

# Jonah As A Sign

## Jonah Chapter 3, Part V

Welcome back. Here we go!

Today we move forward with Jonah's ministry/calling, as we look at our ministry/calling.

I mean really, why would a nation of conquerors listen to one Jewish guy? Why would your neighbor listen to you? They really aren't that different, if they are unbelievers. Jonah was a "type" of Christ. We've talked about Jonah being a book of salvation; in every chapter, someone is saved.

### ***Jonah chapters 2 & 3***

===Prayer===

1) Why did the people of Ninevah listen to Jonah?

You know that is a good question. Let's review chapter 2 again.

### ***Jonah 2***

2) Did Jonah die and was he brought back to life or resurrected? ***Jonah 2:2***

sheol; hell; grave

### ***Matthew 12:39-41***

Again, Jesus is speaking literal when He talks about His death, resurrection and judgment.

Let's say Jonah did die and was resurrected. Why would the people of Ninevah believe him?

Let's talk about Ninevah. The city, according to the walls of Ninevah proper, was three miles long and one and one-half miles wide.... outlying areas --- metropolis.

So here comes some hypotheticals.....

This is the widely believed Jewish understanding. Remember, Jesus considered Jonah's ministry a fact.

***Jonah 1:5*** - threw out cargo

***Jonah 1:13*** - rowed to return to land

***Jonah 1:15*** - threw Jonah in, became exceedingly afraid

***Jonah 1:17*** - in belly three days (white)

***Jonah 2:10*** - spit him out onto land.

Eyewitnesses and physical evidence and superstition.

### ***Jonah 3***

Okay, there are tons of lessons here. But I think the point is clear --- the citizens of Ninevah listened.

- 3) Would a stranger be compelled to be a better person just because of meeting you?  
Why / Why not?

The bible makes it clear that we are to be transformed as well.

***Romans 12:1-2***

- 4) What does this mean to you personally?

Proving “*what is good and acceptable*” --- the Word of God says repeatedly --- “*be Holy for I am Holy.*”

Many people don’t think it is reasonable to give regularly, to stop watching demon-filled shows, to attend church, to forgive others as we have been forgiven....

***II Corinthians 5:16-21***

Sound like Jonah?

***Galatians 6:14-15***

- 5a) When you became a new creation, what changed?

- 5b) What did not change?

If you are going to be a sign to those around you, it needs to be compelling. You need to be emitting the fragrance of Christ, not of a dying world.

Lasting impressions, inside of the ruins of Ninevah, is what is called “Yunas”. It is 100 feet high and covers 40 acres. It contains the reputed tomb of Jonah..... It is so sacred they do not allow any large scale excavation or archeological digs there. Present day Mosul.

I guess the next and last question should be

- 6) What lasting impression do you have on people?

Let’s pray.

***Next Tuesday Bible Study - Jonah, Part VI, “Jonah’s Bitterness VS God’s Grace”***