

Jonah 4:1-11 **Jonah's Anger – Yahweh's Mercy & Grace**

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

2 So he prayed to Yahweh (the Lord), and said, "Ah, Yahweh (Lord), was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

3 Therefore now, O Yahweh (Lord), please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

4 Then Yahweh (the Lord) said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

5 So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

6 And Yahweh Elohiym (the Lord God) prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

7 But as morning dawned the next day Elohiym (God) prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.

8 And it happened, when the sun arose, that Elohiym (God) prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

9 Then Elohiym (God) said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

10 But Yahweh (the Lord) said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.

11 And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left — and much livestock?"

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Jonah was upset because he wanted Nineveh destroyed.
- ✧ Yahweh wanted Nineveh to come to repentance and live. [[Acts 11:18](#), [Romans 2:4](#), [2 Peter 3:9](#)]
- ✧ Jonah went outside of the city and built himself a shelter and sat down under it so he could watch what would become of the city.
- ✧ It is embarrassing when God does not do what we say, so our ego is bruised and we respond with anger. Yahweh's reasoning is much higher than ours.
- ✧ Jonah used his knowledge of the grace, mercy, patience, and loving kindness of God as his excuse for his disobedience in the first place.
- ✧ Yahweh used the occasion to demonstrate to Jonah His higher concern by causing a plant to provide shade for Jonah overnight and removed it over night.
- ✧ Jonah was glad for the shade but became angry when it was gone, desiring to die which demonstrates the selfishness of human kind without considering Yahweh had a better purpose for the occasion.

- ✧ Yahweh pointed out the fact of Jonah's self centered concern as contrasted with Yahweh's own concern for a lost society of 120,000 people and their animals and His desire to save them.
- ✧ Yahweh said that the people did not have the ability to discern between their right hand and their left hand, indicating that they could not discern the difference between right and wrong, good and evil.
- ✧ Humanity knows both good and evil since the Garden of Eden, but they cannot discern the difference without the Law Yahweh gave to Israel at Mount Sinai spelling it out.