

JONAH

THE ARGUMENT.

When Jonáh had long prophesied in Israél and had little profited, God gave him express charge to go, and denounce his judgements against Ninivéh the chief city of the Assyrians, because he had appointed, that they which were of the heathen, should convert by the mighty power of his word, and that within three days preaching, that Israél might see how horribly they had provoked God's wrath, which for the space of so many years, had not converted to the Lord for so many Prophets and so diligent preaching. He prophesied under Joásh, and Jeroboám, as 2 Kings 14.25.

Chapter 1

3 Jonáh fled when he was sent to preach. 4 A tempest ariseth, and he is cast into the sea for his disobedience.

The word of the Lord came ^aalso unto Jonáh the son of Amittái, saying, 2 Arise, and go to ^bNinivéh, that ^cgreat citie, and crye against it: for their wickedness is come up before me. 3 But Jonáh rose up to ^dflee into Tarshísh from the presence of the Lord, and went down to ^eJaphó: and he found a ship going to Tarshísh: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, that he might go with them unto Tarshísh, from the ^fpresence of the Lord.

4 But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mightie tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cryed every man unto his god, and cast the wares that were in the ship, into the sea to lighten it of them: but Jonáh was gone down ^ginto the sides of the ship, and he laie down, and was fast a sleep.

6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, ^hô sleeper! Arise, call upon thy ⁱGod, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast ^jlots, that we may know, for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonáh.

8 Then said they unto him, Tell us for whose cause this evil is upon us? what is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? which is thy country? and of what people art thou?

9 And he answered them, I am an Ebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven, which hath made the sea, and the dry land.

10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? (for the men knewe, that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them)

11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? (for the sea wrought and was troublous)

12 And he said unto them, Take me, and cast me into the sea: so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

13 Nevertheless, the men rowed to bring it to the land, but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was troublous against them.

14 Wherefore they cryed unto the Lord, and said, ^kWe beseech thee, ^lô Lord, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and laie not upon us innocent blood: for thou, ^mô Lord, hast done, as it pleased thee.

15 So they took up Jonáh, and cast him into the sea, and the sea ceased from her raging.

16 Then the men ⁿfeared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.

17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonáh: and Jonáh was in the ^obelly of the fish three days, & three nights.

Chapter 2

Jonáh is in the fish belly. 3 His prayer. 12 He is delivered.

Then Jonáh prayed unto the Lord his God ^aout of the fish's belly, 2 And said, I cryed in mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me: out of the belly ^bof hell cryed I, and thou heardest my voice.

3 For thou haddest cast me into the bottom in the middes of the sea, and the floods compassed me about: all thy surges, and all thy waves passed over me.

4 Then I said, I am ^ccast away out of thy sight: yet will I look again toward thine holy Temple.

5 The waters compassed me about unto the soul: the depth closed me round about, and the weeds were wrapt about mine head.

6 I went down to the bottom of the mountains: the earth with her bars was about me for ever, yet hast thou brought up my ^dlife from the pit, ^eô Lord my God.

7 When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came unto thee, into thine holy Temple.

8 They that wait upon lying ^fvanities, forsake their own ^gmercy. 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving, and

1 a After that he had preached along time in Israél: and so Ezekiel, after that for a time he had prophesied in Juda, he had visions in Babylon Ez. 1.1.

2 b For seeing the great obstination of the Israelites, he sent his Prophet to the Gentiles that they might provoke them to repentance or at least make them inexcusable: for Ninivéh was the chief city of the Assyrians.

2 c For as authors write, it contained in circuit about eight and forty mile and had a thousand and five hundred towers, and at this time there were an hundred and twenty thousand children therein, Ch. 4.11.

3 d Whereby he declared his weakness, that would not promptly follow the Lord's calling, but gave place to his own reason, which persuaded him that he should nothing at all profit there, seeing he had done so small good among his own people, Ch. 4.2.

3 e Which was the haven, and port to take shipping thither, called also Joppe.

3 f From that vocation whereunto God had called him, and wherein he would have assisted him.

5 g As one that would have cast off this care, and solicitude by seeking rest and quietness.

6 h As they had called on their idols, which declares that idolaters have no stay nor certainty, but in their troubles seek, they can not tell to whom.

7 i Which declared that the matter was in great extremity, and doubt, which thing was God's motion in them for the trial of the cause: and this may not be done but in matters of great importance.

14 k This declares that the very wicked in their necessities flee unto God for succor, and also that they are touched with a certain fear to shed man's blood, where as they know no manifest sign of wickedness.

16 l They were touched with a certain repentance of their life past, and began to worship the true God, by whom they saw themselves so wonderfully delivered: but this was done for fear and not of a pure heart and affection, neither according to God's word.

17 m Thus the Lord would chastise his Prophet with a most terrible spectacle of death, and hereby also confirm him of his favor and support in this his charge which was enjoined him.

Chapter 2

1 a Being now swallowed up of death, and seeing no remedy to escape, his faith brast out unto the Lord knowing that out of the very hell he was able to deliver him.

2 b For he was now in the fish's belly as in a grave or place of darkness.

4 c This declared what his prayer was, and how he labored between hope and despair, considering the neglect of his vocation and God's judgements for the same: but yet in the end faith got the victory.

6 d You have delivered me from the belly of the fish and all these dangers, as it were raising me from death to life.

8 e They that depend upon anything save on God alone.

8 f They refuse their own felicity and that goodness which they should else receive of God.

will pay that that I have vowed: salvation *is* of the Lord.
10 And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it cast out Jonáh upon the dry land.

Chapter 3

Jonáh is sent again to Ninevéh, 5 The repentance of the King of Ninevéh.

And the word of the Lord came unto ^aJonáh the second time, saying, 2 Arise, go unto Ninevéh that great city, and preach unto it the preaching, which I bid thee,
3 So Jonáh arose and went to Ninevéh according to the word of the Lord: now Ninevéh was a ^bgreat and excellent city of three day's journey.
4 And Jonáh began to enter into the city a day's ^cjourney, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Ninevéh shall be overthrown.
5 So the people of Ninevéh ^dbelieved God and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth from the greatest of them even to the least of them.
6 For word came unto the King of Ninevéh, and he rose from his throne, and he layed his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.
7 And he proclaimed and said through Ninevéh, (by the counsel of the King and his nobles) saying, Let neither man, nor ^ebeast, bullock nor sheep taste any thing, neither feed nor drink water.
8 But let man and beast put on sackcloth, and ^fcry mightily unto God: yea, let every man turn from his evil way, and from the wickedness that is in their hands.
9 ^gWho can tell *if* God will turn, and repent and turn away from his fierce wrath, that we perish not?
10 And God saw their ^hworks that they turned from their evil ways: and ⁱGod repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them, and he did it not.

1 a This is a great declaration of God's mercy that he received him again and sent him forth as his Prophet which had before showed so great infirmity
3 b Read chapter 1.2.
4 c He went forward one day in the city, and preached, and so he continued till the city was converted.
5 d For he declared that he was a Prophet sent to them from God to denounce his judgments against them.
7 e Not that the dumb beasts had sinned or could repent, but that by their example man might be astonished, considering that for his sin the anger of God hanged over all creatures.
8 f He willed, that the men should earnestly call unto God for mercy.
9 g For partly by the threatening of the Prophet, and partly by the motion of his own conscience he doubted whether God would show them mercy.
10 h That is, the fruits of their repentance, which did proceed of faith which God had planted by the ministry of his Prophet.
10 i Read Jer. 18.8.

Chapter 4

The great goodness of God toward his creatures.

Therefore it displeased ^aJonáh exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, ^ô Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? therefore I prevented it to flee unto ^bTarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.
3 Therefore now ^ô Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life ^cfrom me: for it is better for me to die then to live.
4 Then said the Lord, Doest thou well to be ^dangry?
5 So Jonáh went out of the city and sat on the East side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow ^etill he might see what should be done in the city.
6 And the Lord God prepared a ^fgourd, and made it to come up over Jonáh, that it might be a shadow over his head and deliver him from his grief. So Jonáh was exceedingly glad of the gourd.
7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd, that it withered.
8 And when the sun did arise, God prepared also a fervent East wind: and the sun beat upon the head of Jonáh, that he fainted, and wished in his heart to die, and said, It is better for me to die, then to live.
9 And God said unto Jonáh, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be ^gangry unto the death.
10 Then said the Lord, Thou hast had pity on the gourd for the which thou hast not labored, neither madest it grow, which came up in a night, and perished in a night,
11 And should ^hnot I spare Ninevéh that great city, wherein are ⁱsix score thousand persons, that can not discern between their right hand, and their left hand, and *also* much cattle?

1 a Because hereby he should be taken as a false prophet, and so the Name of God, which he preached, should be blasphemed.
2 b Read chapter 1.3.
3 c Thus he prayed of grief fearing lest God's Name by this forgiveness might be blasphemed as though he sent his Prophets forth to denounce his judgements in vain.
4 d Will you be judge when I do things for my glory, and when I do not?
5 e For he doubted as yet whether God would show them mercy or no: and therefore after forty days he departed out of the city, looking what issue God would send.
6 f Which was a further means to cover him from the heat of the sun, as he remained in his booth.
9 g This declares the great inconveniences whereunto God's servants do fall when they give place to their own affection, and do not in all things willingly submit themselves to God.
11 h Thus God mercifully reprov'd him, which would pity himself and this gourd, and yet would restrain God to show his compassion to so many thousand people.
11 i Meaning, that they were children, and infants.