

Analysis of
JONAH

"MERCY AMID JUDGMENT"

"When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it.*" Jonah 3:10

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

Prepared by James T. Bartsch
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JONAH

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Chapters 1-3: God works on Jonah's obedience.

Chapter 4: God works on Jonah's attitude.

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Author: Jonah, son of Amittai (Jonah 1:1). According to 2 Kings 14:25 was an accredited prophet from Gath-Hepher near Nazareth ([Ryrie Study Bible](#)) (RSB).

Date of Writing: About 760 B.C. In 2 Kings 14:27 Jonah is associated with the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel (793-753 B.C.) ([RSB](#)).

Theme: The persistent mercy of God to certain Gentiles. Another way of saying this is "The Missionary Heart of God in the Old Testament." A related book – the Book of Ruth.

A1 FLIGHT FROM MERCY: The Consequences of Disobedience 1

B1 Jonah's Disobedience to God's Call 1:1-3

- C1 Divine Revelation 1:1
- C2 Divine Command 1:2
- C3 [Prophetic](#) Disobedience 1:3

B2 God's Obstacles in Front of Jonah 1:4-17

- C1 The Great Storm! (The Effect of Jonah's Disobedience on the Sailors) 1:4-16
 - D1 The sailors' battle with the storm 1:4-9
 - E1 The great wind 1:4
 - E2 The fearful sailors 1:5
 - E3 The angry captain 1:6

- E4 The random expose 1:7
- E5 The fearful interrogation 1:8-9
 - F1 The sailors' interrogation 1:8
 - F2 Jonah's revelation of his God (Maker of Sea and Land!) 1:9
- D2 The sailors' battle with Jonah's God: Their futile attempt at saving Jonah 1:10-14
 - E1 Their consternation at Jonah 1:10
 - E2 Their negotiation with Jonah 1:11
 - E3 Their abandonment of the advice from Jonah 1:12
 - E4 Their desperation on behalf of Jonah 1:13
- D3 The sailors' salvation through faith in Jonah's God 1:14-16
 - E1 Their plea for mercy from [Yahweh](#) 1:14
 - E2 Their successful sacrifice of Jonah 1:15
 - E3 Their sacrificial fear of [Yahweh](#) 1:16
- C2 The Great Fish! (The Effect of Jonah's Disobedience on Himself) [God's Appointment of a Great Fish to Swallow Jonah] 1:17
 - D1 Appointed ingestion
 - D2 Appointed duration
- A2 PRAYER FOR MERCY: Jonah's Prayer for Personal Mercy in the Sea and in the Fish 2**
 - B1 Desperation: Jonah's Prayer to God from the Fish's Stomach 2:1-9**
 - C1 Introduction: The Location of Jonah's Prayer Inside the Fish 2:1
 - C2 Flashback: Jonah's Prayer While Drowning in the Sea 2:2-7
 - D1 Jonah's successful cry to [Yahweh](#) from the sea-depths 2:2
 - D2 Jonah's acknowledgment of God's sovereign sea-discipline 2:3
 - D3 Jonah's resolve to pray toward God 2:4
 - D4 The depths of Jonah's distress 2:5-6a

- E1 His engulfment by the sea 2:5
- E2 His descent to the floor of the sea 2:6a
- D5 Jonah's successful prayer to [Yahweh](#) before losing consciousness 2:6b-7
- C3 Resolution: Jonah's Resolve Within the Fish to Keep his Vow to God 2:8-9
 - D1 Jonah's indictment of idolaters for unfaithfulness 2:8
 - D2 Jonah's sacrificial determination to pay his vow [to preach to Nineveh if God delivers him] 2:9a
 - D3 Jonah's acknowledgment that salvation is from [Yahweh](#) 2:9b
- B2 Regurgitation: Yahweh's Answer to Jonah's Prayer (His causing the fish to vomit Jonah on to dry land 2:10)**
- A3 EXTENSION OF MERCY: God's Extension of Mercy to Nineveh Because of Her Repentance at Jonah's Message of Judgment 3**
 - B1 Jonah's Obedience to God's Renewed Call 3:1-4**
 - C1 Jonah's Recommissioning 3:1-2
 - D1 The second word of [Yahweh](#) to Jonah 3:1
 - D2 The essence of the command 3:2
 - E1 "Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city"
 - E2 "Proclaim to it eh proclamation which I am going to tell you"
 - C2 Jonah's Obedience 3:3-4
 - D1 Jonah's trip: His departure to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord 3:3
 - D2 Jonah's traverse: His travel one day's journey into the city 3:4
 - D3 Jonah's trauma: His cry: "Yet 40 days and Nineveh will be overthrown"

B2 Nineveh's Resultant Revival 3:5-9

- C1 The Penitence of the People 3:5
 - D1 Their faith in God
 - D2 Their humility
 - E1 Their calling a fast
 - E2 Their clothing in sackcloth
 - D3 Their participation: "from the greatest to the least"
- C2 The Penitence of the King 3:6
 - D1 His exit from the throne
 - D2 His laying aside his robe
 - D3 His covering himself with sackcloth
 - D4 His sitting on ashes
- C3 The Proclamation of the King 3:7-9
 - D1 The agreement of the government 3:7
 - E1 The decree of the king
 - E2 The consent of his nobles
 - D2 A total fast
 - E1 Applicable to man and animal
 - E2 The exclusion of food and liquid
 - D3 Abject humility: The covering of man and beast with sackcloth 3:8
 - D4 Earnest prayer: "Let men call on God earnestly"
 - D5 Universal repentance
 - E1 "That each may turn from his wicked way"
 - E2 "That each may turn from the violence which is in his hands"

C4 The Hope of the King: Divine Reprieve! 3:9

D1 The placation of God's anger

D2 The survival of his people

B3 God's Withholding of Judgment 3:10

C1 His Observation of Nineveh's Departure from Evil

C2 His Relenting of the Promised Calamity

A4 OBJECT LESSON ABOUT MERCY: God's Object Lesson to Jonah Justifying His Extension of Mercy to Nineveh 4

B1 Jonah's Displeasure at God's Mercy on Nineveh 4:1-4

C1 Jonah's Angry Displeasure ¹ 4:1

C2 Jonah's Protestation of [Yahweh's](#) Mercy to Nineveh as his Rationale for Having Fled 4:2

D1 Jonah's flight to Tarshish

D2 Jonah's knowledge of God

E1 Gracious and compassionate

E2 Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness

E3 One who relents concerning calamity

C3 Jonah's Request for Death 4:3

C4 [Yahweh's](#) Questioning of the Reasonableness of Jonah's Anger 4:4

B2 Jonah's Appreciation of a Mere Plant 4:5-8

C1 Jonah's Observation of Nineveh's Destiny 4:5

C2 [Yahweh's](#) Provision of a Shading Plant for Jonah 4:6

C3 God's Appointed Demolition of the Plant 4:7

C4 God's Appointment of Scorching Heat upon Jonah 4:8a

¹ Jonah 4:1 Title - Jonah's angry displeasure: The text never informs the reader as to why Jonah is so angry. However, I believe 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](#). Jonah wanted to prevent that at all costs.

C5 Jonah's Renewed Plea to Die 4:8b

B3 God's Defense of His Compassion for the Ninevites 4:9-11

C1 God's Questioning of Jonah's Anger about the Plant 4:9

C2 [Yahweh's](#) Observation of Jonah's Compassion on a Mere Plant 4:10
E1

C3 [Yahweh's](#) Justification of His Compassion ² on a Great City of Humans and Animals 4:11

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² Jonah 4:11 Title - [Yahweh's](#) Justification of His 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 the [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 own theological narrowness in 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](#) has failed and how often the [Church](#) fails. Jonah is one example in the Old Testament of the love of God for non-Jewish 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 major exception that Jonah was an unwilling [prophet](#) while Jesus was the supremely willing [Prophet](#). Like Jonah, Jesus spent three days entombed, not in a fish, but in a grave (Matt. 12:39-41). He willingly sacrificed his own life as the Servant [Messiah](#) so that His own people and the whole world might be saved through faith in Him and have eternal life (John 1:11-12; 3:16)!