

JONAH 3:1-5 Notes:

Mission Renewed

A bad mistake does not keep you from serving.

This chapter includes:

1. Jonah's mission renewed-the command is given a second time for Jonah to preach at Nineveh ([Jonah 3:1, 2](#)).
2. The message was faithfully delivered and overthrow threatened ([Jonah 3:3, 4](#)).
3. Repentance, humiliation and reformation of the people of Nineveh ([Jonah 3:5-9](#)).
4. God's gracious attitude ([Jonah 3:10](#)).

[Jonah 3:1](#) – We have here further evidence of reconciliation. Jonah's commission is renewed and readily obeyed! A bad mistake did not eliminate Jonah from ever serving! *WHEN GOD FORGIVES – FORGET THE PAST AND MOVE ON!* (Repentance and Forgiveness)

- The Lord has patience
- The Lord spoke to Jonah again
- Jonah had deserted his work and duty-sentenced, released, and given liberty and another opportunity!
- Can God really have confidence in Jonah now, after his disobedience?
- When God continues to use Jonah, it is a sure sign that peace exists between the two.

[Jonah 3:2](#) – “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” Now without murmuring and disputing, *“Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.”*

1. Jonah had a change of mind and a different direction in his life.
 - What he had despised, he now loves.
 - What he had rejected-he now accepts.
 - What he did not want-he now desires. Jonah could have said what David said, *“Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now have I kept thy word.”*

JONAH 3:1-5 Notes: (Continued)

2. Jonah was benefited by his change of mind.
 - There was peace and satisfaction within.
 - There was joy and contentment.
 - There was confidence and excitement in doing God's Will.
3. Jonah saw the power of Divine Grace when he changed his mind.

Jonah is sent to Nineveh, which was at this time the chief city of the Gentile world, as an indication of God's gracious intentions in process of time to make the light of divine revelation to shine in those dark regions.

Jonah is sent to Nineveh to preach what was first ordered in [Jonah 1:1, 2](#) *"the preaching that I did bid thee when I first sent you."*

Jonah is sent to denounce divine judgments against Nineveh to tell the men of Nineveh that their wickedness has come up to the rim of God and that God's vengeance is coming down upon them.

Please notice that even though Jonah had refused to take this message at first, the message was not altered! The message is still the same! God made no change of the message for the communicator or the receivers!

THE WORD OF GOD IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ALTER, CHANGE, MODIFY and will not be made to bend to the humors of its preachers or of its hearers – IMMUTABLE/INFLEXIBLE/RIGID.

[Jer. 15:19](#) – *"Let them return unto thee, but return not thou unto them."*

God told Jonah that the specifics of the message he would give him in detail later, which gave encouragement to Jonah that God would be there to support him in a rather hazardous expedition.

When God told Abraham to offer up Isaac, he said a similar thing, *"Offer him on one of the mountains which I will show you."* This really means: "The steps of a God Fearing person are ordered by the Lord."

- Jonah must go without hesitation.
- Jonah must go, trusting. This demands implicit faith!
- Jonah must go, knowing that He will have to depend totally upon the Master's directions.

JONAH 3:1-5 Notes: (Continued)

[Jonah 3:3](#) – *“So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days journey in breadth.”*

It is described as larger than Babylon.

Diodorus Siculus tells us that there was never a city like Nineveh: 150 furlongs long, 90 furlongs broad, 480 in compass, 100 feet high walls and so thick, that 3 chariots might go abreast upon them. 100 towers each of them 200 feet high. 480 furlongs = 60 miles (8 furlongs to a mile). If a person on foot made 20 miles a day it would take 3 days to walk around the city.

To go through all the principal streets and lanes proclaiming the message would take days.

[Jonah 3:4](#) – *“Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey and he cried, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.”*

1. When Jonah arrived he wasted no time.
2. He did not look for the nearest hotel or motel to refresh himself, but opened his commission immediately.
3. Jonah had been instructed. He follows those instructions.
4. There is urgency from God and therefore must be urgency in Jonah’s message.
5. He must tell them that this great city shall be overthrown by an immediate stroke from Heaven, either by an earthquake or by fire and brimstone as Sodom was (not by war).
6. He must tell them that this will take place soon. Wickedness ripens for destruction. Wealth and greatness cannot prevent or protect!
7. A 40 day reprieve is granted, an expression of God’s Grace – space to repent! 40 days is a long time for a righteous God to defer his judgments, yet a brief time for unrighteous people so prone to procrastination. Putting off action, delay at this juncture is very dangerous.

[Jonah 3:5](#) – *“And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.”*

This is a wonder of Divine Grace.

JONAH 3:1-5 Notes: (Continued)

[Matt.12:41](#) reveals that the people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonas, “*but behold, something greater than Jonas is here.*” In Matthew, we have the obstinacy of Israel compared to the submission of Nineveh. Jonah preached but one sermon. But with Israel, the men of God reasoned with them and they were so obstinate.

We see here that the people accepted the Word from the communicator; accepted God as Sovereign and to Him they were accountable.