

<sup>1</sup> Once, the word of Yahweh came to Jonah son of Amitai, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh, and proclaim to her that her evil has arisen before me.” <sup>3</sup> But Jonah got up to run away from Yahweh’s presence, toward Tarshish. He went down to Joppa and found a ship that was going to Tarshish, so he paid his fare and went aboard to go with them to Tarshish, away from Yahweh’s presence.

<sup>4</sup> But Yahweh cast a great wind towards the sea, so a great storm came up in the sea, and the ship seemed intent on capsizing. <sup>5</sup> The sailors were afraid. Each called to his gods, and they threw the ship’s cargo into the sea, so that the ship would be lighter. But Jonah went down to the inmost part of the ship. He lay down and fell deeply asleep.

<sup>6</sup> The captain of the crew came to him and said, “Why are you sleeping? Get up, call to your god! Perhaps he will remember us and we won’t be destroyed.”

<sup>7</sup> And the men said to each other, “Let’s go and cast lots. Then we’ll know who caused this evil to come to us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell to Jonah. <sup>8</sup> They said to him, “Please explain to us on whose account this evil has come to us. What’s your business? And where do you come from? What’s your land, and what people are you from?”

<sup>9</sup> He told them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear Yahweh, God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land.” <sup>10</sup> Then the men were terribly afraid, and said to him, “What have you done!” For they knew, from what he’d explained to them, that he was running away from Yahweh’s presence. <sup>11</sup> And they said to him, “What shall we do with

you, so that the sea will stop? It just keeps on storming!”<sup>12</sup> He told them, “Lift me up and cast me into the sea, and it will subside. For I know that it’s because of me that this great storm is upon you.”

<sup>13</sup> However, the men rowed hard, to try to turn back to dry land. But they were unable to, for the sea continued to rage about them.<sup>14</sup> Then they cried out to Yahweh, and said, “Please, Yahweh, please don’t let us be destroyed for this man’s life, and don’t allow innocent blood to fall on us; for as you desired, Yahweh, you have done.”<sup>15</sup> Then they raised Jonah and cast him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging.<sup>16</sup> And the men feared Yahweh very much, and so they sacrificed to Yahweh, and made vows.