

*Analysis of*  
**JONAH**

**"MERCY AMID JUDGMENT"**

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Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. {11} "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?" Jonah 4:10-11

Analysis of JONAH

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# JONAH

## "Mercy Amid Judgment"

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<sup>1</sup> Historical Note: Jonah's nationalistic fervor is the motive for his reluctant cooperation. He knew that Assyria was God's future instrument of judgment against disobedient Israel. Any repentance in Assyria would prepare the way for her disciplinary invasion of Israel.

C3 Yahweh's Justification of His Compassion <sup>2</sup> on a Great City of Humans and Animals 4:11

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<sup>2</sup> 4:11 - Compassion: Many, no doubt, have expressed dismay at how this book ends. Why cannot there be a sequel? Do we have to end the book with prophet voicing greater concern about a petty plant than about the destruction of thousands of people? The answer is that Jonah did get it. HE WROTE THE BOOK! He leaves his theological narrowness in a sharp contrast to the world-wide compassion of Yahweh. He did, indeed, finally get it!

Yahweh had planned that His people, the Jewish people, would be a "kingdom of priests" (Exodus 19:6). His hope was that Israel would be a missionary nation, influencing nations around the world to repent of their evil and worship the true God. That is also His plan for the Church (Acts 1:8). Sadly, how often Israel failed and how often the Church fails. Jonah is one example in the Old Testament of the love of God for people. However unwilling Jonah was, loving, compassionate Yahweh went to great lengths to manifest His love for the people in the capital city of one of the most powerful empires of that day. In a sense, the Book of Jonah is the John 3:16 of the Old Testament, with the exception that Jonah was an unwilling prophet while Jesus was the willing Prophet (and Messiah).