

## JONAH

### Conversational Yahveh Covenant

#### Jonah's Flight from Yahveh

**1**<sup>1</sup>Yahveh told Jonah Ben-Amittai, <sup>2</sup>*"Go to Nineveh, that big city, and shout against it; I've seen how sinful they are."* <sup>3</sup>But Jonah ran away. <sup>3</sup>He went down to Joppa, found a ship to Tarshish, paid the fare, and boarded.

<sup>4</sup>Yahveh hurled a gale on the sea, and it was about to break up the ship. <sup>5</sup>The sailors were scared, and every man cried out to his god. They threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. Jonah had gone below and fallen sound asleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain came and said, *"How come you're sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Maybe he'll be concerned about us enough to keep us from dying."* <sup>7</sup>They said to one another, *"Let's cast lots to find out who caused this catastrophe to hit us."* They cast lots, and it fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>*"Tell us, now! Why has this catastrophe fallen on us? What's your job? What's your country? Who are your people?"* **Jon 1:1-8**

<sup>9</sup>*"I'm a Hebrew; I fear Yahveh God of heaven that made the land and sea."*

<sup>10</sup>They were really afraid, *"How could you do that?"* (They knew he was running from Yahveh; he'd told them.) <sup>11</sup>*"What should we do to you to stop the sea from raging?"* It kept getting worse.

<sup>12</sup>*"Throw me into the sea. I know it's my fault this severe storm has come on you."*

<sup>13</sup>But they rowed hard, trying to get back to shore, but they couldn't. The sea was getting even rougher. <sup>14</sup>So they called on Yahveh, *"We earnestly pray, Yahveh, not to let us die over this man's sin. Don't hold us guilty for throwing him to his death. You're doing what you wanted."* <sup>15</sup>They picked Jonah up and threw him overboard, and the sea stopped raging. <sup>16</sup>They feared Yahveh greatly and offered sacrifice to him and made vows. **Jon 1:9-16**

#### Jonah's Prayer

<sup>17</sup>Yahveh had a big fish swallow Jonah, and he was in its stomach three days and nights.

**2**<sup>1</sup>Jonah prayed to Yahveh his God from the fish's stomach,

<sup>2</sup>*"I called to you in my distress,  
and you answered me;  
I cried out for help from the belly of Sheol,  
and you heard me.*

<sup>3</sup>*You threw me into the deep,  
into the heart of the sea;  
the current swirled over me;  
your waves and breakers overwhelmed me.*

<sup>4</sup>*So I said, 'I've been driven away from you,  
but I'll still look toward your holy Temple.'* **Jon 2:1-4**

<sup>5</sup>*Water closed in over me;  
the great deep surrounded me;  
seaweed wrapped around my head.*

<sup>6</sup>*I sank down to the base of the mountains;  
the earth imprisoned me forever,  
but you brought me up from the Pit,  
Yahveh my God.*

<sup>7</sup>*As my life was fading away,  
I remembered you;  
and prayed to you in your holy Temple.*

<sup>8</sup>*Those who pay respects to pointless idols  
forfeit your faithfulness,  
<sup>9</sup>but I'll sacrifice to you with thanksgiving.*

*I'll do what I've vowed;  
salvation comes from you<sup>Y</sup>."*

<sup>10</sup>Then Yahveh had the fish cough Jonah up onto the shore.

**Jon 2:5-10**

### **Jonah's Trip to Nineveh**

<sup>3:1</sup>Yahveh told Jonah again, <sup>2</sup>"Go to Nineveh, the big city, and deliver what I tell you."

<sup>3</sup>So he went. It was a big city, a three-days' walk-through. <sup>4</sup>He went through it one day's walk and shouted, "God is going to overthrow Nineveh in 40 days." <sup>5</sup>The people believed him. They called for a fast and put on burlap from least to greatest.

<sup>6</sup>When the message reached the king of Nineveh, he got off his throne, laid his robe aside, covered himself with burlap, and sat on ashes. <sup>7</sup>He issued a proclamation:

*"In Nineveh by decree of the king and his nobles: Don't anybody—animal, herd, or flock—eat anything or drink water. <sup>8</sup>People and animals have to wear burlap. Call on God earnestly so everyone will turn from sinfulness and violence.*

*<sup>9</sup>Who knows, maybe God will relent from his fierce anger and not destroy us.*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw they'd repented, he relented from doing what he'd threatened.

**Jon 3:1-10**

### **Jonah's Anger over Yahveh's Mercy**

<sup>4:1</sup>That really made Jonah mad. <sup>2</sup>He told Yahveh,

*"That's exactly what I said back home and why I tried to run away to Tarshish. I knew you're a gracious, merciful God, slow to get angry and full of enduring love, and relent from bringing catastrophe. <sup>3</sup>So take my life; I'd be better off dead."*

<sup>4</sup>Yahveh asked, *“What right do you have to be mad?”*

**Jon 4:1-4**

<sup>5</sup>Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made a lean-to and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup>Yahveh God had a plant grow up to shade him and give him relief. He was glad to see it. <sup>7</sup>But at dawn the next day, God had a worm attack the plant, and it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun came up, God had a scorching east wind blow and the sun beat down on Jonah’s head till he became faint and begged to die, *“I’d be better off dead.”*

**Jon 4:5-8**

<sup>9</sup>Then God asked, *“What right do you have to be mad about a plant?!”*

*“I’ve got reason to be mad enough to die.”*

<sup>10</sup>*“You’re concerned about a plant you didn’t plant or make grow, that came up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup>Shouldn’t I be concerned about Nineveh, a big city with more than 120,000 people that don’t know left from right—as well as lots of animals?”*

**Jon 4:9-11**