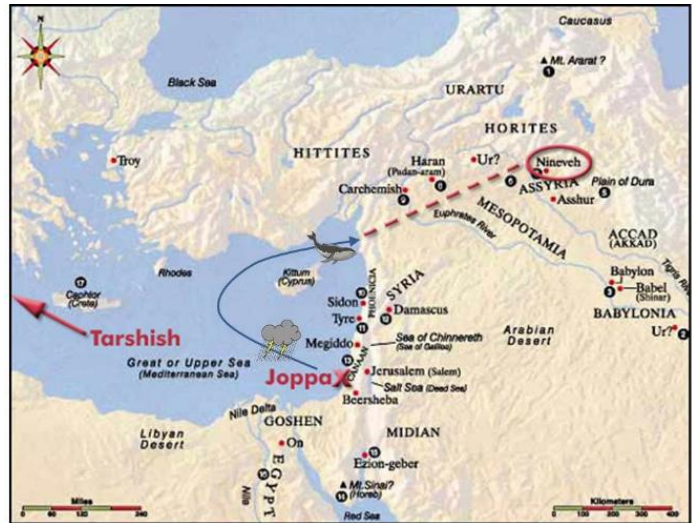


Chapter 3

Introduction: Let us remember Jonah's maxim. That wise conclusion he comes to after his attempt to flee from the LORD. "...those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the *grace that could be theirs.*" (2:8)

Jonah has been through some hard and extraordinary circumstances but it has yielded wisdom for Him.

What is a wise conclusion that came to you when you experienced difficulties?



1. God's Renewed Call to Jonah (3:1-2)

- *God speaks to Jonah a second time.*

If we are in relationship with God, it is only because of His grace. Jonah is given a second opportunity to get it right.

- *Jonah is commanded to go to Nineveh and proclaim the message God gives.*

Jonah had good earthly reasons to not go originally. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire. They were a brutal, violent, and wicked people that often went to war against the Northern Kingdom, Israel. After the time of Jonah (781 BC), they eventually conquered the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC.

2. Jonah's Obedience and Preaching (3:3-4)

- *Jonah obeys and travels to Nineveh.*

Depending upon where the fish coughed him up onto the beach, Jonah travelled six or seven hundred miles to arrive in Nineveh. It probably took about 1 ½ months of walking for Jonah to arrive in the city. Let's not be too hard on Jonah- this was not an easy act of obedience.

Has God ever asked you to obey Him in a situation that was very difficult to navigate? How did you arrive at obeying Him?

- *Jonah proclaims God's warning: Nineveh will be overthrown in forty days.*

Three times in this story Nineveh is referred to as a "great city."

Nimrod founded it, and it was historically significant. The city proper was 8 miles in circumference with a wall around it that was 50 feet wide and 100 feet tall.

But Nineveh was also made up of some companion towns, suburbs if you will.

(Genesis 10:8-12). This metropolitan area also had a wall around it that was 60 miles in circumference. This wall was between 15 to 30 feet wide and 33 to 50 feet high.

3. Nineveh's Response to the Warning (3:5-9)

- *The people of Nineveh believe God's message.*

Remember, the LORD had been working on their hearts to begin with, having recently experienced a complete eclipse of the sun, and also two earthquakes.

God can soften hearts in lots of ways- particularly through troubles.

- *Their belief results in repentance: fasting, wearing sackcloth from the rich to the poor.*

Fasting and the wearing of the sackcloth were signs of mourning. In this case they mourned over their wickedness and their potential extermination. Fasting displays a seriousness before God for change in circumstance or condition.

What value do you think these two exercises have in such circumstances other than bearing witness to God and other of sadness?

- *Even the king of Nineveh puts on sackcloth, sits in the dust, and issues a decree.*

Urgency of prayer is offered up to God- calling for his compassion and to be spared.

What do you believe are the biggest obstacles to repentance and revival in our own land? Do you think God looks at our nation the way He does at Nineveh? Why or Why not?

4. God's Mercy on Nineveh (3:10)

- God sees their repentance and turning from evil.

- God relents from the promised destruction, sparing the city.

Isaiah 30:15-18 _____

Proverbs 1:22-33 _____

**First Baptist Church
Plymouth NC.**

The Book of Jonah

**Wednesday Night Bible Study
Week 3- May 14, 2025**