



Chapter 1

1. And the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
2. Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.
3. But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Jaffa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare for it, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish away from the presence of the Lord.
4. But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship seemed likely to break up.
5. Then the sailors were afraid, and cried each one to his own god, and they threw the wares that were in the ship to the sea, to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the interior of the ship; and had lain down, and was fast asleep.
6. So the ship's captain came to him, and said to him, What do you mean, O sleeper? Arise! Call upon your God! Perhaps God will give a thought to us, that we do not perish.
7. And they said to one another, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.
8. Then they said to him, Tell us, we beg you, for whose cause is this evil upon us? What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?
9. And he said to them, I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who has made the sea and the dry land.
10. Then the men were very afraid, and said to him, Why have you done this? For the men knew that he had fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.
11. Then they said to him, What shall we do to you, that the sea may calm down for us? For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.
12. And he said to them, Take me up, and throw me into the sea; then the sea will calm down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great tempest is upon you.
13. Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it back to land; but they could not; for the sea grew

more and more tempestuous against them.

14. And they cried to the Lord, and said, We pray you, O Lord, we pray you, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.

15. So they took Jonah up, and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging.

16. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord, and made vows.

Chapter 2

1. And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish,

3. And said, I cried to the Lord out of my distress, and he heard me; from the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

4. For you cast me into the deep, in the heart of the seas; and the floods surrounded me; all your billows and your waves passed over me.

5. Then I said, I am cast out from your presence; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.

6. The waters surrounded me, even to the soul; the depth closed around me, the weeds were wrapped around my head.

7. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars closed on me for ever; yet have you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.

8. When my soul fainted inside me I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to you, to your holy temple.

9. Those who pay regard to lying vanities forsake their loyalty.

10. But I will sacrifice to you with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that which I have vowed. Salvation belongs to the Lord.

11. And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Chapter 3

1. And the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying: Arise!

2. Go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I bid you.

3. And Jonah arose, and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. And Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in extent.

4. And Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Another forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

5. And the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

6. And word came to the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he took off his robe, and covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying: Neither man, beast, herd or flock should taste anything! They should not feed nor drink water!

8. And let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; let them turn everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

9. Who can tell if God may yet turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, so that we perish not?

10. And God saw their doings, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, which he had said that he would do to them; and he did not do it.

Chapter 4

1. And this displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

2. And he prayed to the Lord, and said, I pray you, O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I hastened to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and that you repent of the evil.

3. Therefore now, O Lord, take, I pray you, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

4. Then says the Lord, Do you do well to be so angry?

5. And Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there he made himself a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he should see what would become of the city.

6. And the Lord God appointed a castor oil plant, and made it grow over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to save him from his distress. And Jonah was exceedingly glad of the plant.

7. And, when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered.

8. And it came to pass, when the sun rose, that God appointed a hot east wind; and the sun beat down upon the head of Jonah, so that he fainted, and wished to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

9. And God said to Jonah: Do you do well to be so angry for the plant? And he said: I do well to be so angry, even to death.

10. Then the Lord said, You had concern for the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night And should I not spare Nineveh, that great city, where there are more than one hundred and twenty thousand person

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