

JONAH

CHAPTER 1

Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²Arise, and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach therein; for the cry of her wickedness is come up before Me. ³But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to sail with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. ⁴But the Lord raised up a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, and the ship was like to be broken. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, that they might lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the hollow of the ship, and was fast asleep, and snored. ⁶And the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, Why sleepest thou? Arise, and call upon thy God, that God may save us, and we perish not. ⁷And they said each one to his fellow, Come, and let cast lots, and find out for whose sake this calamity is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. ⁸Then said they unto him, Tell us, what is thine occupation, and whence comest thou, and of what country and what people art thou? ⁹And he said unto them, I am a servant of the Lord; and I worship the Lord God of heaven, Which hath made the sea and the dry land. ¹⁰Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, What is this that thou hast done? for the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. ¹¹Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea went and lifted up her waves exceedingly against them. ¹²And Jonah said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; and the sea shall be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. ¹³And the men tried hard to return unto the land; but they could not; for the sea went and rose up the more against them. ¹⁴And they cried unto the Lord, and said, Forbid it, Lord, let us not perish for the sake of this man's life, and bring not upon us righteous blood: for Thou, O Lord, hast done according to Thy pleasure. ¹⁵So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. ¹⁶And the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.

CHAPTER 2

Now the Lord had commanded a great fish to swallow up Jonah: and Jonah was in the belly of the sea creature three days and three nights. ²And Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the sea creature's belly, ³and said,

I cried in mine affliction unto the Lord my God, and He heard me; even cry out of the belly of Hades, Thou heardest my cry, my voice. ⁴Thou didst cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea; and the streams compassed me about: all Thy billows and Thy waves passed over me. ⁵Then I said, I am cast out of Thy sight; shall I indeed look again toward Thy holy temple? ⁶The water was poured over me, even to my soul: the lowest deep closed me about; mine head went down to the clefts of the mountains. ⁷I went down to the land, whose bars are everlasting barriers: but let my life come up out of corruption unto Thee, O Lord my God. ⁸When my soul failed within me I remembered the Lord; so let my prayer come unto Thee, into Thy holy temple. ⁹They that observe vanities and lying things have forsaken their own mercy. ¹⁰But I will sacrifice unto Thee with the voice of praise and thanksgiving; I will pay all that I have vowed unto Thee, the Lord of my salvation.

¹¹And the Lord commanded the sea creature, and it cast out Jonah upon the dry land.

CHAPTER 3

And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, ²Arise, go unto Nineveh, the great city, and preach therein according to the former preaching whereof I spake unto Thee. ³And Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, as the Lord had spoken. ⁴Now Nineveh was a great city unto God, of about three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city about a day's journey, and he proclaimed, and said, Yet three days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. ⁵And the men of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. ⁶And the word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from off his throne, he took off his robe from him, and put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And there was made a proclamation, and it was commanded in Nineveh by the king, and by his great men, saying, Let neither men nor cattle, oxen nor sheep, taste any thing, nor feed, nor drink water. ⁸So men and beasts put on sackcloth, and cried earnestly unto God: and they turned every one from their evil way, and from the iniquity that was in their hands, saying, ⁹Who can tell if God will repent, and turn from His fierce anger, and so we perish not? ¹⁰And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways; and God repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not.

CHAPTER 4

But Jonah was grieved exceedingly and confounded. ²And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, O Lord, were not these my words when I was yet in my country? Therefore made I haste to flee unto Tarshish: for I knew that

Thou art merciful and compassionate, longsuffering and abundant in kindness, and repentest Thee of evil. ³And now, O Master, Lord, take my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. ⁴Then said the Lord unto Jonah, Art thou then exceeding grieved? ⁵And Jonah went out of the city, and sat over against the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it, till he might see what would become of the city. ⁶And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to shade him from his miseries; and Jonah rejoiced with exceeding great joy for the gourd. ⁷And God commanded a worm the next morning; and it smote the gourd, and it withered. ⁸And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God commanded a burning wind; and the sun smote upon the head of Jonah; and he fainted, and despaired of his life, and said, *It is better for me to die than to live.* ⁹And God said, Art thou exceeding grieved for the gourd? and he said, I am exceeding grieved, even unto death. ¹⁰And God said, Thou hast had pity on the gourd for the which thou hast not suffered, neither madest it grow; which came up before night, and perished before *another* night: ¹¹and shall I not spare Nineveh, the great city, wherein dwell more than sixscore thousand persons that knew not their right hand from their left hand; and *also* much cattle?