

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

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Jonah

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Table of Contents

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions **4**
Jonah 4
Jonah 1 4
Jonah 2 8
Jonah 3 10
Jonah 4 12

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

Jonah

Jonah 1

Jonah 1:2

ULT	UST
“Get up, go to Nineveh, the great city, and call out against it, because their evil has risen up before my face.”	*“I have seen that the people of Nineveh are continually doing things that are very evil. Therefore, get moving. Go to Nineveh, that huge capital city of Assyria, and proclaim to the people there that I am planning to punish them for their evil actions.”*

What did Yahweh tell Jonah to do?

Yahweh told Jonah to get up and go to Nineveh and speak out against it.

Jonah 1:3

ULT	UST
But Jonah got up to run away to Tarshish from before the face of Yahweh. And he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish, away from before the face of Yahweh.	*So Jonah went, but in the opposite direction, towards the far-away city of Tarshish, thinking that he could get away from Yahweh there. He went down to the port at the city of Joppa and found a ship that was about to go to Tarshish. The captain of the ship asked him for money, and he gave it to him. Then he went down into the ship in order to go with the crew of the ship to Tarshish, in order to get away from Yahweh.*

What did Jonah do after Yahweh told him to go to Nineveh?

Jonah got up to run away to Tarshish from before the face of Yahweh.

Jonah 1:4

ULT	UST
But Yahweh sent out a great wind on the sea and a great storm happened on the sea, so that the ship was thinking to be broken apart.	*But Yahweh caused a strong wind to blow over the sea, and such an enormous storm happened that the waves were about to break the ship apart.*

What did Yahweh do to the ship which Jonah had boarded?

Yahweh sent a great wind and a great storm on the sea so that the ship was near to being broken up.

Jonah 1:5

ULT	UST
Then the sailors were frightened, and they cried out, a man to his god. And they threw the things that were in the ship into the sea to lighten it from upon them. But Jonah had gone down into the innermost parts of the ship, and had lain down, and was deeply asleep.	*The sailors were frightened and each one prayed loudly to the god that he worshiped for that god to save them from the storm. They even threw the cargo from the ship into the sea in order to make the ship lighter, so that it would not so easily take on water and sink. While all of this was going on, Jonah was down inside the ship, lying down and sleeping soundly!*

To whom did the sailors cry out in the midst of the storm?

The sailors became very afraid and each cried out to his own god.

Jonah 1:7

ULT	UST
Then they said, a man to his friend, "Come, and let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this evil is happening to us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.	*After a while the sailors started to say to each other, "We need to cast lots, to determine who has caused this terrible thing to happen to us!" They all agreed, so they cast lots, and the lot indicated Jonah.*

How did the sailors determine who was the cause of the evil?

The sailors cast lots to determine the cause of the evil and the lot indicated Jonah.

What was the result of casting lots?

The result was that the lot indicated that Jonah was the cause of the evil they were experiencing.

Jonah 1:10

ULT	UST
Then the men feared a great fear, and they said to him, "What is this that you have done?" For the men knew that he was running away from before the face of Yahweh, because he had told them.	*Jonah also told the sailors that he was trying to get away from Yahweh in order to avoid doing something that Yahweh had told him to do. So now, when they learned that Yahweh was the one controlling the sea, they were terrified. One of the sailors said to Jonah, "You have done a terrible thing! Now we are all about to die because of you!"*

How did the sailors know that Jonah was running away from before the face of Yahweh?

The sailors knew that Jonah was running away from before the face of Yahweh because Jonah told them.

Jonah 1:12

ULT	UST
And he said to them, "Lift me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will calm down from upon you, for I know that this great storm is upon you because of me."	*Jonah told them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea. If you do that, the sea will calm down and stop threatening you. This will work because I am certain that this terrible storm happened to you because I did not do what Yahweh told me to do."*

What did Jonah tell the men to do in order to stop the storm?

Jonah told the men to lift him up and throw him into the sea.

Jonah 1:14

ULT	UST
So they cried out to Yahweh and said, "Ah! Yahweh, please do not let us perish on account of the life of this man, and do not put innocent blood upon us, because you, Yahweh, have done just as you desired."	*Finally, all of the sailors prayed to Yahweh, "O Yahweh, you are the one controlling all of these things that have happened to us, including this storm and the lot that we cast. Therefore we beg you, Yahweh, please do not let us die because of this man. No, do not kill us for killing someone who has done nothing against us."*

What two requests did the sailors make of Yahweh?

The sailors asked Yahweh to not let them perish on account of the life of Jonah and to not hold them guilty for Jonah's death.

Jonah 1:15

ULT	UST
So they lifted up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.	*Then they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. Immediately, the sea became calm.*

What happened when the sailors threw Jonah into the sea?

When the sailors threw Jonah into the sea, the sea stopped raging.

Jonah 1:17

ULT	UST
Now Yahweh appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the abdomen of the fish three days and three nights.	*Meanwhile, Yahweh caused a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.*

What happened to Jonah when the sailors threw him into the sea?

Yahweh appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the abdomen of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2

Jonah 2:1

ULT	UST
And Jonah prayed to Yahweh his God from the abdomen of the fish.	*While he was inside the fish, Jonah prayed to Yahweh, the God whom he worshiped.*

What did Jonah do in the belly of the fish?

Jonah cried out to Yahweh in prayer because he was distressed.

Jonah 2:4

ULT	UST
But I, I said, 'I have been driven out from before your eyes; yet I might again look toward the temple of your holiness.'	*But as for me, I thought, 'You have thrown me away; you do not care even to look at me; even so I may still see your holy temple again.'*

What did Jonah hope he might be able to do again?

Jonah hoped that he might be able to look toward Yahweh's holy temple again.

Jonah 2:6

ULT	UST
I had gone down to the bases of the mountains. The earth, its bars were around me forever, but you brought up my life from the pit, Yahweh, my God!	*I went down as far as the place where the mountains start rising from the bottom of the sea; I felt as though the earth was a prison with no possible way for me to escape. But you, Yahweh God, whom I worship, rescued me from going down to the place of the dead.*

From where did Yahweh bring up Jonah's life?

Yahweh brought Jonah's life up from the pit.

Jonah 2:8

ULT	UST
Those who give attention to vanities of worthlessness forsake their covenant faithfulness.	*Those who worship worthless idols reject you, the one who would always be faithful to them.*

What did Jonah say happens to those who give attention to empty vanities?

Jonah said those who give attention to empty vanities forsake their covenant faithfulness.

Jonah 2:9

ULT	UST
But I, I will sacrifice to you with a voice of thanksgiving; I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation belongs to Yahweh!”	*But I will not do that. Rather, I will give a sacrifice to you as I loudly thank you. I will do what I have solemnly promised you that I would do. Yahweh, you are the only One True God who saves people.”*

When Jonah prayed in the belly of the fish, what did he say that he would do?

Jonah said he would sacrifice to Yahweh with a voice of thanksgiving and fulfill what he had vowed.

To whom did Jonah say salvation belongs?

Jonah said that salvation belongs to Yahweh.

Jonah 2:10

ULT	UST
And Yahweh spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto the dry land.	*Then Yahweh commanded the huge fish to spew out Jonah, and the fish spewed out Jonah onto the land.*

How did Yahweh respond to Jonah’s prayer?

Yahweh spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

Jonah 3

Jonah 3:2

ULT	UST
“Get up, go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to it the proclamation that I tell to you.”	*“Get moving! Go to Nineveh, the large capital city of Assyria, and preach to the people who live there the message that I tell you to preach to them.”*

What did Yahweh command Jonah to do for the second time?

Yahweh commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh and speak Yahweh’s message.

Jonah 3:3

ULT	UST
So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the word of Yahweh. Now Nineveh was a city great to God, a journey of three days.	*This time, Jonah got moving and went to Nineveh, just as Yahweh had told him to do. Now Nineveh was an extremely large city. It was so large that a person had to walk for three days to go completely through it.*

How did Jonah respond the second time Yahweh told him to go to Nineveh?

Jonah obeyed Yahweh and went to Nineveh.

Jonah 3:4

ULT	UST
So Jonah began to go into the city a journey of one day, and he called out and said, “Still 40 days, then Nineveh will be overthrown.”	*When Jonah arrived, he began walking through the city for about one day. Then he proclaimed to the people in the city, “Forty days from now, God will destroy Nineveh!”*

What message did Jonah speak in Nineveh?

Jonah said that in 40 days Nineveh would be overthrown.

Jonah 3:8

ULT	UST
But let the man and the beast be covered with sackcloth, and they must cry out to God with strength, and each man must turn back from his evil way and from the violence that is in their hands.	*Every person and every domestic animal must wear coarse cloth on their bodies. Everyone must pray fervently to God. Also, everyone must stop doing the evil things that they have been doing and the violent things that they have been doing to other people.*

How did the Ninevites respond to Yahweh's message that Jonah preached?

The Ninevites believed God, fasted, and put on sackcloth. The king of Nineveh made a decree which said that no person or animal should eat or drink water and that each person and animal must be covered with sackcloth and that each person should cry out to God and stop doing evil deeds including violent acts.

Jonah 3:9

ULT	UST
Who knows? This god might turn back and have compassion and relent from the burning of his nose so that we will not perish."	*If everyone does those things, it is possible that this god will change his mind and be merciful to us. He may relent from being so angry with us, with the result that we will live."*

What hope did the king of Nineveh have for the people of Nineveh and the city?

The king of Nineveh hoped that God would turn back from his anger and have compassion on them so that the people of Nineveh would not perish.

Jonah 3:10

ULT	UST
And God saw their deeds, that they turned away from their evil ways. And God relented in regard to the evil that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.	*So the people did those things and stopped doing the evil actions that they had been doing. God saw all of this. So God had mercy on them and did not destroy them as he had said he would do. Even though he had said that, he did not do it.*

How did God respond to the Ninevites' repentance?

God saw their deeds, that they turned away from their evil ways. And God relented in regard to the evil that he had said he would do to them; and he did not do it.

Jonah 4

Jonah 4:1

ULT	UST
But it made evil to Jonah a great evil, and it burned to him.	*For Jonah, it was wrong, terribly wrong, that God did not destroy Nineveh. He became very angry about it.*

Why was Jonah angry?

Jonah was angry because it seemed like a great evil to Jonah that Yahweh had mercy on the Ninevites and did not punish them.

Jonah 4:2

ULT	UST
So he prayed to Yahweh and said, "Ah! Yahweh, was this not my word while I was in my country? Because of this I acted beforehand to flee to Tarshish, because I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, long of nostrils and abundant in covenant faithfulness, and one who relents from evil.	*He prayed to Yahweh, "See! Yahweh, This is exactly what I said would happen even before I left home! I knew that you are a God who acts very kindly and compassionately toward all people. You do not quickly become angry with people who act in evil ways. You love people very much, and you prefer to be merciful to people rather than to punish them. Therefore, I ran away to go to Tarshish in order to stop this very thing from happening.*

Why did Jonah say that he had tried to flee to Tarshish?

Jonah said that he had tried to flee to Tarshish because he knew that Yahweh was a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in covenant faithfulness, and one who relents from evil.

Jonah 4:3

ULT	UST
So now, Yahweh, I beg you, take my life from me, for my death is better than my life."	*So now, Yahweh, please kill me, because I would rather die than continue to live if you do not destroy Nineveh."*

What did Jonah ask Yahweh to do to him?

Jonah asked Yahweh to take his life.

Jonah 4:4

ULT	UST
And Yahweh said, “Is it right that it burns to you?”	*Yahweh replied, “It is wrong for you to be angry that I did not destroy Nineveh.”*

What question did Yahweh ask Jonah?

Yahweh asked Jonah if it was right for Jonah to be angry.

Jonah 4:5

ULT	UST
Then Jonah went out from the city and sat down facing the city from the east. And there he made a shelter for himself, and he sat under it in the shade until he might see what would be within the city.	*Then Jonah left the city of Nineveh and sat down a short distance away on the east side of the city. There he made a small shelter to shade himself from the sun. He stayed under the shelter and waited to see what would happen to the city.*

Why did Jonah go out of the city and sit down facing the city?

Jonah wanted to see what would happen to the city of Nineveh.

Jonah 4:6

ULT	UST
Then Yahweh God appointed a plant and caused it to grow up from over Jonah to be a shade over his head in order to rescue him from his evil. And Jonah rejoiced with great rejoicing because of the plant.	*Then Yahweh God caused a plant to grow up very quickly above Jonah to shade his head from the sun. Yahweh did that in order to remove the bad things that Jonah was experiencing. Jonah was very happy to have this plant that shaded him from the sun.*

What did Yahweh do for Jonah while he sat outside the city?

Yahweh caused a plant to grow up over Jonah to be a shade for his head.

Jonah 4:7

ULT	UST
Then God appointed a worm at the rising of the dawn of the next day; and it attacked the plant, and it withered.	*Then, at dawn the next day, God caused a worm to chew the plant so much that the plant withered away.*

What did Yahweh do to the plant that had provided shade for Jonah?

God appointed a worm at the rising of the dawn of the next day; and it attacked the plant, and it withered.

Jonah 4:9

ULT	UST
Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right that it burns to you about the plant?" And he said, "It is right that it burns to me, even as far as death."	*Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about what happened to the plant?" Jonah replied, "Yes, it is right for me to be angry! I am so angry that I want to die!"*

What question did Yahweh ask Jonah after Yahweh caused the plant to wither and a hot east wind to blow on Jonah?

Yahweh asked Jonah if it was right for him to be angry about the plant.

Jonah 4:10

ULT	UST
Then Yahweh said, "You, you feel troubled about the plant, for which you did no work, nor did you make it grow; it came as a son of a night, and it perished as a son of a night.	*Then Yahweh said to him, "As for you, you felt very sad about the plant when it died, even though you did not work to take care of it, nor did you do anything to make it grow. It grew up in one night, and it completely withered by the end of the next night.*

How did Jonah feel when the plant that had given him shade withered and died?

Jonah felt compassion for the plant that had withered and died.

Jonah 4:11

ULT	UST
So I, should I not feel troubled about Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than 120, 000 people who do not know between their right hand to their left hand, and many animals?”	*In the same way, but very much more, it is right for me to feel sad about destroying the huge city of Nineveh. There are more than 120, 000 people living there who do not know right from wrong. There are also many animals. I created all of them, so it is right for me to be concerned about them.”*

For whom did Yahweh feel compassion?

Yahweh felt compassion for the people and animals in Nineveh.