

THE BOOK OF JONAH

Lesson 3 - Chapter 3

In Jonah 1:1 the word of the LORD came to Jonah, and he ran instead of obeying the LORD. We have seen how God used the weather and the circumstances to bring Jonah back to Him and, in Chapter 2, Jonah cried out to the LORD and repented. Now, in Chapter 3, we will see our God as the God of another chance. Bask in His mercy as you continue with this study of Jonah.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse is Lamentations 3:22-23.

*"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."*

Read Jonah 3:1- 2.

1. *The word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time...*

a. What does this say to you about the Lord?

b. Think about a time when you didn't listen and the Lord came to you a *second time*. What led you back to obedience?

2. There are some obvious parallels between Jonah 1:1-2 and Jonah 3:1-2. What similarities do you see?

3. Consider the Lord's instructions to Jonah.

a. What did Jonah 1:2 say about the message Jonah was to take to Nineveh?

b. What did Jonah 3:1-2 say about the message?

c. What message did Jonah actually proclaim in Jonah 3:4?

4. It's important for us to remember that the Lord told Jonah to preach *the message that I tell you*.

a. How does this apply to teachers of God's message today?

b. What message has God given to all Christians to preach? See Mark 16:15.

c. Maybe even this week, ask the Lord to give you the opportunity to share the Gospel with someone.

5. It is important for us to remember that we are responsible to speak the words God gives us, but we are not responsible for the response of the hearer. What does Ezekiel 2:7 say about this?

Read Jonah 3:3-4.

1. In response to God's instruction, what did Jonah do in Jonah 3:3?

2. Jesus spoke a parable that is similar to Jonah's actions. Read this parable in Matthew 21:28-31 and answer the following questions.

a. What was the father's instruction to his sons?

b. Describe the response of the first son.

c. Describe the response of the second son?

d. Jesus then asked, "*Which of the two did the will of [his] father?*" How does the answer given in Matthew 21:31 apply to Jonah?

3. As a reminder, write out the message Jonah proclaimed from Jonah 3:4.

a. Write a meaning or synonyms for *overthrow*.

b. The same phrase was used in Genesis 19:24-25. Read these verses about Sodom and Gomorrah and add below any additional understanding it brings to Jonah's message.

Read Jonah 3:5-9.

1. From Jonah 3:5, record the three things the people of Nineveh did when they heard Jonah preach the *message of the LORD*.

1.

2.

3.

a. Define the word *believe* as it would apply in this verse.

b. What evidence do you see that the people did believe?

2. Next, in Jonah 3:6, we read of the response of the king of Nineveh to the *message of the LORD*. Write his response below.

3. The king did not stop with his personal response but, as king and leader, he went on to make a proclamation to all the city.

a. Using Jonah 3:7-8, list the commands of the proclamation and published decree below.

b. What does it mean when the king said to *turn from his evil way*?

4. What was the king's hope in Jonah 3:9?

5. In Joel 2:13 we find a call for repentance and the hope to be found in the character of God.

a. How does the first half of this verse describe repentance?

b. Write the description of the character of God from the middle of this verse.

c. Complete the last words of this verse, which describe God's response to the repentance, below.

...and He _____.

6. Remember God's heart toward the sinner by writing John 3:16 below.

Read Jonah 3:10.

1. Jonah 3:10 records the fact that God did *relent* of *overthrowing Nineveh*.

a. What reason is revealed in verse 10?

b. Why is this important in repentance?

2. What aspects of repentance do you find in the following scriptures?

a. Proverbs 28:13

b. Jeremiah 31:19

c. Matthew 3:8

3. We have seen the repentance of both Jonah and the people of Nineveh. Now consider God's response to that repentance.

a. In Jonah 2:10 and 3:1-2, what did God do after Jonah repented?

b. What did He do in Jonah 3:10, after Nineveh repented?

4. Write what you find of the character of God revealed in each of the following Old Testament scriptures.

a. Psalm 86:15

b. Lamentations 3:22-23

c. Isaiah 30:18

d. Micah 7:18-19

5. As you read the New Testament scriptures below, write what you find and rejoice in the benefits you have received through God's mercy!

a. Ephesians 2:4-5

b. Titus 3:5

c. 1 Peter 1:3

In closing...

In this Chapter we considered the repentance of Jonah for his sin of disobedience and the repentance of Nineveh for their sin. Every Christian must come to the place of repentance in order to be saved, and we must repent each time we disobey or turn to sin. The beautiful thing we also saw this week was the mercy of God! Each one of us have felt His mercy in our own lives. Before you leave the study, take time to express your thankfulness to God for His mercy that is new every morning.

Memory Verse

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Lamentations 3:22-23*