



Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

 Some of the questions in this StudySheet ask about Nineveh. Please review the information provided on the last page of this StudySheet to better understand the importance of Nineveh as a trading center, as a center of pagan worship, and as a home to 120,000 people (see Jonah 4:11).

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

Jonah 2:10 [The last verse of chapter 2]

And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

Q1. What / Who is the “Word of the Lord”? Does any Scripture reference the “Word”?

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John 1:1, 2, 14, &17

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Q2. What was Nineveh? A capital city? A hamlet? A great center for trade?

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³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh.

Q3. How did Jonah react to the Lord this time?


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^{3b} Now Nineveh was a very important city – a visit required three days.

Q4. What does “three days” tell us?

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Day 2

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⁴ On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."

Q5. What did the Ninevites see when they looked at Jonah? (We can only speculate/imagine. Could the gastric juices of the great fish have possibly bleached Jonah’s darker complexion?)

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Q6. How believable would Jonah’s statements (prophecy) be to the people?

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⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Q7. What caused the people to believe?


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Q8. Is it strange that this wealthy, worldly, pagan nation “believed God”?

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Q9. Is “fasting” important? Why?


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 There are minimally two good essays regarding fasting (I am providing links to the articles; I am not under any circumstances promoting the associated merchandise):


- “Biblical Reasons For Fasting”; source: <https://biblereasons.com/reasons-for-fasting/>
- “Why Should I Fast? 7 Examples of Fasting in the Bible”; source: <https://www.faithgateway.com/why-should-i-fast-7-examples-fasting-bible/>

Q10. What is “sackcloth”?

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 **Sackcloth:** Cloth made of black goats' hair, coarse, rough, and thick, used for sacks, and also worn by mourners (e.g., Genesis 37:34; Genesis 42:25; II Samuel 3:31; Esther 4:1-2; Psalm 30:11), and as a sign of repentance (Matthew 11:21). It was put upon animals by the people of Nineveh (Jonah 3:8).

Day 3

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⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat down in the dust.

Q11. How did the Lord convict the heart of the man who could be arguably considered the most powerful man in the world at that time?

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⁷ Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

Q12. What was the king asking his subjects to do?

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 Repent:

- 1. To feel remorse, contrition, or self-reproach for what one has done or failed to do; be contrite: "[He] liked to visit prisoners and admonish them to repent of their ways" (Adam Hochschild).
 - 2. To feel such regret for past conduct as to change one's mind regarding it: repented of intemperate behavior. You'd better accept their offer before they repent.
 - 3. To become a more moral or religious person as a result of remorse or contrition for one's sins.
- [Copyright © 2003-2022 Farlex, Inc; <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/repent>]


 Remorse:

- 1. a sense of deep regret and guilt for some misdeed
- [Copyright © 2003-2022 Farlex, Inc; <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/remorse>]

Q13. What is the difference between remorse and repentance?

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Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹⁰ 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.

Q14. Did God see the condition of the hearts of the Ninevites?

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Q15. What does “turned from their evil ways” mean in verse 10?

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Q16. Would God have really brought “destruction” upon Nineveh?

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Q17. Did the Ninevites remain firmly rooted in God? Or did they turn away from Him, again? (inferences can be made from the notes on the last page of this StudySheet.)

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Q18. Does God show compassion, today?


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Q19. If someone asked you this question, “How can a loving God destroy people?” – how would you answer?

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Q20. If someone said that Jonah was fiction. How would you answer?

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 Our Lord Jesus referenced Nineveh:

Matthew 12:41-42

“On Judgment Day, the Ninevites will stand up and give evidence that will condemn this generation, because when Jonah preached to them they changed their lives. A far greater preacher than Jonah is here, and you squabble about ‘proofs.’ On Judgment Day, the Queen of Sheba will come forward and bring evidence that will condemn this generation, because she traveled from a far corner of the earth to listen to wise Solomon. Wisdom far greater than Solomon’s is right in front of you, and you quibble over ‘evidence.’ [The Message (MSG)]

- ✍ **Nineveh (today):** “Nineveh was an ancient Assyrian city of Upper Mesopotamia, located on the outskirts of Mosul in modern-day northern Iraq. It is located on the eastern bank of the Tigris River and was the capital and largest city of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, as well as the largest city in the world for several decades. Today, it is a common name for the half of Mosul that lies on the eastern bank of the Tigris, and the country's Nineveh Governorate takes its name from it.
- ✍ “It was the largest city in the world for approximately fifty years until the year 612 BC when, after a bitter period of civil war in Assyria, it was sacked by a coalition of its former subject peoples including the Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Scythians, and Cimmerians. The city was never again a political or administrative centre, but by Late Antiquity it was the seat of a Christian bishop. It declined relative to Mosul during the Middle Ages and was mostly abandoned by the 13th century AD.
- ✍ “Its ruins lie across the river from the modern-day major city of Mosul, in Iraq's Nineveh Governorate. The two main tells, or mound-ruins, within the walls are Tell Kuyunjik and Tell Nabi Yūnus, site of a shrine to Jonah, the prophet who preached to Nineveh. Large amounts of Assyrian sculpture and other artifacts have been excavated there, and are now located in museums around the world.” [Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineveh>]
- ✍ The following notes are courtesy of M.G. Easton M.A., D.D., Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Third Edition, published by Thomas Nelson, 1897. Public Domain, copy freely. Bibliography: Easton, Matthew George. "Entry for 'Nineveh'". "Easton's Bible Dictionary". www.studydrive.net/dic/ebd/view.cgi?number=T2735.
- ✍ **Nineveh:** First mentioned in Genesis 10:11, which is rendered in the Revised Version, "He [i.e., Nimrod] went forth into Assyria and [built] Nineveh." It is not again noticed till the days of Jonah, when it is described (Jonah 3:3; 4:11) as a great and populous city, the flourishing capital of the Assyrian empire (2 Kings 19:36; Isaiah 37:37). The book of the prophet Nahum is almost exclusively taken up with prophetic denunciations against this city. Its ruin and utter desolation are foretold (Nahum 1:14; 3:19, etc.). Zephaniah also (2:13-15) predicts its destruction along with the fall of the empire of which it was the capital. From this time there is no mention of it in Scripture till it is named in gospel history (Matthew 12:41; Luke 11:32).
- ✍ **Nineveh (location):** This "exceeding great city" lay on the eastern or left bank of the river Tigris, along which it stretched for some 30 miles, having an average breadth of 10 miles or more from the river back toward the eastern hills. This whole extensive space is now one immense area of ruins. Occupying a central position on the great highway between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, thus uniting the East and the West, wealth flowed into it from many sources, so that it became the greatest of all ancient cities.
- ✍ **Nineveh (exploration):** The work of exploration has been carried on almost continuously by M. Botta, Sir Henry Layard, George Smith, and others, in the mounds of Nebi-Yunus, Nimrud, Koyunjik, and Khorsabad, and a vast treasury of specimens of old Assyrian art has been exhumed. Palace after palace has been discovered, with their decorations and their sculptured slabs, revealing the life and manners of this ancient people, their arts of war and peace, the forms of their religion, the style of their architecture, and the magnificence of their monarchs. The streets of the city have been explored, the inscriptions on the bricks and tablets and sculptured figures have been read, and now the secrets of their history have been brought to light.
- ✍ **Nineveh (corroboration of Scripture):** The bas-reliefs, alabaster slabs, and sculptured monuments found in these recovered palaces serve in a remarkable manner to confirm the Old Testament history of the kings of Israel. The appearance of the ruins shows that the destruction of the city was due not only to the assailing foe but also to the flood and the fire, thus confirming the ancient prophecies concerning it. "The recent excavations," says Rawlinson, "have shown that fire was a great instrument in the destruction of the Nineveh palaces. Calcined alabaster, charred wood, and charcoal, colossal statues split through with heat, are met with in parts of the Nineveh mounds, and attest the veracity of prophecy."
- ✍ **Nineveh (size):** Nineveh in its glory was (Jonah 3:4) an "exceeding great city of three days' journey", i.e., probably in circuit. This would give a circumference of about 60 miles. At the four corners of an irregular quadrangle are the ruins of Kouyunjik, Nimrud, Karamless, and Khorsabad. These four great masses of ruins, with the whole area included within the parallelogram they form by lines drawn from the one to the other, are generally regarded as composing the whole ruins of Nineveh.

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