

Messed Up Great City

Jonah 1:1-3 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.”

_____ **For An Evil City** “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” (V.2)

- **Arise, go to Nineveh...**”

Nineveh: Built by Nimrod (Gen. 10:11); and the capitol of Assyria. Not mentioned again until Jonah.

- “...an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth.” (3:3)
- “...more than 120,000 persons” (4:11)
- **Nahum** foretold the utter desolation
- **Zephaniah** predicted its destruction, along with the fall of the Assyrian empire

Regarding Nineveh:

Nahum 3:1-3 “Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder—no end to the prey! The crack of the whip, and rumble of the wheel, galloping horse and bounding chariot! Horsemen charging, flashing sword and glittering spear, hosts of slain, heaps of corpses, dead bodies without end— they stumble over the bodies!”

Warning - 40 Days to Repent:

Jonah 3:4 “Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

- **Grace Period**

_____ **For A Reluctant Prophet** “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” (V.1-2)

- **Jonah** - Hebrew word for “dove.” **Amittai** - “truthful, or loyal”
- **Other prophets and men of God questioned God’s call for them**
- **Jonah is the case of a prophet outright trying to thwart the will of God.**

Jonah 1:3 “But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”

- **Opposite direction**
- **Jonah’s Problem?** Assyria’s cruelty, Israel’s political distaste for them, and a sense of spiritual superiority (covenant people)

Leviticus 19:34 “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

_____ **For A Repentant People** “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” (V.1-2)

Jonah 3:5-6 “And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.”

Jonah 3:10 “When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Jonah’s Ugly Heart:

Jonah 4:1-2 “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.
2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.”

God:

Jonah 4:11 “And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”