

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH

CHAPTER 3:1-5

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“THE GOD WHO SPEAKS AGAIN”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

SECOND CHANCES, GRACE, PREACHING, SUBMISSION

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Jonah 3:1-5

Jonah 3:1-5

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. ⁴ And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

Chapter 3 is Home
To The Greatest Evangelistic Campaign in History

Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire

Had developed a history of extreme brutality and paganism.

They're Worship, Demonic
They're Morality, Grotesque
They're Lifestyle, Evil

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS AGAIN

1.) He is Merciful and Gracious

vv. 1-3

1a.) He renews His Work for our lives - again

Verse 1

*Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah
the second time, saying,*

There is Huge Grace and Mercy

here Being Extended to Jonah
(Unnoticed by Jonah am Sure)

The LORD was speaking again to Jonah,
and Jonah could hear Him.

In Old Testament Times

God spoke audibly and vividly *to His prophets*
(ears and eyes)

“The God Who Speaks Again”

In New Testament Times

God speaks consciously and personally *through the Bible*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:15

...they are the "Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

The Bible is the Standard / Arguments for the Word

Philippians 2:16a

holding fast the word of life...

Isaiah 34:16a

"Search the book of the LORD, and read..."

Nehemiah 8:3

Then Ezra read from the Book in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before all the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

Psalms 1:2

For his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

Daniel 10:21a

"But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth..."

The Word of Truth

The Word of Life

The Word of Christ

The Word of God

He renews "His Work" for our lives - again

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

A Mark of True Conversion is That;
The Christian hungers for the Word

1 Peter 2:2-3

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

It's No Wonder Then That...

Revelation 22:19

and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Don't Play With the Book

and Never Speak for God Without Reference
to Chapter and Verse from the Book

So Jonah Hears from God – A Second Time!

Is Merciful and Gracious

1b.) He renews His Word in our lives - again

Verse 2

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you

Jonah 1:2

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it;
for their wickedness has come up before Me."

*Preach to it
the message that I tell you*

“crying against it vs. preaching to it”

The Work and the Word of God is Truth

Nineveh, that great city

Key Graphics of Nineveh

Unearthed in 1845 by English Archeologist
Nineveh – is today Modern Mosul, Iraq.

665,000 population, it is Iraq’s third largest city and home to the Iraqi 5th. Infantry
(it is a key target for the coalition forces this winter.

A delicate military target for the U.S.
The city’s most famous site is
The Mosque of Jonah

(A High Kurdish Muslim and Assyrian Christian Population)

Preach the message that I tell you

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort,
with all longsuffering and teaching.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Isaiah 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it
shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

THAT WHY GOD CAN SAY...

Jeremiah 1:5-9

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." ⁶ Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." ⁷ But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸ Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD.

⁹ Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

Jonah knows the heart of God.

That makes him angry because he knows something that the Ninevites can only hope for...

That God is Good

What has God told us?

“Read the fine print”

Will America be Judged by God for its Sins?

The answer is yes unless what?

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

"When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Has this nation done wickedly?

As a Nation, have we lied and murdered, haven't we attacked God and told Him to stay out of our schools, and courts and our government?

JUDGMENT IS DESERVED, BUT...

"if My people who are called by My name will #1 - humble themselves, #2 - and pray and #3 - seek My face, #4 - and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Then will come Mercy and Grace

Is Merciful and Gracious

1c.) He renews His Will for our lives - again

Verse 1

*So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh,
according to the word of the LORD*

If Jonah would have wanted what God wanted,
he would have done this at the beginning.

There wouldn't have been any Joppa, Sailboat, Storm, Fish ride, no Submarining in the
Mediterranean

He Got Up! / He Went / He Did What God Said to Do

It's so much easier to do what God has told you to do

**God Renews His Will for Our Lives When
We Come to Him**

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS AGAIN

2.) He is Holy and Just

vv. 4

And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

2a.) His Holiness and Justice requires our response

Verse 4

*And Jonah began to enter the city
On the First day's walk...*

God hates evil and cruelty.
He hates injustice and wrong

Jonah Responds in Obedience

Hebrews 10:30-31

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

What is Our Purpose in This Life?

This had to be hard for Jonah.

He hated the Ninevites. He wanted them in Hell.

Imagine His Appearance Now

Step of Obedience #1

"Jonah Began to enter the city..."

"A Jew in a Gentile City"
(These people make me sick)

Step of Obedience #2
“...Then he cried out”

“Everyone is going to be able to hear this”
(These people make me sick)

Cried out HEB 7121 qara' (kaw-raw');
to accost a person or people. To address someone by name.

Step of Obedience #3
“...and he said”

“Here comes the preaching part and when God preaches
He has a purpose”
(These people make me sick)

Verse 4

"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

**The Doctrine of:
The Wrath and Judgment of God**

Turn to Romans 1:18-32

Hebrews 10:26-29

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world (Love) that He gave His only begotten Son, (Justice) that whoever believes in Him (Grace) should not perish (Wrath) but have everlasting life. (Salvation)

I Really Don't Think Jonah Believed in the Message

Jonah Wants Judgment – *not forgiveness*. He wants Action - *Ninevite blood*
And he's afraid that God is going to do The God thing

God loves to Forgive People When they Cry Out to Him

The First Service Sounded like this...
"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

I Really Don't Think Jonah Believed in the Message

Because God's "Word" and God's "Nature" is the Same!

The Sins of the Ninevites
Required Judgment and Punishment
All sin and wrongdoing do

But Jonah Knew Something...

Many people today focus on a lopsided understanding about God
He's either so angry and furious that everyone is going to hell
Or He's so wimpy and weak that everybody gets to go to heaven.

The Truth is
He is the Holy,
Sinless and Eternal God, separate from sinners!

We are Unholy,
Sin filled, Temporary Humans, separated because of Sin

Yet He Loves His Creation... and is not slack concerning His promises, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

He is Holy and Just

2b.) His Holiness and Justice demands payment

Verse 4

...Nineveh shall be overthrown!

The Doctrine of: Atonement / Propitiation

Nineveh had no apparent hope...

**Because they had no god
that would pay their debt of sin**

Dagon was the chief god of the Assyrian's.

He had a human head, shoulders and arms but beneath his arms, the body of a fish. – to the Ninevites, Jonah was a prophet from the sea with an urgent message

The Ninevites Needed Atonement

Ephesians 2:14-18

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and

preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

I Really Don't Think Jonah Believed in the Message, but the Ninevites did!

Exodus 34:5-6

Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD ⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS AGAIN

3.) *He is Faithful and Forgiving*

vv. 5

*So the people of Nineveh believed God,
proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth,
from the greatest to the least of them.*

3a.) *Faithful and Forgiving towards Belief*

Verse 5

So the people of Nineveh believed God

This is the Single Most, One Time Effect Evangelistic Outreach in all History.
There is nothing that compares to this Act of God to date.

**But Why?
“Because they ‘Believed God’”**

That's different from believing *in* god

Gallup Poll
94% of Americans believe *in* god

But to Believe God
Is to not only believe in Him, but to respond to Him

Don't believe Me,
don't believe a Charles Stanley or a Billy Graham or a Chuck Smith

Believe God

Through ONE Jewish prophet over 600,000 gentiles will get saved.
Through 144,000 Jewish prophets Millions will get saved during the Tribulation period

3b.) Faithful and Forgiving towards the Humble

Verse 5

...proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth

They Prayed, Fasted, and Mourned Their Sins

1 Peter 5:6

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

James 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

A change of mind, heart and lifestyle

Do we grieve enough over our sin?

If we were to see sin as God sees sin
We would pray, fast, and mourn our sin

We would be far more powerful in the spirit realm

3c.) Faithful and Forgiving towards any Man

Verse 5

...from the greatest to the least of them.

Who was the Greatest of Them?

Who was the Least of Them?

Jonah and the Ninevites Got a Second Chance at Life

Jeremiah 3:14a

"Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; "for I am married to you.

The God of Second Chances

THE PERSONAL APPLICATION

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS AGAIN

God Had Dealt Mercifully with Jonah

God Had Dealt Mercifully with the Sailors

God Dealt Mercifully with the Ninevites

Was Mercy in the Message?

(Yes)

God's Nature was Known and Heard of Among the Nations

God had a Reputation of being Merciful and Forgiving to anyone who would cry out to Him.

He's the God Who Speaks Again

God Delights in Giving People a Second Chance

When we Fail

– we're stripped of pride and self-assurance. We become more "God Dependent" and God is Glorified through us...

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

He's the God Who Speaks Again

**Remember where Jonah was just three days earlier.
In the belly of the fish, headed in the wrong direction.**

He's the God Who Speaks Again

**But Jonah only blew it once. I've blown it ten times...
Would God even want to know me?**

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

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