

The Book of Jonah

Source Sheet by michael shire

Jonah 1-4

(1) The word of GOD came to Jonah, son of Amittai: (2) Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim judgment upon it; for their wickedness has come before Me. (3) Jonah, however, started out to flee to Tarshish from GOD's service. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went aboard to sail with the others to Tarshish, away from GOD's service. (4) But GOD cast a mighty wind upon the sea, and such a great tempest came upon the sea that the ship was in danger of breaking up. (5) In their fright, the sailors cried out, each to his own god; and they flung the ship's cargo overboard to make it lighter for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the vessel where he lay down and fell asleep. (6) The captain went over to him and cried out, "How can you be sleeping so soundly! Up, call upon your god! Perhaps the god will be kind to us and we will not perish." (7) Those aboard said to one another, "Let us cast lots and find out on whose account this misfortune has come upon us." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. (8) They said to him, "Tell us, you who have brought this misfortune upon us, what is your business? Where have you come from? What is your country, and of what people are you?" (9) "I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the ETERNAL, the God of Heaven, who made both sea and land." (10) The men were greatly terrified, and they asked him, "What have you done?" And when the men learned that he was fleeing from GOD's service—for so he told them— (11) they said to him, "What must we do to you to make the sea calm around us?" For the sea was growing more and more stormy. (12) He answered, "Heave me overboard, and the sea will calm down for you; for I know that this terrible storm came upon you on my account." (13) Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to regain

יונה א'-ד'

(א) וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יוֹנָה בֶן־אֲמִתַּי לֵאמֹר: (ב) קוּם לֶךְ אֶל־נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה וְקִרְא עָלֶיהָ כִּי־עָלְתָה רָעַתָּם לְפָנָי: (ג) וַיִּקָּם יוֹנָה לְבָרַח תַּרְשִׁישָׁה מִלְּפָנַי יְהוָה וַיֵּרֵד יָפוֹ וַיִּמְצָא אֲנִיָּה | בָּאָה תַרְשִׁישִׁי וַיִּתֵּן שְׂכָרָהּ וַיֵּרֵד בָּהּ לְבוֹא עִמָּהֶם תַּרְשִׁישָׁה מִלְּפָנַי יְהוָה: (ד) וַיְהִי הַטִּיל רֹחַ־גְּדוֹלָה אֶל־הַיָּם וַיְהִי סֵעַר־גְּדוֹל בַּיָּם וְהָאֲנִיָּה חִשְׁבָה לְהִשָּׁבֵר: (ה) וַיִּירָאוּ הַמִּלְחָמִים וַיִּזְעְקוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אֱלֹהָיו וַיִּטְלוּ אֶת־הַכֵּלִים אֲשֶׁר בְּאֲנִיָּה אֶל־הַיָּם לְהַקֵּל מֵעֲלֵיהֶם וַיּוֹנֶה יָרֵד אֶל־יַרְכַּתִּי הַסְּפִינָה וַיִּשְׁכַּב וַיִּרְדָּם: (ו) וַיִּקְרַב אֵלָיו רַב הַחִבְלִים וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מַה־לָּךְ נִרְדָּם קוּם קִרְא אֶל־אֱלֹהֶיךָ אוֹלֵי יִתְעַשֶּׂת הָאֱלֹהִים לָנוּ וְלֹא נֹאבָד: (ז) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ לְכוּ וּנְפִילָה גּוֹרְלוֹת וּנְדַעַה בְּשִׁלְמֵי הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת לָנוּ וַיִּפְּלוּ גּוֹרְלוֹת וַיִּפֹּל הַגּוֹרֵל עַל־יוֹנָה: (ח) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הַגִּידָה־נָּא לָנוּ בְּאֲשֶׁר לְמִי־הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת לָנוּ מַה־מְלַאכְתְּךָ וּמֵאַיִן תָּבוֹא מֶה אַרְצְךָ וְאִי־מְזֵה עִם אֲתָה: (ט) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵיהֶם עֲבָרִי אֲנִכִּי וְאֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲנִי יָרָא אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה אֶת־הַיָּם וְאֶת־הַיַּבֶּשֶׁה: (י) וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יִרְאָה גְדוֹלָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ כִּי־יָדְעוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים כִּי־מִלְּפָנַי יְהוָה הוּא בָרַח כִּי הִגִּיד לָהֶם: (יא) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מַה־נַּעֲשֶׂה לָּךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּק הַיָּם מֵעֲלֵינוּ כִּי הָיִם הוֹלֵךְ וְסֵעַר: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵיהֶם שְׂאוּנִי וְהִטִּילְנִי אֶל־הַיָּם וַיִּשְׁתַּק הַיָּם מֵעֲלֵיכֶם כִּי יוֹדַע אָנֹכִי כִּי בְּשָׁלְיִ הַסֵּעַר הַגְּדוֹל הַזֶּה עָלֵיכֶם: (יג) וַיַּחֲתְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לְהִשָּׁיֵב אֶל־הַיַּבֶּשֶׁה וְלֹא יָכְלוּ כִּי הָיִם הוֹלֵךְ וְסֵעַר עֲלֵיהֶם: (יד) וַיִּקְרָאוּ אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אָנָּה יְהוָה

the shore, but they could not, for the sea was growing more and more stormy about them. (14) Then they cried out to GOD: “Oh, please, ETERNAL One, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not hold us guilty of killing an innocent person! For You, O ETERNAL One, by Your will, have brought this about.” (15) And they heaved Jonah overboard, and the sea stopped raging. (16) The men feared GOD greatly; they offered a sacrifice to GOD and they made vows. (1) GOD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah; and Jonah remained in the fish’s belly three days and three nights. (2) Jonah prayed to the ETERNAL his God from the belly of the fish. (3) He said:

In my trouble I called to GOD,

Who answered me;

From the belly of Sheol I cried out,

And You heard my voice. (4) You cast me into the depths,

Into the heart of the sea,

The floods engulfed me;

All Your breakers and billows

Swept over me. (5) I thought I was driven away

Out of Your sight:

Would I ever gaze again

Upon Your holy temple? (6) The waters closed in over me,

The deep engulfed me.

Weeds twined around my head. (7) I sank to the base of the mountains;

אֶל־נָא נֹאבְדָה בְּנֶפֶשׁ הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה
וְאֶל־תִּתֵּן עָלֵינוּ דָם נִקְיָא כִּי־אַתָּה יְהוָה
כַּאֲשֶׁר חִפְצָתָ עֲשִׂיתָ: (ט) וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־יוֹנָה
וַיִּטְלֵהוּ אֶל־הַיָּם וַיַּעֲמֵד הַיָּם מִזְעָפוֹ: (טז)
וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יְרֵאָה גְדוֹלָה אֶת־יְהוָה
וַיִּזְבְּחוּ־זִבְחָ לַיהוָה וַיִּדְרוּ גְדָרִים: (א) וַיִּמְן
יְהוָה דָּג גָּדוֹל לְבָלַע אֶת־יוֹנָה וַיְהִי יוֹנָה
בְּמֵעֵי הַדָּג שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַיְלֹת:
(ב) וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל יוֹנָה אֶל־יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו מִמְּעֵי
הַדָּגָה: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר קְרָאתִי מִצָּרָה לִּי
אֶל־יְהוָה וַיַּעֲנֵנִי מִבֶּטֶן שָׂאוֹל שְׁוַעֲתִי
שָׁמַעְתָּ קוֹלִי: (ד) וַתִּשְׁלִיכֵנִי מִצוֹלָה בְּלִבְבִי
יָמִים וְנֶהָר יִסְבְּבֵנִי כָּל־מִשְׁפָּרֶיךָ וּגְלִיךָ עָלַי
עָבְרוּ: (ה) וְאַנִּי אָמַרְתִּי נִגְרַשְׁתִּי מִגְּגֹד
עֵינֶיךָ אֶף אוֹסִיף לְהַבִּיט אֶל־הַיִּכָּל קְדוֹשֶׁךָ:
(ו) אֶפְפוֹנֵי מַיִם עַד־נֶפֶשׁ תְּהוֹם יִסְבְּבֵנִי
סוּף חֲבוּשׁ לְרֵאשֵׁי: (ז) לְקַצְבֵי הָרִים
יִרְדְּתִי הָאָרֶץ בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ בְּעַדֵי לְעוֹלָם וַתַּעַל
מִשַּׁחַת חַיֵּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי: (ח) בְּהַתְעַטֵּף עָלַי
נִפְשִׁי אֶת־יְהוָה זָכַרְתִּי וַתִּבּוֹא אֵלַיךָ תִּפְלֹתַי
אֶל־הַיִּכָּל קְדוֹשֶׁךָ: (ט) מִשְׁמָרִים הַבְּלִי־שׂוּא
חֲסֹדֶם יַעֲזוּבוּ: (י) וְאַנִּי בְּקוֹל תוֹדָה
אֶזְבְּחָה־לָּךְ אֲשֶׁר נִדְרַתִּי אֲשַׁלְמָה יִשְׁוַעְתָּה
לַיהוָה: {פ}
(יא) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לְדָג וַיִּקְא אֶת־יוֹנָה
אֶל־הַיַּבְשָׁה: {ס} (א) וַיְהִי
דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יוֹנָה שְׁנִית לְאָמַר: (ב) קוּם
לֶךְ אֶל־נִינּוּה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה וּקְרָא אֵלַיךָ
אֶת־הַקְּרִיאָה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי דֹבֵר אֵלַיךָ: (ג)
וַיָּקָם יוֹנָה וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־נִינּוּה כְּדֹבֵר יְהוָה
וַנִּינּוּה הָיְתָה עִיר־גְּדוֹלָה לְאֱלֹהִים מְהֵלֶךְ
שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים: (ד) וַיַּחֵל יוֹנָה לָבוֹא בְּעִיר
מְהֵלֶךְ יוֹם אֶחָד וַיִּקְרָא וַיֹּאמֶר עוֹד
אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וַנִּינּוּה נִהְפָּכָת: (ה) וַיֹּאמְרֵינוּ
אֲנָשִׁי נִינּוּה בְּאֱלֹהִים וַיִּקְרָאוּ־צוֹם וַיִּלְבְּשׂוּ
שָׂקִים מְגֹדוֹלָם וַעַד־קִטְטָנָם: (ו) וַיִּגַע הַדְּבַר

The bars of the earth closed upon me
forever.

Yet You brought my life up from the pit,

My ETERNAL God! (8) When my life was
ebbing away,

I called GOD to mind;

And my prayer came before You,

Into Your holy temple. (9) They who cling
to empty folly

Forsake their own welfare(10) But I, with
loud thanksgiving,

Will sacrifice to You;

What I have vowed I will perform.

Deliverance is GOD's! (11) GOD
commanded the fish, and it spewed Jonah
out upon dry land. (1) The word of GOD
came to Jonah a second time: (2) "Go at
once to Nineveh, that great city, and
proclaim to it what I tell you." (3) Jonah
went at once to Nineveh in accordance with
GOD's command.

Nineveh was an enormously large city, a
three days' walk across. (4) Jonah started out
and made his way into the city the distance
of one day's walk, and proclaimed: "Forty
days more, and Nineveh shall be
overthrown!" (5) The people of Nineveh
believed God. They proclaimed a fast, and
great and small alike put on sackcloth. (6)
When the news reached the king of
Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off
his robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes.
(7) And he had the word cried through
Nineveh: "By decree of the king and his
nobles: No human or animal—of flock or

אֶל־מַלְאָךְ גִּינּוּהַ וַיִּקָּם מִכַּסְאוֹ וַיַּעֲבֵר אֶדְרֹתָיו
מֵעָלָיו וַיִּכַּס שֵׁק וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל־הָאֶפֶס׃ (ז)
וַיִּזְעַק וַיֹּאמֶר בְּגִינּוּהַ מִטַּעַם הַמַּלְאָךְ וַגְּדַלְתִּי
לְאֹמֶר הָאָדָם וְהִבְהֵמָה הַבֶּקֶר וְהַצֹּאן
אֶל־יִטְעֶמוּ מֵאוֹמָה אֶל־יִרְעוּ וּמִיָּם
אֶל־יִשְׁתּוּ׃ (ח) וַיִּתְכַּסּוּ שָׂקִים הָאָדָם
וְהִבְהֵמָה וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל־אֱלֹהִים בְּחִזְקָה
וַיָּשִׁבוּ אִישׁ מִדְרָכּוֹ הִרְעָה וּמִן־הַחֲמָס
אֲשֶׁר בְּכַפֵּיהֶם׃ (ט) מִי־יִודַע יָשׁוּב וְנַחֵם
הָאֱלֹהִים וְשָׁב מִחֲרוֹן אַפּוֹ וְלֹא נֹאבֵד׃ (י)
וַיֵּרָא הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־מַעֲשֵׂיהֶם כִּי־שָׁבוּ
מִדְרָכָם הִרְעָה וַיִּנַּחֵם הָאֱלֹהִים עַל־הִרְעָה
אֲשֶׁר־דָּבַר לַעֲשׂוֹת־לָהֶם וְלֹא עָשָׂה׃ (יא)
וַיִּרַע אֶל־יוֹנָה רָעָה גְדוֹלָה וַיִּחַר לוֹ׃ (ב)
וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכָה יְהוָה
הַלּוֹאֲנִי דְבַרְתָּ עַד־הַיּוֹתַי עַל־אֲדָמָתִי
עַל־כֵּן קָדַמְתִּי לְבָרַח תִּרְשָׁשָׁה כִּי יָדַעְתִּי
כִּי אַתָּה אֵל־חַיָּוִן וְרוּחֹם אַרְבֶּ אֲפִיָּם
וְרִב־חֹסֵד וְנַחֵם עַל־הִרְעָה׃ (ג) וַעֲתָה יְהוָה
קַח־נָא אֶת־נַפְשִׁי מִמֶּנִּי כִּי טוֹב מוֹתִי
מִחַיִּי׃ {פ}
(ד) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הֲהֵיטֵב חָרָה לָךְ׃ (ה)
וַיֵּצֵא יוֹנָה מִן־הָעִיר וַיֵּשֶׁב מִקְדָּם לָעִיר
וַיַּעַשׂ לוֹ שָׁם סֹכָה וַיֵּשֶׁב תַּחְתֶּיהָ בַּצֹּל עַד
אֲשֶׁר יִרְאֶה מֵה־יְהוָה בָּעִיר׃ (ו) וַיִּמַן
יְהוָה־אֱלֹהִים קִיקְיוֹן וַיַּעַל אֶל־מֵעַל לְיוֹנָה
לְהַיּוֹת צֶלַע עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ לְהַצִּיל לוֹ מִרְעָתוֹ
וַיִּשְׁמַח יוֹנָה עַל־הַקִּיקְיוֹן שֶׁמָּחָה גְדוֹלָה׃
(ז) וַיִּמַן הָאֱלֹהִים תּוֹלַעַת בַּעֲלֹת הַשָּׁחַר
לְמַחֲרַת וַתֵּךְ אֶת־הַקִּיקְיוֹן וַיִּיבֹשׁ׃ (ח) וַיְהִי
כְּזֶרֶחַ הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּמַן אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ קָדִים
חָרִישִׁית וַתֵּךְ הַשָּׁמֶשׁ עַל־רֹאשׁ יוֹנָה
וַיִּתְעַלֵּף וַיִּשְׂאֵל אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ לָמוֹת וַיֹּאמֶר
טוֹב מוֹתִי מִחַיִּי׃ (ט) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים
אֶל־יוֹנָה הֲהֵיטֵב חָרָה־לָךְ עַל־הַקִּיקְיוֹן
וַיֹּאמֶר הֵיטֵב חָרָה־לִּי עַד־מוֹת׃ (י) וַיֹּאמֶר

herd—shall taste anything! They shall not graze, and they shall not drink water! (8) They shall be covered with sackcloth—human and animal—and shall cry mightily to God. Let everyone turn back from their own evil ways and from the injustice of which they are guilty. (9) Who knows but that God may turn and relent? [God] may turn back from wrathfulness, so that we do not perish.” (10) God saw what they did, how they were turning back from their evil ways. And God renounced the punishment that had been planned for them, and did not carry it out. (1) This displeased Jonah greatly, and he was grieved. (2) He prayed to GOD, saying, “O ETERNAL One! Isn’t this just what I said when I was still in my own country? That is why I fled beforehand to Tarshish. For I know that You are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in kindness, renouncing punishment. (3) Please, ETERNAL One, take my life, for I would rather die than live.” (4) GOD replied, “Are you that deeply grieved?” (5) Now Jonah had left the city and found a place east of the city. He made a booth there and sat under it in the shade, until he should see what happened to the city. (6) The ETERNAL God provided a gourd which grew up over Jonah, to provide shade for his head and save him from discomfort. Jonah was very happy about the plant. (7) But the next day at dawn God provided a worm, which attacked the plant so that it withered. (8) And when the sun rose, God provided a sultry east wind; the sun beat down on Jonah’s head, and he became faint. He begged for death, saying, “I would rather die than live.” (9) Then God said to Jonah, “Are you so deeply grieved about the plant?” “Yes,” he replied, “so deeply that I want to die.” (10) Then GOD said: “You cared about the plant, which you did not work for and which you did not grow, which appeared overnight and perished overnight. (11) And should not I

הָיָה אֵתָהּ חֹסֶת עַל־הַקִּיקְיֹון אֲשֶׁר
 לֹא־עֲמַלְתָּ בּוֹ וְלֹא גִדַּלְתָּו שְׁבוֹן־לֵילָה הִיא
 וּבִן־לֵילָה אָבָד: (יא) וְאֲנִי לֹא אָחֹס
 עַל־נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁבָּהּ
 הַרְבֵּה מִשָּׂמַיִם־עֹשֶׂרָה רַבּוֹ אָדָם אֲשֶׁר
 לֹא־יָדַע בֵּין־יָמֵינוּ לְשִׂמְאֵלוֹ וּבְהִמָּה רַבָּה:

care about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not yet know their right hand from their left, and many animals as well!”



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