

Jonah

The brave and foolish man

The story so far



??????

Jonah Chapter 3

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time ..

Why didn't God get somebody else ?



**O God
of Second Chances
and New Beginnings,
Here I am. Again.**



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Marching Orders



"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh.

Why did Jonah obey this time ?

Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

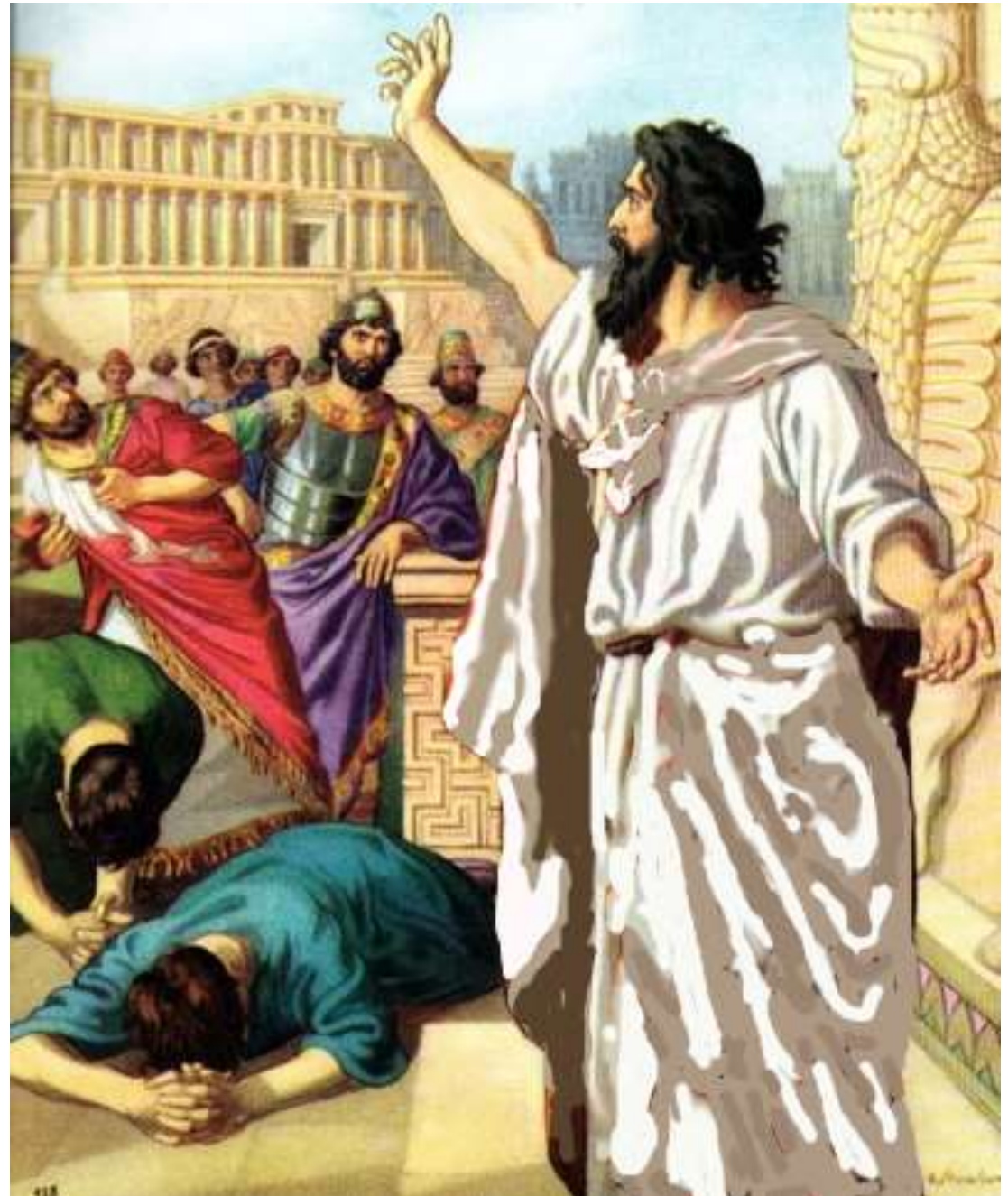


Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

How did God get their attention?

*The sailor's story?
Jonah's appearance ?
A work by the Holy Spirit?*

What kind of "Gospel Message" did he give ?





WFO

DAYS

*Did God mean it ?
The unspoken condition !*

The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

An outward demonstration of an inner change.



When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.



First, they heard

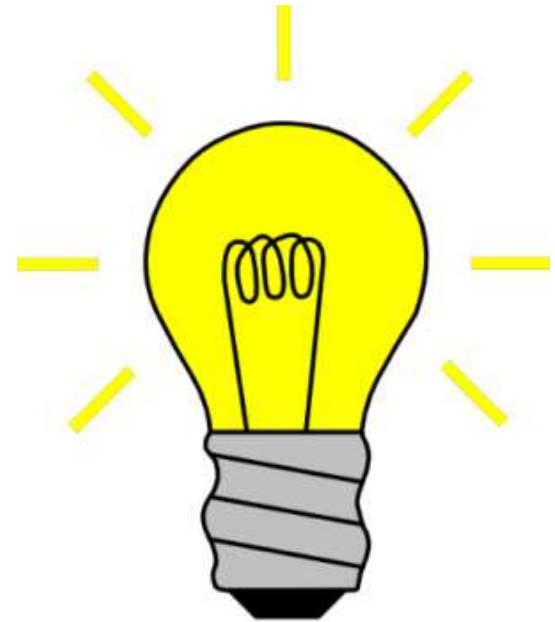
(Romans 10: 14)

And how can they hear without someone
preaching to them?



Then they BELIEVED God

(not simply IN God but WHAT he said)



Next they responded to what he said

1, sackcloth



2, no eating & drinking (fasted)



Next they responded to what he said

1, sackcloth

2, no eating & drinking (fasted)

3, they prayed to God

4, changed their ways

*Has God spoken to you
about things in your life?*



Faith and repentance

1 Peter 3:10 -12

For, "Whoever
and see good days
their tongue from
lips from deceitful
must turn from evil



would love life
must keep
evil and their
speech. They
and do good;

they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Jesus accepted their repentance as genuine response of their new faith.

"The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah" Luke 11: 32

The Sinner's Brilliant Logic !



Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

Jonah was an example !



God's response to their response

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

800 years later Peter wrote : 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

He is still the same.

**What would the sceptics say after the
40 days were over ?**



How would you answer them?

**How did Jesus answer the sceptics of
his day who wanted “proof” ?**

Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.

Luke 11: 29



There is still someone else need fixing !

