

## Chapter 4:

<sup>1</sup> But it was evil to Jonah—a great evil<sup>1</sup>—and it burned for him.<sup>2</sup> <sup>2</sup> And he prayed to YHWH, and said, “O YHWH, was this not my word while I was in my land? Therefore I forestalled<sup>3</sup> by fleeing toward Tarshish for I knew that you are a God *who is*<sup>4</sup> gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. <sup>3</sup> And now, YHWH, please take my soul from me because my death is better than my life.” <sup>4</sup> And YHWH said, “Do you rightly burn with anger?”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> And Jonah went out from the city and sat east of the city, and he made for himself there a hut, and he sat under it in the shade, until he might see what would happen in the city. <sup>6</sup> And YHWH God<sup>6</sup> appointed a little plant and made it come up over Jonah in order to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his evil.<sup>7</sup> <sup>7</sup> And Jonah rejoiced over the little plant a great rejoicing. And God appointed a worm at the coming of dawn, the next day, and it smote the little plant and it withered.

<sup>8</sup> And it came to pass, at the rising of the sun, *that* God appointed a hot east wind. And the sun smote *down* upon Jonah’s head so that he swooned away. And he asked with *all his* soul to die. And he said, “My death is better than my life.” <sup>9</sup> And God said to Jonah, “Do you rightly burn with anger over the little plant?” And he said, “I do rightly burn with anger, even unto death.”

<sup>10</sup> And YHWH said, “You *yourself* pity the little plant, on which you did not labor, neither did you cause it to grow, which came into being *in* a night and perished *in* a night. <sup>11</sup> And I, should I not pity Ninevah, the great city in which is more than 120,000 people who do not know *their* right hand from *their* left hand, and much livestock?”

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### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Or, *it displeased Jonah exceedingly*.

<sup>2</sup> Or, *he burned with anger* (so with vv. 4, 9).

<sup>3</sup> Definition: Attempting to prevent or hinder an outcome by acting in advance.

<sup>4</sup> Words in italics have been supplied by the translator for readability in English (like the NASB).

<sup>5</sup> Literally, *Does it rightly burn for you?*—the subject (“it”; v. 1), YHWH’s relenting from disaster, is the same.

<sup>6</sup> *YHWH Elohim* (ESV: “The LORD God”).

<sup>7</sup> Or, *his distress*; that is, the discomfort caused him by the sun.

## THE BOOK OF JONAH

### OCCURENCES OF THE KEYWORD (*RA'AH*) “EVIL” / “DISASTER” / “DISTRESS”<sup>8</sup>

Jonah 1:2	YHWH confronts Jonah with the <i>evil</i> of the city Ninevah.
Jonah 1:7	The sailors decide to cast lots to find the source of the <i>disaster</i> they experience.
Jonah 1:8	The sailors confront Jonah seeking out why <i>disaster</i> has come upon them.
Jonah 3:8	The Ninevite king calls for the inhabitants of the city to turn from <i>evil</i> .
Jonah 3:10	God sees the city turn from <i>evil</i> and he relents from the <i>disaster</i> he was sending.
Jonah 4:1	God’s merciful response to Ninevah was <i>evil</i> to Jonah—a great <i>evil</i> (or “Jonah was distressed exceedingly”).
Jonah 4:2	Jonah’s anger arises from the fact that God relents from <i>disaster</i> .
Jonah 4:6	YHWH appoints a plant to save Jonah from his <i>evil</i> / <i>distress</i> (double meaning: “badness” and/or “discomfort”).

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<sup>8</sup> This chart comes from Dr. W. Brian Aucker, “Occurences of *Ra’ah* in Jonah” (lecture notes: Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, 1/10/20). Only minor adaptations have been made for the sake of its cohering with my translation.

