

The Book of
Jonah

1:3 **Jonah's Flees from the LORD and is Swallowed by a great Fish.** 2:1 **Jonah's Prayer.** 3:1 **He cries against Nineveh.**

1 Now *the* word of Jehovah came unto Jonah *the* son of Amittai, saying, **2** Arise, go to Nineveh, *that* great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before my face. **3** But Jonah rose up to flee unto ¹Tarshish from before *the* face of Jehovah; and he went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid *the* fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from before *the* face of Jehovah.

4 But Jehovah ²sent out a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. **5** Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god; and they cast forth the wares that *were* in the ship into the sea, to lighten *it* unto them. But Jonah was gone down into *the* innermost parts of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. **6** So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy ³God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. **7** And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil *is* upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. **8** Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil *is* upon us; what *is* thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what *is* thy country? and of what people *art* thou? **9** And he said unto them, I *am* a Hebrew; and I fear Jehovah, the ⁴God of heaven, who hath made the sea and the dry *land*. **10** Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, What is this that thou hast done? For the men knew that he was fleeing from before *the* face of Jehovah, because he had told them.

11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea grew more and more tempestuous. **12** And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest *is* upon you. **13** Nevertheless the men rowed hard to get *them* back to the land; but they could not: for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. **14** Wherefore they cried unto Jehovah, and said, We beseech thee, O Jehovah, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's soul, and lay not upon us innocent blood; for thou, O Jehovah, hast done as it pleased thee. **15** So they

took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. **16** Then the men feared Jehovah exceedingly; and they offered a sacrifice unto Jehovah, and made vows.

17 And Jehovah prepared ⁵a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in *the* belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2 Then Jonah prayed unto Jehovah his God out of the fish's belly. **2** And he said,

I called ⁶by reason of mine affliction unto Jehovah,
And he answered me;
Out of *the* belly of Sheol cried I,
And thou heardest my voice.

3 For thou didst cast me into *the* depth, in *the* heart of *the* seas,

And *the* flood was round about me;
All thy waves and thy billows passed over me.

4 And I said, I am cast out from before thine eyes;
Yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

5 *The* waters compassed me about, *even* to *the* soul;
The deep was round about me;
The weeds were wrapped about my head.

⁵ *It might be expected that Jonah had been swallowed by a huge fish (which has an air bladder), rather than by a whale; but even the latter has been known to swallow a live man whole: One morning in February 1891, a whaling ship, Star of the East, lost a pursuit boat and two sailors in harpooning a whale near the Falkland Islands. Sailors cutting open the whale's stomach the following morning, found one of the missing sailors, 35-year-old James Bartley, inside doubled up and unconscious. Though shortly revived, he was mentally disordered for two weeks but back to work after another week. "His skin had been bleached [reddened?] and wrinkled to the appearance of old parchment by the gastric juices of the whale's stomach, and never regained its natural appearance. He enjoyed normal health, nevertheless, after his recovery. The happening was said among the whaling captains to be unique in that, whilst it frequently happened that men were swallowed by pain-maddened whales, there had never been known any other instance where a man came out alive." From M. de Parville (Scientific Editor), in the French Journal des Debats, Aug. 25, 1891, then in the Literary Digest. Summarized in Bible Study Monthly [England] **46**, 3, p. 67-68 (May 1969).*

⁶ *Or*, out of mine affliction unto Jehovah, 8HevXIIgr, Sept., Aram. *read* in mine affliction unto Jehovah,

¹ *Probably Tartessus, SW Spain. See note on Ge 10:4.*

² *Or*, hurled

³ *Hb.* Elohim (*plural, both times*)

⁴ *Hb.* Elohi (*singular*)

6 I went down to *the* bottoms of *the* mountains;
 The earth with its bars *closed* upon me ⁷for ever:
 Yet hast thou brought up my life from ⁸*the* pit,
 O Jehovah my God.

7 When my soul fainted within me, I remembered
 Jehovah;
 And my prayer came in unto thee, into thy holy
 temple.

8 They that regard lying vanities
 Forsake ⁹their own mercy.

9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with *the* voice of
 thanksgiving;
 I will pay *that* which I have vowed.
 Salvation *is* of Jehovah.

10 And Jehovah spake unto the fish, and it vomited out
 Jonah upon the dry land.

3 And *the* word of Jehovah came unto Jonah *the*
 second time, saying, 2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that
 great city, and ¹⁰preach unto it the preaching that I bid
 thee. 3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh,
 according to *the* word of Jehovah. Now Nineveh was
¹¹an exceeding great city, of three days' journey.

4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's
 journey, and he cried, and said, ¹²Yet forty days, and
 Nineveh shall be overthrown.

5 And *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. 6 ¹³And the
 tidings reached *the* king of Nineveh, and he arose from
 his throne, and laid his robe from him, and covered *him*
 with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he made
 proclamation and ¹⁴published through Nineveh by *the*
 decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither
 man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them
 not feed, nor drink water; 8 but let them be covered
 with sackcloth, both man and beast, and let them cry
 mightily unto God: yes, let them turn every one from
 his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in his hands.

9 Who knoweth *whether* God will *not* turn and repent,
 and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

10 And God saw their works, that they turned from
 their evil way; and God repented of the evil which he
 said he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

⁷ *This expression for ever in Hebrew implies Without predetermined termination, without fixed end; it may or may not imply eternity, according to context.*

⁸ *Or, corruption,*

⁹ *Variorum Bible says, their state of favor with God.*

¹⁰ *Or, cry*

¹¹ *Hb. a city great unto God (Elohim).*

¹² *Possibly forty days before the great eclipse of BC763 June 15 at Ninevah, in the 10th year of Asshur-dan. This unusual eclipse moved along the N-S meridian.*

¹³ *Or, For word came unto the king of Nineveh,*

¹⁴ *Hb. said*

4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was
 angry. 2 And he prayed unto Jehovah, and said, I pray
 thee, O Jehovah, *was* not this my saying, when I was
 yet in my country? Therefore I ¹⁵hasted to flee unto
 Tarshish; for I knew that thou *art* a gracious God,
 and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in
 lovingkindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

3 Therefore now, O Jehovah, take, I beseech thee, ¹⁶my
 soul from me; for *it is* better for me to die than to live.

4 And Jehovah said, ¹⁷Doest thou well to be angry?

5 Then Jonah went out of the city, and sat on *the* east
side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat
 under it in the shade, till he might see what would
 become of the city.

6 And Jehovah God prepared a ¹⁸gourd, and made *it*
 to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over
 his head, to deliver him from his evil case. So Jonah
 was exceeding glad because of the gourd. 7 But God
 prepared a *scarlet* worm when the morning rose the
 next day, and it smote the gourd, that it *then* withered.

8 And it came to pass, when the sun arose, that God
 prepared a sultry east wind; and the sun beat upon *the*
 head of Jonah, that he fainted, and he requested for his
 soul to die, and said, *It is* better for me to die than to
 live. 9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be
 angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be
 angry, *even* unto death. 10 And Jehovah said, Thou
 hast had regard for the gourd, for which thou hast not
 labored, neither madest it grow; which came up in a
 night, and perished in a night: 11 and should not I have
 regard for Nineveh, *that* great city, wherein are more
 than a hundred twenty thousand persons that cannot
 discern ¹⁹between their right *hand* and their left *hand*;
 and *also* much cattle?

End of the Book of Jonah

¹⁵ *Or, was beforehand in fleeing unto Tarshish;*

¹⁶ *Or, my being or, my life Hb. nepheshi*

¹⁷ *Or, Art thou greatly angry?*

¹⁸ *Or, Palma Christi, Hb. kikayon, (both times) And in vss. 7, 8, 10.*

¹⁹ *That is, between right and wrong;*