

GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE

Jonah 3:1–4

How often we meet people who think of God as harsh, severe, and judgmental! To them, He is anxious to unload the fury of His wrath upon us since we are such sinful people. It's almost as if He is lying in wait, ready to pounce after we have blown it . . . like we have been given one and only one chance to obey Him before He gives us an "F" and writes us off as total failures. Either we shape up and do as He commands, or, **BOOM!** . . . He finishes us off. While that may be a popular opinion, *nothing could be further from the truth!* How often the Bible refers to our Lord as the "God of mercy" and the "God of grace," who is quick to forgive, who is patient and kind, who "does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent" (2 Peter 3:9 NLT). It is encouraging for us to remember this important characteristic of God, that He is the *God of the second chance*. As we shall learn today, Jonah was the recipient of this gracious response of God following the prophet's deliberate disobedience and subsequent repentance.

I. The "Second Chance" Grace of God

- What this means

- What this doesn't mean

II. Generally: Recipients of God's Patient Grace

- Three Old Testament recipients

- Two New Testament recipients

III. Specifically: Jonah, the Once-Wayward Prophet

- What God did (vv.1–2)

- How Jonah responded (vv.3–4)