



Chapter 4:

The end of the story?

In chapter 3:

Jonah is given a “second chance” to go to Nineveh

Jonah preaches “40 days and Nineveh will be “overthrown”

The city repents

What does *“When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.” (3:10)* mean for us (and our prayers) today?

Does God change His mind?

Is this good news or bad news for us?



Why did Jonah preach to the Ninevites?

(Does Jonah’s motivation matter?)

Chapter 4 compared to chapter 1 and 2

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 1:15 | Disaster averted | 3:10c | Disaster averted |
| 1:16 | Response of sailors | 4:1 | Response of Jonah |
| 1:17-2:9 | Yahweh and Jonah | 4:2-3 | Yahweh and Jonah |
| 2:10 | Yahweh’s Response | 4:4-11 | Yahweh’s Response |

How do God’s actions in 3:10 compare to His actions in 1:15-17?

How does Jonah’s response in 4:1 compare with the soldiers’ response in 1:16?

Chapter 4 compared to chapter 3

| | | | |
|-------|--|--------------|--|
| 3:4 | Threatened destruction | 4:1 | Nineveh is saved from destruction |
| 3:5-8 | Response of Ninevites: faith, repentance, turning from evil | 4:1-3 | Response of Jonah: anger, complaint, request to die |
| 3: 10 | Yahweh's shows mercy | 4:4, 6-11 | Yahweh teaches mercy |

Conversation

4:2 Of what does Jonah “accuse” God?

4:3 What does Jonah request?

Why? (1:12; Exodus 14:12, Mark 5:17)

4:4 Yahweh: “Do you have a right to be angry?”

Action

4:5 Jonah makes a shelter for himself

4:6 Yahweh provides a plant (1:4, 1:17)

4:7,8 Yahweh provides a worm and hot wind

4:8 Jonah’s request – again

4:9 Yahweh (again): “Do you have a right to be angry?”

4:11 Yahweh’s final(?) word: “Should I not be concerned?”

When do we get angry?

Should people go unpunished because they are sorry?

Romans 9:14-16; Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 86:15

How does the story of Jonah end?

Why?

