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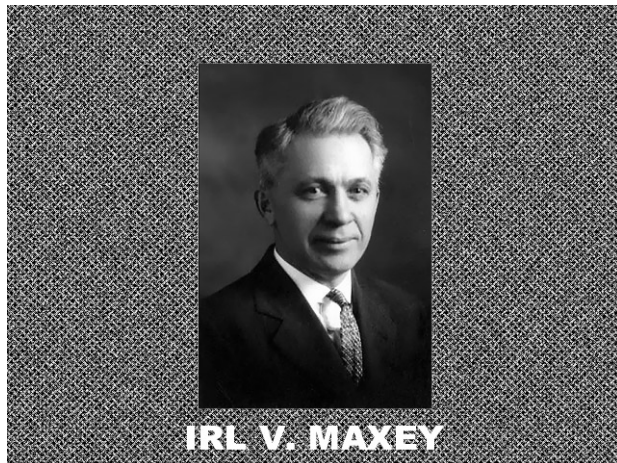
**THE BOOK OF JONAH  
As Translated By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited  
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## **CHAPTER 1**

**1 The voice of God came to Amattai's son, Jonah, with this message:**

**2 Stand up, proceed to that great city, Nineveh. Herald this message: Your  
cry of evil has arisen to my view;**

**3 But Jonah arose and fled from where God dwelt, intending to go to Spain  
(Tarshish). He descended to Joppa. He found a boat ready to sail for Spain. He paid  
the passage money, and went aboard the Spain-bound boat to get away from God.**

**4 The Lord, however, sent a great wind seaward, so that violent waves arose  
in the sea. The boat was in vast danger of being thrashed to pieces.**

**5 The sailors were afraid, and began to pray to their various gods -- all prayed. They began casting the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. Jonah had gone down to the lower boat. He was in deep sleep.**

**6 The captain of the boat came to him and said, "Oh man! Why are you in such a deep sleep? Get up! Beseech your god to save us! -- we are about to perish!"\***

**[\*Or papa's alternative translation for the last clause: "Think upon us, lest we perish!"]**

**7 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots. Let's find out who is to blame for this evil [that] is come upon us." They cast lots. The lot fell on Jonah.**

**8 Then they said to him, "Indicate who is the blame for this evil upon us. What is your work? What is your country? Where do you come from (what city)? What is your native land?"**

**9 He said, "I am a Hebrew. I fear the Lord God of heaven Who made the sea and land."**

**10 Then they had great fear and said to Jonah, "Oh, why did you do this!?" The men knew he had fled from God's presence. He had indicated this to them.**

**11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you to make the sea cease raging?" because the sea raged and roared.**

**12 He said to them, "Take me up and cast me into the sea; then the sea will cease raging, because I know I am the cause of this raging sea upon you."**

**13 But the men used super-strength to return to the land, but they were not able because the sea raged and roared more greatly upon them.**

**14 They they gave an outcry to God, "We beseech You, Oh, God! Do not let us perish for this man's soul! Do not charge us with innocent blood, because You have done as You willed!"\***

**[\*Papa's alternative translation:-- Again, then, the men cried out to God, "For no cause at all, Lord, let us perish for this man's soul! You are judging him, no doubt. Do not let righteous blood be upon us!"]**

**15 Then they took up Jonah and cast him into the sea. The sea ceased her racing and leaping.**

**16 The men feared the Lord greatly. They made sacrifice and vowed vows.**

**17 The Lord prepared a great fish to gulp down Jonah, and Jonah spent three days and nights in the belly of the fish (whale).**

**\* \* \* \* \***

## **CHAPTER 2**

**1 Jonah prayed to his God in the belly of the fish. (Backslider's Prayer)**

**2 And he said, "I cried out in my tribulation to my God, and He heard me. Out of the depth of hell, I cried out and He heard my voice.**

**3 He cast me into the deep heart of the sea. The rivers encircled me; the surging and tossing waves went over me.**

**4 Then I said, 'I am cast out of Your sight, but I shall yet again see Your holy temple.**

**5 The waters almost choked my life out; the great abyss surrounded me; the (slimy sea) weeds were about my head.**

**6 I went down to the bottom (mountain depths) of the sea and the earth with her bars closed me in forever. Yet You lifted my life from corruption, Oh Lord my God!**

**7 When my soul was about to die, my heart turned to God; I prayed to God and it was heard in the Holy Temple.**

**8 Those who turn to vanity and falsity forsake their own mercy;**

**9 But I will with my voice praise You in sacrifice; I will return to God for salvation and pay my vows."**

**10 Then the Lord spake to the fish, and it threw up Jonah on land.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

## **CHAPTER 3**

**1 The second time, the Word of God came (the voice of God spake) to Jonah, saying:**

**2 "Stand up. Now proceed to that great city, Nineveh, and herald the message I told you to preach."**

**3 Jonah arose, proceeded to Nineveh as the Lord had told him. Nineveh was a great city, taking three days to march across it one way.**

**4 Jonah entered the city, one day's march, and began to cry out loud, "Forty days! Just forty days! and Nineveh will be laid waste!"**

**5 The men of Nineveh believed this message of God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the lowest man to the highest.**

**6 This message reached the king (Sardanapaulus) of Nineveh. He arose from his throne, laid aside his kingly robes from him, donned sackcloth also and sat in the cinders,**

**7 And cried out; also said to Nineveh: "By the order of the king and nobility, we say, Let men and cattle and flocks fast. Do not feed them. Do not drink water, nor water flocks;**

**8 Men, put on sackcloth; cover your flocks with it. Lift up your voice, cry to God! Turn everyone from your sins, and from the injustice of your hands!**

**9 Who knows but God will repent and turn away from His terrible anger and we will not perish."**

**10 God saw their actions in turning from their evil ways, and God changed his order; He called away the devastation which He purposed and did it not.**

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## **CHAPTER 4**

**1 Jonah was so deeply saddened and moved to wrath,**

**2 He prayed to God this prayer: "I beseech You, Oh God. Were these not my words when I was still at home? I anticipated this. That is why I fled to Spain. I knew You were a very kind God, and merciful, full of compassion and pity, and relenting toward evil.**

**3 Now, Lord, take my life. It is better to die than live."**

**4 The Lord said, "Does this look well -- to be so deeply enraged as you are?"**

**5 Jonah went out of the city, sat on the east of the city. He made an arbor for himself and sat in its shade, to see what would befall the city.**

**6 The Lord prepared an ivy to grow up over Jonah's head, to be a shadow to his head and protect him, because he labored. Jonah was glad of the ivy and rejoiced greatly.**

**7 God prepared a worm to ascend at daybreak the next day. It nipped the ivy, and it withered.**

**8 When the sun arose, God sent a hot, scorching wind. Also, the sun beat upon Jonah's head, and he boiled. He said, "I wish I was dead! Oh, it is better for me to die than live!"**

**9 God said to Jonah, "Do you think this is nice -- to get enraged about the poor ivy? He said, "Yes, it is alright! I'd die if I could!"**

**10 The Lord said, "You are grieved over this ivy you never worked to produce nor make it grow. It came up in a night, and perished in a night.**

**11 Shall I not spare that great city, Nineveh, where there are one hundred and twenty thousand children who cannot tell their right hand from their left hand, and also many dumb brutes?"**

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**THE END OF THIS TRANSLATION OF THE BOOK OF JONAH**