

Jonah 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.

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. 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.

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. 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. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,

8 Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: 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.

9 Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

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. KJV

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. NRSV

When God saw what they did and how they gave up their wicked ways, he relented and did not inflict on them the punishment he had threatened. REB

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

God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way. God repented of the evil which he said he would do to them, and he didn't do it. NJB

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out. NAB

When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it. NASB

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which he had said he would do to them; and he did not do it. RSV

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil that he had said he would do unto them, and he did it not. Darby

And God seeth their works, that they have turned back from their evil way, and God repenteth of the evil that He spake of doing to them, and he hath not done it. YLT

When God saw their actions – they turned from their evil way of living! – God relented concerning the judgment he had threatened them with and he did not destroy them. NET

Questions

- What did the LORD tell Jonah about Nineveh? What was Jonah's perception of that city? (Also see chapters 1 and 4.) What is *your* Nineveh? (Or, what is *our* Nineveh?)
- What did Jonah do in Nineveh? What happened in Nineveh? Why (or how) did this happen? What appears to be the view on repentance for people at the time? How are our Christian perspectives different, or the same? Did the life and teachings of Jesus change our view on repentance?
- Compare different translations of verse 10. Can you figure out, or do you know, how the Hebrew sounds like? What does this say about predestination?
- Read today's paper and see if there is anything that you feel is relevant to talk about.