



# Jonah

God Speaks

# Recap

## Welcome to Nineveh

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 3:1-2**

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.

**vs 7-9**

# Recap

**Everyone, regardless of culture, history or race can encounter God**

**After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. [Revelation 7:9](#)**

**We acknowledge the encounter with God by our change in belief and behaviour**

**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, [Acts 3:19](#)**

**God hears and changes His stance towards us**

**For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son [Romans 5:10](#)**

# Recap

**Are your beliefs true or convenient?**

**I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 4:2b**

# Themes of Jonah

**Week 1-**The book of Jonah is full of the supernatural (forget the whale)

**Week 2-**Jonah was an unwilling prophet and hated the “other”

**Week 3-**The Other can find God

**Week 4-**Gods heart

# Jonah the Dense Prophet

**But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.** He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. **Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”** 4:1-3

# Jonah the Dense Prophet

**But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?” vs 4**

**Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. vs 5**

# Jonah the Dense Prophet

Then the **Lord God provided** a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and **Jonah was very happy about the plant.** vs 6

But at dawn the next day **God provided a worm**, which chewed the plant so that it withered. vs 7

When the sun rose, **God provided a scorching east wind**, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." vs 8

# The Big Reveal

But God said to Jonah, **“Is it right** for you to be angry about the plant?” **vs 9**

**“It is,”** he said. **“And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”**

# The Big Reveal

But the Lord said, “**You have been concerned about this plant (your comfort)**, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have **concern for the great city of Nineveh**, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

**vs 10-11**

# **The Rest of the Story**

**The Book of Jonah was likely written around 760 B.C.**

**The main theme of Jonah is not the prophet but of God's mercy to those who are far from His plan of redemption**

**The story and relationship between Nineveh and God does not end in the book of Jonah**

# **The Rest of the Story**

**"About a hundred years before, at Jonah's preaching, the Ninevites repented, and were spared, yet, soon after, they became worse than ever."**  
**Matthew Henry**

# The Rest of the Story

Old Nineveh, still in ruins, near Mosul, Iraq.

Google Earth

## **The Rest of the Story**

**"Nineveh was laid waste as ruthlessly and completely as her kings had once ravaged Susa and Babylon; the city was put to the torch, the population was slaughtered or enslaved, and the palace so recently built by Ashurbanipal was sacked and destroyed. At one blow Assyria disappeared from history. Nothing remained of her except certain tactics and weapons of war ...The Near East remembered her for a while as a merciless unifier of a dozen lesser states; and the Jews recalled Nineveh vengefully as 'the bloody city, full of lies and robbery.'**

**Lenormant and E. Chevallier,  
*The Rise and Fall of Assyria***

# **The Rest of the Story**

**God spared Nineveh as He promised but that promise wasn't regardless of their behaviour**

**Chosen or the "other" is loved by God and He calls ALL to find Him and be in relationship with Him**

**A relationship has two parts. Our past with God is not all that He has for us**

# God's Heart for Humanity

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the

**Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

**The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it;** for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.

**Matthew 12:40-41**

# God's Heart for Humanity

**“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. **God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him,** though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ **Acts 17:24-28**”**

# God's Heart for Humanity

**“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, **but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.** For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” **vs 29-31****