

JONAH.

(DATE 862 B.C.)

Jonah's Call.

- 1 **A** MESSAGE came from the Lord to Jonah-ben-Amitha to say:—
2 "Rise! Go to Ninevah, the Great City, and preach to it, for its wickedness has come up before Me."

The Prophet flies away in Terror.

- 3 Jonah, however, arose and fled towards Tharshish from the presence of the EVER-LIVING, and descended to Jaffa, and found a ship going to Tharshish, and paid his fare, and embarked in her to go with them to Tharshish, from the presence of the EVER-LIVING.

The Great Storm.

- 4 But the EVER-LIVING raised a great wind upon the sea, and then came a furious storm, and the ship seemed
5 about to be wrecked, so the sailors became terrified and cried everyone to his god, and threw out the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten her. But Jonah had gone down to the berths, and lay fast asleep.

- 6 The captain of the ship however came to him and said, "Why are you asleep? Get up, and call upon your GOD; perhaps your GOD will save us,—then we shall not perish!"

- 7 But everyone said to his messmate, "Come on! let us throw dice, and find out on account of whom this danger has come on us." So they threw dice, and the dice fell against Jonah.

- 8 So they asked, "Tell us now on account of what this danger came to us? Where are you going? and where do you come from? What is your country? And to what People do you belong?"

- 9 And he replied to them, "I am a Hebrew. I reverence the LORD GOD of Heaven Who made the Sea and the Land!"

Then the men were afraid with 10 great terror, and asked him, "What have you done?" For the men understood that he was flying from the presence of the EVER-LIVING;—for he had told them.

They consequently asked him, 11 "What must be done to you? to lessen the sea around us? for the water and the storm gallop."

And he answered, "Heave me up 12 and fling me into the sea! and the sea will be abated about you, because I know that this great hurricane has come upon you on my account."

The men, however, worked hard to 13 return to the land, but were not able, for the sea galloped, and the storm was against them. So they cried to 14 the EVER-LIVING, and said, "We beg of You, EVER-LIVING, now, not to let the life of this man perish; and not to lay upon us innocent blood;—for You can do as You decide."

Then they hoisted Jonah, and flung 15 him into the sea. And the fury of the sea ceased!

But the men were terrified, and 16 revered the EVER-LIVING greatly, and offered a sacrifice to the EVER-LIVING, and vowed vows.

Jonah Rescued by "The Great Fish."

But the EVER-LIVING had appointed 2 "The Great Fish"¹ to pick up Jonah. And Jonah was three days and nights in the hold of the "Fish," and Jonah 2 prayed to his EVER-LIVING GOD from the hold of "The Fish," and said:—

1 NOTE.—Ch. 2, v. 1. "Great Fish" was the name of the ship mistranslated "Whale" in the version of the Greek translators, whose blunder has been repeated by all subsequent translators, in all languages, to the perplexity of their readers, until I decided to go back to the original statement of the prophet in his own Hebrew.—F. F.

Jonah's Prayer.

In my misery I cried to the LORD, 3
 And He pitied in that hollow den,
 I cried,—and He answered my cry,
 When I was flung into the deep, 4
 In the heart of the sea,
 With your breakers and torrents around,
 And your gallopers rolling on me.

Then I said, "I am thrown from Your sight,
 Yet of Your HOLY NAME I will think. 5
 The waters sucked down to the soul of the Deep 6
 And my head was entangled in weeds!
 I sank to the clefts of the hills, 7
 The earth closed and barred me for ever,
 But You brought my soul up from the pit,
 My LORD GOD!
 When my breath fainted, I thought of the LORD! 8
 And my prayer went up to your Holy Abode!

"Those who trust in vain falsehood abandon their Hope; 9
 But I sacrificed praise with my voice!—
 What I vowed I will pay to the LORD."

10 The EVER-LIVING afterwards directed "The Fish," and it discharged Jonah on the land.

The Second Command to Warn Ninevah.

3 Then the command of the EVER-LIVING came to Jonah the second time to say:—

2 "Arise! Go to Ninevah, the Great City, and preach in it the sermon that I command you!"

3 Jonah consequently arose and went to Ninevah, as the EVER-LIVING commanded,—and Ninevah was a Great City to GOD, three days' journey

4 across. When Jonah had begun to enter the City, he travelled a three days' journey, and proclaimed, "Four days hence Ninevah will be over-

5 thrown!" And the people of Ninevah trusted GOD, and proclaimed a fast, and clothed in sacking from the

6 greatest to the least. The matter was also reported to the King of Ninevah, and he arose from his throne, and stripped off his robes and clothed himself in sacking, and sat in the

7 dust. And it was proclaimed, and commanded by a decree of the King and his Nobles, saying, "Let Men, and cattle of the fold, and sheep, not

8 taste of anything, either food or water to drink. But let men and cattle be clothed in sacking, and cry earnestly to GOD; and let everyone turn from his peculiar sin, and from the wrong

that is in his hands. Who knows 9
 but that GOD will turn and have pity,
 and restrain His anger, and not
 destroy?"

GOD saw their acts, how they 10
 turned from their bad course, so
 GOD showed mercy instead of the
 punishment which He had warned
 would be inflicted upon them, and
 did it not!

But Jonah was vexed with great 4
 vexation, and furious at it. So he 2
 prayed to the EVER-LIVING, and
 exclaimed,—“Now, LORD! is not this
 what I said whilst I was still in my
 own country? Consequently I deter-
 mined to fly to Tharshish! For I
 knew that You were kind and merciful,
 very forbearing, and full of pity
 toward the sinful. So now, LORD, 3
 take my life from me! For it is
 better for me to die than live.”

But the EVER-LIVING answered 4
 him, "What does it benefit you to
 be enraged?"

Then Jonah went out of the City, 5
 and sat opposite the east of the
 town, and made a hut there for
 himself, and sat under its shade,
 so that he might watch to see what
 the EVER-LIVING would do to the
 town.

But the EVER-LIVING had pre- 6
 pared a Gourd, and it grew over the
 hut of Jonah, and became a shade
 over its top to protect him from his
 passions; and Jonah was glad of the
 Gourd, with a great gladness. GOD, 7

however, had provided a worm, against the advance of darkness a few days after, and it pierced the
 8 Gourd, so that it withered. And when the sun arose GOD prepared a rushing east wind;—and the sun struck the head of Jonah, and he fainted, and wished himself to die,—and exclaimed, “It is better for me to die than live.”
 9 The EVER-LIVING, however, said to Jonah, “Is it well for you to be grieved for the Gourd?”

When he replied, “It is well for me to be grieved to death!”

But the EVER-LIVING answered, 10
 “You are sorry for the Gourd that you did not cultivate, nor caused to grow. It was the product of a night, and perished in a night;—

“Therefore, should not I have pity 11
 for Ninevah,—that Great City, which has in it more than ten times twelve thousand of mankind who do not know their right hand from their left, besides multitudes of animals?”

END OF THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH.