

Jonah 3

1. Review

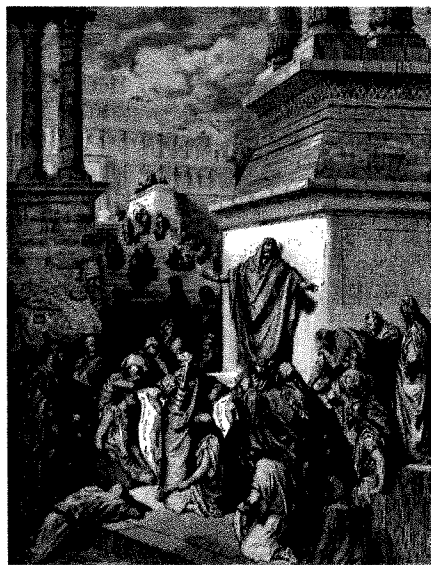
1-3

1. Jonah is the only Biblical prophet to receive his assignment a second time.
 - a. “The bedraggled, seaweed-draped, vomit-stained, and traumatized prophet likely was a bit more receptive to the Word of Yahweh this time!”
2. What we see in Jonah is a lot of repetition of words
 - a. God commands Jonah to “arise, go, . . . call out”
 - b. The captain of the ship calls on Jonah to “arise” and “call” on his God.
 - c. Then we have the faithful response of the Ninevites who “call” for a fast and the king “arises” from his throne to put on sackcloth and decrees that his people should “call” to God.
3. “Call” is an important word in the Bible. God’s call accomplishes his salvific purpose.
 - a. 1 Thess 5:24 “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it”.
 - b. Jer 23:21 “I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.”
4. Ninevah grew even more magnificent after the time of Jonah. It had:
 - a. 1,800 acres, 15 great gates, and 18 canals
 - b. At its widest it was 3 miles and its walls measured 7.75 miles in circumference.

4-10

1. A better translation for the word “overthrown” would be “changed”. Same word used in Sodom and Gomorrah narrative.
2. What we see is a common OT pattern: God threatens disaster (or disaster happens), the people repent, and God delivers them.
 - a. Jer 18:7-11
 - b. Joel 2:11-19
3. What does Jonah’s message concern itself with?
4. How did the people respond?

5. How did the king respond?
6. Foil between Jonah and Ninevah and Israel and Ninevah.
 - a. Mt 12:41
 - b. Jeremiah 36 (only time a fast is called in Jerusalem)
7. Did the Ninevites know God would relent?
8. Possible signs God gave to Assyria in preparation to Jonah's visit?
 - a. Total solar eclipse on June 15, 763 BC
 - i. In a Ninevite text *Enuma Anu Enlil* it predicts that calamities that might happen following an eclipse "The king will die, rain from heaven will flood the land. There will be famine" and "A deity will trike the king and fire consume the land".
 - ii. In Assyrian religion solar eclipses and earthquakes were seen as signs of divine anger.
 1. There was an earthquake during the reign of Assur-dan (though unclear if it is the same Assur-dan during the time of Jonah)
 - b. During the reign of Assur-dan III there was a famine.
9. Notice, what goes with sackcloth and ashes?
10. Why does God relent?
 - a. Jeremiah 18



Jonah Calling Nineveh to Repentance by Gustave Dore (19th century)