English: Unlocked Literal Bible for Jonah

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Bible Text: The English Unlocked Literal Bible (ULB)

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## Jonah

1

1Now the word of Yahweh came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying,2"Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and speak out against it, because their wickedness has risen up before me."3But Jonah got up to run away from the presence of Yahweh and go to Tarshish. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and boarded the ship to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of Yahweh.

4But Yahweh sent out a great wind on the sea and it became a mighty storm on the sea. Soon it appeared that the ship was going to be broken up.5Then the sailors became very afraid and each man cried out to his own god. They threw the ship's cargo into the sea to lighten it. But Jonah had gone down into the innermost parts of the ship, and he was lying there deeply asleep.

6So the captain came to him and said to him, "What are you doing sleeping? Get up! Call upon your god! Maybe your god will notice us and we will not perish."

7Each man said to his neighbor, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know who is the cause of this evil that is happening to us." So they threw lots, and the lot fell to Jonah.

8Then they said to Jonah, "Please tell us who is the cause of this evil that is happening to us. What is your occupation, and where did you come from? What is your country, and from which people are you?"9Jonah said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven, who has made the sea and the dry land."10Then the men were even more afraid and said to Jonah, "What is this that you have done?" For the men knew that he was running away from the presence of Yahweh, because he had told them.

11Then they said to Jonah, "What should we do to you so that the sea will calm down for us?" For the sea became more and more stormy.12Jonah said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will be calm for you, for I know that it is because of me that this great storm is happening to you."

13Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get themselves back to the land, but they could not do it because the sea was becoming more and more violent against them.

14Therefore they cried out to Yahweh and said, "We beg you, Yahweh, we beg you, do not let us perish on account of this man's life, and do not put innocent blood on us, because you, Yahweh, have done just as it pleased you."15So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging.16Then the men feared Yahweh very much. They offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows.

17Now Yahweh had appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

21Then Jonah prayed to Yahweh his God from the fish's stomach.2He said,"I called out to Yahweh about my distressand he answered me;from the belly of Sheol I cried out for help!You heard my voice.3You had thrown me into the depths,into the heart of the seas,and the currents surrounded me;all your waves and billowspassed over me.4I said, 'I am driven outfrom before your eyes;yet I will again looktoward your holy temple.'5The waters closed around me up to my neck;the deep was all around me;seaweed wrapped around my head.6I went down to the bases of the mountains;the earth with its bars closed upon me forever.Yet you brought up my life from the pit,Yahweh, my God!7When my soul fainted within me,I called Yahweh to mind;then my prayer came to youto your holy temple.8They give attention to meaningless godswhile they abandon covenant faithfulness.9But as for me, I will sacrifice to youwith a voice of thanksgiving;I will fulfill that which I have vowed.Salvation comes from Yahweh!"

10Then Yahweh spoke to the fish, and it vomited up Jonah upon the dry land.

3

1The word of Yahweh came to Jonah a second time, saying,2"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I command you to give."3So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the word of Yahweh. Now Nineveh was a very large city, one of three days' journey.4Jonah began to enter the city and after a day's journey he called out and said, "In forty days Nineveh will be overthrown."5The people of Nineveh believed God and they proclaimed a fast. They all put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them down to the least of them.6Soon the news reached the king of Nineveh. He rose up from his throne, took off his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.7He sent out a proclamation that said, "In Nineveh, by the authority of the king and his nobles: 'Do not let any man or animal, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not eat, nor drink water.8But let both man and animal be covered with sackcloth and let them cry out loudly to God. Let each one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.9Who knows? God may relent and change his mind and turn away from his fierce anger so that we do not perish.'"

10God saw their deeds, that they turned from their evil ways. So then God changed his mind about the punishment that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

4

1But this displeased Jonah and he became very angry.2So Jonah prayed to Yahweh and said, "Ah, Yahweh, is this not just what I said when I was back in my own country? That is why I acted first and tried to flee to Tarshish—because I knew that you are a gracious God, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and you hold back from sending disaster.3Therefore now, Yahweh, I beg you, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."4Yahweh said, "Is it good that you are so angry?"5Then Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made a shelter and sat under it in the shade so that he could see what might become of the city.

6Yahweh God appointed a plant and made it grow up over Jonah so that it might be a shade over his head to relieve him of his distress. Jonah was very glad because of the plant.7But God appointed a worm at sunrise the next morning. It attacked the plant and the plant withered.8It came about that when the sun rose the next morning, God appointed a hot east wind. Also, the sun beat down on Jonah's head and he became faint. Then Jonah wished that he might die. He said to himself, "It is better for me to die than to live."9Then God said to Jonah, "Is it good that you are so angry about the plant?" Then Jonah said, "It is good that I am angry, even to death."10Yahweh said, "You have had compassion for the plant, for which you have not labored, nor did you make it grow. It grew up in a night and died in a night.11So as for me, should I not have compassion for Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left hand, and also many animals?"