

Jonah 2

I. **Jonah Flees. (1:1-17)**

II. **Jonah Prays. (2:1-10)**

A. **The Petition. (2:1-9)**

- 1 Then Jonah prayed (**Hith IPF + w.c. PALAL = 84x; means to judge; Hith is to judge himself before praying; then offer a prayer**) to the LORD his God (**YAHWEH his ELOHIM**) from the stomach of the fish,
- 2 and he said, "I called out of my distress (**just a little bit**) to the LORD, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol (**from Sheol**); You heard my voice.
- 3 "For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.
- 4 "So I said, 'I have been expelled (**Niph PF GARASH = 47x; cf Gen 3:24; Gen 4:14; Gen 21:10**) from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.' (**QADOSH HEYKOL**)
- 5 "Water encompassed me to the point of death (**NEPHESH = soul**). The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.
- 6 "I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars (**BERIYACH = cf Job 38:10 pictures what the Lord used to set the oceans where they are**) was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit (**SHACHAT = 23x; a pit, Prv 26:27**) O LORD my God. (**YAHWEH my ELOHIM**)
- 7 "While I was fainting away (**Hith Inf cons 'AtAPH = 16x; enshrouding myself because of being feeble**), I remembered the LORD, And my prayer (**TePALAH**) came to You, Into Your holy temple.
- 8 "Those who regard (**Piel Ptc SHAMAR = guard/value**) vain (**CHABEL = empty**) idols, Forsake their faithfulness (**CHESEDH = loyal love**),
- 9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD." (**YeSHUAH = 76x**)

Summary:

1. **After the sailors had a "come to Jesus" meeting, so did Jonah.**
2. **Jonah recognized divine discipline for disobedience.**
3. **He is reporting that he called out to the Lord in the midst of his problems and the Lord heard and delivered.**
4. **In the midst of his futile circumstances, he decided to look towards the Lord's grace of forgiveness as displayed in the Temple of Solomon. 1 Kgs 6-7 et al**
 - A. **The Bronze Altar.**
 - B. **The Bronze Laver.**
 - C. **The Table of Shewbread.**
 - D. **The Lampstand.**

- E. The Altar of Incense
- F. The Ark of the Covenant
- 5. The text indicates that Jonah's body was as good as dead.
- 6. Only his soul remained, and he viewed it as failing.
- 7. Jonah, in torment, was conscious. Cf Luke 16:20-26
 - A. He was taken on a wild ride into the depths of the ocean.
 - B. He went to the bases of the mountains.
 - C. He saw where the Lord set the "bars" to stabilize the ocean in its place.
- 8. In the midst of the turmoil he makes a statement about belief systems other than Judaism, as well as those Jews who have turned away to idols.
- 9. Assyria at one time was a land of idols. Eze 23:7
- 10. Jonah makes a vow to sacrifice only to the Lord.
- 11. Jonah may have applied and lived a Psalm of David. Psa 139:7-10

Principle: In the midst of great torment, even *divine* discipline, look to the Lord.

- I. Jonah Flees. (1:1-17)
- II. Jonah Prays. (2:1-10)
 - A. The Petition. (2:1-9)
 - B. The Answer. (2:10)
- 10 Then the LORD commanded (simply "spoke") the fish, and it vomited (**Hiph IPF + w.c. QAWA' = to vomit**) Jonah up onto the dry land. (**YABBASHAH**)
- Summary:**
 - 1. Once again, evidence is presented that God has authority over the animal kingdom.
 - 2. To Israel, dry land was often a picture of blessing and deliverance.
 - A. Dry land appeared when the Lord was making the earth habitable. Gen 1:9,10
 - B. The children of Israel walked across the Red Sea, on dry land. Exo 14:16,22,29; 15:19; Neh 9:11; Psa 66:6; Jonah 1:9
 - C. When the Jews crossed the Jordan to start the conquest, the river parted and they walked across on dry land. Josh 4:22
 - D. The sailors tried to row to dry land, but couldn't make it. Jonah 1:13
 - 3. This is the only recorded instance of a human being making a fish sick.

Jonah 3

- I. Jonah Flees. (1:1-17)
- II. Jonah Prays. (2:1-10)
 - A. The Petition. (2:1-9)
 - B. The Answer. (2:10)

III. Jonah Preaches. (3:1-10)

A. God Reiterates. (3:1-3)

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,
(OK Jonah, let's try this again)

2 "Arise (**Qal Imp QUM**), go (**Qal Imp YALAK = walk**) to Nineveh the great city
and proclaim (**Qal Imp QARA**) to it the proclamation which I (**Myself**) am going
to tell you."

3 So Jonah arose (**QUM**) and went (**YALAK**) to Nineveh according to the word of
the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.

Summary:

1. **After Jonah's change of mind, the Lord gives him another chance to be obedient.**
2. **This long walk of over 500 miles gives Jonah an opportunity to clear his head and get ready to preach to a people group he doesn't like.**
3. **The city is a three days journey across it.**
4. **God promises Jonah that He will give him the words.**

I. Jonah Flees. (1:1-17)

II. Jonah Prays. (2:1-10)

III. Jonah Preaches. (3:1-10)

A. God Reiterates. (3:1-3)

B. Jonah's Message. (3:4)

4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and
said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown." (**Niph Ptc NAPPAK**)

Summary:

1. **The Lord's message was clear and to the point.**
2. **The same word is used to describe the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah. Gen 19:21,25,29; Deut 29:23**
3. **Just a few words can be a powerful message.**
4. **Forty days had significance to the Jews, but as far as we know, not to the Assyrians up to this point.**
 - A. **The rain of the Flood. Gen 7**
 - B. **Isaac was 40 when he married Rebekkah. Gen 25**
 - C. **Forty days were required for Jacob's embalming. Gen 50**
 - D. **Israel ate manna for 40 years. Exo 16:35**
 - E. **Moses was on the mountain for 40 days. Exo 34:28**
 - F. **The Tabernacle had 40 sockets of silver. Exo 36:24**
 - G. **No more than 40 stripes was permitted in discipline. Deut 25:3**
 - H. **Joshua was 40 years old when he was sent to spy out the land. Josh 14:7**
 - I. **Some of the Judges gave rest to Israel for 40 years. Jdgs 3:11; 5:31; 8:28**
 - J. **Some periods of discipline were 40 years. Jdg 13:1**
 - K. **Saul was 40 when he became king. 1 Sam 4:18**
 - L. **Goliath defied Israel for 40 days. 1 Sam 17:16**
 - M. **Many kings of Israel began at age 40. 2 Sam 2:10**

- N. David ruled as king for 40 years. 2 Sam 5:4
 - O. The inner sanctuary of Solomon's Temple was 40 cubits. 1 Kgs 6:17
 - P. Jesus was tested for 40 days and 40 nights. Matt 4:2
 - Q. Jesus appeared after His resurrection for 40 days. Acts 1:3
5. Jonah's ministry would also have significance to the Jews.

I. Jonah Flees. (1:1-17)

II. Jonah Prays. (2:1-10)

III. Jonah Preaches. (3:1-10)

A. God Reiterates. (3:1-3)

B. Jonah's Message. (3:4)

C. Ninevah's Acceptance. (3:5-10)

- 5 Then the people (**ENOSH**) of Nineveh believed in God (**ELOHIM**); and they called a fast (**TZOM**) and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.
- 6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.
- 7 He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.
- 8 "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God (**ELOHIM**) earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence (**CHAMAs**) which is in his hands.
- 9 "Who knows, God may turn and relent (**Niph PF NACHAM**) and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."
- 10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented (**NACHAM**) concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

Summary:

1. The King of Nineveh is probably Adad-Nirari III (810-783 B.C.).
2. Nothing has yet been found in the Assyrian libraries concerning a national turn to YAHWEH.
3. Israel was making progress under Jeroboam II to secure their borders, but was still under heavy persecution. 2 Kings 14:23-27
4. The King of Nineveh issues an edict to his nation to get right with God.
5. We are not told whether or not Jonah gave them this information or if this was a practice common to them when they may have converted to other gods in the past.
6. Evidently, Jonah's message must have included the fact that God was mad at them because of their wickedness, and they were running out of time.
7. They came to understand the definition of wickedness, according to ELOHIM.
8. Again, they must have had some familiarity with the God of the Jews.

9. God changed the prescribed course of discipline when they turned to Him.
10. More than once in history, God has changed the prescribed discipline when the people changed, in spite of some statements made in Scripture. Num 23:19
11. One such time was because of the disobedience of the Jews after the Exodus. Exo 32:11-14

Principle: Don't push the grace of God.