

REPENTANCE

Jonah, chapter 3; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:37, 38

Once upon a time there was a great city called Nineveh. It was so large that it took anyone three days to walk across it.

But, sad to say, this beautiful city of Nineveh was very wicked. The people there did not love nor mind God. Indeed, they loved only their own wicked ways.

God saw all this and it grieved him. He spoke to his prophet Jonah and said: "Arise and go to the city of Nineveh. Bid the people repent."

Jonah set out and after a long, long journey he came to the edge of the city. He walked for one day more, until, I suppose he was almost in the center of it. Then he began to cry out: "Repent! Repent!"

People heard him and came to their doorways to listen. A crowd soon gathered. "Repent! Repent!" Jonah kept on crying. "Be sorry for your sins or God will punish you. In forty days Nineveh shall be destroyed unless you repent!"

And, as Jonah talked, the people grew afraid. They began to tremble as they thought of the wicked deeds they had done. They were sorry. And then they put on sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on their heads as people did in those days when they were sorry for wrongdoing.

