

First Words

A Decree of Destruction is _____ concerning Nineveh

Jonah 1:1–2 - Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”

1. God’s Sovereignty for a Decree of Destruction

Daniel 2:20–21 - Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. ²¹ He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

2. God’s Execution of a Decree of Destruction

Daniel 5:26–28 - This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷ TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; ²⁸ PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

3. God’s Criteria in a Decree of Destruction – A nation gives itself to:

Flagrant _____ – **Leviticus 18:6-23**

Blatant _____ – **Psalms 9:17-18**

Arrogant _____ – **Psalms 115:3**

Callous _____ – **Amos 1:3-2:3**

Leviticus 18:24-25 - “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, ²⁵ and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

A Decree of Destruction is _____ by Nineveh

Jonah 3:3–4 - So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

A Decree of Destruction is _____ in Nineveh

1. The people believed what God had said

Jonah 3:5a - And the people of Nineveh believed God.

2. The people acted on what God had said

Jonah 3:5b - They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

3. The people exported what God had said

a. There was a turning in with sincerity- **Jonah 3:6** - The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

b. There was a turning up in intensity – **Jonah 3:7-8a** - And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God.

c. There was a turning away from sin– **Jonah 3:8b**- Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

d. There was turning to God – **Jonah 3:9** - Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

A Decree of Destruction is _____ for Nineveh

Jonah 3:10 - *When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.*

1. The Possibility for a Come Back - **Jeremiah 18:7-8** - *If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.*

2. The Person for a Comeback - **Jonah 4:2** - *And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.*

3. The Process for a Comeback - See **Jonah 3:3-10**

Step #1 – Hear God's Message

Step # 2 – Obey God's Message

- Corporate and personal fasting and repentance over sin

- Corporate and personal times of intense prayer

- Corporate and personal turning away from evil ways and violence in their hands

Step #3 – Share God's Message

Step #4 – Hope in God's Message

