

Here am I... Send someone else

Jonah 1:1-3

NOW the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. (Jonah 1:1-3)

1. Two directions – Nineveh or Tarshish?
2. God spoke to Jonah, does God speak to us?
3. God gave to Jonah a message, does God give to us a message?

1. Two directions – Nineveh or Tarshish?

- Jonah is a prophet of the LORD, a servant of God

He (Jeroboam the second) restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hopher. (2Kgs 14:25);

1. Two directions – Nineveh or Tarshish?

- Where are you headed? Nineveh or Tarshish?
- Jesus teaches:

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matt 6:24)

1. Two directions – Nineveh or Tarshish?

- Salvation through Jesus, the narrow gate and difficult way!

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

*“Enter by the **narrow gate**; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. “Because **narrow** is the **gate** and **difficult** is the **way** which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matt 7:13-14)*

- Are you now trying to live the other way – the wide and broad way, the easy way, the way of compromise, the way to please men not please God, the way to Tarshish?

1. Two directions – Nineveh or Tarshish?

- Warning 1: our Lord is a jealous God:

you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, ... (Exod 20:5)

- Warning 2: there will be consequences:

But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. (Jonah 1:4)

1. Two directions – Nineveh or Tarshish?

- Suggestion 1:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. ...but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1John 2:15-17)

- Suggestion 2:

... let each one take heed how he builds on it. ...with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ... for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

(1Cor 3:10-15)

2. God spoke to Jonah, does God speak to us?

- God spoke to Jonah:

NOW the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

- Does God speak to us, now?

*GOD, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, ...
(Heb 1:1-2)*

2. God spoke to Jonah, does God speak to us?

- Does God speak to us, now?

*for prophecy never came by the will of man, but **holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.** (2Pet 1:21)*

*that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, **and** of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, (2Pet 3:2)*

*... our beloved brother Paul, according to **the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things... as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.** (2Pet 3:15-16)*

2. God spoke to Jonah, does God speak to us?

- Does God speak to us, now?

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, ... (2Tim 3:16-17)

“Abide in Me, and I in you. ... for without Me you can do nothing.... If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ... (John 15:4-8)

3. God gave to Jonah a message, does God give to us a message?

- God gave to Jonah a message:

NOW the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." (Jonah 1:1-2)

And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (Jonah 3:4)

- A message of warning of coming judgment

3. God gave to Jonah a message, does God give to us a message?

- Does God give us a message?

... Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, ... He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-18)

- There is a warning of judgment in the gospel message too!

3. God gave to Jonah a message, does God give to us a message?

- Just as the LORD called Jonah to Nineveh to preach a message of warning of judgment, the Lord Jesus also commissioned His followers to do the same

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." (John 20:21)

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?

- My story
- My wish
- Your response