

Jonah 3

JPS [Online]

The Ninevites Repent

(Matthew 12:38–42; Luke 11:29–32)

¹And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying: ²Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and make unto it the proclamation that I bid thee.' ³So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city, of three days' journey. ⁴And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he proclaimed, and said: 'Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.'

⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; and they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. ⁶And the tidings reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying: 'Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing; let them not feed, nor drink water; ⁸but let them be covered with sackcloth, both man and beast, and let them cry mightily unto God; yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knoweth whether God will not turn and repent, and turn away from His fierce anger, that we perish not?'

¹⁰And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, which He said He would do unto them; and He did it not.