

To the ends of the Earth

Jonah 3

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January 21, 2018

Vol. 8 Num. 3

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

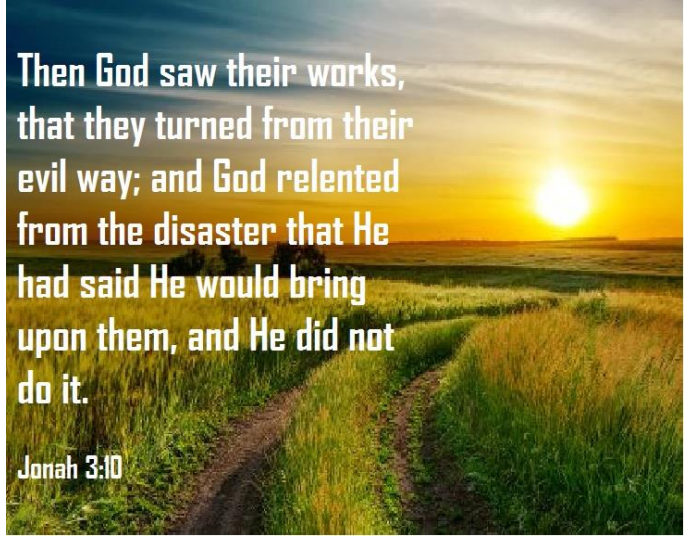
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

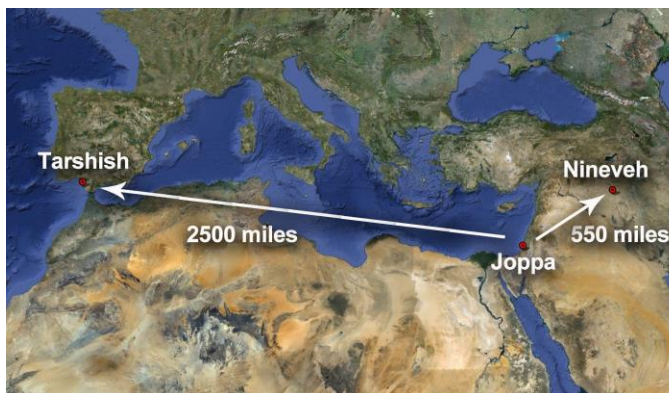
❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Then God saw their works,
that they turned from their
evil way; and God relented
from the disaster that He
had said He would bring
upon them, and He did not
do it.

Jonah 3:10



In This week's passage Jonah is given a second chance. Verse 1 says the Word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time. In chapter 1 Jonah fled from God and in Chapter 2 he prayed from the belly of the fish. Now we see the Lord show grace and mercy to Jonah by again entrusting him with the Word of the Lord. This time Jonah goes to Nineveh like he is instructed. There, the people of Nineveh receive the Word of the Lord and repent, turning from their evil ways. The Word of the Lord is powerful and changes the hearts of the people of Nineveh. God gives forgiveness and second chances for Jonah and for Nineveh and He will for us also.

Jonah 3 (NASB)

Nineveh Repents

3 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,² "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to 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 days' walk. ⁴ Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

⁵ Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. ⁶ When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.⁷ He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh

by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. ⁸ But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰ When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. How did Nineveh repent?

9. What do you think caused Nineveh to repent?

10. Why do you think God did not overthrow the city like He had said?

11. When Nineveh repented why did the people fast and put on sack cloth?

12. Do you think the people of Nineveh were thankful for Jonah's words?

3 EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. The people of Nineveh were exceedingly wicked, yet when they heard the Word of the Lord they repented. Do you think wicked people today still repent when they hear the Word of the Lord?

14. How do we know when it is a good time to share the Word of the Lord?

15. If you spent 3 days walking across Houston declaring the Word of the Lord do you think it would have a positive outcome like it did for Jonah? Why or why not? What is different?

16. With whom do you think you should share the Word of the Lord? Will you commit to pray for good opportunities to share the Word with the people God has placed on your heart?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES