EDIFIED EDITION

Jonah

A modern rendering of the Holy Scriptures

4	48	Old	32
chapters	verses	Testament	book of 66

Contents

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Edified Edition (EDE): a modern rendering of the Holy Scriptures from the original Hebrew and Greek, in everyday British English. www.edifiededition.com

Numbered notes follow each chapter.

© 2026 Edified Edition. Made 11 November 2026.

Chapter 1

Jonah 1 tells how the LORD told Jonah son of Amittai to go to the great city of Nineveh and cry out against it, but Jonah fled from the LORD's presence and boarded a ship at Joppa bound for Tarshish. The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea, and the sailors cried out each to his own god while Jonah lay fast asleep below deck. The lot fell on Jonah, and he confessed that he was a Hebrew who feared the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. At his own word, after they had tried in vain to row back to land, the sailors prayed to the LORD not to hold them guilty and threw him overboard, and the sea grew calm. The men feared the LORD greatly, and the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, who was in its belly three days and three nights.

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:[1]

2 "Get up, go to the great city of Nineveh and cry out against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

3 But Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship bound for Tarshish. He paid the fare and went aboard to sail with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.[2]

4 But the LORD hurled a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

5 The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his own god. They threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone down into the hold of the ship, where he lay down and fell fast asleep.

6 The captain came to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Perhaps the god will take notice of us, and we will not perish."

7 Then the sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is to blame for this disaster." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

8 So they said to him, "Tell us, since you know why this trouble has struck us: what work do you do?

Where have you come from? Which is your land, and to what people do you belong?”

9 “I am a Hebrew,” he told them, “and it is the LORD I worship, the God of heaven, the Maker of both sea and land.”

10 Then the men were terrified and said to him, “What have you done?” For they knew he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

11 The sea was growing ever more stormy, so they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

12 “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm for you. I know it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

13 Instead, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew still more violent against them.

14 So they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us perish for taking this man’s life, and do not hold us guilty of shedding innocent blood, for You, LORD, have done as You pleased.”

15 Then they took Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging.

16 The men greatly feared the LORD; they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

17 Now the LORD had made ready a great fish to swallow Jonah, and for three days and three nights Jonah remained inside the fish.[3]

1 Jonah prophesied in the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel, about 780 BC (2 Kings 14:25). Nineveh was a capital of Assyria, Israel’s great enemy.

2 Tarshish was a distant port in the far west, probably in Spain.

3 In Hebrew this verse is 2:1, and 2:1–10 are numbered 2:2–11. Jesus speaks of this as a sign of His death and resurrection (Matthew 12:40).

Chapter 2

Jonah 2 is Jonah’s prayer from the belly of the fish. In his distress he called to the LORD from the depths of Sheol, and the LORD heard him. He had been cast into the deep, with breakers and waves sweeping over him and seaweed wrapped round his head; he went down to the roots of the mountains, but the LORD brought his life up from the pit. When his life was ebbing away he remembered the LORD, and his prayer reached His holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols forsake their loyalty, but Jonah will sacrifice with thanksgiving and pay his vows, for salvation belongs to the LORD. Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

1 From the belly of the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.

2 He said, “In my distress I called to the LORD, and He answered me. From the depths of Sheol I cried for help, and You heard my voice.

3 You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the current swirled around me; all Your breakers and waves swept over me.

4 I thought, ‘I am driven out from before Your eyes; even so, I will gaze once more upon Your holy temple.’

5 The waters closed over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped round my head.

6 I went down to the roots of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me for ever. But You brought my life up from the pit, LORD my God.

7 When my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to You, to Your holy temple.

8 Those who cling to worthless idols forsake the loyal kindness that could be theirs.[1]

9 But I will sacrifice to You with a song of thanksgiving; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

10 Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto the dry land.

1 Or ‘forsake their loyalty’.

Chapter 3

Jonah 3 tells how the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, and this time he went to Nineveh, an exceedingly great city requiring three days to go through. He went a day's journey into it and proclaimed, "Forty more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown!" The people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. When the news reached the king, he rose from his throne, put on sackcloth, sat in ashes and decreed that people and animals should fast, be covered with sackcloth, call urgently on God and turn from their evil ways and violence, in case God might relent. When God saw how they turned from their evil ways, He relented of the disaster He had threatened and did not bring it.

1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a
second time:
2 "Get up, go to the great city of Nineveh and
proclaim to it the message I give you."
3 So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, as the
LORD had told him. Now Nineveh was an
exceedingly great city, a three days' walk across.[1]
4 Jonah began by going a day's walk into the city,
and he proclaimed, "Forty more days, and
Nineveh will be overthrown!"
5 And the people of Nineveh put their trust in God.
They called a fast, and everyone, from the most
important to the least, clothed themselves in
sackcloth.
6 Word of this came to Nineveh's king. He got up
from his throne, laid aside his robe, wrapped
himself in sackcloth and sat in the dust and ashes.
7 Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh:
"By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let no
person or animal, herd or flock, taste anything.
Let them not eat or drink water.
8 But let both people and animals be covered with
sackcloth, and let them call urgently on God. Let
each one turn from his evil way and from the
violence that is in his hands.
9 Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn
from His fierce anger, so that we do not perish."
10 When God saw what they did, how they turned
from their evil way, God relented of the disaster
He had said He would bring on them, and He did
not do it.

1 Literally 'a great city to God'. Its walls were about 12 kilometres (7½ miles) round; 'three days' may include its surrounding district.

Chapter 4

Jonah 4 shows Jonah greatly displeased and angry that God spared Nineveh. He complains that this is why he fled to Tarshish: he knew that God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in loyal kindness, relenting from disaster; now he would rather die than live. The LORD asks whether he does right to be angry. Jonah goes out east of the city and sits in a shelter to see what will happen. God appoints a plant to shade him, and Jonah is delighted, but at dawn God appoints a worm to kill it and a scorching east wind, and Jonah, faint in the sun, again wants to die. God asks whether he does right to be angry about the plant, which he did not tend and which perished overnight. Should not God then have pity on Nineveh, the great city, with more than 120,000 people who do not know their right hand from their left, and many animals?

1 But this displeased Jonah greatly, and he became
angry.
2 He prayed to the LORD, "Please, LORD, was this
not what I said while I was still in my own
country? That is why I hurried to flee to Tarshish. I
knew that You are a gracious and compassionate
God, slow to anger and abounding in loyal
kindness, One who relents from sending disaster.[1]
3 And now, LORD, I beg You, take away my life;
death is better for me than life."
4 But the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be
angry?"
5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down to
the east of it. There he made himself a shelter and
sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what
would happen to the city.
6 The LORD God appointed a plant and made it
grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head and
ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very glad
about the plant.[2]

7 But at dawn the next day God appointed a worm,
which attacked the plant so that it withered.

8 When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching
east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head
so that he grew faint. He asked to die, saying, "It
is better for me to die than to live."

9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be
angry about the plant?" "It is right," he said. "I am
angry enough to die!"

10 Then the LORD said, "You have been concerned
about the plant, though you did not labour over it
or make it grow. It sprang up in a night and
perished in a night.

11 Should I not then be concerned about Nineveh,
the great city, in which there are more than a
hundred and twenty thousand people who do not
know their right hand from their left, and many
animals as well?"

1 Compare Exodus 34:6; Joel 2:13.

2 The plant (qiqayon) is not certainly known; perhaps a castor-oil plant or a gourd.