

Scripture Text of the Followers of IESO

The Book of IONA

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Iona runs from Aleim

Iona' attempted escape

Aleim's call to Iona.

Chapter 1

1. Now the word of IEUE came unto Iona the son of Amittai, saying,
2. Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Iona' attempt to flee from Aleim's call.

3. But Iona rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of IEUE, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of IEUE.

Aleim sends a storm.

4. But IEUE sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

The sailors of the ship seek their superstitious gods.

5. Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Iona was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

6. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy Aleim, if so be that Aleim will think upon us, that we perish not.

The sailors discover that Iona is the source of the trouble.

7. And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Iona.

8. Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

Iona tells them about who he is and what he has done.

9. And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear IEUE, the Aleim of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

10. Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of IEUE, because he had told them.

11. Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

12. And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

13. Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

14. Wherefore they cried unto IEUE, and said, We beseech thee, O IEUE, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O IEUE, hast done as it pleased thee.

15. So they took up Iona, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

16. Then the men feared IEUE exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto IEUE, and made vows.

In the Belly of the Fish

Iona in the fish.

Iona' three days and three nights in the fish.

17. Now IEUE had prepared a great fish to swallow up Iona. And Iona was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Iona praises Aleim for His deliverance.

Chapter 2.

1. Then Iona prayed unto IEUE his Aleim out of the fish's belly,

Iona recounts his predicament cry to Aleim., and Aleim's faithful answer.

2. And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto IEUE, and He heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

3. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

4. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

5. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

6. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me forever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O IEUE my Aleim.

7. When my soul fainted within me I remembered IEUE: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

Iona declares his commitment to Aleim.

8. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

9. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of IEUE.

Iona out of the fish.

Aleim speaks to the fish.

Iona is expelled from the fish.

10. And IEUE spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Iona upon the dry land.

Iona Preaches Repentance in Nineveh, the City repents.

Iona' ministry in Nineveh.

The second call to Iona.

Chapter 3.

1. And the word of IEUE came unto Iona the second time, saying,

2. Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

Iona preaches in Nineveh.

3. So Iona arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of IEUE. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

4. And Iona began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

The response of the people of Nineveh to Iona ' message.

The response of the people: repentance

5. So the people of Nineveh believed Aleim, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything: let them not feed, nor drink water:

8. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto Aleim: yea, let them turn everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

9. Who can tell if Aleim will turn and repent, and turn away from His fierce anger, that we perish not?

Aleim's response to the people's repentance.

10. And Aleim saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and Aleim repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Aleim deals with a Prophet's Heart.

Iona's complaint.

Iona's displeasure at the repentance of the people of Nineveh.

Chapter 4.

1. But it displeased Iona exceedingly, and he was very angry.

Iona explains his anger

2. And he prayed unto IEUE, and said, I pray thee, O IEUE, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious Aleim, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

3. Therefore now, O IEUE, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

Aleim confronts a prophet.

Aleim questions Iona's heart.

4. Then said IEUE, Doest thou well to be angry?

Aleim prepares an object lesson for Iona.

5. So Iona went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

6. And IEUE Aleim prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Iona, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Iona was exceeding glad of the gourd.

7. But Aleim prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

8. And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that Aleim prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Iona, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

Aleim applies the object lesson.

9. And Aleim said to Iona, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.

10. Then said IEUE, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

11. And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?