

Jonah 3

King James Version (KJV)

3 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

² Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. (This is a type for Pentecost day when the Holy Spirit spoke through the Christians in all languages. Jonah is going to obey God, this time)

(The Assyrians worshipped a fish god. When they saw Jonah coming out of this great fish, they thought their god had sent them a preacher, so they listened to Jonah)

Note: (in the Greek, the fish became a cipher for Christianity – Jesus Christ Son of God Savior – the first letter of each word spells fish in the Greek. The Apostles and early Christians used the fish symbol to covertly alert others that there was a Christian service going on at that house. They had to use great care to avoid death at the hands of the Roman emperors) (Even today, the fish symbol is a sign of Christianity for others to see)

³ So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. (It took 3 days walk to cross the great city – better translation)

(Ninevah was the capital of Assyria. The Assyrians would go on to be the captors of the 10 northern tribes of Israel. Later, the Persians would conquer the Assyrians and scatter Israel over the Caucasus Mountains into Europe, per God's prophecy. They became known as Caucasians)

⁴ And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. (History documents that the Assyrians had seen 18 years of very hard times before Jonah arrived)

⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. (They repented)

⁶ For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth,

and sat in ashes. (This was a way of humbling oneself and asking forgiveness)

⁷ And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: (The entire nation was repenting. God never saw anything like this, even from His own people - Israel)

⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. (God was preparing the Assyrians to treat the Israelites kindly when they would later take them captive)

⁹ Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? (These heathen people had faith that God would forgive them if they repented. They had more faith at that time than even all the people of Israel did. Israel had deserted God many years before this. They were worshipping the idols of the heathen tribes that surrounded them)

¹⁰ And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not. (evil = tumult, trouble, controversy, disagreement – better translation)

NOTE: (The Assyrians repented after seeing Jonah come out of their fish god. Yet people today refuse to accept Jesus Christ after He arose from the dead and ascended into heaven in the sight of men)
Matthew-12:39-41