



Unlocked Literal Bible

Jonah

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Jonah

Chapter 1

¹ Now the word of Yahweh came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ² “Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and speak out against it, because their wickedness has risen up before me.” ³ But Jonah got up to run away from the presence of Yahweh and go to Tarshish. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and boarded the ship to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of Yahweh.

⁴ But Yahweh sent out a great wind on the sea and it became a mighty storm on the sea. Soon it appeared that the ship was going to be broken up. ⁵ Then the sailors became very afraid and each man cried out to his own god. They threw the ship’s cargo into the sea to lighten it. But Jonah had gone down into the innermost parts of the ship, and he was lying there deeply asleep.

⁶ So the captain came to him and said to him, “What are you doing sleeping? Get up! Call upon your god! Maybe your god will notice us and we will not perish.”

⁷ They all said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know who is the cause of this evil that is happening to us.” So they threw lots, and the lot fell to Jonah.

⁸ Then they said to Jonah, “Please tell us who is the cause of this evil that is happening to us. What is your occupation, and where did you come from? What is your country, and from which people are you?”

⁹ Jonah said to them, “I am a Hebrew; and I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven, who has made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰ Then the men were even more afraid and

said to Jonah, “What is this that you have done?” For the men knew that he was running away from the presence of Yahweh, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then they said to Jonah, “What should we do to you so that the sea will calm down for us?” For the sea became more and more violent. ¹² Jonah said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will be calm for you, for I know that it is because of me that this great storm is happening to you.”

¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get them back to the land, but they could not do it because the sea was becoming more and more violent against them.

¹⁴ Therefore they cried out to Yahweh and said, “We beg you, Yahweh, we beg you, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life, and do not lay upon us the guilt of his death, because you, Yahweh, have done just as it pleased you.” ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared Yahweh very much. They offered sacrifices to Yahweh and made vows.

¹⁷ Now Yahweh had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Chapter 2

¹ Then Jonah prayed to Yahweh his God from the fish’s stomach. ² He said,

”I called out to Yahweh about my distress

and he answered me;

from the belly of Sheol I cried out for help!

You heard my voice.

³ You had thrown me into the depths,
into the heart of the seas,
and the currents surrounded me;
all your waves and billows
passed over me.

⁴ I said, 'I am driven out from before
your eyes;

yet I will again look toward your holy
temple.'

⁵ The waters closed around me up to my
neck;

the deep was all around me;
seaweed wrapped around my head.

⁶ I went down to the bases of the moun-
tains;

the earth with its bars closed upon me
forever.

Yet you brought up my life from the pit,
Yahweh, my God!

⁷ When my soul fainted within me, I
called Yahweh to mind;

then my prayer came to you, to your
holy temple.

⁸ They give attention to useless gods
while they forsake loving faithfulness.

⁹ But as for me, I will sacrifice to you
with a voice of thanksgiving;

I will fulfill that which I have vowed.

Salvation comes from Yahweh!"

¹⁰ Then Yahweh spoke to the fish, and it
vomited up Jonah upon the dry land.

Chapter 3

¹ The word of Yahweh came to Jonah a sec-
ond time, saying, ² "Get up, go to Nineveh,

that great city, and proclaim to it the mes-
sage that I command you to give." ³ So
Jonah got up and went to Nineveh in obe-
dience to the word of Yahweh. Now Nin-
evah was a very large city, one of three
days' journey. ⁴ Jonah began to enter
the city and after a day's journey he called
out and said, "In forty days Nineveh will
be overthrown." ⁵ The people of Nineveh
believed God and they proclaimed a fast.
They all put on sackcloth, from the great-
est of them down to the least of them. ⁶
Soon the news reached the king of Nin-
evah. He rose up from his throne, took off
his robe, covered himself with sackcloth,
and sat in ashes. ⁷ He sent out a procla-
mation that said, "In Nineveh, by the au-
thority of the king and his nobles, let nei-
ther man nor animal, herd nor flock, taste
anything. Let them not eat, nor drink wa-
ter. ⁸ But let both man and animal be cov-
ered with sackcloth and let them cry out
loudly to God. Let every one turn from
his evil way and from the violence that is
in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may re-
lent and change his mind and turn away
from his fierce anger so that we do not per-
ish." ¹⁰ God saw what they did, that they
turned from their evil ways. So then God
changed his mind about the punishment
that he had said he would do to them, and
he did not do it.

Chapter 4

¹ But this displeased Jonah and he became
very angry. ² So Jonah prayed to Yah-
weh and said, "Ah, Yahweh, is this not just
what I said when I was back in my own
country? That is why I acted first and tried
to flee to Tarshish—because I knew that
you are a gracious God, compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in covenant
faithfulness, and you hold back from send-
ing disaster. ³ Therefore now, Yahweh, I

beg you, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”⁴ Yahweh said, “Is it good that you are so angry?”⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made a shelter and sat under it in the shade so that he could see what might become of the city.

⁶ Yahweh God prepared a plant and made it grow up over Jonah so that it might be a shade over his head to relieve his distress. Jonah was very glad because of the plant.

⁷ But God prepared a worm at sunrise the next morning. It attacked the plant and the plant withered.⁸ It came about that when the sun rose the next morning, God prepared a hot east wind. Also, the sun

beat down on Jonah’s head and he became faint. Then Jonah wished that he might die. He said to himself, “It is better for me to die than to live.”⁹ Then God said to Jonah, “Is it good that you are so angry about the plant?” Then Jonah said, “It is good that I am angry, even to death.”¹⁰ Yahweh said, “You have had compassion for the plant, for which you have not labored, nor did you make it grow. It grew up in a night and died in a night.¹¹ So as for me, should I not have compassion for Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left hand, and also many cattle?”