

Jonah 2:1-3

Leader Handout: Gloss & Discussion Questions

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2:1 So YHWH appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah. And (so) Jonah was (or came to be) in the stomach of the fish 3 days and 3 nights.

1 וַיִּמָּן יְהוָה דָּג גָּדוֹל לִבְלַע אֶת־יוֹנָה וַיְהִי יוֹנָה בְּמִעֵי הַדָּג שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַיְלֹת:

a. Parse the following verbs and identify the S(ubject) of each verb.

(1) וַיִּמָּן :

(2) לִבְלַע :

(3) וַיְהִי :

b. Is the form אֶת on the NP אֶת־יוֹנָה the sign of the accusative or the prep ‘with’? Which verbal form is it governed by?

c. In the temporal expression שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַיְלֹת, the two plural nouns (יָמִים and לַיְלֹת) are both masculine gender. Why, then, are the forms of *three* (שְׁלֹשָׁה) fem. sing.?

d. Why do you think the first occurrence of דָּג ‘fish’ is anarthrous, and the second one is articular? What, then, is the semantic classification of the use of the article in הַדָּג בְּמִעֵי?

2:2 Then Jonah prayed to YHWH his God from the stomach of the fish.

2 וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל יוֹנָה אֶל־יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו מִמִּעֵי הַדָּג:

a. Parse the following forms and, if the form is a verb, identify the S(ubject).

(1) וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל :

(2) מִמִּעֵי :

b. How are the two nouns אֱלֹהָיו יְהוָה related to each other? How are the two *as a unit* related grammatically to the rest of the clause?

c. What is the syntactic function (adjectival or adverbial?), and the semantic classification, of the מִן PP הַדָּג מִמִּעֵי?

2:3 He said, “I called out from my distress to YHWH, and he answered me; from the belly of Sheol I cried out for help; you heard my voice.

3 וַיֹּאמֶר קָרָאתִי מִצָּרָה לִּי אֶל־יְהוָה וַיַּעֲנֵנִי מִבֶּטֶן שְׁאוֹל שָׁמַעְתָּ קוֹלִי:

a. Parse the following verbs and identify the S(ubject) of each verb.

(1) קָרָאתִי :

(2) וַיַּעֲנֵנִי :

(3) שָׁוַעְתִּי :

(4) שָׁמַעְתָּ :

b. For each of the following PPs, explain the PP's syntactic function (adjectival or adverbial?), specifying what it modifies, and describes the preposition's semantic classification.

(1) לִי :

(2) אֶל־יְהוָה :

(3) מִבֶּטֶן שְׁאוּל :