
Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

■ *Jonah 4:9a But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"* ■

Jonah 4:9b "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

■ *Jonah 4:10 But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"* ■

"Concerned" -

■ When we see God as He really is, we will see the folly of **resisting** God and **running** from Him. We will surrender to God and His ways that sometimes shake us, but we know He is ■ shaping us to enjoy Him, to see our character transformed, and learning to relate to people God puts in our lives. It may not be 120,000, but it might be your neighbor, a difficult relative, or someone you'd rather not see at work.

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When God's Ways Shake Us—part 2

Jonah 3 and 4

March 15, 2026

Theme verse:

■ *Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.* ■

When God's ways shake us we have three options:

- a. Jonah—Resisted and ran from God. ■
- b. Saul—Distorted and denied God and His message
- c. Hezekiah—Trembled and trusted when life shook him.

What core beliefs drove these men's response?

- a. Jonah: "I know better."
- b. Saul: "I can make it better." ■
- c. Hezekiah: "There is nothing better."

Review Jonah 1:

■ Review Jonah 2: ■

Jonah 3

Jonah went to Nineveh and faithfully delivered God's message.

He did the right thing with a wrong heart. He still wanted Nineveh destroyed.

*Jonah 3:1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it **the message I give you.**"*

Jonah 3:3a Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh.

*Jonah 3:3b Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "**Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.**"*

Jonah 3:5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Jonah 3:6 When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰ 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.

Jonah's resisting and running was a response to a God he did not know.

■ Question #1: What is Jonah's real understanding of the nature and character of God? ■

Jonah 4

■ Question #2: What is going on inside of Jonah that makes the offer of mercy and forgiveness to an immoral people odious to him? ■

*Jonah 4:1 But to Jonah **this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.** ² He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, Lord, **take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.**"*

Jonah 4:4 But the Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Jonah 4:5 Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and
