

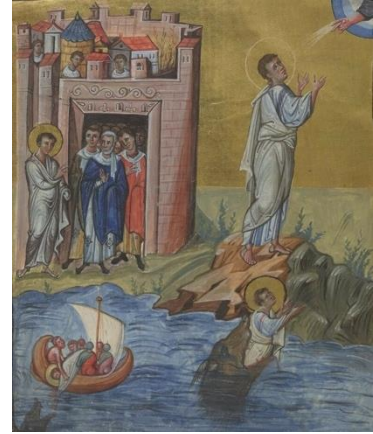
## Weekly Scripture and Sermon Study: History &amp; Context Guide

## Jonah 3:1-10

## History, Culture, &amp; Context

This section of the Book of Jonah is known as Jonah's second response to God's call and explains what happens when Jonah finally goes to Nineveh.

Verses 1-5 says, "The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth."



Verses 6-9 says, "When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Humans and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

Verses 10 says, "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it." It is important to point out that we see both Jonah's response to God (evidenced by his return to Nineveh and preaching) as well as God's mercy shown through the salvation of Nineveh!

The Life Application Study Bible says, "The pagan people of Nineveh believed Jonah's message and repented. What a miraculous effect God's words had on those evil people! Their repentance stood in stark contrast to Israel's stubbornness. The people of Israel had heard many messages from the prophets, but they had refused to repent. The people of Nineveh only needed to hear God's message once. Jesus said that at the judgement, the people of Nineveh will stand up to condemn the Israelites for their failure to repent (Matthew 12:39-41). It is not our hearing God's word that pleases Him, but our responding obediently to it."

## Questions to Consider

1. What similarities do you see between the sailors in chapter 1 and the Ninevites in chapter 3?
2. What are some of God's attributes you can identify from this chapter?
3. Jonah ran away from God's call in chapter 1 but was given another chance to do God's work. When have you been given a second chance at something that you felt disqualified from doing?