

Jonah's Obedience

Jonah 3

by Don Falkos

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The Lord once again said to Jonah, "Go to the great city of Nineveh and pronounce my judgment."

Jonah obeyed the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a large city; it took three days to see it all. Jonah went into the city, walking through it for a single day, shouting, "Forty days from now Nineveh will be overturned."

And Nineveh was overturned. But not in the way that Jonah had hoped. The people of Nineveh believed God's message. They declared a fast and all of them, from the most important to the least important, dressed in sackcloth to show their sorrow.

When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, dressed himself in sackcloth, and sat down in the dust. Then the king and his officials issued a decree for everyone in the city to obey:

No one is to eat or drink anything – this includes your livestock. People and animals alike are to be dressed in sackcloth. Everyone must pray earnestly to God. Turn from your evil ways and stop all your violence. Who knows? God may yet have a change of heart, turn from this fierce anger, and allow us to live.

Upon seeing what the people of Nineveh had done and how they turned from their evil ways, God had a change of heart and did not destroy the city.