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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BkT |  |  | This book is the account of when Jonah disobeyed God, was three days in a big fish's belly, and finally went to warn Nineveh about God judging them. We call this book JONAH |  |  |  | OR The book about JONAH  OR Jonah |  |  |  |
|  | bk |  |  | Jonah |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | TT |  |  | Jonah 1-2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | PO |  |  | **Passage Overview:** This book is the story about a prophet for Yahweh called Jonah. But Jonah was not a very good prophet – he did not want to obey Yahweh. (Jonah did not want to go to his enemies and preach to them. He did not want God to be merciful to his enemies.)  This short book is written with many clever comparisons, insights and surprises. It has two big parts: (1) God gives Jonah a work to do and what happens when Jonah disobeys. (2) God again gives Jonah a work to do and what happens when Jonah obeys.  **Background Information:**  **Historical context:**  **Prominent Themes:** | 1-2 |  |  |  |  |  | [Book: Jonah - Question & Response Podcast | BibleProject™](https://bibleproject.com/podcast/jonah-q-r/) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Background info** | The pagan kingdom of Assyria was an enemy nation to Israel. Nineveh was the primary city in Assyria where the Assyrian King raided and abused Israel and other little nations.  Nineveh was directly north of Israel, accessible by land travel.  Tarshish was far far to the west of Israel, accessible only by sea travel, across the Mediterranean Sea. |  |  | <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/jonah/> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Historical context** | (2 Kings 14:25) Jonah, a Jewish prophet of Yahweh, was alive during the reign of Jeroboam II, king of Israel, about 700 years before Jesus' birth. Sometime after Jonah's story, the prophet Nahum prophesied the downfall of Assyria and Nineveh (Nahum 1-3) and about 612 B.C. God destroyed Nineveh for their wicked ways. (Their repentance did not last long.) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Prominent Themes:** | * God wants people in all nations to repent and so to be saved. * God is compassionate and patient. * God spoke through Jonah's words, and he also used Jonah's life as a prophetic message to signal the identity of the promised Messiah (Matthew 12:40). * (Psalm 135:6) God shows his sovereign power by using/controlling/commanding for his purposes big and small creatures, plants and human devices for discerning (i.e., casting lots), the sea and wind, wicked people (his creations) to teach people about himself. * (Jeremiah 18:7-10) God can and does change his mind (repent or relent) about doing what he said he would do depending on the actions / responses / prayers of people. |  |  | <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/our-assumptions-about-jonah/> |
|  | Sa |  |  | **Jonah refused to warn the people of Nineveh as Yahweh told him to do** | 1 | 1-17 |  | OR **Yahweh commanded Jonah to warn Nineveh, but Jonah refused to obey** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.jpg |  | 1 | Jonah1.1-2.m4a | 1 *One day* Yahweh said to the prophet Jonah, who was Amittai’s son, 2 “I have seen how wicked are the people who live in the great city called Nineveh. Therefore, go there and warn the people that I am planning to destroy their city because of their sins.” | 1 | 1-2 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | One day Yahweh said to the prophet Jonah,who was Amittai’s son | OR There was aprophet *in Israel* named Jonah who was Amittai's son. *One day* Yahweh said to him:  OR Jonah was a prophet in Israel. His father was Amittai. *One day* Yahweh said to him: |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | the great city called Nineveh | OR the large/important city [in Assyria] called Nineveh | Jonah 3:1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.jpg |  | 2 | Jonah1.3.m4a | 3 But instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah went *in the direction opposite to where Yahweh told him to go. He went* down to Joppa city. There he paid the fare to travel on a ship that was going to Tarshish city, to escape from Yahweh and avoid doing what Yahweh told him to do. He got on the ship, and then went down to a lower deck *inside the ship*, lay down, and went to sleep. | 1 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | went down | OR went OR traveled |  | Jonah had to travel from a high elevation (Jerusalem city) down to Joppa city which was a low elevation, on the beach, at sea level, where a ship could be docked. |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.jpg |  | 3 | Jonah1.4-5.m4a | 4 Then Yahweh caused a very strong wind to blow, and there was such a violent storm that the sailors thought the ship would break apart. 5 The sailors were very frightened. Because of that, they each started to pray to their own gods to save them. Then they threw the cargo into the sea *to make the ship lighter* in order that it would not sink easily. | 1 | 4-5 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.jpg |  | 4 | Jonah1.6.m4a | 6 Then the captain went down to where Jonah was sleeping deeply. He awoke him and said to him, “You should not be sleeping during a storm like this! Get up and pray to your god! Perhaps he will pity us and save us, in order that we will not drown!” *But Jonah refused to do that.* | 1 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.jpg |  | 5 | Jonah1.7-8.m4a | 7 Then the sailors said to each other, “We need to cast lots to determine who has caused all this trouble!” So they did that, and the object with Jonah’s mark fell out of the container.  8 So various sailors asked Jonah, “Are you the one who has caused us all this trouble?” “What work do you do?” “Where are you coming from?” “What country and what people-group do you belong to?” | 1 | 7-8 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | cast lots | OR shake in a container small objects that we have all marked and then let one fall out | Proverbs 16.33 | might need an audio explanation of other ways to "cast lots". For example, throw dice, draw straws, pick stones ... |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | caused all this trouble | OR offended the god that caused the storm |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.jpg |  | 6 | Jonah1.9.m4a | 9 Jonah replied, “I am a Hebrew. I worship Yahweh God, who lives in heaven. He is the one who made the sea and the land. I am trying to escape from doing what Yahweh told me to do.” | 1 | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.jpg |  | 7 | Jonah1.10-11.m4a | 10 After the sailors heard that, they were more terrified. So, they asked him, “Do you realize what trouble you have caused?” 11 The storm kept getting worse and the waves kept getting bigger. So, one of the sailors asked Jonah, “What must we do to you so that your god will make the sea become calm?” | 1 | 10- 11 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Do you realize what trouble you have caused? | OR What you have done/are doing is very bad/dangerous! |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.jpg |  | 8 | Jonah1.12-13.m4a | 12 He replied, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. If you do that, it will become calm. I know that this terrible storm is the result of my not doing what Yahweh told me to do.” 13 But the sailors did not want to do that. Instead, they tried hard to row the ship back to the land. But they could not do that, because the storm continued to get worse. | 1 | 12-13 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.jpg |  | 9 | Jonah1.14.m4a | 14 Therefore, they prayed to Yahweh, “O Yahweh, please do not let us drown because of our causing this man to die. O Yahweh, we beg you, if this man has not done any wrong, don't consider us to be guilty when we cause him to die because you have sent this storm for your own good reasons.” | 1 | 14 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | you have sent this storm for your own good reasons | OR you have done what you wanted to do |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.jpg |  | 10 | Jonah1.15-16.m4a | 15 Then they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. Then the sea became calm. 16 When that happened, the sailors became greatly awed at Yahweh’s power. So, they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh, and they vowed to him that they would do things that would please him. | 1 | 15-16 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.jpg |  | 11 | Jonah1.17.m4a | 17 While they were doing that, Yahweh sent a huge fish that swallowed Jonah. Then Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. |  | 17 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | that swallowed Jonah | that swallowed Jonah [alive] |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | for three days and three nights | OR three days and nights |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sb |  |  | **Jonah prayed to Yahweh** | 2 | 1-10 |  | Or **Jonah thanks Yahweh for rescuing him**  OR **Jonah’s prayer** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9.jpg |  | 12 | Jonah2.1.m4a | 1 While he was inside the huge fish, Jonah prayed to Yahweh God, whom he worshiped. *[This is what Jonah reported later:]* | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.jpg |  | 13 | Jonah2.2.m4a | 2 Jonah said, “Yahweh, when I was greatly distressed there in the fish belly, I prayed to you, and you heard what I prayed. When I was about to descend way down into the place where dead people go, you heard me when I called out for you to help/save me. | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Jonah said | OR Jonah prayed |  | Jonah’s prayer is a Hebrew poem or song. If you want to create a poem in your language from the content of Jonah’s prayer, or sing Jonah’s song in your language, that would be very appropriate |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | about to descend way down into the place where dead people go | OR when I almost died OR when I was as good as dead |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.jpg |  | 14 | Jonah2.3.m4a | 3 You threw me down into the deep water, into the bottom of the sea. The currents of the sea swirled around me, and the huge waves crashed above me. | 2 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | the huge waves crashed above me | OR You buried me under crashing waves |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9.jpg |  | 15 | Jonah2.4.m4a | 4 Then I thought, ‘Although You have banished me, I will never be able to enter your presence again. Yet I will go to see your holy temple again!’ | 2 | 4 |  |  | Jonah 2:7 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Then I thought, “Although you … | OR I thought that although you .. |  | Since Jonah is thinking and not speaking out loud, it might be best to use an indirect quote rather than a direct speech quote. |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Yet I will | OR But surely I will |  | There is a text translation issue with this part of verse 4. The Hebrew text introduces Jonah’s second thought with a word meaning ‘yet’ or ‘surely’, expressing hope. But there is one alternate Greek translation that uses a word meaning ‘how’, expressing a sense of hopelessness, that Jonah might never again see the Lord. English versions are divided in how they render this meaning. Many follow the second alternative, even though it has little textual support. So, it is recommended that you follow the Hebrew text. (TN Jonah) | Jonah2.4Comment\_yet hope.wav |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | to see your holy temple again | OR to see the holy place where you [Yahweh] live |  | There is disagreement among scholars concerning whether the temple mentioned in chapter 2, verses 4 and 7, refers to the earthly temple in Jerusalem, or to Yahweh’s eternal dwelling place in heaven. So, if possible, avoid referring to the location of the temple in these verses. In both verses, the sense seems to be “the holy place where you (the Lord) live.”[[1]](#footnote-0) (TN Jonah, Hohulin, 2000)  Both the Jerusalem temple and heaven were true dwelling places for Yahweh. The Glory of Yahweh Himself used to dwell in the tabernacle and later in the temple. Jonah had "come down" from Jerusalem to Joppa, and contemplated returning to Jerusalem. In the context of Jewish "cosmic geography," Judah was Yahweh's land, and Nineveh was a dwelling place for demons. (G. Currah) | Jonah2.4Comment\_temple.wav |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9.jpg |  | 16 | Jonah2.5.m4a | 5 The water surrounded me, and threatened to drown me. Seaweed was wrapped around my head. | 2 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | seaweed | OR sea plants |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.jpg |  | 17 | Jonah2.6.m4a | 6 I sank down to where the mountains start rising from the bottom of the sea. I thought that forever it would be as though my body would be in a prison inside the earth below me. But you, Yahweh God, whom I worship, you rescued me from going down to the place of the dead. | 2 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | rescued me from going down to the place of the dead | OR rescued me from death OR rescued me back from dying |  | Whether Jonah died physically or only metaphorically remains a question. |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.jpg |  | 18 | Jonah2.7.m4a | 7 When I was almost dead, Yahweh, I thought about you. You heard my prayer to you, up there where you are, in your holy temple. | 2 | 7 |  |  |  |  | Jonah 2:4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | When I was almost dead | OR As I was dying |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 19 | Jonah2.8.m4a | 8 All those who worship worthless idols are rejecting you, the one who could act kindly toward them. | 2 | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | who could act kindly | OR who is faithful [to keep his promises] |  | Khesed. The common meaning of the Hebrew term khesed seems to include loyalty or reliability. |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 20 | Jonah2.9.m4a | 9 But I will sing to thank you, and I will offer a sacrifice to thank you, Yahweh. I will surely do what I have solemnly promised to do. Yahweh, you are the only one who is able to save us.” | 2 | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | But I | OR But, as for me, I |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | offer a sacrifice to thank you | OR offer to sacrifice animals to thank you |  | In ancient times, pagans commonly offered sacrifices to bribe their gods or to placate them. In Israel, however, sacrifices were for "expiation, consecration, fellowship” (Rainey, “Order,” 498).  Thus, Israelites offered three kinds of sacrifices: 1) Purification sacrifices. Since human beings pollute their community with everything that comes from their body, they had to offer bloody sacrifices to purify Yahweh's tabernacle (tent), so that he could continue to dwell amongst them. 2) Worship sacrifices. Just as people must pay taxes and tribute to chiefs and kings, so humans had to offer up burnt sacrifices to honour Yahweh, along with their prayers and petitions on behalf of their community and of themselves. 3) Thanksgiving sacrifices. Both the community and individuals offered sacrifices in thanks and praise to Yahweh who had provided all that they needed, or after he had answered their prayers.  However, there was no sacrifice to remove the guilt of personal sins and crimes. Much later, Jesus would offer himself as a sacrifice, when he was crucified, so that God forgives the sins of those who repent and trust in Jesus. (Adapted from Lexham Bible Dictionary.) GC |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Yahweh, you are the only one who is able to save us | OR Because it is Yahweh alone who saves anyone. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11.jpg |  | 21 | Jonah2.10.m4a | 10 Then Yahweh commanded the huge fish to vomit out Jonah. So the fish vomited Jonah onto the dry land. | 2 | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Then | OR After Jonah prayed, |  |  |  |

1. Richard M. Hohulin, [*Translator’s Notes on Jonah: Notes*](https://ref.ly/logosres/sl-tn-jonn?ref=Bible.Jon2.4&off=2032&ctx=longs+to+him+alone.%0a~Scholars+do+not+agre), Translator’s Notes (Dallas: SIL International, 2000), Jon 2:4. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)