

PART 1 – CONTEXT

ספר יונה פרק א

(א) וַיְהִי דְבַר-יְהוָה אֶל-יוֹנָה בֶן-אֲמִטַּי לֵאמֹר:

1. Jonah 1:1

Now the word of the Lord came to **Jonah the son of Amittai**, saying

2. מלכים ב פרק יד

(כג) בַּשָּׁנָה הַחֲמִשָּׁעֶשְׂרִית שָׁנָה לְאַמְצַנְיָהוּ בֶן-יֹאָשׁ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה מֶלֶךְ יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן-יֹאָשׁ מֶלֶךְ-יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשָׁמְרוֹן אַרְבָּעִים וְאַחַת שָׁנָה (כד) וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה לֹא סָר מִכָּל-חַטָּאוֹת יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן-נְבָט אֲשֶׁר הִחֲטִיא אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל (כה) הוּא הָשִׁיב אֶת-גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל מִלְּבוֹא חֲמַת עַד-יָם הָעַרְבָה כְּדָבַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר דָּבַר בְּיַד-עֲבָדָיו יוֹנָה בֶן-אֲמִטַּי הַנְּבִיא אֲשֶׁר מָגַת הַחֶפֶר (כו) כִּי-רָאָה יְהוָה אֶת-עֲנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִרְּחֹק וְאָפֶס עֲצוּר וְאָפֶס עֲזוּב וְאִין עֶזֶר לְיִשְׂרָאֵל (כז) וְלֹא-דָבַר יְהוָה לְמַחֹת אֶת-שֵׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּוְשִׁיעֵם בְּיַד יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן-יֹאָשׁ

2. 2 Kings Chapter 14

23) In the fifteenth year of King Amaziah son of Joash of Judah, **King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel became king in Samaria—for forty-one years.** 24) He did what was displeasing to the Lord; he did not depart from all the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit. 25) It was he who restored the territory of Israel from Lebo-hamath to the sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the promise that the Lord, the God of Israel, had made through His servant, **the prophet Jonah son of Amittai** from Gath-hepher. 26) For the Lord saw the very bitter plight of Israel, with neither bond nor free left, and with none to help Israel. 27) And the Lord resolved not to blot out the name of Israel from under heaven; and he delivered them through Jeroboam son of Joash.

3. תלמוד בבלי מסכת בבא בתרא דף טו ע"א

אנשי כנסת הגדולה כתבו (קנד"ג סימן) יחזקאל ושנים עשר דניאל ומגילת אסתר

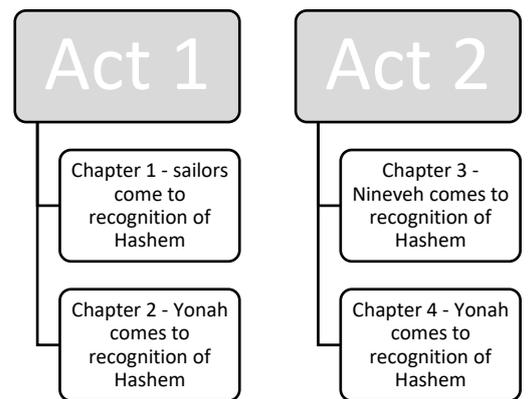
3. Babylonian Talmud Tractate Bava Batra 15a

The **members of the Great Assembly** wrote: Ezekiel, and the Twelve Prophets, Daniel and the Scroll of Esther.

PART 2 – CONTENT

Structure of Sefer Yona

ACT 1	ACT 2
Yonah is sent to Nineveh (1:1-2)	Yonah is sent to Nineveh (3:1-2)
He runs to Tarshish (1:3-4)	He goes to Nineveh (3:3-4)
Fear of the sailors (1:5-8)	The King orders people to repent (3:6-9)
Yonah's declaration of faith in Hashem (1:9)	The people of Nineveh's faith in Hashem (3:5)
Sailors recognition of Hashem (1:10)	The people of Nineveh repent (3:10)
Prayer of the sailors (1:14)	Yonah's prayer (4:2-4)
Yonah is saved by the fish (2:1)	The people of Nineveh are saved (4:3-10)
Miracle of the fish (2:1, 11)	Miracle of the kikayon (4:7-10)
Yonah is saved (2:2-10)	The word of Hashem about the salvation of the people of Nineveh (4:11)



4. Ambrose John Wilson, Princeton Theological Review, 1927

“In February 1891, the whaling ship “Star of the East” was in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands and the lookout sighted a large sperm whale three miles away. Two boats were launched and in a short time one of the harpooners was enabled to spear the fish. The second boat attacked the whale but was upset by a lash of its tail and the men thrown into the sea, one man being drowned, and another, James Bartley, having disappeared could not be found. The whale was killed and in a few hours was lying by the ship’s side and the crew were busy with axes and spades removing the blubber. They worked all day and part of the night. Next morning they attached some tackle to the stomach which was hoisted on the deck. The sailors were startled by something in it which gave spasmodic signs of life, and inside was found the missing sailor doubled up and unconscious. He was laid on the deck and treated to a bath of sea water which soon revived him... He remained two weeks a raving lunatic. At the end of the third week he had entirely recovered from the shock and resumed his duties.”

PART 3 – CONCEPTS

5. יונה פרק א

(טז) וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יְרָאָה גְדוֹלָה אֶת־יְהוָה וַיִּזְבְּחוּ וַיִּזְבְּחוּ לַיהוָה וַיִּדְרוּ נְדָרִים

5. Jonah Chapter 1

16) And the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they made sacrifices to the Lord and made vows.

6. רש"י יונה פרק א

(טז) וידרו נדרים – שיתגיירו

6. Rashi on Jonah Chapter 1

16) Made vows – they converted

7. יונה פרק ב

(א) וַיִּמְן יְהוָה דָּג גָּדוֹל לְבָלֵעַ אֶת־יוֹנָה וַיְהִי יוֹנָה בְּמִעֵי הַדָּג שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַיְלוֹת
(ב) וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל יוֹנָה אֶל־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּעֵי הַדָּג

7. Jonah Chapter 2

1) And the Lord appointed a huge fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. 2) And Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, from the belly of the fish.

8. רש"י יונה פרק ב

(א) דג גדול – זכר היה והיה עומד בריוח ולא נתן לב להתפלל רמז הקדוש ברוך הוא לדג והקיא לתוך פיה של נקבה שהיתה מלאה עוברי' והיה שם בדוחק ויתפלל שם שנאמר ממעי הדגה

8. Rashi on Jonah 2:1

a huge fish: It was a male, and he stood there with room, so that he did not think to pray. The Holy One, blessed he He, hinted to the fish, and it spewed him out into the mouth of a female, which was full of embryos, and it was crowded there, and he prayed there, as it is said: (verse 2) “from the belly of the fish”.

9. יונה פרק ג

ד) וַיִּהְיֶה יוֹנָה לְבֹא לְבָאֵיר מִחֶלֶף יוֹם אֶחָד וַיִּקְרָא וַיֹּאמֶר עוֹד אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וַיִּינָוּהָ נְהַפְכֶתָהּ
 ה) וַיֵּאֱמִינוּ אֲנָשֵׁי נִינְוָה בְּאֱלֹקִים וַיִּקְרְאוּ צוֹם וַיִּלְבְּשׁוּ שָׂקִים מִגְדוֹלָם וְעַד־קִטְנֵיהֶם
 ו) וַיִּגַע הַדְּבָר אֶל־מֶלֶךְ נִינְוָה וַיִּקָּם מִכִּסְאוֹ וַיַּעֲבֵר אֶדְרֵתוֹ מֵעֲלָיו וַיִּכַּס שָׂק וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל־הָאָפֶר

9. Jonah Chapter 3

4) And Jonah commenced to come into the city, one day's walk, and he proclaimed and said, "In another forty days Nineveh shall be overturned!" 5) And the people of Nineveh believed in God, and they proclaimed a fast and donned sackcloth, from their greatest to their smallest. 6) And the word reached the king of Nineveh, whereupon he rose from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat on the ashes.

10. תלמוד בבלי מסכת פסחים דף נ עמוד ב

דאמר רב יהודה אמר רב לעולם יעסוק אדם בתורה ומצות אף על פי שלא לשמה שמתוך שלא לשמה בא לשמה

10. Babylonian Talmud Tractate Pesachim 50b

Rav Yehuda said that Rav said: A person should always engage in Torah study and performance of mitzvot, even if he does so not for its own sake, as through the performance of mitzvot not for its own sake, one comes to perform them for its own sake.

11. Yona and Yoel's Contrasting Models of Teshuva

YONA	YOEL
Insincere/external	Sincere/internal
Incomplete	Complete
Motivated by fear/pain	For the sake of Heaven
Answered	Answered
More accessible/attainable	Lofty ideal

YONA SUMMARY

Context

- Not stated explicitly, however Yona ben Amittai is mentioned elsewhere as a prophet at the time of Yeravam ben Yoash (8th century BCE)

Content

- Narrative of the prophet running from his Divine mission to bring rebuke to Nineveh, he is swallowed by a fish and eventually forced to carry out his mission successfully

Concepts

- God runs the world with a mixture of justice and mercy which allows us to repent for our sins
- Yona represents the "accessible" model of repentance (in comparison to Yoel's "ideal" model): it is insincere, incomplete and motivated by fear. However, the fact that it is answered reassures us that God will accept any form of repentance.