

Ungracious Representatives of a Gracious God

Jonah 4:1-11

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Jonah 4:1-4 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹But this was a great evil to Jonah, and he became angry.

²And he prayed to Yahweh and said, "Ah! O Yahweh, was not this my word to myself while I was still in my own land?

Therefore I went ahead to flee 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 evil.

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

⁴And Yahweh said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"

Recap of Jonah 1-3

Jonah 1

- Jonah is given the task to preach
- Jonah rebels
- Pagan sailors are saved
- Jonah is swallowed up by fish

Jonah 2

- Jonah's prophetic prayer of repentance

Jonah 3

- Jonah preaches
- Nineveh repents!

Jonah 4??

Jonah 4:8–9 (LSB)

⁸Then it happened that as the sun rose up, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun struck down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and asked with all his soul to die and said, "Death is better to me than life."

⁹Then 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."

Sermon Outline

- I. Why is Jonah so angry in Chapter 4?
- II. What do we learn about mankind through Jonah's prophecy?
- III. What do we learn about God through Jonah's prophecy?

I. Why is Jonah So Angry? (Jonah 4:1,3,8-9)

Jonah 4:1,3,8-9 (LSB)

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I. Why is Jonah So Angry? (Jonah 4:1,3,8-9)

Jonah 4:2–3 (LSB)

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I. Why is Jonah So Angry? (Jonah 4:1,3,8-9)

Amos 6:14 (LSB)

¹⁴“For behold, I am going to raise up a nation against you, O house of Israel,” declares Yahweh God of hosts, “And they will press down on you from **Lebo-hamath** To the **brook of the Arabah.**”

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2 Kings 14:23,25 (LSB)

²³... Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria and reigned forty-one years.

²⁵He restored the border of Israel from **Lebo-hamath** as far as the **Sea of the Arabah**, according to the word of Yahweh, the God of Israel, which He spoke through **His servant Jonah the son of Amittai**, the prophet, who was of Gath-hepher.

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Amos 7:10–11 (LSB)

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent word to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is unable to endure all his words.

¹¹“For thus Amos says, ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’”

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II. What Do We Learn About Mankind?

Jonah 4:5–8 (LSB)

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

⁶So Yahweh God appointed a plant, and it came up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his miserable evil. And Jonah was **extremely glad** about the plant.

⁷But God appointed a worm at the breaking of dawn the next day, and it struck the plant, and it dried up.

⁸Then it happened that as the sun rose up, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun struck down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and asked with all his soul to die and said, "Death is better to me than life."

III. What Do We Learn About God?

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III. What Do We Learn About God?

Matthew 5:43–48 (LSB)

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

⁴⁶"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

⁴⁷"And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

⁴⁸"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

III. What Do We Learn About God?

Jonah 4:9–11 (LSB)

⁹Then 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.”

¹⁰Then Yahweh said, “You had pity on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came to be overnight and perished overnight.

¹¹“So should I not have pity 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?”

III. What Do We Learn About God?

Micah 7:18–19 (LSB)

¹⁸Who is a God like You, who forgives iniquity And passes over the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? He does not hold fast to His anger forever Because He delights in lovingkindness.

¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; He will subdue our iniquities. And You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.