



God's Voice in Our World

Jonah 1:1-3 |

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RELATED SCRIPTURES

2 Peter 1:19-21 | John 1:1-14 | Romans 3:25 | Mark 9:7

SUMMARY

No matter the occasion/form of God's speech, its **purpose** was consistent: The "Word of the Lord" went out for His **glory** and people's **good**. And as it went out it often affected great change in people/places (it certainly did in this story - the Ninevites end up responding to God in repentance, which we'll see that in detail as we go on).

So "the word of Yahweh" comes to Jonah. Does God's Word catch him off guard? It can't be the first time he's hearing from the LORD. No, it's not the fact that God speaks to him (a well-assumed reality in Israel's history), it's the content of the words God speaks: "Go to the great city of Nineveh..." But Jonah ran away. Why? We'll see in more detail in the coming weeks.

As in Jonah's time, God knows we need more specificity regarding his Person/Promises than what general revelation can provide. So, in what the Apostle Paul calls the "fullness of time," God's Voice bursts upon the world in great clarity. The Apostle John puts it this way, "In the beginning the Word was with God and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-14).

Jesus is this "Word of God" that declares the Message of God: that God in his Relentless Grace has always been moving toward us (Creator, General Revelation), and now has moved toward us in a decisive way - Jesus, the "anointed one" has come to Redeem a people. And **in Jesus' voice we hear what is true about God, ourselves, and our relationship with Him.**

GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of Jonah 1-3, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about how God speaks with Jonah?
- How would you describe Jonah's response to the words God spoke to him? When does God's Word produce a similar response in you? Why do you suppose that is?
- Mark 9:7 says, "This is my Son, whom I love, listen to Him." How might God be asking you to listen to him this week? To bring restoration to your life? To bring grace? To bring truth?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?