

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Jonah 3

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Chapter three says, **"Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time saying, 'Arise and go to Nineveh that great city and preach to it the message that I will tell you.'" (3:1)** This time Jonah obeyed and did according to what the LORD told him to do. Historians say that the city walls of Nineveh during the days of Jonah would have been approximately eight miles in circumference. This is a large city in that time period. The three days journey most likely referred to the greater Nineveh metropolitan area, which would have covered an area of approximately fifty-five miles across and around. This is what in modern terms would be the outskirts of the city.

Jonah's message was a message of judgment, but a message of judgment mixed with mercy. God said that the city **would be overthrown**, but not until forty days had passed. This was meant to allow the people of the city to "repent" and turn to God. The people of the city did indeed listen to Jonah's warning and the scriptures record the following:

"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. 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. 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. 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. "Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish." (Jonah 3:5-9)

The powerful message of God had spoken to the heart of the people. God had prepared Jonah for this special moment and by the response of the people of Nineveh, He had been preparing the people to hear Jonah as well. This is very instructive for a follower of Jesus today.

Prayer and Action Steps

When God gives us an assignment, He is already working on the other end in the lives of others. "Trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus..."

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?

