### Jonah

## Chapter 1

1The Word of Jehovah came to Jonah (son of AmaThi), and said:  
  
 2‘Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh and make this proclamation against it; for, cries of their evil have reached up to Me.’  
  
3However, Jonah got up and decided to flee from the face of Jehovah [all the way] to Tharsis! For he went down to JopPa and there he found a boat that was sailing to Tharsis, then he paid his fare, boarded, and preceded to sail away from the face of Jehovah.  
  
  
4But then Jehovah raised a wind over the sea that created huge swells, and [soon] the boat was in danger of breaking up. 5Of course, this made the sailors so frightened that they each started yelling out to their own gods, and they started throwing things into the sea to lighten the load.  
  
Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down into the ship’s hold and fallen asleep, and then he started snoring. 6So the ship’s captain went down to him and said:  
  
 ‘Why are you [just lying there] snoring? Get up and call to your God so He will save us and we won’t be destroyed!’  
  
7Well at that, each man started saying to his companion:  
  
 ‘Come, let’s throw lots to find out why this evil has fallen on us!’  
  
So they threw lots, and the lot fell to Jonah. 8And they asked him if he knew the reason why this evil had come down upon them. They also asked what he did for a living and where he came from (what kind of place and what kind of people).  
  
9Then he told them:  
  
 ‘I’m a servant of Jehovah, the God of the heavens… I worship the One who made the seas and the dry land.’  
  
10Well at that, the men became very frightened and they asked him what he’d done, because they realized that he was running away. So he explained [to them all that had happened].  
  
11Then they asked him:  
  
 ‘So, what must we do to you in order to calm the sea?’  
  
And just as they asked this, the sea rose in a great swell.  
  
12So Jonah told them:  
  
 ‘Just pick me up and throw me into the sea… Then it’ll become calm for you. I know that that these great swells have come upon you because of me.’  
  
13Nevertheless, the men pressed on and they tried to reach land… But they couldn’t – the sea [kept pushing] against them.  
  
14So they called out to Jehovah and said:  
  
 ‘Please don’t destroy us over the life of this man, because we don’t want the blood of the righteous held against us! But for You, O Lord, we’ll do whatever You want.’  
  
15So then they took Jonah and threw him into the sea… And suddenly the sea became still and stopped tossing about! 16As a result, the men became very frightened of Jehovah, and they made vows to Him and offered sacrifices to Him.  
  
17Then Jehovah ordered a great sea creature to swallow Jonah, and he stayed in its belly for three days and three nights.