### Jonah

## Chapter 4

1However, Jonah was very upset and confused by this...  
  
2So he prayed to Jehovah and said:  
  
 ‘O Lord,  
  
 ‘Wasn’t this what I said [would happen] when I was back in my own land?  
  
 ‘It was because of something like this that I thought about fleeing to Tharsis! For I knew that because You’re kind, sympathetic, lenient, and full of mercy, You’d change Your mind about doing such evil!  
  
 3‘So now, O Master and Lord, please kill me… For it’d be better for me to die than to go on living!’  
  
4And the Lord asked:  
  
 ‘Has this [really] grieved you that much?’  
  
  
5Well thereafter, Jonah left the city and sat down in front of it… He built a shelter and just sat there, staring at it.  
  
6Then Jehovah God provided a gourd [plant] that grew up over Jonah’s head to shade him during this bad [time]. And Jonah became very happy and joyful over the gourd [plant].  
  
  
7But then, early the next morning, God sent a worm which killed the [plant] and dried it up. 8And just as the sun was rising, God also sent a burning wind, which (along with the sun) burned Jonah’s head. So he became discouraged to the point where he wanted to just resign from life.  
  
For he said:  
  
 ‘It’s better for me to die than to live!’  
  
9Then God asked Jonah:  
  
 ‘Are you [really] that grieved over the gourd [plant]?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘Yes, I’m grieved to the point of death!’  
  
10And the Lord said:  
  
 ‘You treated that plant so tenderly… You nourished it and worked hard over it, even though it grew up in a single night and was gone before the next evening! 11So, shouldn’t I spare this great city where 120,000 people now live who don’t know their right hands from their left… Along with all of their cattle?’

# Micah

Michah is the record of the prophecy given to Prophet Micah.  
  
It was written around 750 BCE, and foretells the destruction of the northern 10-tribe Kingdom of IsraEl (often just called Samaria, since that was its most dominant region). It also foretells what would happen to JeruSalem before SenNacherIb the king of Assyria invaded their lands in the time of Judah’s King HezekiAh.  
  
Finally, the prophecy goes on to describe JeruSalem’s destruction by the Babylonians and of how the IsraElites would later return to the city.  
  
  
Most of this book is poetry  
  
Something that only a Bible translator would notice is when words are in the form of Hebrew poetry. There’s a definite cadence that can be seen in the original language. Therefore, because this is the chosen style of God, we’ve tried to recreate it as it was originally intended: in poetic verse.  
  
  
Why use poetry?  
  
Poetry must conform to a certain rhythm and style. These act as memory aids, helping you to recall the words, making it easier for messages to be spread via the most common communication method of the time: song.  
  
  
Who was talking?  
  
When translating the words of the Prophets, you can’t help but notice the constant changing personal pronouns (I, you, he, they, etc.) used in the text. It makes it very confusing to figure out exactly who’s talking.  
  
However, we now realize one reason for the confusion that’s usually overlooked: God didn’t speak to the Prophets personally. Rather, He sent His messages through a mediator, either referred to as a messenger (an angel), or sometimes as ‘The Word’ (which some interpret to mean Jesus).  
  
So there are actually three voices speaking:  
  
 1. That of the Prophet, who sometimes quotes himself,  
  
 2. That of the angelic messenger who’s bringing the message from God,  
  
 3. The words of God Himself (which we put in italics).  
  
  
How can we tell the difference? From the context, the pronouns, and the tenses:  
  
 1. When the Prophet speaks, he’s either clearly reporting what he said or did, or is simply saying what was happening.  
  
 2. When the angelic messenger speaks, he talks about God in the third person.  
  
 3 When God is speaking, all references to God are naturally spoken in the first person.  
  
  
Did we get it all right? Probably not, but it has been an honest attempt at doing so. If you think you’ve spotted a place where our choice is incorrect, please let us know and we’ll reconsider it.