

JONAH

¹ And the word of the Lord was made to Jonah, the son of Amittai, and said,

² Rise thou, and go into Nineveh, the great city, and preach thou therein, for the malice thereof goeth up before me.

³ And Jonah rose for to flee into Tarshish, from the face of the Lord. And he came down to Joppa, and found a ship going into Tarshish, and he gave ship-hire to them; and he went down into it, for to go with them into Tarshish, from the face of the Lord.

⁴ Forsooth the Lord sent a great wind into the sea, and a great tempest was made in the sea, and the ship was in peril for to be all-broken.

⁵ And shipmen dreaded, and men cried to their god; and sent vessels, that were in the ship, into the sea, that it were made lighter of them. And Jonah went down into the inner things of the ship, and slept by a grievous sleep.

⁶ And the governor came to him, and said to him, Why art thou cast down in sleep? rise thou, call thy God to help, if peradventure God again-think of us, and we perish not.

⁷ And a man said to his fellows, Come ye, and cast we lots, and know we, why this evil is to us. And they cast lots, and lot fell on Jonah.

⁸ And they said to him, Show thou to us, for cause of what thing this evil is to us; what is thy

work, which is thy land, and whither goest thou, either of what people art thou?

⁹ And he said to them, I am an Hebrew, and I dread the Lord God of heaven, that made the sea and the dry land.

¹⁰ And the men dreaded with great dread, and said to him, Why didest thou this thing? for the men knew that he fled from the face of the Lord, for Jonah had showed to them.

¹¹ And they said to him, What shall we do to thee, and the sea shall cease from us? for the sea went, and waxed great on them.

¹² And he said to them, Take ye me, and throw or send *me* into the sea, and the sea shall cease from you; for I know, that for me this great tempest is on you.

¹³ And the men rowed, for to turn again to the dry land, and they might not, for the sea went, and waxed great on them.

¹⁴ And they cried to the Lord, and said, Lord, we beseech, that we perish not in the life of this man, and that thou give not on us innocent blood; for thou, Lord, didest as thou wouldest.

¹⁵ And they took Jonah, and threw or sent into the sea; and the sea stood of his boiling.

¹⁶ And the men dreaded the Lord with great dread, and offered hosts to the Lord, and vowed avows.

¹⁷ And the Lord made ready a great fish, that he should swallow Jonah; and Jonah was in the womb of the fish three days and three nights.

CHAPTER 2

¹ And Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's womb,

² and said, I cried to God of my tribulation, and he heard me; from the womb of hell I cried, and thou heardest my voice.

³ Thou castedest me down into deepness, in the heart of the sea, and the floods compassed me [*about*]; all thy swells and thy waves passed on me.

⁴ And I said, I am cast away from the sight of thine eyes; nevertheless again I shall see thine holy temple.

⁵ Waters encompassed me till to my soul, deepness environed me, the seaweed covered mine head.

⁶ I went down to the uttermost places of hills, the bars of earth enclosed me altogether, into without end; and thou, my Lord God, shalt raise up my life from corruption.

⁷ When my soul was anguished in me, I bethought on the Lord, that my prayer come to thee, to thine holy temple.

⁸ They that keep vanities, forsake their mercy idly.

⁹ But I in voice of praising shall offer to thee; whatever things I vowed, I shall yield to the Lord, for mine health.

¹⁰ And the Lord said to the fish, and it casted out Jonah on/to the dry land.

CHAPTER 3

¹ And the word of the Lord was made the second time to Jonah, and said,

² Rise thou, and go into Nineveh, the great city, and preach thou in it the preaching which I speak to thee.

³ And Jonah rose, and went into Nineveh, by the word of the Lord. And Nineveh was a great city, of the journey of three days.

⁴ And Jonah began for to enter into the city, by the journey of one day, and cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overturned, *or destroyed*.

⁵ And men of Nineveh believed to the Lord, and preached fasting, and were clothed with sackcloths, from the more till to the less.

⁶ And the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he rose off his seat, and casted away his clothing from him, and was clothed with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

⁷ And he cried, and said in Nineveh of the mouth of the king and of his princes, saying, Men, and work beasts, and oxen, and sheep, taste not anything, neither be fed, neither drink water.

⁸ And men be covered with sack-cloths, and work beasts, *all* cry to the Lord in strength; and be a man converted, *or all-turned*, from his evil way, and from wickedness that is in the hands of them.

⁹ Who knoweth, if God be converted, and forgive, and be turned away from strong vengeance of his wrath, and we shall not perish?

¹⁰ And God saw the works of them, that they were converted from their evil way; and God had mercy on the malice which he spake, that he would do to them, and did not.

CHAPTER 4

¹ And Jonah was tormented with great torment, and was wroth.

² And he prayed to the Lord, and said, Lord, I beseech, whether this is not my word, when I was yet in my land? For this thing I purposed for to flee into Tarshish; for I know, that thou, God, art meek and merciful, patient, and of much merciful doing, and forgiving of malice.

³ And now, Lord, I pray, take my life from me; for death is better to me than life.

⁴ And the Lord said, Guessest thou, whether thou art well wroth?

⁵ And Jonah went out of the city, and sat against the east of the city, and made to him a shadowing place there; and sat under it in shadow, till he saw what befell to the city.

⁶ And the Lord God made ready an ivy, and it went upon the head of Jonah, that shadow or shade were on his head, and covered him; for he had travailed. And Jonah was glad on the ivy, with great gladness.

⁷ And God made ready a worm, in the going up of gray day on the morrow; and it smote the ivy, and it dried up.

⁸ And when the sun was risen, the Lord commanded to the hot wind and burning; and the sun smote on the head of Jonah, and he sweltered. And he asked to his soul that he should die, and said, It is better to me to die, than to live.

⁹ And the Lord said to Jonah, Guessest thou, whether thou art well wroth on the ivy? And he said, I am well wroth, till to the death.

¹⁰ And the Lord said, Thou art sorry on the ivy, in which thou travailedest not, neither madest that it waxed, which was grown under one night, and perished in one night.

¹¹ And shall I not spare the great city Nineveh, in which be more than sixscore thousand of men, which know not what is betwixt their right half and left half, and many beasts?

Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling English: Wycliffe's Bible Modern Spelling (with Deuterocanon)

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Language: English

Dialect: Archaic

Translation by: Terry Noble

Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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2019-09-26

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 11 Nov 2022 from source files dated 10 Feb 2022

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