

# **Jonah 4**

## **Jonah 4.1-4**

**V1 – What was Jonah’s reaction to the repentance of Nineveh?** Mad and upset

- Why?** They were the enemies of the Israelites (who were supposedly God’s people)
- Any person in the New Testament with similar attitudes?** Peter and his reluctance to preach the gospel to the Gentiles

**V2 – Basic message?** I told you this would happen. Look what you’ve gone and done – now the people of Nineveh will be saved

- What else did Jonah blame on God?** Jonah’s flight to Tarshish
- 1 Corinthians 13.1 – If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*
- A good description of Jonah at this time

**V3 – Jonah’s request?** For God to take his life

- Have you ever known people to pout, to stick out the lower lip, and throw a fit?**
- What other Old Testament prophet asked God to take his life?** Elijah – Read 1 Kings 19.4

**V4 – God’s response?** To try to reason with Jonah

- He wanted Jonah to see how childish he was behaving

## **Jonah 4.5-8**

**V5 – Did God’s reasoning help Jonah?** No – he continued to sulk

- What did Jonah do?** Went east of the city, built a shelter, and waited to see if the city would be destroyed
- He must have planned to wait there for forty days
- Scene: Jonah waiting to see the destruction of the city, hoping to see it happen

**V6 – What miracle did God perform at this time?** Provided a leafy plant (tree) to give Jonah some shade

- We all know how good it is to have some shade from the hot sun
- Why would God give shade to Jonah?** To show his continued love Jonah

**V7 – What did God do the next day?** Appointed a worm to cut down the plant

- What happened?** The plant withered and died

**V8 – What did God do next?** Sent a scorching east wind (Sirocco) and a hot sun

- Result?** Jonah almost fainted from the heat
- What did he do?** Again begged to die

## **Jonah 4.9-11**

**V 9**– Question from God? “Do you have a reason to be upset?” Answer: Yes

**V 10**– What had Jonah been so concerned about? A plant which lived one day and was dead the next

**V 11**– What should Jonah have been concerned about? The people of Nineveh  
-120,000 children = about 600,000 adults (estimates of Bible scholars)

**Lessons from this book?**

Revised 2012-09-15