Jonah

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me." 3 But Jonah arose to go to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. 4 But the Lord threw a great wind into the sea, and such a great storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up.

5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. 6 The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your gods! Perhaps the gods will spare us a thought so that we do not perish." 7 The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us why this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 9 "I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." 10 Then the men feared a great fear, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so. 11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. 12 He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." 13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more
and more stormy against them. 14 Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.”

15 So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

sailors repent, foreshadowing Nineveh

17 But the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

rhetorical use of three, like Jonah’s three-fold descent

1 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, “I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

3 You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

4 Then I said, “I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?”

5 The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for ever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God.

7 As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came
to you,
into your holy temple. 8 Those who worship vain idols
forsake their
true loyalty.
9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to
you; what I have vowed I will pay.
Deliverance belongs to the Lord!”

10 Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out to the dry land.

second part of book parallels first part: call of Jonah, Jonah’s response, disaster (real or proclaimed), prayer & repentance of non-Israelites, encounter between God and Jonah

3 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2 “Arise, go to
Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3 So concern
Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now same verb (agreement with God’s command)
Nineveh was a great city to God, a three days’ walk across. 4 Jonah began another rhetorical use of three
to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; entire recorded message is five words in Hebrew: הבשמה אָם נְעֵנָה נֹאִיתָה they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, from great to small, put on sackcloth. 6

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, removed unlike Jonah, king rises immediately
his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. 8 Human beings and animals shall be covered totality of repentance
with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. 9 Who knows? God may turn and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce wrath, so that we do not perish.” 10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the evil that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4 But it was evil to Jonah, a very great evil, and
he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I
while God felt compassion, Jonah felt anger
said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at
the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to
wrath, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from i.e., punishing
3 And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die
than to live." 4 And the Lord said, "Is it good for you to be angry?" 5 Then
God asks, but Jonah doesn’t answer when it concerns Nineveh
Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for
himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become
of the city. 6 The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah,
to give shade over his head, to shade him from his evil; so Jonah was happy about
the bush, a great happiness. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed
a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God
appointed a sultry east wind, and the sun attacked the head of Jonah so
that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me
Jonah longs for the fate he imagined for Nineveh
to die than to live." 9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it good for you to be
angry about the bush?" And he said, "It is good, angry enough to die." 10 Then the
God asks, and Jonah answers when it is about his own wellbeing
Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and
which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.
11 And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that 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 also many animals?"
Jonah’s compassion extends only to the plant, which benefits him, whereas God’s compassion
encompasses the inhabitants of Nineveh, including the animals—argument from the lesser to
the greater

other repeated words: fear, concern, cry, destroy, live, die