

3. saying:

In my distress I called to the Eternal,
who answered me;
from the belly of Sheol I cried out,
and You heard my voice.

4. You cast me into the depths,
into the heart of the seas;
the current enveloped me,
Your billows and waves passed over me.

5. And I said:
*I am cast out from Your sight,
no more to look upon Your holy Temple.*

6. The waters closed in on me,
up to my throat,
as the deep surrounded me,
and weeds twined about my head;

7. To the mountains' roots I sank,
and the bars of earth closed in on me
forever;
yet You brought me up from the pit,
O my Eternal God!

8. When my soul was about to faint away
I remembered the Eternal;
and my prayer came to You,
to Your holy Temple.

9. Those who keep to false gods
forsake their loyalty,

3 וַיֹּאמֶר

קָרָאתִי מִצָּרָה לִי אֱלֹהֵי הַנְּהוּה

וַיַּעֲנֵנִי

מִבֶּטֶן שְׁאוֹל שְׁמַעְתִּי

שְׁמַעְתָּ קוֹלִי:

4 וַתִּשְׁלִכֵנִי מִצוּלָה

בְּלִבְבַי יָמִים

וַנְהַר יִסְבְּבֵנִי

כָּל־מִשְׁבְּרֵיךָ וַנְגִידֵךָ עָלַי עָבְרוּ:

5 וַאֲנִי אָמַרְתִּי

נִגְרַשְׁתִּי מִנְּגֵד עֵינֶיךָ

אֵךְ אוֹסִיף לְהַבִּישׁ אֶל־הַיְכָל קִדְשְׁךָ:

6 אֶפְפוּנֵי מַיִם

עַד־נֶפֶשׁ

תְּהוֹם יִסְבְּבֵנִי

סוּף חֲבוּשׁ לְרֹאשִׁי:

7 לְקַצְבֵי הָרִים יָרַדְתִּי

הָאָרֶץ בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ בְּעַדִּי לְעוֹלָם

וַתַּעַל מִשְׁחַת חַיִּי

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי:

8 בְּהִתְעַטַּף עָלַי נַפְשִׁי

אֶת־יְהוָה זָכַרְתִּי

וַתָּבוֹא אֱלֹהֶיךָ תַּפְלֵתִי

אֶל־הַיְכָל קִדְשְׁךָ:

9 מְשַׁמְרִים הַבְּלִי־שׁוּא

חֲסִדָּם יַעֲזֹבוּ:

7

8

10. but I with thankful voice
will sacrifice to You;
I will fulfill my vows,
(for) deliverance comes from the Eternal.
11. Then the Eternal ordered the fish to
spew Jonah out upon dry land.
- 3:1. The word of the Eternal came to Jonah
a second time:
2. Go at once to Nineveh, that great city,
and proclaim to it what I tell you.
3. Jonah went at once to Nineveh in accor-
dance with the word of the Eternal.
Nineveh was an enormously large city,
even on a divine scale, a three days' walk
across.
4. Jonah started out and made his way into
the city the distance of one day's walk, and
proclaimed: Forty days more, and Nineveh
shall be overthrown!
5. Then the people of Nineveh believed
God. They proclaimed a fast, and all alike,
great and small, put on sackcloth.
6. When the news reached the king of
Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off
his robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in
ashes.
7. And he had the word cried through
Nineveh: By decree of the king and his no-
bles: Neither human nor beast shall taste
anything! They shall not graze, and they
shall not drink water!

Commentary

3:3. *An enormously large city.* Literally, "a large city of God."

10 וְאֲנִי בְקוֹל תּוֹדָה

אֲזַבְחָה לְךָ

אֲשֶׁר נָדַרְתִּי אֲשַׁלֶּמָּה

יְשׁוּעָתָה לִיהוָה:

11 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לְדָג נִיבֹא אֶת־יוֹנָה אֶל־

הַיַּבְשָׁה:

3:1 וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יוֹנָה שֵׁנִית לֵאמֹר:

2 קוּם לֵךְ אֶל־נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה וְקִרָא

אֵלֶיהָ אֶת־הַקְּרִיאָה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי דֹבֵר אֵלֶיךָ:

3 וַיֵּקָם יוֹנָה וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־נִינְוָה כַּדְּבַר יְהוָה

וְנִינְוָה הִיְתְּתָה עִיר־גְּדוֹלָה לְאֱלֹהִים מִחֻלְדָּי

שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים:

4 וַיַּחַל יוֹנָה לְבֹא בְעִיר מִחֻלְדָּי יוֹם אֶחָד

וַיִּקְרָא וַיֹּאמֶר עוֹד אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וְנִינְוָה

נִהְפָכֶת:

5 וַיֵּאֱמִינוּ אָנָּשִׁי נִינְוָה בְּאֱלֹהִים וַיִּקְרְאוּ־צוּם

וַיִּלְבְּשׂוּ שָׂקִים מִגְּדוּלָם וְעַד־קִטְנֹתָם:

6 וַיִּגַע הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־מִלְכָּד נִינְוָה וַיֵּקָם מִכִּסְאוֹ

וַיַּעֲבֵר אֶדְרֵתוֹ מֵעַלְיוֹ וַיִּכֶס שֵׁק וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל־

הָאָפֶר:

7 וַיִּזְעַק וַיֹּאמֶר בְּנִינְוָה מִטַּעַם הַמִּלְכָּד וַיְגַדְּלוּ

לֵאמֹר הָאָדָם וְהַבְּהֵמָה הַבְּקָר וְהַצֹּאן אֶל־

יִשְׁעָמוּ מֵאוֹמָה אֶל־יָרְעוּ וּמִים אֶל־יִשְׁתּוּ:

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