

Right-Way Jonah (Jonah 3:1-10)

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INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

NEW EXPOSITION

God again commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach (judgment against it) (3:1–2)

Jonah went, as God commanded, to Nineveh a city that God viewed as great: a three-day visit (3:3)

God graciously gave Jonah another chance to obey

Jonah obeys this part of God's instruction

An exceedingly great city: a three-day journey **2**
[Meaning of three-day journey?]

Jonah's trip to Nineveh would take longer than three days (almost 600 miles). This is not the answer

Nineveh's wall was only 7.3 miles around. (He could circle it three times in a day)

Nineveh did not have extensive suburbs requiring three days to traverse (Jonah 3:4a disproves that view)

It was to be a formal state visit: Reach the palace day 1, days 2–3 to transact business, & leave on the third day
Douglas Stuart in the Word Biblical Commentary, says, "Nineveh was a 'three-day visit city,' a major diplomatic center of the ancient world, a city where a formal protocol was observed by official visitors, whose business could not be accomplished hastily, as if it were a small town."

The day Jonah entered Nineveh, he told (a lower official) that Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days (3:4)

The Ninevites believed God (that He would destroy them) so they fasted & put on sackcloth (3:5) 3
Jonah's appearance

Background events: (this is 759 BC)

June 15, 763 a complete solar eclipse (mentioned in official records: Words like, "the king will be deposed" show up in texts mentioning the eclipse.

A great earthquake hit during a king named Aśšur-Dan's rule. (a couple kings had this name, but most scholars say the earthwauake was in Jonah's day. Likely date = 670 BC)

The 7 years before 759 BC Nineveh had plagues & famines

Revolts and fighting defensive wars against Urartu

In 758 BC, King Aśšur-Dan moved to Gozan and things became quiet again

After word spread, the king also mourned (3:6) 4
Verse 6 happened after verse 5.

The king decreed that everyone should repent from the violence that was in their hand so God might not destroy Nineveh (3:7–9)

The nation was to repent from their violence. In the seven years before Jonah arrived, God had stopped Assyria's foreign aggression against other nations. They were receptive to a warning against expansionism. Israel seems to have been in their sights. In 744 BC, they resumed the old aggressive foreign policy. Twenty-two years later, they crushed Israel. In turn, God disciplined Assyria. Babylonians conquered Nineveh in 612 BC.

God saw that Nineveh had turned from its violence and did not destroy Nineveh (3:10)

Jonah focuses on Jonah and Nineveh having their earthly lives extended, not how to receive everlasting life

Conclusion