

JONAH

Jonah 1-2; 3:1-3 (to first.)

Dear God, I've made a habit of obedience to You,
But this last thing You've asked of me is not what I will do.
For Nineveh, as You have said, is such a rotten place,
It's hardly right *I* should go there, and show *my honest* face!
Now just this once I'm going to think about someone called "me",
So You look out for Nineveh, while I'll be off to sea!

So off I went to Joppa, paid my ticket, got on boat,
Set sail to go to Tarshish with a big lump in my throat!
I'd hoped He hadn't seen me, but the chance was pretty slim,
There's not a lot, if anything, gets past Almighty Him!
The boat set sail, so far so good; I'm going to get some kip.
While I'm asleep and out of sight, I'm safe inside this ship.

But then a mighty tempest broke fast against the vessel,
Worthy men sweat hard and long against this unfair wrestle.
They cried in fear unto their gods, to rescue them from death,
And cast forth all their wares and goods with their remaining breath.
I am awake by pleas and shouts, and then they cast them lots,
The situation's urgent as the wind is fifty knots!

I do confess, when they do ask, the whole thing's down to me;
I didn't listen to my God and now I'm all at sea!
"I tell you now, just cast me into the boiling water",
But first, they tried to save us all from what seemed certain slaughter.
The sea got worse, it beat them back, the whole thing very odd,
So they took me up, cast me forth. The sea went calm. Thank God!

I fell into the deep green sea, their boat back under sail.
My life at risk, I'm sinking fast when swallowed by a whale!
Like some bad dream I'm still alive, quaking like a jelly:
God provided shelter in this fish's bulging belly!
I pray and pray, for I have sinned, I truly do repent.
For three long days and nights I pray. Its time that is well spent.

I don't know how but suddenly I end up on dry land.
The last few days have certainly not gone as I had planned!
The word of God comes once again, and this time I agree.
And I preach this simple message. **Repent and you'll be free!**
I should have known that God is *All*, and His Word is the best.
In strict obedience is peace: and God does all the rest!

LOVE IS
OBEDIENCE
AND FINDS GOD
ALREADY THERE