

Jonah Chapter 4

Jonah's Anger and the Lord's Mercy

Jonah 3:10 ESV

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Jonah 4:1-10 ESV

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.

2 And he prayed to the LORD and said,

“O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

3 Therefore 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, “Do you do well to be angry?”

5 Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city.

6 Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.

7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered.

8 When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint.

And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

9 But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?”

And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.”

10 And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night.

11 And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

Word Studies (see complete word studies in online documents.)

- Displeased
- Anger
- Prepared
- Exceedingly angry
- Exceedingly glad
- Pity

Jonah Was “Displeased” – v 1

"Displeased greatly" - 03415 yara' ; v (see Word Study)

AV – displease 9, grieved 4, grievous 3, evil 2, ill 2, harm 1, sad 1; 22

1) (Qal) to tremble, quiver

Jonah 4:1 But it displeased <03415> Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

- First, Disappointment with God
- Second, Angry with God
- Third, Depressed with circumstances
- Finally, Despair and Death Wish

He is not the first and won't be the last man of God to want to die.

- Moses – Numbers 11:13-15
- Elijah – 1 Kings 19:4
- Job – Job 3:11
- David – Psalm 42:3-11 & 43:2-5
- Jonah – Jonah 4
- Jeremiah – Lamentations 3

Depression is always about perceived loss, grief, sadness, disappointment

- Loss of face...
- Loss of health...
- Loss of a life...
- Loss of a battle...
- Loss of friends...

Disappoints lead to depression and despair because ...

- It accuses God of wrong doing
- It believes a lie that God failed
- It thinks God is being unfair
- It is an emotional response to personal loss

Whenever we are depressed it is ALWAYS about our secret thoughts concerning GOD!

(He failed, He lied, He treated you unfairly, He abandoned you, He doesn't really care about you, or He doesn't really love you.)

Jonah Was Very “Angry” – v 1

"Angry" (very) – 02734 charah (see Word Study)

AV – kindled 44, wrath 13, hot 10, angry 9, displeasure 4, fret 4, incensed 2, burn 1, earnestly 1, grieved 1, very 1; 90

- 1) to be hot, furious, burn, become angry, be kindled
 - 1a) (Qal) to burn, kindle (anger)
 - 1b) (Niphal) to be angry with, be incensed
 - 1c) (Hiphil) to burn, kindle
 - 1d) (Hithpael) to heat oneself in vexation

Jonah 4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry <02734>.

Jonah 4:4 Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry <02734>?

Jonah 4:9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry <02734> for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry <02734>, *even* unto death.

There are various Hebrew words for anger used in the Old Testament.

Snorting <aph 639>, indignation <zaam 02195>, fury or displeasure <chemah 2534>, sadness <kaas 03707>, wrath <qatsaph 07107>, tempest <ruwach 7307>, burn/heated <charah 02734>

Compare it to Cain when he killed Able in Genesis 4:5-6

Jonah's Prayed to Die verse 3

"Now O Lord, take away my life for it is better for me to die than to live."

God's response: "Have you any tigt to be angry?" v4, v9

Jonah's Prayed to Die verse 8-9

Jonah's response: after the hot wind.

v 8b. He wanted to die. Said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

v9 And God said to Jonah, "Do you well to be angry for the gourd?"

"I do. I am angry enough to die."

Ephesians 4:26 Be angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
John 20:14-17 Jesus in the Temple with a whip...

Jonah's Prayer verse 2 – “I knew...”

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said,

*I pray, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for **I knew** that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repents of the evil.*

Exodus 34:6-7, 14 – Jonah Knew God’s Character

Dallas Willard, The Divine Conspiracy

The acid test for any theology is this: Is the God presented one that can be loved, heart, soul, mind, and strength? If the thoughtful, honest answer is; “Not really,” then we need to look elsewhere or deeper. It does not really matter how sophisticated intellectually or doctrinally our approach is. If it fails to set a lovable God—a radiant, happy, friendly, accessible, and totally competent being—before ordinary people, we have gone wrong. We should not keep going in the same direction, but turn around and take another road. –

Exodus 34:6-7, 14

6. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7. maintaining love (mercy) to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." ... 14. Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

Here are ten great attributes of God revealed, and all ten are under attack by the enemy to turn God into a god like the pagans have; mean, judgmental, moody, vacillating, angry, aloof, silent, stern, demanding, hard to please, and impossible to love. Against these the devil rails and accuses God of being precocious like us. He accuses God of wrong doing.

1. God is Faithful
2. God is Good
3. God is Gracious
4. God is Loving
5. God is Forgiving
6. God is Merciful
7. God is Patient
8. God is True
9. God is Just
10. God is Jealous (vs 14)

God "prepared" ^{<04487>} – God calculated / anticipated ahead of time

Great Fish - v 1:17 – Vine – 4:6 – Worm – 4:7 – Wind – 4:8

Conclusion: The Vine and God's Mercy – v 10-11

10 And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night.

11 And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

God's Mercy

Lamentations 3:22 *It is of the **LORD'S mercies** <02617> that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

Lamentations 3:32 *But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the **multitude of his mercies** <02617>.*

Romans 9:14-18 – on Israel

*What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” **18 Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy**, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.*

Romans 11:30-33 – on Gentiles

*Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. 32 For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that **he may have mercy on them all**.*

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

2 Peter 3:9

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.*

*Consider God's mercy on **King Nebuchadnezzar** and Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3-4) vrs **King Belshazzar** “Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin” – and (Daniel 5) and **King Darius** and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6).*