

Jonah

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amit'tai, saying,
"Arise, go to Nin'evah, that great city, and cry against it; for their
wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from
the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going
5 to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went on board, to go with them to
Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. But the LORD hurled a
great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that
the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each
cried to his god; and they threw the wares that were in the ship into the
10 sea, to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of
the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. So the captain came and
said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call upon your god!
Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we do not perish." And they
said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose
15 account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon
Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell us, on whose account this evil has come
upon us? What is your occupation? And whence do you come? What is your
country? And of what people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a
Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and
20 the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "What

is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them, "Take me up and throw
5 me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they cried to the LORD, "We beseech thee, O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life,
10 and lay not on us innocent blood; for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee." So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of
15 the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying, "I called to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and thou didst hear my voice. For thou didst cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood was round about me; all thy waves and thy billows
20 passed over me. Then I said, 'I am cast out from thy presence; how shall I

again look upon thy holy temple?' The waters closed in over me, the deep
was round about me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the
mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for ever; yet
thou didst bring up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God. When my soul
5 fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer came to thee,
into thy holy temple. Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their true
loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to thee; what I
have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the LORD!" And the LORD
spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land. Then the
10 word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to
Nin'evéh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So
Jonah arose and went to Nin'evéh, according to the word of the LORD. Now
Nin'evéh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah
began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he cried, "Yet forty
15 days, and Nin'evéh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nin'evéh
believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest
of them to the least of them. Then tidings reached the king of Nin'evéh, and
he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and covered himself with
sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he made proclamation and published through
20 Nin'evéh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor

beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, or drink water, but
let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them cry mightily to
God; yea, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence which
is in his hands. Who knows, God may yet repent and turn from his fierce
5 anger, so that we perish not?" When God saw what they did, how they
turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which he had said he
would do to them; and he did not do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly,
and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "I pray thee,
LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why
10 I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that thou art a gracious God
and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repentest of
evil. Therefore now, O LORD, take my life from me, I beseech thee, for it
is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Do you do well
to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the
15 city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till
he should see what would become of the city. And the LORD God
appointed a plant, and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade
over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly
glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God
20 appointed a worm which attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the

sun rose, God appointed a sultry east wind, and the sun beat upon the head
of Jonah so that he was faint; and he asked that he might die, and said, "It
is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Do you do
well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "I do well to be angry, angry
5 enough to die." And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did
not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night, and
perished in a night. And should not I pity Nin'evah, that great city, in which
there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not
know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?" *

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