

Jonah

Jonah 1

- ¶1. Now the word of Jehovah came to Jonah ben-Amittai, saying,
2. “Arise! Go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out against it, for their evil has come up before me!”
 3. But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish away from Jehovah, and he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. And he paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish, away from Jehovah.
 4. But Jehovah hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a great tempest in the sea so that the ship was on the verge of being broken up.
 5. And the sailors were afraid, and they cried out, each to his god, and they cast the wares that were in the ship into the sea to lighten it of them. But Jonah had gone down into the hold of the ship and lain down, and he had fallen into a deep sleep.
 6. Then the captain came to him and said to him, “What are you doing, you sleeper? Get up! Call on your god! Maybe that god will think on us so we won’t die!”
 7. And they said, each to his shipmate, “Come on, let’s cast lots and find out on whose account this evil is upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.
 8. And they said to him, “You, on whose account this evil is upon us, tell us now, what’s your occupation, and where do you come from? What’s your country, and what people are you from?”
 9. And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear Jehovah, the God of heaven. who made the sea and the dry land.”
 10. Then the men were very afraid, and they said to him, “What is this that you have done?” For the men knew that he was running from Jehovah, because he had told them.
 11. And they said to him, “What are we to do with you so that the sea will be calm for us?” For the sea was tossing and raging.
 12. And he told them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will be calm for you, for I know that this great tempest is upon you because of me.”
 13. But the men rowed to return to land; however, they could not because the sea was tossing and raging against them.
 14. So, they cried out to Jehovah and said, “We beg you, O Jehovah, please don’t let us die because of this man’s life, and don’t lay upon us innocent blood, O Jehovah, for you have done as you pleased!”
 15. And they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.
 16. Then the men greatly feared Jehovah, and they offered sacrifice to Jehovah and made vows.
 17. Now, Jehovah had appointed a large fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2

- ¶1. And Jonah prayed to Jehovah his God from the fish’s belly.

2. And he said, "I called in my distress to Jehovah, and He answered me. From the depths of Sheol, I cried out. You heard my voice.
3. For you had cast me into the deep, into the midst of the sea, and the flood encompassed me. All your billows and your waves passed over me.
4. Then I said, 'I am cast out of your sight; yet, I will look again toward your holy temple.'
5. The waters encompassed me, even to my soul. The deep surrounded me; seaweed wrapped my head.
6. To the bottoms of mountains, I descended. The earth's bars were about me forever, but you brought up my life from the pit, Jehovah my God!
7. When my soul fainted within me, I remembered Jehovah, and my prayer came to you, to your holy temple.
8. Those who give heed to worthless idols forsake their own mercy,
9. but I will sacrifice unto you with the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed, I will pay! Salvation belongs to Jehovah."
10. Then Jehovah spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 3

- ¶1. Then the word of Jehovah came to Jonah a second time, saying,
2. "Arise! Go to Nineveh, the great city, and declare the decree that I tell you."
3. And Jonah arose and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of Jehovah. Now, Nineveh was a very great city, three days' journey.
4. And Jonah began to enter into the city, a day's journey, and he cried out and said, "Forty more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown!"
5. And the men of Nineveh believed God, and they called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.
6. And the message reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and removed his robe from him, and covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.
7. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, eat anything; let them neither feed nor drink water.
8. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them cry out mightily to God. And let them turn, every one, from his evil way and from the violence that is in their hands.
9. Who knows? God may repent, and show mercy, and turn away from His fierce anger so that we do not perish."
10. And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way, and God repented of the evil that He had said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

Jonah 4

1. But it was evil to Jonah, a great evil, and his anger was kindled.
2. And he prayed to Jehovah and said, "Ah, Jehovah! Isn't this what I said when I was in my own country? That's why I fled before to Tarshish, because I know that you are a gracious God, and compassionate, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy, and would repent of the evil.

3. Therefore now, O Jehovah, take my life from me, I pray, for it is better for me to die than to live.”
- ¶4. Then Jehovah said, “Are you doing well to be angry?”
5. Then Jonah went out, away from the city, and he waited, east of the city. And there, he made for himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade until he saw what would become of the city.
6. And Jehovah God ordained a plant to come up over Jonah so that it might provide shade for his head, to relieve him of his misery. And Jonah rejoiced over the plant with great joy.
7. But when the morning dawned the next day, God ordained a worm, and it killed the plant, and it dried up.
8. And it came to pass, when the sun arose, that God ordained a scorching¹ east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah’s head and caused him to faint. Then he wished within himself to die and said, “My death would be better than my life.”
9. Then God said to Jonah, “Are you doing well to be angry because of the plant?” And he said, “I am doing well to be angry, even to death!”
10. Then Jehovah said, “You had pity on the plant, for which you neither labored nor nurtured, which sprouted in a night and perished in a night.
11. And should I not have pity on Nineveh, the great city, in which are more than a hundred and twenty thousand men who cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand, and many cattle also?”

¹ Meaning uncertain. Possibly, “cutting”.