

Jonah

Introdushon

Dis book na about God and Profet Jonah for 8th century BC wen King Jeroboam II dey rule Judah. Di book nor bi like di oda profets writing. E nor tok about vishon or message to Judah or di oda nashons but na about di drama between God and Jonah ensef. Na only one message dey dis intrestin book. Di story na about how God tell Jonah make e go warn Nineveh pipol sey E go distroy dia land bikos of dia sin. Na two main parts dey di drama. Di first one start as God dey repeat en kommand to Jonah make e go prish for di great town, Nineveh. Instead, Jonah go enter one ship wey dey go Tarshish, bikos e won hide from God and nor won go where God send am. Di sekond part happen wen Jonah dey inside one big fish belle. Afta God kommand di fish to vomit Jonah for Nineveh, Jonah go prish der and di pipol kon turn from dia sins go meet God, While di sekond part dey inside first one, di sekond part happen for Nineveh town wen Jonah nor dey happy bikos God get pity for di pipol. Jonah akshon for dis book na to show how pipol for Israel dey bihave to oda nashons. Instead make dem help oda nashons to know God just as E tell dem, so dat dem go dey save, dem dey si dis nashons as dia enemies and dey espect sey God go distroy doz nashons. Di book tish us sey, apart from Israel pipol, God still love di oda nashons.

In-short, di message bi sey, God love di whole world.

Jonah Run From God

¹ One day, God tell Jonah wey bi Amittai pikin ² sey, “Make yu go Nineveh, dat big town kon tell di pipol about my judgement wey dey kom, bikos I don hear how di pipol for der wiked rish.” ³ But Jonah kon plan to run go anoda place, bikos e nor won do wetin God tell am. E travel go Joppa where e for si one ship wey karry load dey go Tarshish. So e buy tiket kon enter di ship, so dat e go fit hide from God. ⁴ But God send strong breeze go kause wahala for di sea and bikos di breeze strong well-well, di ship won kon break to pieces. ⁵ Di sailors kon dey fear; evribody bigin kry kon dey pray to dia difren juju. Den dem kon dey trowey dia load for wota make di ship for lite. By dis time, Jonah dey inside-inside di ship dey sleep. ⁶ Wen di kaptain for di ship si am, e kon wake and ask am, “How kom yu fit dey sleep for dis kind time? Make yu get up kon pray to yor God make E kom help us. May bi E go sorry for us kon save awa life.” ⁷ So di sailors kon sey, “Make wi trow dice take know di pesin wey dey kause dis wahala for us.” So dem trow dice and e kon show sey na Jonah dey kause am. ⁸ Dem kon sey, “Make yu tell us! Na who make dis tins dey happen to us so? Na wish kind work yu dey do? Where yu from kom? Wetin bi yor kountry name and wish tribe yu bi?” ⁹ Jonah ansa, “I bi Hibru pesin! I dey woship God; di

Pesin wey make heaven, land and sea.” ¹⁰ Wen dem hear wetin e tok, fear kon katch dem well-well, so dem ask am, “Wish kind tin yu do so?” Di men tok like dis, bikos dem know sey e dey run from God, just as e bin tell dem. ¹¹ Bikos di breeze dey strong more-more, dem kon ask am, “Wetin wi go do yu naw make dis breeze for stop?” ¹² Jonah ansa, “Make una trow mi inside di wota and di breeze go stop. Bikos na mi kause dis wahala for una.” ¹³ Instead, dem kon try to padol di ship go land back, but dem know fit, bikos di breeze strong well-well. ¹⁴ So dem kry to God sey, “God wey get pawa, wi beg, make Yu know let us die, bikos of dis man! Make Yu know ponish us sey wi kill dis innocent man, bikos Yu wey bi Oga God, must do wetin Yu wont.” ¹⁵ So dem trow Jonah inside di wota, den di breeze kon stop. ¹⁶ Dis tin make di men fear God well-well, so dem offa sakrifice gi-am kon promise to serve am.

¹⁷ So God send one big fish go swallow Jonah. Jonah dey di fish belle for three days and three nite.

2

Jonah Pray

¹ As Jonah dey inside di fish belle, e kon pray to God. ² E sey,

“I kry give Yu wen I dey wahala and Yu ansa mi.
 Naw, I dey kry to Yu from where dead body dey,
 so make Yu go kom help mi and hear my prayers.

- ³ Na Yu God trow mi inside dis deep sea.
 Yu trow mi inside di river
 and di wota and waves kon kover mi.
- ⁴ Den I sey, 'Oga God,
 Yu don drive mi
 komot from yor present kpata-kpata
 and I nor go ever si yor holy temple again!'
- ⁵ Di wota kover and almost kill mi.
 Naw, I don sink enter di sea.
 Even di leaf dem wey dey di sea,
 don tie my head.
- ⁶ I sink go under di mountins
 kon enter inside one place
 where I go bi prisona forever.
 But Yu, my God don take mi
 komot from di pit.
- ⁷ Wen I tink sey my life don dey finish,
 I kon pray give Yu and Yu hear mi
 from yor holy temple.
- ⁸ Doz wey dey woship juju,
 don abandon di good tins wey God suppose
 do for dem.
- ⁹ But as for mi, I go sing praiz Yu;
 I go offa sakrifice give Yu
 kon do wetin I promise,
 bikos na only Yu fit save mi!"
- ¹⁰ Den God kon kommand di fish make e go
 vomit Jonah put for dry land.

3

Jonah Go Nineveh

- ¹ God kon tell Jonah for di sekond time, ² "Make
 yu go Nineveh, dat big town kon tell di pipol my

message.” ³ So Jonah obey God kon go Nineveh. (Nineveh na one big town and e go take three days to waka round am!) ⁴ For di day wen Jonah enter di town, e kon tell di pipol, “Afta forty days, God go distroy Nineveh finish!”

⁵ Nineveh pipol bilive God message, so dem kon sey make evribody fast and wear sak and evribody, both small and old, do wetin dia leaders tell dem. ⁶ Wen dia king hear di news, e get up from en throne, remove en fine klot, wear sak kon sidan for ashes. ⁷ E kon kommand, “For inside dis kingdom, Nineveh, mi and all my ofisas don gri sey: ‘Make nobody or animal, chop or drink anytin. ⁸ Make evribody and dia animals wear sak kon pray well-well to God, den turn from dia sin go meet am.’ ⁹ May bi God go shange en mind kon stop to vex for us, den wi nor go die again!” ¹⁰ So wen God si wetin dem dey do: sey dem don really turn kom meet am, E kon shange en mind and E nor ponish dem again, just as E bin won do.

4

Jonah Kon Dey Vex

¹ Jonah nor happy bikos of wetin happen, so e kon dey vex. ² Den e kon dey komplain to God, “My God, before I komot from my kountry, I know sey dis na wetin Yu go do? Na dis tin make mi try to run go Tarshish! I know sey Yu dey sorry and kare for pipol and Yu get patient, dey kind and instead of Yu to ponish pipol, Yu always dey ready to forgive dem. ³ So my God,

make Yu just kill mi. E betta make I die, dan dis life wey I dey live so.” ⁴ Den Oga God kon ansa Jonah, “Na wish rite yu get to dey vex?”

⁵ So Jonah kon go sidan for di east side for di town. E arrange one small place for der kon sidan dey wait to si wetin go happen to di town.

⁶ Den God make one small plant grow kover Jonah, so dat e go fit rest well. So Jonah happy well-well, bikos of di plant.

⁷ But di next day, God send one worm kom chop, distroy and kill di plant. ⁸ Wen sun start to shine, God kon send one hot breeze kom from east. Di sun dey shine for Jonah head and e nearly faint. So as Jonah dey vex, bikos di plant wey kover en head don die, e kon sey, “E betta make I die, dan dis life wey I dey live so.” ⁹ But God tell am, “Wish rite yu get to dey vex bikos of di small plant?” Jonah ansa, “I get evry rite to vex till I die!” ¹⁰ Den God tell am, “If yu dey vex sey I kill dis plant wey grow for only one nite kon die di next day; plant wey yu nor do anytin for or make grow, ¹¹ den why yu feel sey I know go sorry for Nineveh town wey dey for darkness? Place where en pipol many pass one hundred and 20,000 and wey get many animals.”

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