

# Book of JONAH

Rhoda

28-8-1980.

Tarshish was apparently in SW Spain & it was the furthestmost point to which SHIPS travelled.

JAFFA - ancient - so ancient it is mentioned in ancient Egyptian writing.

"to avoid the presence of the Lord...." mentioned TWICE  
∴ Significant.

Yonah → "yonah" = dove →

Fearful danger. Captain astonished to see Jonah is sleeping. The heathen captain is here calling on the Hebrew prophet, Jonah, to pray to his G-d.

## Dignity in Jonah's answer

Tempest becomes more fierce, Jonah offers to be cast forth from the ship into the sea. The heathen crew, taking Compassion upon Jonah, first try to row to the shore, but they cannot. The storm is raging.

## ② Jonah contd.

What Jonah was trying to avoid, he meets right here → even to offering his OWN LIFE

"They are in the same boat in the face of Death."  
He who had been asleep is awakened to his true work as a prophet of G-d.

Jonah thrown into the sea. Sea calms down, they make a "sacrifice". Rashi said they vowed to become "converted" to the worship of Israel's G-d.

Ch. 2 JONAH who had wanted to flee from his Lord, now prays to G-d not only from the heart of the sea, but from the belly of the FISH.

Prayer/Hymn. Fish vomits Jonah out on to dry land.

Ch. 3 A second time, G-d tells Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time he obeys unquestionably. Great repentance of the city of Nineveh - but remember this story never really existed.

Ch. 3 Jonah  
contd.

(3)

verses 5-10 Fast / sackcloth / return to right doing  
no drinking water / cry to G-d  
turn away from evil & violence

"T'shuwah" "Tefillah" "Tzedaka"  
repentance ..... prayer ..... deeds

[Nineveh — an Assyrian city]

continued

4 Sept. 1980.

Allegorical interpretation of the Jonah story:

Story of Garden of Eden also an allegory  
Loss of innocence Whatever was shining became  
darkened.

Jonah = "dove" = who is this? Israel?

Hebrew people Y'Israel Prince of G-d

("Sar"-el) Jonah = people of Israel.

→ (4)



Jonah evaded his duty & was swallowed by the fish. Allegory → like the Hebrew PEOPLE being "swallowed" into Babylonia, where they really "TURNED"/repented, that's where they wrote the Book of Lamentations, built prayerhouses, the time of 2nd Isaiah, Ezekiel, the 70 years of Exile.

Fish vomits Jonah out — the Israel people were liberated....  
 but were  
 dissatisfied.

---

### The Nature of Hebrew Prophecy

Rhoda quoted thoughts of Yehezkiel Kaufman, we read from Buber's essays "Israel & the World" p. 37 / and also an article Go To Nineveh by Hayim Greenberg.

---