

## Obediah

Obediah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. Obediah was the author and we do not know anything about him except his name, which means “servant of Yahweh”. Obediah wrote this book somewhere between 848-841 BC.

When I think of this book, I think of a family feud that went wild; like the Hatfields and McCoys. The Edomites came from Esau, Jacob’s twin brother. And tensions between these twins accelerated as time went on. When Israelites left Egypt going to Canaan they asked Edom if they could go through their land to get to Canaan. Edom said “no” (Numbers 20:14-21).

King Saul fought them (1 Samuel 14:47) and King David conquered them (2 Samuel 8:13-14). Edom rebelled against Judah during the reign of King Jehoram (848-841 BC) and once again became their own country. In 594 BC, Edom laid aside their hostilities and allied themselves with Judah against the Babylonians. But it would appear that Edom double-crossed Judah and helped the Babylonians, who wiped out Judah (Lamentations 1:2).

In the late sixth century, the Nabateans from Northern Arabia drove out most of the Edomites. The Edomites settled in Southern Judea and they were called Idumaeans. In 120 BC John Hyrcanus, a Maccabean, forced the Idumaeans to be circumcised and to follow Judaism. It should be noted that Herod the Great, King of Judea (37-4 BC) was an Idumaeen. The Idumaeans joined the Jews in their rebellion against Rome and the Romans obliterated most of the Idumaeans in 70 AD- a few escaped. The Edomites then faded from history.

### **Verse 1**

*The vision of Obadiah.*

*Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom:*

*We have heard a report from the Lord, and a messenger has been sent among the nations:  
“Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!”*

Vision- This word is also used by other prophets like Isaiah, Micah, and Nahum to introduce their books. The word suggests that the prophet saw both mentally and spiritually as well as heard God’s message.

Concerning Edom- God is showing Obadiah that he was working on destroying Edom. God would move the nations to lower the boom on Edom. The nations that had a part in destroying Edom were the Nabateans, the Jews under John Hyrcanus, and the Romans. Many times we see in the Bible that God moves nations to accomplish His will (Jeremiah 49:14-16).

## Verse 2

*Behold, I will make you small among the nations;  
you shall be utterly despised.*

**I will make you**- God has already determined to destroy Edom. When God determined to do this, his divine nature makes the accomplishment certain.

## Verses 3-4

*The pride of your heart has deceived you,  
you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart,  
“Who will bring me down to the ground?”  
Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars,  
from there I will bring you down,*

*declares the Lord.*

Edom’s problem was their pride- that pride came from where they lived. They lived in a region of rugged mountains with high cliffs and narrow valleys, which they thought would stop any invader from attacking.

## Verses 5-6

*If thieves came to you, if plunderers came by night—  
how you have been destroyed!— would they not steal only enough for themselves?  
If grape gatherers came to you, would they not leave gleanings?  
How Esau has been pillaged, his treasures sought out!*

The nation of Edom was located on several major trade routes which they could draw from, and out of their mountains, they could mine copper and other materials- which made them **very wealthy**. Their wealth would not last. They would be invaded and all their wealth taken.

## Verse 7

*All your allies have driven you to your border; those at peace with you have deceived you;  
they have prevailed against you; those who eat your bread have set a trap beneath you—  
you have no understanding.*

The Edomites had to have **allies** to survive because they were a small nation and they needed allies for the feud they had with Israel. God would turn their friends and allies into their enemies and they would **trap Edom**.

## Verse 8

*Will I not on that day, declares the Lord,  
destroy the wise men out of Edom,  
and understanding out of Mount Esau?*

The Edomites were known for their wisdom but their wisemen will fail to understand the deception of their allies.

**Verse 9**

*And your mighty men shall be dismayed, O Teman,  
so that every man from Mount Esau will be cut off by slaughter.*

Teman is the name of a major city and of the Northern District of Edom. Teman is another name for Edom. The word *terrified* can also mean “shattered” or “dashed to pieces” in the Hebrew language. It would seem that Edom’s warriors will be shattered and everyone that does not flee will be slaughtered.

<p><i>10 Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.</i></p>	<p><b>Verse 10</b> <u>Violence</u> -refers to the hostility against Jacob’s descendants over time.  There would be no future nation.</p>
<p><i>11 On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them.</i></p>	<p><b>Verse 11</b> Edom did not <u>lift a finger</u> to help.</p>
<p><i>12 But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress.</i></p>	<p><b>Verse 12</b> Rejoiced over <u>Judah’s</u> destruction.</p>
<p><i>13 Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity.</i></p>	<p><b>Verse 13</b> Looted <u>Judah’s</u> wealth</p>
<p><i>14 Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress.</i></p>	<p><b>Verse 14</b> Sold Judah’s fugitives into <u>slavery</u></p>

### Verse 15

*For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations.  
As you have done, it shall be done to you;  
your deeds shall return on your own head.*

Day of the Lord- is a phrase that describes the time that God will pour his wrath out on the world. He judges the nations and then establishes his kingdom- fulfilling the promises made to Israel.

Day of the Lord- also is used to describe when God punishes a people. These judgments are a preview of the real Day of the Lord.

Your dealing with other nations will be done to you (Galatians 6:7).

### Verses 17-18

*But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape,  
and it shall be holy,  
and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions.  
18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire,  
and the house of Joseph a flame,  
and the house of Esau stubble;  
they shall burn them and consume them,  
and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau,*

*for the Lord has spoken.*

God will, in the last days, establish Israel back in their land.

- Jacob refers to the southern kingdom.
- Joseph refers to the northern kingdom.

Israel will become one nation. Edom also will be restored but Israel will destroy them.

### Verses 19-20

Israel will reclaim the land they were promised.

### Verse 21

*Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion  
to rule Mount Esau,  
and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.*

The Lord will reign from Mount Zion (Jerusalem) (Revelation 11:15).

Saviors- these are probably military leaders like the judges in the Old Testament.

## Jonah

**Background:** When we come to the book of Jonah we do not know a lot about him. We know his name means "dove" and his father's name means "truthful". Jonah is mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25, predicting that Israel would regain territory lost to her enemies.

The book of Jonah is the great missionary book of the Old Testament. God tells Jonah to go to the largest city in the world at that time, the city was Nineveh, which was the capital of the Assyrian Empire. The city was mentioned in Genesis 10:11. It was located on the eastern bank of the Tigris River. It was located where Mosul is in Iraq today.

### **Chapter 1: Verses 1-2**

*Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me."*

God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against the city because of its sin and corruption.

### **Verse 3**

*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.*

This verse tells us of a bad decision that Jonah makes. Instead of traveling about five hundred miles to Nineveh Jonah goes to the nearest seaport, Joppa, and takes probably a Phoenician merchant ship west to a Phoenician port which was about two thousand miles to the west.

*Away from the presence of the Lord-* The Hebrews did not think Yahweh was a local deity like the pagans did (Psalm 139:7). What Jonah is stating is his unwillingness to serve God.

### Why Jonah did not want to go:

1. The Assyrians were a very warlike people and treated prisoners horribly. And Jonah was the first prophet to be asked by God to actually go to Nineveh and speak against them. His personal safety might have played a part.
2. Jonah's real fear is found in Jonah 4:2. He knew his God and how he loves to forgive if the Ninevites would repent.
  - a. *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. (Jonah 4:2)*

One other thought about this verse, Jonah forgot that God's call on his life is irrevocable (Romans 11:29). It was the same with Moses, Elijah, and Jeremiah, they wanted to **give up** but God would not let them. It is the same with us.

#### **Verse 4**

*But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.*

Storms are common on the ocean but this one was special- a great wind came from God and **hurled** like a spear at the prophet. The ship is first to realize the brutal storm and the possibility of breaking up is **communicated** to the sailors.

#### **Verse 5**

*Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.*

We don't know why but these sailors were very **uneasy** about this storm (maybe because of how sudden it came upon them or the intensity). So they cried out to their **gods**. We don't know why exactly but they then threw the cargo overboard.

Jonah, on the other hand, was down below deck- as far away from God as he could go and fell into a deep sleep (Genesis 15:12; Judges 4:21; 1 Samuel 26:12). In my opinion, Jonah was **exhausted** and **depressed** from running from God and was unaware of the dangerous situation around him.

#### **Verse 6**

*So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."*

Not knowing that Jonah is connected to the **problem** the captain wakes Jonah and says "Hey, we need your prayers". Here was an **unbeliever** asking a believer for spiritual action. It is a sad commentary when those who are believers have to be talked into taking spiritual action.

#### **Verse 7a**

*And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us."*

The sailors understood that there was some sort of **divine** activity connected with the storm and they wanted to find out who on board was **responsible** so they cast lots. Jonah did not take part in their prayer meeting but he was up on deck for the casting of lots.

### Verses 7b-8

*So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"*

The sailors wanted answers fast because of the storm and their lives being in danger. The lot fell on Jonah and the sailors peppered Jonah with questions- asking Jonah what in the world is going on.

### Verse 9

*And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."*

The sailors ask five questions in verse 8 and in verse 9 Jonah answers those questions with two answers-

- His nationality- "I am a Hebrew"
- He told them who his God is Yahweh (who by the way is the supreme God who is the creator)

Jonah claimed to worship the true God but did not obey him, this often is true of believers.

### Verse 10

*Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.*

Exceedingly afraid- Literally they feared with a great fear- **Why?** Jonah worshipped the supreme God- "The God of heaven" and to run away from God was foolish, to run away from the God of Heaven who created everything and controlled everything was suicidal.

What have you done!- Not a question of Jonah's sin but a statement of horror- they were scared to their very core.

### Verse 11

*Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.*

These sailors did not know Jonah's God, they were unbelievers so they asked Jonah "what do we do?"

### Verse 12

*He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you."*

We need to remember that Jonah did not have deep compassion for pagans so his statement is not one of compassion or repentance for not obeying the Lord but rather accepting his fate.

### Verse 13

*Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.*

The sailors tried to save Jonah's life. They tried to row back to land. The word *rowed* means "to dig into the water". But the further they rowed the wilder the wind blew and the sea became rougher and rougher.

### Verse 14

*Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you."*

The sailors had failed to get to land so they then have a prayer meeting and their prayer had three parts:

1. They had all-new respect for Jonah's God and if they threw Jonah overboard they did not want God to come after them for killing Jonah.
2. The second part of this prayer is about Jonah's guilt or innocence. These sailors did not know the evidence against Jonah and they did not want to be held responsible for what was going to happen to Jonah.
3. They recognized that Jonah's God was sovereign.

### Verses 15-16

*So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.*

The sailors then threw Jonah into the sea and just like Jonah said the sea calmed down.

*They feared the Lord*- These sailors then worshipped God and gave sacrifices to the true God. In fact, even though Jonah was disobedient God uses this and calls these sailors to worship Him and these pagans make Jonah's God their God.

### Verse 17

*And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

The **keyword** in this verse is appointed. This Hebrew word is used four times in the book of Jonah and always points to the Lord's power to accomplish His will. Here it shows His sovereignty over the sea creatures. God could have prepared a special fish for Jonah but the point is God made this fish swim by at the right place and the right time.

The word for fish is the Hebrew word for "an aquatic creature".



Three days and three nights- The point is that God could sustain Jonah in unbelievable circumstances and return him back to service. I think this is a theme that runs throughout the Bible. When we get sideways with God He loves to restore us (Adam & Eve, the Nation of Israel, Elijah, David, Peter).

### Chapter 2: Verse 1

*Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish,*

Jonah expected to drown in the sea but he awoke inside the fish. We do not know how long after Jonah was swallowed by the fish that he started to pray to God- "his God". Jonah had been in rebellion against the Lord, now we see Jonah repenting and giving his life to his God. Jonah resembles the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24; Romans 2:4).

### Verse 2

*saying,*

*"I called out to the Lord, out of my distress,  
and he answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.*

The keyword in this verse is Sheol. This word was used several ways; in the Hebrew mind it referred to a place of the dead.

- A) It was used for those in the grave.
- B) It was a place where the dead were and they were separated from God.
- C) The Hebrews believed Sheol was under the floor of the ocean.
- D) I do not believe Jonah died. I think he was close to dying and felt he would die, and also he knew in his mind he was near Sheol in the depths of the ocean.

<i>3 For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.</i>	<b>Verse 3</b> Jonah recognizes <u>God's</u> sovereignty.
<i>4 Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'</i>	<b>Verse 4</b> This verse is much like Psalm 31:22. Jonah expresses the <u>depths</u> of despair but then his faith in God's mercy kicks in.
<i>5 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me;</i>	<b>Verses 5-6</b> Jonah is describing being under the <u>water</u> .

<p><i>weeds were wrapped about my head 6at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.</i></p>	
<p><i>7When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.</i></p>	<p><b>Verse 7</b> Jonah knew he was going to die- but he remembered the Lord. The word <b>remembered</b> refers to the “mental act of focusing attention on something”. Jonah remembered his God (<b>mercy and forgiveness</b>).</p>
<p><i>8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. 9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!”</i></p>	<p><b>Verses 8-9</b> Jonah makes it clear that those who chase idols will never have salvation but those who follow after the <b>true God</b> will have salvation.</p>
<p><i>10And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.</i></p>	<p><b>Verse 10</b> God spoke to the fish and it <b>vomited</b> Jonah out.</p>

### Chapter 3: Verse 1

*Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,*

I call this verse the verse of **2nd chances**. God comes back to Jonah even though he once went sideways- God comes back and calls him again to get back into the game.

### Verse 2

*“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.”*

We do not know where Jonah was when he got this **second call**, some believe he was back home- don’t know for sure.

Nineveh was a great city to God and it was great in God’s eyes because it was an **object** of his concern and the Lord was determined that this city should have the opportunity to repent.

God will also give him the message He wants Jonah to preach.

### Verse 3

*So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth.*

This time Jonah did what he was supposed to do and went. We do not know how far Jonah had to go because we do not know where he started from.

Great city refers to geographical size.

We do not know what Jonah is referring to exactly. In Jonah's day, the city circumference was three miles- it would not take three days to travel it. We do not know if Jonah was including suburbs or if he is talking about how it would take three days to reach everyone with the message.

### Verse 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!"*

It would appear that to walk Nineveh would take one day but his mission took three days to deliver his message.

His message was very simple but there are a few things we see:

1. Forty days- in Scripture forty is used for a period of waiting and testing.
2. Overthrown- This word refers to complete destruction. It was used of the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 19:21, 25, 29).
3. The Ninevites realized that God was determined to destroy their city. But God also showed them His mercy if they would stop what they were doing and turn to him.

### Verses 5-9: Conversion

*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.*

To understand this conversion we need to know what was going on:

1. In the middle of the eighth century, Nineveh was in crisis. They had experienced famine, enemy attacks, and internal revolts. There also had been an eclipse of the sun in 763 BC which would cause great concern in Nineveh because they would have thought they had offended some god. God was using all these things to prepare their hearts.
2. Jonah's message was accepted by the people. They declared a fast and put on sackcloth- sackcloth was a coarse cloth mostly made of goat hair. It was the dress of the poor and people in mourning (Genesis 37:34; Job 16:15). Fasting was a sign of intense mourning of the heart.
3. We do not know how long this change went on. There is some thought that it might have lasted thirty or forty years. If Jonah went to Nineveh during the reign of Jeroboam II in Israel (he ruled from 825-784 BC) and we don't hear much about the Assyrians for thirty or forty years.

4. Was it real repentance? It would appear that it was, for two reasons:
  - a. In verse 10 of this chapter, God did not carry out **the destruction** he promised if they did not repent.
  - b. To **condemn** the scribes and Pharisees for their unbelief, Jesus declared that the Ninevites repented and will stand up in judgment (Matthew 12:41; Luke 11:30-32).

### **Verse 6**

*The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.*

We see the king's **personal response** to Jonah's message. We do not know who the ruler was, perhaps Assur-Dan III who had all the stuff happen during his reign which was described in verse 5.

This revival started with the **common people**, not royalty. The king took off his robe, which was very beautiful and put on sackcloth and sat in ashes, a sign of deep humiliation.

**In verses 7-9** we see the king's **official response**.

*And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, 8but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."*

### **Verse 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.*

God pulled back his judgment but not **forever**. In 625 BC the Medes, joined by the Babylonians, attacked Nineveh and completely destroyed this city and the Assyrian Empire. The city was so destroyed that no one even knew where it had been. About forty years ago digging around Mosul in Iraq some remains of the city were found.

### **Chapter 4: Verse 1**

*But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.*

There is a play on the Hebrew words: the wording is that the evil that was characteristic of the people of Nineveh described **Jonah**. Jonah hated what God did. You would think Jonah would be rejoicing but he was not. I think he saw the greatest enemy of his people receiving God's mercy which they did not deserve.

I think he also saw the **writing on the wall**, the Assyrian military was starting to get it back together and once they did they would attack and destroy Israel- which they, in fact, would do.

## Verse 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."*

We see the old Jonah come back. Notice the **I's**- Jonah shows his selfishness. He also knew his God and he knew that God would show mercy if the people of Nineveh would repent, and to Jonah this was wrong.

There are several words that remind us of God's heart.

- **Gracious**- This word shows the attitude of the Lord toward those who were understanding.
- **Merciful**- This word can be translated as "loving" or "compassionate" and carries the idea of the compassion that a mother has for her child.
- **Slow to anger**- Refers to the patience and longsuffering of the Lord.
- **Abounding in love**- This refers to God's covenant love. It expresses the qualities of kindness, loyalty, and unending love.

Jonah does not praise God for these **attributes** but used them in a **mad fit** against Him.

## Verse 3

*Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."*

The words of this verse remind us of **Elijah** (1 Kings 19:4) where Elijah called out to God wishing to die. Moses also prayed a similar prayer asking God to take his life (Numbers 11:15). Jonah did not wish to live any longer because God spared Nineveh and this depressed Jonah.

## Verse 4

*And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?"*

## Verse 5

*Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city.*

Jonah left the city after he preached and went to the east- probably because of a higher elevation.

Jonah makes a shelter to protect him from the sun. And Jonah sat and watched. The keyword in this verse is **see**. This is the same word used in Jonah 3:10 to describe God watching the people of Nineveh turn from their evil. Jonah watched hoping Nineveh would turn back to their evil ways and God would destroy them.

### Verse 6

*Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.*

The booth that Jonah built at first did the job but in the heat the branches would wither pretty quickly. God provided a plant to provide relief from the sun. God did this to teach Jonah a lesson.

The word appointed or provided is the same Hebrew word that is used in 1:17 to describe the preparation of the great fish. This shows God's sovereignty over creation.

The word discomfort means "wickedness" or "trouble" and there are two thoughts on the use of this word. Yes, Jonah would not be comfortable with temperatures in the 110-degree range, but also from where Jonah was he could hear the sound of mourning from the people on Nineveh. Part of Jonah's discomfort was in rebellion against God.

Jonah for the first time in the book was happy over a plant. He was not happy when the people of Nineveh turned to God but was happy over a vine.

### Verse 7

*But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered.*

God again appointed (or provided) a worm to destroy the plant. Destruction is the theme in Jonah but the only thing that gets destroyed in this book is the vine.

### Verse 8

*When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."*

The word appointed or provided again shows up in this verse and is the fourth time this word is used; again shows God's sovereignty over creation and his control.

Jonah lost his shade but also suffered from a horrible hot wind. Jonah was exhausted and once again asked God to end his life.

### Verse 9

*But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die."*

Jonah felt he was right in what he thought God should have done to Nineveh. In other words, God was wrong in what he did not do to the city and wrong in what he did to Jonah.

### **Verse 10**

*And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night."*

God is saying in this verse that not only did Jonah not understand God's grace but Jonah showed that he did not trust God.

### **Verse 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?"*

To me, this is a very important verse and in fact, pulls the book of Jonah together.

- Jonah was upset about a vine, a very small part of God's creation while God was concerned about his highest creation- human beings.
- Jonah did not care for other people outside of Israel. God on the other hand cares deeply for his highest creation.
- Jonah, even though he was a prophet of God, did not understand the heart of God. God loves to give mercy and grace to anyone who will humble themselves and come to God. Sometimes the church can have the same mindset as Jonah had.

The last point we want to discuss in this book of Jonah is the 120,000 persons. There are many thoughts on this number. Some have said it refers to children, which it might. But it probably refers to all the people in the city at that time. The word people probably refers to all the people. With that in mind, the last part of the verse probably references that the people of Nineveh had a kindergarten level of knowledge of religion.