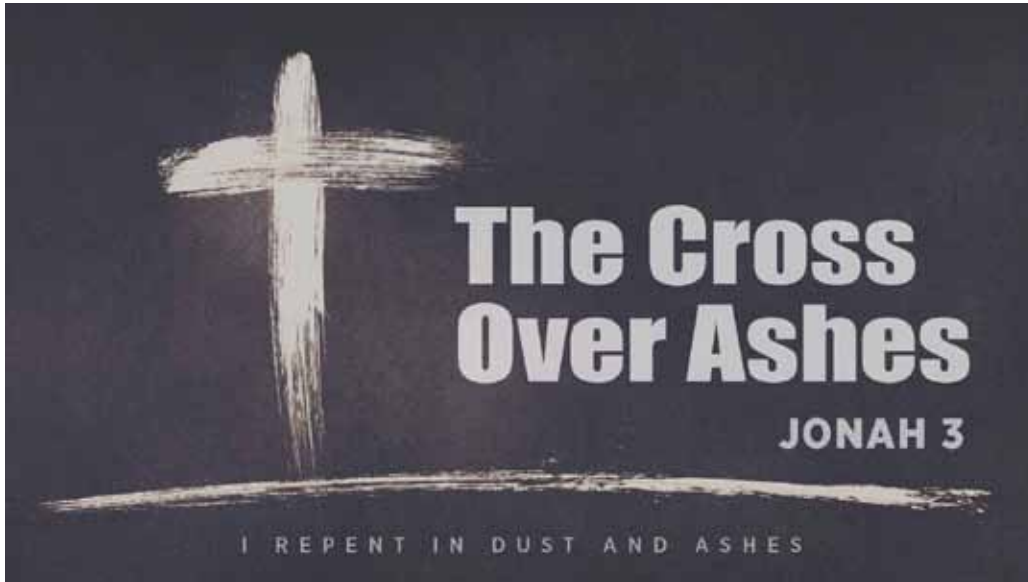


The Cross Over Ashes

(Jonah 3)



INTRODUCTION: *“Ashes, ashes, we all fall down”*

I. ASHES AND FORGIVENESS IN THE IRAQ OF THE PAST

- A. God desired to forgive sinful Nineveh (Assyria/Iraq) [Jonah 3:2, 4:11]
- B. Jonah did not want them to repent and be forgiven [Jonah 1:3; 4:1-3]
- C. Nineveh did repent, in ashes [Jonah 3:6]
- D. God forgives! [Jonah 3:10; 4:11]

II. THE ASHES OF TRAGEDY & WAR CALL ALL TO REPENT

- A. It was true in Jesus' time; The tower of Siloam [Luke 13:4]
- B. It is true today: threats of war & conflicts [Romans 3:23; 5:12]
- C. The ashes of repentance are appropriate for us all

III. CHRIST'S CROSS STANDS OVER OUR ASHES

- A. *“Repent and believe”* [Mark 1:15]
- B. He took our ashes upon Himself [Isaiah 53:4-6]
- C. At the Cross he endured much worse than tragedy or war
- D. His resurrection is our absolution

CONCLUSION: *The Phoenix and the empty Cross . . . over the ashes*