



# Jonah

## Chapter 1

### *The Flight of Jonah*

1 ¶ Now the word of the LORD came to <sup>a</sup>Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

2 “Arise! Go to <sup>b</sup>Nineveh, that <sup>c</sup>great city, and cry out against it. For <sup>d</sup>their wickedness has come up before Me.”

3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. And he went down to <sup>e</sup>Joppa. There he found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid its fare and went down into it in order to go with them to <sup>f</sup>Tarshish <sup>g</sup>from the presence of the LORD.

4 ¶ But <sup>h</sup>the LORD sent out a great wind onto the sea and there was a mighty storm on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

5 Then the sailors were afraid, and every man cried out to his god. Then they cast the cargo that *was* in the ship into the sea in order to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down <sup>i</sup>into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.

6 So the shipmaster came to him and said to him, “What do you mean by this, O sleeper? Arise! <sup>j</sup>Call on your God, <sup>k</sup>if possible *your* God will be concerned about us so that we not perish.”

7 And everyone said to his companion, “Come, and let us <sup>l</sup>cast lots so that we may know for whose cause this calamity *has come* upon us.” So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

8 Then they said to him, <sup>m</sup>“Tell us now for whose cause this calamity *has come* upon us. What do you do? And from where *have* you come? What *is* your country? And from what people *are* you?”

9 Then he said to them, “I *am* a Hebrew. And I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, <sup>n</sup>who has made the sea and the dry *land*.”

10 ¶ Then the men were exceedingly afraid. And they said to him, “Why have you done this?” For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD because he had told them.

11 Then they said to him, “What will we do to you so that the sea may be calm for us?”—*for it was* becoming increasingly tempestuous.

12 And he said to them, <sup>o</sup>“Take me up and cast me out into the sea. Then the sea will be calm for you. For I know that for my sake this great tempest *has come* upon you.”

13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring *it* to the land, <sup>p</sup>but they could not because the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them.

14 Therefore, they cried out to the LORD and said, “We beseech You, O LORD, we beseech You. Let us not perish for this man’s life; and <sup>q</sup>do not lay on us innocent blood, for You, O LORD, <sup>r</sup>have done as it pleased You.”

15 So they took up Jonah and cast him out into the sea. And <sup>s</sup>the sea ceased from its raging.

16 Then the men <sup>t</sup>feared the LORD exceedingly. And they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

17 ¶ Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And <sup>u</sup>Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

**Chapter 2**

*The Prayer of Jonah*

- 1 ¶ Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God out of the fish's belly.
- 2 And he said, "I<sup>a</sup> cried out to the LORD because of my affliction and<sup>b</sup> He heard me. Out of the belly of Sheol I cried out *and* You heard my voice.
- 3 "For You had cast me into the deep in the midst of the seas. And the waters surrounded me. <sup>d</sup>All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.
- 4 "Then I said, 'I am cast out of Your sight. Still I will look again<sup>f</sup> toward Your holy temple.'
- 5 "The <sup>g</sup>waters surrounded me, *even* to the soul. The deep closed around me *and* the sea 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. Still You have brought up my <sup>h</sup>life from the pit, O LORD my God.
- 7 "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD. And <sup>i</sup>my prayer came in to You, into Your holy temple.
- 8 "Those who revere <sup>j</sup>useless idols forsake their faithfulness.
- 9 "But I will <sup>k</sup>sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving. I will pay what I have <sup>l</sup>vowed. <sup>m</sup>Salvation *is* from the <sup>n</sup>LORD."
- 10 ¶ Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah on dry *land*.

**Chapter 2:** a Ps 120:1 b Ps 65:2 c Ps 88:6 d Ps 42:7 e Ps 31:22 f 1 Kg 8:38 g Lm 3:54 h Ps 16:10 i Ps 18:6 j Jr 10:8 k Hs 14:2 l Ec 5:4,5 m Ps 3:8 n Jr 3:23

**Chapter 3**

*The Submission of Jonah*

- 1 ¶ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,
- 2 "Arise! Go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."
- 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city of three days' journey *around it*.
- 4 ¶ Then Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey. Then <sup>a</sup>he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."
- 5 So the <sup>b</sup>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.
- 6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne and he laid aside his robe. Then he covered *himself* with sackcloth and <sup>c</sup>sat in ashes.
- 7 <sup>d</sup>And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, "Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them neither feed, nor drink water.
- 8 "But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth and cry out mightily to God. Yes, <sup>e</sup>let everyone turn from his evil way and from the <sup>f</sup>violence that *is* in his hands.
- 9 <sup>g</sup>"Who can tell *if* God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we do not perish?"
- 10 ¶ <sup>h</sup>And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways.

Then God relented of the calamity that He had said that He would do to them. And He did not do *it*.

**Chapter 3:** a Dt 18:22 b Mt 12:41 c Jb 2:8 d 2 Ch 20:3 e Is 58:6 f Is 59:6 g Jl 2:14 h Jr 18:8

### Chapter 4

#### *The Frustration of Jonah*

- 1 ¶ But it displeased Jonah exceedingly and he was very angry.
- 2 Then he prayed to the LORD and said, “Please O LORD, *was* this not what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore, <sup>a</sup>I fled before to Tarshish. For I knew that You *are* a <sup>b</sup>gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and One who relents from doing harm.
- 3 “Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, <sup>d</sup>for *it is* better for me to die than to live.”
- 4 ¶ Then the LORD said, “Do you have any right to be angry?”
- 5 So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. And there he made for himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade until he might see what would become of the city.
- 6 Now the LORD God prepared a gourd and made *it* to come up over Jonah so that it might be a shade over his head, to deliver him from his grief. Now Jonah was exceedingly glad for the gourd.
- 7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day. And it smote the gourd so that it withered.
- 8 Now it came to pass when the sun arose that God prepared a scorching east wind. And the sun beat on the head of Jonah so that he fainted. And he wished in himself to die. Then he said, “*It is* better for me to die than to live.”
- 9 Then God said to Jonah, “Did you have a right to be angry about the gourd?” And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, even to death.”
- 10 ¶ Then the LORD said, “You had pity on the gourd for which you had not labored, neither did you make it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.
- 11 “And should I not spare Nineveh, <sup>f</sup>that great city, wherein are more than 120,000 persons <sup>g</sup>who cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand, and *also* many animals?”

**Chapter 4:** a Jh 1:3 b Jl 2:13 c 1 Kg 19:4 d Jh 4:8 e Jh 4:3 f Jh 1:2; 3:2,3 g Dt 1:39

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