

THE BOOK OF JONAH:

A (SOMEWHAT) WOODEN TRANSLATION:¹

Chapter 2:²

¹ And YHWH appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah. And so Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights. ² And then Jonah prayed to YHWH, his God, from the stomach of the fish. ³ And he said,

“I called out from my distress to YHWH,
And he answered me.
From the belly of Sheol, I cried for help;
You heard my voice.

⁴ You cast me into the depths, into the heart of the sea;
And the sea currents began engulfing me;
All your breakers and your waves passed over me

⁵ And then I said, ‘I am driven away
From before your eyes.
Nevertheless, I will again look
Toward your holy temple.’

⁶ The waters enclosed over me up to the neck;
The deep engulfed me;
Seaweed was wrapped about my head.

⁷ To the roots of the mountains,
I went down,
to the land whose bars were about to close behind me forever.
But you brought up my life from the pit, YHWH, my God.

⁸ When my life was ebbing away from me,
YHWH, I remembered.
And my prayer came to you,
to your holy temple.

⁹ Those who regard vain idols
forsake their *hope of steadfast love*.

¹⁰ As for me, with a voice of thanksgiving,
I will sacrifice to you;
That which I vowed, I will pay.
Salvation belongs to YHWH!”

¹¹ And then YHWH spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto the dry land.

¹ This translation is aimed at trying to communicate as much of the Hebrew syntax as possible in the English, thus it is mostly wooden. Yet, when woodenness fails to convey Hebrew word play, and other literary devices, it will render words/phrases not so woodenly.

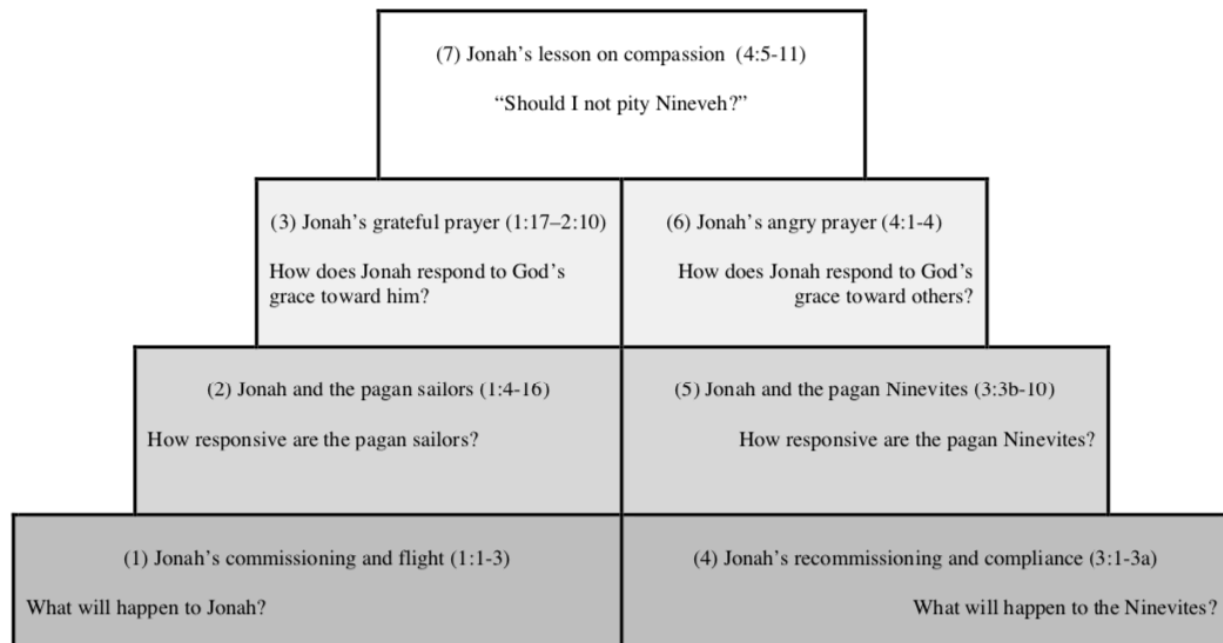
² The Hebrew Bible that our translations are based on has 1:17 as the first verse of chapter 2. I will use the Hebrew Bible’s verse layout in this chapter for convenience’s sake.

THE BOOK OF JONAH:

PARALLEL STRUCTURE OF CHAPTERS 1 & 2:³

Jonah 1 (Focus on the Sailors)	Jonah 2 (Focus on Jonah)
1. Crisis: Storm at sea (1:4)	1. Crisis: drowning at sea (2:4)
2. Response to crisis: prayer (1:14)	2. Jonah's response: prayer (2:2)
3. YHWH's response: deliverance from storm (1:15)	3. YHWH's response: deliverance from Sheol (2:1, 7)
4. Response to deliverance: sacrifice and vows (1:16)	4. Response to deliverance: pledge to sacrifice and pay vows (2:10)

LITERARY STRUCTURE OF JONAH:⁴



³ This chart comes from Kevin J. Youngblood, *Jonah*, Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015), 94.

⁴ This chart was created by Dr. W. Brian Aucker for the *ESV Study Bible*, 1686.

THE BOOK OF JONAH:

JONAH'S PRAYER: A THANKSGIVING PSALM:⁵

The Anatomy of a Thanksgiving Psalm (Jonah 2)	
1. Introduction Summary	vv. 3b - c "I called out from my distress to YHWH, and he answered me."
2. Recollection of the Crisis	vv. 4a - 7b "The waters enclosed over me, up to the neck; the deep engulfed me; seaweed was wrapped about my head."
3. Cry for Help	vv. 3b - c, 8b - d "I remembered YHWH. And my prayer came to you, to your holy temple."
4. Description of Deliverance	v. 7c "But then you brought up my life from the pit."
5. Vows	vv. 10a - b "As for me, with a thankful voice, I will sacrifice to you; that which I vowed, I will pay."
6. Praise	v. 10c "Salvation belongs to YHWH!"

⁵ This chart comes from Youngblood, *Jonah*, 101.