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An Alliterated Outline for the Chapters of the Bible

A Guide to the Systematic Study of the Bible

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## The Chapters of Jonah

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# Jonah

## SECTION OUTLINE ONE (JONAH 1-2)

When God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh, Jonah protests-and learns his lesson. After being swallowed by a huge fish, he prays for deliverance.

### I. JONAH'S REFUSAL SHOWS GOD'S PATIENCE (1:1-17).

**A. The order** (1:1-2): God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against its wickedness.

**B. The objection** (1:3): Jonah refuses and boards a ship going to Tarshish, in the opposite direction from Nineveh!

**C. The ordeal** (1:4-17)

1. The furious storm (1:4): God sends a violent wind that threatens to sink the ship.

2. The fear (1:5-7)

a. The sailors attempt to protect the boat in the storm (1:5-6): The sailors pray to their gods and throw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship.

b. The sailors attempt to point the blame for the storm (1:7): They cast lots to determine who is responsible for their trouble, and the lot falls upon Jonah.

3. The fault (1:8-16)

a. The confrontation (1:8): The sailors confront Jonah, demanding to know who he is and what he has done.

b. The confession (1:9-11): Jonah acknowledges that he is running from God.

c. The counsel (1:12-14): Jonah advises them that if they throw him overboard, the storm will calm.

d. The calm (1:15-16): The sailors throw Jonah overboard, and the storm stops at once.

4. The fish (1:17): God arranges for a great fish to swallow Jonah.

### II. JONAH'S PRAYER SHOWS GOD'S POWER (2:1-10).

**A. Jonah's despair** (2:1-6)

1. The waters close around him (2:1-5a).

2. Seaweed wraps itself around his head (2:5b).

3. He sinks to the bottom of the sea (2:6).

**B. Jonah's dedication** (2:7-9): He remembers and renews his previous vow to serve and obey God.

**C. Jonah's deliverance** (2:10): God commands the fish to spit Jonah up on the beach.

## SECTION OUTLINE TWO (JONAH 3-4)

When Jonah preaches to the Ninevites, they repent and are saved. But Jonah resents God for saving his enemies, so God has to teach him about compassion.

### I. NINEVEH'S REVIVAL SHOWS GOD'S PARDON (3:1-10).

**A. Jonah's commission** (3:1-4)

1. The nature (3:1-2): For the second time, the prophet is ordered to Nineveh.

2. The numbers (3:3-4)

a. Three days (3:3): Nineveh is so big, it takes three days to see it all.

b. Forty days (3:4): Jonah says God will destroy the city after this time if the people do not repent.

**B. Nineveh's confession** (3:5-9)

1. The ruler repents (3:6-9).

2. The rest repent (3:5).

**C. God's compassion** (3:10): Nineveh's repentance saves the city from divine destruction.

II. JONAH'S RESENTMENT SHOWS GOD'S COMPASSION AND JONAH'S LACK OF PITY (4:1-11).

**A. Jonah's twofold complaint (4:1-9)**

1. About God sparing Nineveh (4:1-3)
2. About the sun's glare (4:4-9)
  - a. The watch (4:4-5): Jonah waits outside the city to see what will happen.
  - b. The wonders (4:6-8): God now creates three things:
    - (1) A welcome vine (4:6): It shades Jonah from the fierce heat.
    - (2) A worm (4:7): It destroys the vine.
    - (3) A wind (4:8): It almost scorches Jonah.
  - c. The whining (4:9): Jonah continues to complain, this time about the death of the vine.

**B. God's manifold compassion (4:10-11)**

1. The rebuke (4:10): God chastens Jonah for his concern over the vine.
2. The revelation (4:11): God says his concern is for the people and animals living in Nineveh.