

The Book of Jonah
Chapter Four – Jonah’s Resentment

Notes on Chapter 4

- vs. 1 – Though Jonah repented and obeyed, yet there is a coldness in his heart that does not match the mercy displayed by God.
 - Compare to what the reaction in Heaven surely was – Luke 15:10
- vs. 2 – We looked at this verse before to see why Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh: he did not want to give the merciful God a chance to forgive them.
- vs. 3 – Jonah could not stand the thought of Nineveh being saved and himself being a part of it. Now he cannot stand to watch it happen. He may also be afraid God may use Him to reach more Assyrians!
- vs. 4 – Instead of rebuking his wayward prophet, God plants a seed here. “Jonah, are you right to be angry?” This seed will grow into Jonah’s next lesson.
- vs. 5 – Jonah builds a temporary shelter (*sukkah*). This is the same word used for the structures built in the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:42). Likely made with tree branches, like a brush arbor.
- vs. 5 – “what would become of the city” – he is still holding out hope for judgment to fall.
- vs. 6 – probably a leafy vine that grew up and provided more shade.
- vs. 8 – the only reason Jonah is in this condition is because of his stubbornness.
- vs. 10-11 – God points the object lesson straight at Jonah’s heart. He cared more for a plant than 120,000+ souls.

“The Rest of the Story”

- The events in Jonah take place around 760 B.C.
- Nineveh’s judgment did not come in forty days.
- Assyria would come and conquer the Northern Kingdom of Israel and its capitol Samaria in 721 B.C.
- The prophet Nahum proclaimed around 650 B.C. that judgement was coming to Nineveh
- Nineveh fell to the Babylonians in 612 B.C.
- There would continue to be a small settlement there, but it never again regain even the smallest fraction of its former glory.