

Jonah

¹Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

³But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

⁴But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

⁵Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

⁶So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."

⁷And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

⁹So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

¹⁰Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"--for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

¹²And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."

¹³Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them.

¹⁴Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, "We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You."

¹⁵So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.

¹⁷Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.

²And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice.

³For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

⁴Then I said, "I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

⁵The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head.

⁶I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God.

⁷"When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.

⁸"Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.

⁹But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."

¹⁰So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

3 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent.

⁴And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

⁵So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

⁶Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

⁷And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.

⁸But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

⁹Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

¹⁰Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

4But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

²So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

³Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

⁴Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

⁵So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

⁶And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

⁷But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.

⁸And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

¹⁰But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.

¹¹And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left--and much livestock?"

Micah

1 The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

2 Hear, all you peoples! Listen, O earth, and all that is in it! Let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple.

3 For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down And tread on the high places of the earth.

4 The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will split Like wax before the fire, Like waters poured down a steep place.

5 All this is for the transgression of Jacob And for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?

6 "Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, Places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, And I will uncover her foundations.

7 All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; All her idols I will lay desolate, For she gathered it

from the pay of a harlot, And they shall return to the pay of a harlot."

8 Therefore I will wail and howl, I will go stripped and naked; I will make a wailing like the jackals And a mourning like the ostriches,

9 For her wounds are incurable. For it has come to Judah; It has come to the gate of My people-- To Jerusalem.

10 Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all; In Beth Aphrah Roll yourself in the dust.

11 Pass by in naked shame, you inhabitant of Shaphir; The inhabitant of Zaanen does not go out. Beth Ezel mourns; Its place to stand is taken away from you.

12 For the inhabitant of Maroth pined for good, But disaster came down from the LORD To the gate of Jerusalem.

13 O inhabitant of Lachish, Harness the chariot to the swift steeds (She was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion), For the transgressions of Israel were found in you.

14 Therefore you shall give presents to Moresheth Gath; The houses of Achzib shall be a lie to the kings of Israel.

15 I will yet bring an heir to you, O inhabitant of Mareshah; The glory of Israel shall come to Adullam.

¹⁶Make yourself bald and cut off your hair, Because of your precious children; Enlarge your baldness like an eagle, For they shall go from you into captivity.

2Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand.

²They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.

³Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this is an evil time.

⁴In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: "We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has removed it from me! To a turncoat He has divided our fields."

⁵Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.

⁶"Do not prattle," you say to those who prophesy. So they shall not prophesy to you; They shall not return insult for insult.

⁷You who are named the house of Jacob: "Is the Spirit of the LORD restricted? Are these His doings? Do not My words do good To him who walks uprightly?"

⁸"Lately My people have risen up as an enemy-- You pull off the robe with the garment From those who trust you, as they pass by, Like men returned from war.

⁹The women of My people you cast out From their pleasant houses; From their children You have taken away My glory forever.

¹⁰"Arise and depart, For this is not your rest; Because it is defiled, it shall destroy, Yes, with utter destruction.

¹¹If a man should walk in a false spirit And speak a lie, saying, "I will prophesy to you of wine and drink," Even he would be the prattler of this people.

¹²"I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.

¹³The one who breaks open will come up before them; They will break out, Pass through the gate, And go out by it; Their king will pass before them, With the LORD at their head."

3And I said: "Hear now, O heads of Jacob, And you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice?"

²You who hate good and love evil; Who strip the skin from My people, And the flesh from their bones;

³Who also eat the flesh of My people,
Flay their skin from them, Break their
bones, And chop them in pieces Like
meat for the pot, Like flesh in the
caldron."

⁴Then they will cry to the LORD, But He
will not hear them; He will even hide His
face from them at that time, Because
they have been evil in their deeds.

⁵Thus says the LORD concerning the
prophets Who make my people stray;
Who chant "Peace" While they chew
with their teeth, But who prepare war
against him Who puts nothing into their
mouths:

⁶"Therefore you shall have night without
vision, And you shall have darkness
without divination; The sun shall go
down on the prophets, And the day shall
be dark for them.

⁷So the seers shall be ashamed, And
the diviners abashed; Indeed they shall
all cover their lips; For there is no
answer from God."

⁸But truly I am full of power by the Spirit
of the LORD, And of justice and might,
To declare to Jacob his transgression
And to Israel his sin.

⁹Now hear this, You heads of the house
of Jacob And rulers of the house of
Israel, Who abhor justice And pervert all
equity,

¹⁰Who build up Zion with bloodshed And
Jerusalem with iniquity:

¹¹Her heads judge for a bribe, Her
priests teach for pay, And her prophets
divine for money. Yet they lean on the
LORD, and say, "Is not the LORD
among us? No harm can come upon
us."

¹²Therefore because of you Zion shall
be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall
become heaps of ruins, And the
mountain of the temple Like the bare
hills of the forest.

4Now it shall come to pass in the latter
days That the mountain of the LORD's
house Shall be established on the top of
the mountains, And shall be exalted
above the hills; And peoples shall flow
to it.

²Many nations shall come and say,
"Come, and let us go up to the mountain
of the LORD, To the house of the God
of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And
we shall walk in His paths." For out of
Zion the law shall go forth, And the word
of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³He shall judge between many peoples,
And rebuke strong nations afar off; They
shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against
nation, Neither shall they learn war
anymore.

⁴But everyone shall sit under his vine
and under his fig tree, And no one shall
make them afraid; For the mouth of the
LORD of hosts has spoken.

⁵For all people walk each in the name of his god, But we will walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever.

⁶"In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast And those whom I have afflicted;

⁷I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcast a strong nation; So the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on, even forever.

⁸And you, O tower of the flock, The stronghold of the daughter of Zion, To you shall it come, Even the former dominion shall come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."

⁹Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in your midst? Has your counselor perished? For pangs have seized you like a woman in labor.

¹⁰Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, Like a woman in birth pangs. For now you shall go forth from the city, You shall dwell in the field, And to Babylon you shall go. There you shall be delivered; There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.

¹¹Now also many nations have gathered against you, Who say, "Let her be defiled, And let our eye look upon Zion."

¹²But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, Nor do they understand His counsel; For He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

¹³"Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; For I will make your horn iron, And I will make your hooves bronze; You shall beat in pieces many peoples; I will consecrate their gain to the LORD, And their substance to the Lord of the whole earth."

5Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.

²"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

³Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel.

⁴And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth;

⁵And this One shall be peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land, And when he treads in our palaces, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princely men.

⁶They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, When he comes

into our land And when he treads within our borders.

⁷Then the remnant of Jacob Shall be in the midst of many peoples, Like dew from the LORD, Like showers on the grass, That tarry for no man Nor wait for the sons of men.

⁸And the remnant of Jacob Shall be among the Gentiles, In the midst of many peoples, Like a lion among the beasts of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Who, if he passes through, Both treads down and tears in pieces, And none can deliver.

⁹Your hand shall be lifted against your adversaries, And all your enemies shall be cut off.

¹⁰"And it shall be in that day," says the LORD, "That I will cut off your horses from your midst And destroy your chariots.

¹¹I will cut off the cities of your land And throw down all your strongholds.

¹²I will cut off sorceries from your hand, And you shall have no soothsayers.

¹³Your carved images I will also cut off, And your sacred pillars from your midst; You shall no more worship the work of your hands;

¹⁴I will pluck your wooden images from your midst; Thus I will destroy your cities.

¹⁵And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury On the nations that have not heard."

6 Hear now what the LORD says: "Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, O you mountains, the LORD's complaint, And you strong foundations of the earth; For the LORD has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel.

³"O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me.

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, That you may know the righteousness of the LORD."

⁶With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

⁹The LORD's voice cries to the city--
Wisdom shall see Your name: "Hear the
rod! Who has appointed it?"

¹⁰Are there yet the treasures of
wickedness In the house of the wicked,
And the short measure that is an
abomination?

¹¹Shall I count pure those with the
wicked scales, And with the bag of
deceitful weights?

¹²For her rich men are full of violence,
Her inhabitants have spoken lies, And
their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

¹³"Therefore I will also make you sick by
striking you, By making you desolate
because of your sins.

¹⁴You shall eat, but not be satisfied;
Hunger shall be in your midst. You may
carry some away, but shall not save
them; And what you do rescue I will give
over to the sword.

¹⁵"You shall sow, but not reap; You shall
tread the olives, but not anoint
yourselves with oil; And make sweet
wine, but not drink wine.

¹⁶For the statutes of Omri are kept; All
the works of Ahab's house are done;
And you walk in their counsels, That I
may make you a desolation, And your
inhabitants a hissing. Therefore you
shall bear the reproach of My people."

7 Woe is me! For I am like those who
gather summer fruits, Like those who
glean vintage grapes; There is no

cluster to eat Of the first-ripe fruit which
my soul desires.

²The faithful man has perished from the
earth, And there is no one upright
among men. They all lie in wait for
blood; Every man hunts his brother with
a net.

³That they may successfully do evil with
both hands-- The prince asks for gifts,
The judge seeks a bribe, And the great
man utters his evil desire; So they
scheme together.

⁴The best of them is like a brier; The
most upright is sharper than a thorn
hedge; The day of your watchman and
your punishment comes; Now shall be
their perplexity.

⁵Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your
confidence in a companion; Guard the
doors of your mouth From her who lies
in your bosom.

⁶For son dishonors father, Daughter
rises against her mother, Daughter-in-
law against her mother-in-law; A man's
enemies are the men of his own
household.

⁷Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will
wait for the God of my salvation; My
God will hear me.

⁸Do not rejoice over me, my enemy;
When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in
darkness, The LORD will be a light to
me.

⁹I will bear the indignation of the LORD,
Because I have sinned against Him,

Until He pleads my case And executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness.

¹⁰Then she who is my enemy will see, And shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will see her; Now she will be trampled down Like mud in the streets.

¹¹In the day when your walls are to be built, In that day the decree shall go far and wide.

¹²In that day they shall come to you From Assyria and the fortified cities, From the fortress to the River, From sea to sea, And mountain to mountain.

¹³Yet the land shall be desolate Because of those who dwell in it, And for the fruit of their deeds.

¹⁴Shepherd Your people with Your staff, The flock of Your heritage, Who dwell solitarily in a woodland, In the midst of Carmel; Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, As in days of old.

¹⁵"As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders."

¹⁶The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; They shall put their hand over their mouth; Their ears shall be deaf.

¹⁷They shall lick the dust like a serpent; They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD our God, And shall fear because of You.

¹⁸Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.

¹⁹He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.

²⁰You will give truth to Jacob And mercy to Abraham, Which You have sworn to our fathers From days of old.

Nahum

1 The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

2 God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies;

3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet.

4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts.

5 The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

6 Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.

7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

8 But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies.

9 What do you conspire against the LORD? He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time.

10 For while tangled like thorns, And while drunken like drunkards, They shall be devoured like stubble fully dried.

11 From you comes forth one Who plots evil against the LORD, A wicked counselor.

12 Thus says the LORD: "Though they are safe, and likewise many, Yet in this manner they will be cut down When he passes through. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more;

13 For now I will break off his yoke from you, And burst your bonds apart."

14 The LORD has given a command concerning you: "Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, For you are vile."

15 Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.