

JONAH

5, Jonah's displeasure, Jonah 4:1-11

Jonah was not happy!

1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.

2 He prayed to the Lord and said, "Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

[1.] v:1, it, In the beginning of v:1 we see this word. To what does the word refer?

[2.] v:1 again, it, What was Jonah's reaction?

[3.] v:2, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? From the following, choose what you feel Jonah was trying to do or say.

- a) Teach God to be more sensitive.
- b) Show God that He didn't understand the big picture.
- c) Cover up that he hated non-Jews.
- d) Get off the subject of his disobedience.

[4.] v:2 again, You are a, What were the words and phrases Jonah uses in describing God.

[5.] question [4.], What do they mean?

[6.] v:2 again, If you had the opportunity to counsel Jonah right then, what would you have said?

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3 "Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life."

4 The Lord said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"

5 Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.

[7.] v:2 again, When we, as born again Christians, give God excuses for our behavior, what are we really trying to tell God?

[8.] v:2 again, Have you ever felt that the Lord has bought any of your excuses?

[9.] v:3, O Lord, please take, Here's your chance! What do you think God should have said to Jonah?

[10.] v:4, The Lord said, Why do you feel God let Jonah off light?

[11.] v:4 again, Likewise, when we mumble our excuses to The Lord, what do you think He should say to us?

[12.] v:5, Jonah went out, Describe the expression that you think was on Jonah's face!

[13.] again v:5, This might be fun! Since Jonah was sitting E. of the city, (from the map, last lesson), what river and road might he have been able to see?

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6 So the Lord God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

7 But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered. 8 When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."

9 Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death."

[14.] v:5 again, When we are in a state such as Jonah is displaying, how effective is our prayer life?

[15.] v:5 again, see what would happen, Considering Jonah's displeasure, what do you think he wanted to happen to the citizens of Nineveh?

[16.] v:6, deliver him from his discomfort, Why would you assume that Jonah knew it was God who gave him comfort?

[17.] v:7-8, But God appointed, How was God within His rights with the deal about the plant?

[18.] v:7-8 again, he became faint, If God was not trying to kill Jonah, what was He doing?

[19.] v:9, I have good reason, Why or why wouldn't it have been acceptable for the Lord to say something like, OK you got it my friend?

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10 Then the Lord said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

11 "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

[20] v:10, You had compassion, What are the four descriptions regarding the plant in this verse?

[21.] v:10 again, Then the Lord said, Select which statement/s the Lord could not have said.

- a) I created the plant.
- b) I caused the plant to grow.
- c) I made the plant sprout up over night.
- d) I caused the plant to perish.
- e) Everything I do is good.
- d) Jonah, I have more compassion on the plant than you do.
- e) None of the above.

[22.] v:11, compassion on Nineveh, Jonah had a problem about Nineveh's repentance and God's compassion. Recall that Jonah ministered about 750BC (lesson 1) and about 100-yrs after Nineveh was destroyed (612BC, lesson 4) In your opinion, what happened?