

# Jonah's Mission and Sign, Preaching and Repentance

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[ 0 : 00 ] in Matthew 12 what the key to the sign of Jonah was, and it is in our text today. We have today Jonah's professional fulfillment of his call. I say professional because this was his job, and it's taken three chapters for him to get there because of his rebellion. His personal job isn't done. That's why chapter 4 sits there. We'll get to that next week. But he has completed what he was. We find today he's completed what he was called to go do, call out against Nineveh.

And there is true revival. There is true belief from everyone. We have, scholars will say, the greatest revival in history before us today. It is complete. It is from king to peasant.

And you could say beasts are even involved. And it's one simple message. Just one. We have Pentecost where at least 3,000 souls, or it says scripture about 3,000 souls were saved, maybe not including others. Could have been a little higher. But it was a lengthy message that Peter had to get out to the Jews and go through their history and why they crucified Christ. And they were cut to the heart when the Spirit was poured out. Acts 4, 4,000 were saved. Not much details given there. But there was also great resentment from the Sadducees and Pharisees.

Edwards, Whitefield, the second, the first and great, the second great awakenings. Nothing compares to at least from our scriptures when we get to chapter 4, we see that Nineveh Jonah has at least 120,000 people. 120,000 people. The largest stadiums in our country can barely fit that many people.

And all of them repent. So today, I'm going to outline three things. First, what did Jonah do? What did the people respond with?

[ 2 : 26 ] And then what does God, how does God respond? And with that message, it's the signs of Christ. What are the signs of Christ?

How is Christ relevant to us today with the same warning, the same message that's applied throughout eternity? First, what does Jonah do?

He preaches the wrath of God. Preaching the wrath of God is God's normative means for converting souls.

He said, he is to call out against Nineveh, our scripture says. For their evil has come up before me. We saw that in chapter 1. We got the repeat message this time.

And again, that evil is still before him. Call out against it. With the message that I give you, you are to say exactly what I am to tell you. This call out, *kara*, this is a Hebrew word to call out, recite, proclaim.

[ 3 : 30 ] It can just be call. It can just be call like we would call somebody. But this call out against is very specific with regards to preaching. How does he do this?

Well, let's unpack a little bit. There's a couple of phrases in here that we should talk through. Verse 3 says, it's an exceedingly great city. Three days journey.

What does that mean? We know it takes two to three months to get from probably where he was spit up by the fish on the beaches of the Mediterranean. By caravan, it takes two to three months to get through the Fertile Crescent all the way over to Nineveh.

They wouldn't have gone straight as the crow flies. They would have gone kind of through Damascus and up around. So the three days across isn't his journey to Nineveh. That would be miraculous. It's three days through the city.

Some believe the exceedingly great and the three days describes the vastness of the city. Others believe exceedingly great, again, as we talked about in chapter 1, the first message, because it was preached then too, that it's an important city to me.



