

Jonah in Nineveh (Jonah 4:1–11)

Grace Chapel September 17, 2008 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

Jonah 1:1–16

Jonah 1:17–2:10

Jonah 3:1–10

NEW EXPOSITION:

ROUND 1

God's grace toward Nineveh enraged Jonah (4:1)

Jonah complained in his prayer that he had already said in Israel that God is so gracious and merciful that He relents from judgment (4:2)

Jonah petitioned the Lord to take his life from him, because he preferred to die (4:3)

The Lord asked Jonah whether his anger was righteous (4:4)

ROUND 2

Jonah went east of the city & built a shade, to watch what would happen to the city (4:5)

The Lord appointed a shade plant to relieve Jonah's misery, making him happy (4:6)

Early the next morning, God appointed a worm to attack the plant & it withered (4:7)

That day, the Lord prepared a strong *Santa Ana* wind (that blew over his shelter?) and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so he wished death for himself (4:8)

God asked Jonah whether his anger was righteous, to which he replied that his anger is so righteous that he was willing to die for it (4:9)

The Lord reminded Jonah that he pitied a plant for which he did not cause to grow and which existed only briefly (4:10)

The Lord compared Jonah's pity on the plant with His own pity for the great Nineveh with 120,000 (who lack even the discernment that children normally possess) plus livestock (4:11)

If it was right for Jonah to pity the plant, surely it is right for God to do so

CONCLUSION