Jonah

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of
Amittai:
2 “Rise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and
proclaim against it, for their wickedness has
come up before me.”
3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish, away from
the presence of the LORD. He went down to
Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He
paid its fare and went down into it to go with
them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the
LORD.
4 Then the LORD hurled a great wind upon the
sea, and there was a great storm at sea. The ship
threatened to break apart.
5 The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to
his god. They hurled the cargo in the ship into
the sea to lighten their load. But Jonah had gone
down into the innermost part of the ship, where
he lay down and fell fast asleep.
6 The captain came to him and said, “What are
you doing asleep? Rise, call on your God!
Perhaps God will take notice of us, and we will
not perish.”
7 They said to one another, “Come, let us cast
lots to find out who is responsible for this
disaster upon us.” They cast lots, and the lot fell
on Jonah.
8 Then they said to him, “Please tell us who is
responsible for this disaster upon us. What is

your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country, and what people are you from?"

9 He said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

10 The men were greatly afraid and said to him, "What have you done?" For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

11 They said to him, "What should we do to you so that the sea will grow calm for us?" For the sea was growing more and more stormy.

12 He said to them, "Lift me up and hurl me into the sea, and the sea will grow calm for you. For I know that this great storm has come upon you because of me."

13 Instead, the men rowed hard to return to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them.

14 So they cried out to the LORD, "Please, LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not charge us with innocent blood, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased."

15 Then they lifted Jonah up and hurled him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging.

16 The men feared the LORD greatly; they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

17 The LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2

1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from
the belly of the fish.

2 He said, “In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.
From the belly of Sheol I cried for help, and
you heard my voice.

3 You cast me into the depths, into the heart of
the seas, and the current surrounded me.
All your breakers and waves passed over
me.

4 I said, ‘I have been driven from your sight, yet I
will look again toward your holy temple.’

5 The waters closed around me up to my throat;
the deep surrounded me, and seaweed was
wrapped around my head.

6 I went down to the roots of the mountains;
the earth’s bars closed over me forever.
Yet you brought my life up from the pit,
LORD my God.

7 When my life was ebbing away within me, I
remembered the LORD, and my prayer
came to you, to your holy temple.

8 Those who cling to empty falsehoods forsake
the steadfast love that is theirs.

9 But I will sacrifice to you with a voice of
thanksgiving.
What I have vowed I will fulfill.
Salvation belongs to the LORD.”

10 Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it
vomited Jonah onto the dry land.

3

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah a
second time:
2 “Rise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and
proclaim to it the message that I give you.”
3 So Jonah rose and went to Nineveh according
to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was a
city great in God’s sight, a journey of three days.
4 Jonah began to enter the city, going a day’s
journey, and proclaimed, “Forty more days, and
Nineveh will be overthrown!”
5 The people of Nineveh believed God. They
proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the
greatest to the least.
6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh,
he rose from his throne, took off his robe,
covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.
7 He had this proclamation made in Nineveh:
“By decree of the king and his nobles: Neither
people nor animals, neither cattle nor sheep,
may taste anything. They must not graze or
drink water.
8 Let people and animals be covered with
sackcloth. Let them cry mightily to God, and let
each turn from his evil way and from the
violence in their hands.
9 Who knows? God may turn and relent and
turn away from his fierce anger, so that we do
not perish.”
10 God saw what they did, that they had
turned from their evil way. Then God relented
from the disaster he had said he would bring
upon them, and he did not do it.

4

1 But this greatly displeased Jonah, and he
became angry.
2 He prayed to the LORD, “Please, LORD, is this
not what I said while I was still in my own land?
That is why I was quick to flee to Tarshish. For I
knew that you are a gracious and compassionate
God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love, who relents from disaster.
3 And now, LORD, please take my life from me,
for it is better for me to die than to live.”

4 The LORD said, “Are you right to be angry?”
5 Jonah went out of the city and sat down east
of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat
under it in the shade to see what would happen
to the city.
6 The LORD God appointed a plant, and it grew
up over Jonah to give shade over his head and
relieve his distress. Jonah was greatly delighted
with the plant.
7 But at dawn the next day God appointed a
worm, and it attacked the plant, so that it
withered.
8 When the sun rose, God appointed a stifling
east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah’s head,
and he grew faint. He asked to die, saying, “It is
better for me to die than to live.”
9 God said to Jonah, “Are you right to be angry
over the plant?” He said, “I am right to be angry,
even to the point of death.”
10 The LORD said, “You had pity on the plant,
for which you did not labor and which you did

not make grow. It came into being in a night and
perished in a night.
11 And should I not have pity on Nineveh, the
great city, in which there are more than 120,000
people who do not know their right hand from
their left, and many animals?”

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