

Jonah

Jonah Ignores YHVH's Commission			
C	Jonah 1:1-16		Comments
A	<p>Jonah 1:1-5 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."</p> <p>³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish <i>from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa</i>, and found a ship going to Tarshish; <i>so he paid the fare, and went down into it</i>, to go with them to Tarshish <i>from the presence of the LORD</i>.</p> <p>⁴ But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.</p>	<p>Jonah 1:13-17 ¹³ Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them.</p> <p>¹⁴ Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, "We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You."</p> <p>¹⁵ <i>So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.</i></p> <p>¹⁶ Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.</p>	<p>Jonah was a prophet of the northern kingdom – Israel – about the reign of Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:25). He was likely a contemporary with Hosea and Amos.</p> <p>Jonah thought he could flee from YHVH and not do what was asked of him.</p> <p>By going down to Joppa and down into a boat, he ultimately was thrown down into the sea.</p>
B	<p>Jonah 1:6-8 ⁶ So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish." ⁷ And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." <i>So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.</i> ⁸ Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"</p>	<p>Jonah 1:9-12 ⁹ So 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 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. ¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"-- for the sea was growing more tempestuous. ¹² And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."</p>	<p>The men on the ship came to realize that Jonah was responsible for their circumstances.</p> <p>Upon hearing their questions, he explained that he was a Hebrew and that he feared YHVH who made the land and sea. Obviously, he didn't fear YHVH enough since he fled from Him.</p> <p>More questions led to Jonah being thrown into the sea to appease YHVH's wrath for Jonah's disobedience.</p>

Jonah Is Cast Into The Deep			
C	Jonah 1:17-2:10		Comments
A	<p>Jonah 1:17-2:1</p> <p>¹⁷ Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.</p> <p>2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.</p>	<p>Jonah 2:10</p> <p>¹⁰ So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.</p>	<p>Jonah being thrown into the sea, being in the belly of the fish for 3 days and nights, and being regurgitated onto day land is a picture of death, burial, and resurrection.</p> <p>As such, Jonah is a type of the Messiah. He is also a sign to the people, including the religious people, that He is the Messiah (Matthew 12:39-40).</p>
B	<p>Jonah 2:2-3</p> <p>² And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice.</p> <p>³ For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.</p>	<p>Jonah 2:5-9</p> <p>⁵ The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head.</p> <p>⁶ I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God.</p> <p>⁷ "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went <i>up</i> to You, Into Your holy temple.</p> <p>⁸ "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.</p> <p>⁹ But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation <i>is</i> of the LORD."</p>	<p>Jonah says he cried out from the belly of Sheol.</p> <p>It seems that Jonah really died. He says the waters closed around him to his soul and that the earth's bars closed behind him forever but that YHVH brought him up from the pit (of Sheol).</p> <p>At some point in all of this, he prayed to YHVH, and his prayer went up from Sheol to YHVH in His holy temple. He said He will sacrifice to YHVH with thanksgiving and pay his vow.</p>
C	<p>Jonah 2:4a</p> <p>⁴ Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight;</p>	<p>Jonah 2:4b</p> <p>Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'</p>	<p>Jonah had been cast out of YHVH's sight. However, he did expect to look toward YHVH's temple again.</p>

Jonah Goes to Nineveh			
C	Jonah 3:1-10		Comments
A	<p>Jonah 3:1-4</p>	<p>Jonah 3:10</p> <p>¹⁰ Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil</p>	<p>On the first day since being cast out of the fish, Jonah</p>

	<p>Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."</p> <p>³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD.</p> <p>Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey <i>in extent</i>. ⁴ And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"</p>	<p>way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.</p>	<p>went to Nineveh and preached that Nineveh would be overthrown in 40 days because of their wickedness, which God had witnessed.</p> <p>Once God had witnessed their repentant hearts, He relented from the disaster He had planned for them.</p>
B	<p>Jonah 3:5 ⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.</p>	<p>Jonah 3:7-9 ⁷ And he caused <i>it</i> to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.</p> <p>⁹ Who can tell <i>if</i> God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?</p>	<p>Surprisingly, the people, as well as the king, believed Jonah and repented of their evil ways and violence.</p> <p>The king even ordered man and beast to fast and wear sackcloth. That's pretty extreme to make the animals fast and dress this way.</p> <p>They didn't know if YHVH would change His mind, but they were willing to repent anyway.</p>
C	<p>Jonah 3:6 ⁶ Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered <i>himself</i> with sackcloth and sat in ashes.</p>		<p>The king repented and led his people to do the same.</p>

Jonah Gains YHVH's Perspective			
C	Jonah 4:1-11		Comments
A	Jonah 4:1-2	Jonah 4:10-11	Instead of rejoicing that people believed him, Jonah

	<p>But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.</p> <p>² So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You <i>are</i> a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.</p>	<p>¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.</p> <p>¹¹ "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left-- and much livestock?"</p>	<p>was not happy with their response.</p> <p>Jonah didn't want to come to Nineveh in the first place because he expected the people would repent since YHVH is a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness.</p> <p>YHVH was disappointed in Jonah because he did not share the same pity that YHVH had for these people.</p> <p>Jonah did not seem to share the same heart that Abraham had for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah either.</p>
B	<p>Jonah 4:3-4</p> <p>³ "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for <i>it is better for me to die than to live!</i>"</p> <p>⁴ Then the LORD said, "<i>Is it</i> right for you to be angry?"</p>	<p>Jonah 4:8b-9</p> <p>Then he wished death for himself, and said, "<i>It is better for me to die than to live.</i>"</p> <p>⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "<i>Is it</i> right for you to be angry about the plant?"</p> <p>And he said, "<i>It is</i> right for me to be angry, even to death!"</p>	<p>Jonah was upset about two things that caused him to prefer death to life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The repentance of the Ninevites. • The loss of the comfort of a plant that grew up overnight. <p>This is a shocking desire considering what he'd recently been through.</p> <p>The fact is that God allowed Jews and Gentiles to live on this earth, as well as the plant.</p> <p>God likely caused the plant to grow and die in order to teach Jonah a lesson – the lesson that YHVH does not want people, both Jews and Gentiles, to die by choosing death (disobedience, unrighteousness,</p>

			<p>lawlessness, cursing); He wants them to live by choosing life (obedience, righteousness, lawfulness, blessing).</p> <p>Jonah was angry that YHWH allowed the Ninevites to live but the plant to die. Jonah failed to see that people are worth more than a plant that is here one day and gone the next.</p> <p>Jonah was missing the point of everything. He should want himself, his fellow Jews, and even Gentile to live.</p>
C	<p>Jonah 4:5-6</p> <p>⁵ So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.</p> <p>⁶ And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery.</p> <p>So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.</p>	<p>Jonah 4:7-8a</p> <p>⁷ But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.</p> <p>⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint.</p>	<p>Jonah went out of the city and observed from a distance to see what would happen to the city. Jonah likely hoped for them to be destroyed, as he seemed to have no concern for this Gentile city.</p> <p>It is unknown what things went through his mind as he waited. The thought that God might be merciful to Gentiles was likely hard for him to imagine.</p> <p>While he was waiting, YHWH God provided shelter, in the form of a plant, from the heat of the day, but He took it away the next day.</p>