

## THE GREATEST REVIVAL IN HISTORY

(Jonah 3)

In the last number of years, we have witnessed two invasions of Iraq. The most recent one was called "Operation Iraqi Freedom," and American soldiers died attempting to free Iraqis from tyranny.

Did you know that thousands of years earlier God had sent an invasion force of one into this same country? His name was Jonah, and his mission was to proclaim God's message of judgment. God would use this once disobedient prophet to free these people from the His wrath.

Chapter 3 is the high point of the book, for it tells of the miracle of the mass conversions of thousands of people.

### FOUR STEPS NECESSARY FOR REVIVAL TO TAKE PLACE IN OUR LIVES.

This is what people everywhere desperately need! This is what America needs!

#### I. There Must Be The Faithful Preaching And Hearing Of God's Word. (vv.1-4)

We as Americans don't need more money, we need God's Word. There is a famine of it in the land.

A. Jonah is re-commissioned. (3:1-2) "the Word of the Lord came to him a second time..."

1. What grace! O the patience of God. God will go to great lengths to make us faithful and fruitful children. He does not give up His designs for our lives.

With God, failure is not final. He comes to us 999<sup>th</sup> times...

"God is able to make His name a praise among the nations even on the shoulders of His children's failures and sins." "where sin abounds, grace super-abounds..."

2. Jonah had wasted time. He could have obeyed and skipped chapters 1 & 2.

B. Jonah speaks God's message. (vv3-4) It is simple, direct, and clear.

1. This what we need in our land today. Too many preach man's wisdom, not God's...

2. It is at first a message of the coming judgment. It was not a feel-good sermon.

"40 days and Nineveh will be overturned." (v 4)

We too must speak to others of God's law, guilt, and the coming judgment.

C. The people of Nineveh heard the message.

#### II. There Must Be The Believing Of God. (v.5a)

A. The people not only heard the message, but more, they believed God. Jonah spoke, but they heard God's voice.

It is not enough for us to merely hear God's message, we must respond by believing it.

B. God's Word will always cause a response and accomplish His purpose. God's Word is

