**The Book of Jonah**

**Jonah Chapter 1**

1Now the word of Yahweh came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2“Get up! Go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it, for their wickedness has come up before me.” 3But Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish, away from the presence of Yahweh. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, so he paid its fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of Yahweh.

4But Yahweh hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty storm on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5Then the mariners were afraid, and every man cried out to his god. And they threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the innermost parts of the ship, and he was lying down and was fast asleep.

6So the captain came to him, and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Get up! Call on your god! Maybe your god will take note of us, so that we do not perish.”

7And they said to one another, “Come, let’s cast lots so that we know who is responsible for this evil that is upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8Then they said to him, “Tell us now, on whose account this evil is upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? Of what people are you?”

9And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

10Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of Yahweh, because he had told them. 11Then they said to him, “What should we do to you so that the sea will become calm for us?” For the sea was getting rougher and rougher.

12So he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will be calm for you, for I know that it is because of me that this great storm is upon you.” 13Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get *the ship* back to the land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them.

14Then they cried out to Yahweh and said, “Please, Yahweh, do not let us die for this man’s life, and do not hold against us innocent blood, for you, Yahweh, have done as it pleased you.” 15So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. 16Then the men feared Yahweh with great fear, and they sacrificed a sacrifice to Yahweh and vowed vows.

17Now Yahweh had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

**Jonah Chapter 2**

1And Jonah prayed to Yahweh his God out of the fish’s belly. 2And he said,

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|  | “Out of *the midst of* my distress I called to Yahweh, and he answered me.  Out of the belly of Sheol I cried out.  You heard my voice. |
| 3 | For you threw me into the depths,  into the heart of the seas.  The currents swirled around me.  All your breakers and your waves passed over me. |
| 4 | So I said, ‘I have been banished  from your sight;  yet I will look again  toward your holy Temple.’ |
| 5 | The waters surrounded me to the point of death.  The deep was around me.  The weeds were wrapped around my head. |
| 6 | I went down to the bottoms of the mountains.  The earth with its bars was around me forever;  then you brought up my life from the pit, O Yahweh my God. |
| 7 | When my life was ebbing away,  I remembered Yahweh.  My prayer came in to you,  into your holy Temple. |
| 8 | Those who worship worthless idols  forsake their own mercy. |
| 9 | But I, with the voice of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you.  I will pay what I have vowed.  Salvation belongs to Yahweh.” |

10And Yahweh spoke to the fish and it vomited out Jonah on the dry land.

**Jonah Chapter 3**

1Then the word of Yahweh came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2“Get up! Go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it the message that I give you.” 3So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the word of Yahweh.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, of a three-day journey. 4And Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s walk, and he cried out and said, “In 40 days Nineveh will be overthrown!” 5And the people of Nineveh believed God, and they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6And the word reached the king of Nineveh, and he got up from his throne and took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7He made a proclamation and proclaimed through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,

“Let neither man nor animal, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, nor drink water, 8but they must be covered with sackcloth, both man and animal, and let them cry out mightily to God. Yes, everyone must turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9Who knows? The god may turn and change his mind and turn away from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

10When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, then God changed his mind about the disaster that he said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

**Jonah Chapter 4**

1But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2He prayed to Yahweh and said, “Please, Yahweh, was not this what I said when I was still in my own country? That is why I hurried to flee to Tarshish, for I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger and abundant in covenant faithfulness, and you change your mind about doing harm. 3So now, Yahweh, please take my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.”

4But Yahweh said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

5Then Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city, and made himself a booth there and sat under it in the shade, until he might see what would become of the city. 6And Yahweh God prepared a vine and made it to come up over Jonah, so that it would provide shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the vine. 7But God prepared a worm at dawn the next day, and it attacked the vine, so that it withered.

8And when the sun arose, God prepared a scorching east wind, and the sun beat on Jonah’s head so that he was faint. And he asked with *all* his soul to die, and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

9And God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the vine?”

He said, “I am right to be angry, even to death.”

10Then Yahweh said, “You have been concerned for the vine, for which you did not labor, nor made it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night. 11And I, shouldn’t I be concerned for Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than 120,000 persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left, and also much livestock?”