

# Jonah Running with God

## *Jonah chapter 3*

By: Paul Baker

*(continued from last week)*

Jonah was told to preach a short and powerful sermon. “*Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown*” (3:4). There is much to unpack in this short proclamation. “*Yet forty days,*” gets their attention. When there is an appointed time, reality begins to set in. It should be a reality for us as well, seeing that “*it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgement*” (Hebrews 9:27), coupled with James 4:14, “*our life is but a vapor.*” Our time is imminent as well. They had been told when, and now they are told who, “*Nineveh.*” Giving them the time of the appointment may have gotten their attention, but calling their name made it relevant to them. Far too often those who teach or take the pulpit will say what the bible says (and this is good), but there is no personal application to the individual hearing it. “*If somebody somewhere sinned against God, you need to repent.*” This statement is biblically correct, but would move no one to repentance? This would be equal to telling me that there is a tornado somewhere in my state versus telling me there is a tornado one mile from my address. Getting specific with the information makes it much more relevant to me. Now, Jonah has their attention. They have the time of the appointment. It is applicable and relevant to them. Now comes the meat of the message. “*You shall be overthrown.*” The word spoken here is equal to the message of Jesus to the Jews; “*Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3). Understanding the word of God should move us all to run with God.

There is power in the word! Considering Jonah’s lack of love, it is not likely he was preaching with tears of compassion in his eyes. None the less, the words written in Isaiah 55:11 ring true; “*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: It shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I send it*”. We are commanded to preach with love, but the point here is the saving power of the word (Romans 1:16). In Nineveh, the power of the word, moved an entire city to believe and repent. From the beggar on the street to the king, from the least to greatest, all humbled themselves before almighty Jehovah, and were spared God’s wrath.

The word of God today has the same power as it did in 790-740 B.C. “*Who hath ears to hear, let him hear*” (Matthew 13:9). We can run with God, if we also will submit to his will, and obey.