

English Bible for the Deaf

Quotation marks

When someone uses the same words as another speaker, those quoted words are written between 'quotation marks'.

When that quoted speaker has used the words of another (2nd) speaker, those words are written between "2 quotation marks" and the words of a 3rd quoted speaker, between "'3 quotation marks'".

Difficult words

The difficult words in the Bible are marked with a small letter ^{a, b} or ^c and at the bottom of that page there is an explanation for those words, they are called footnotes. The difficult words in the footnotes are marked with an *asterisk, they will be explained in a word list.

The texts that we are placing on the website now, have a lot of repeated footnotes and some may be repeated on the same page, they will be removed later.

We can not explain all of the difficult words on each page, so here is a list of difficult words that we had to use a lot in the Bible and that we only explain on this page. They are marked with a •bullet.

Difficult words explained only once:

- Christ: the *Son of God who came to pay for our *sins. His name is Jesus.
- could: today you can, yesterday or tomorrow you could.
- got: today you get, yesterday you got.
- Israelites: the people of God in the *Old Testament.
- king: the *leader or *ruler of a *nation or *land. [see drawing]
- know: is when you are sure of something or when you have seen it.
- Lord: another name for God.
- saw: when I open my eyes, I see, yesterday I saw.
- son: the boy child of a mother and father.
- temple: the building or *house of God where people came to *worship Him.
- took: today I take something, yesterday I took it.
- would: today you will, yesterday or tomorrow you would.

JONAH

1

God sends Jonah to the city of Nineveh

¹ The •Lord started to speak to Jonah. Jonah was the •son of Amittai. The Lord said to Jonah: ² 'You must get up and go to the big city of Nineveh. Tell the people they must stop doing bad things. I have heard about the many ^asins that the people are doing there and I am going to ^bpunish them.'

³ But Jonah wanted to get far away from God. He went to the city of Joppa. There he •got onto a ^cboat that was going to ^dsail to the city of ^eTarshish. Jonah paid the money to get onto the ^fboat. He wanted to get far away from God. [see *drawing of the map]

The ^gseamen ^hthrow Jonah into the sea

⁴ Then God sent a very strong wind over the sea. The wind was very strong, it became a ⁱstorm on the sea and the ^jboat nearly broke into ^kpieces. ⁵ The ^lseamen who worked on the ^mboat were ⁿafraid and everyone ^oprayed to the

^a **sin:** bad things that people do *which God hates.

^b **punish:** is to make someone *suffer to help him stop doing wrong.

^c **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^d **sail:** is when you ride on a *boat that moves forward when the wind blows. [see *drawing]

^e **Tarshish:** this city was near the *land of Spain.

^f **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^g **seamen:** men who work on a *boat at sea.

^h **throw:** when I throw a stone at you, it goes from my hand to you.

ⁱ **storm:** strong winds that blow and make the *waves of the sea very big.

^j **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^k **pieces:** small parts that were *left over after something has been broken.

^l **seamen:** men who work on a *boat at sea.

^m **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

ⁿ **afraid:** is when you worry because you think something bad will happen.

^o **pray:** is to ask an *idol or one of the *gods for help.

^pgod that he always prayed to and asked his god to help them.

They [•]took everything that was on the ^qboat and they threw it into the sea so that the ^rboat was not so heavy. But Jonah was sleeping where the other people [•]could not see him. ⁶The ^scaptain of the ^tboat [•]saw Jonah was sleeping and he asked Jonah: 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and ^upray to your God, ask Him to help us. If your God will think about us and help us, then we will not die.'

⁷Then the men said: 'We must find out why these ^vtrouble came to us, why did the ^wstorm come? Let us ^xdraw_lots, then we will see who did something wrong.'

They ^ydrew_lots and it showed that it was Jonah that did something wrong and that is why the storm came to them. ⁸The ^zseamen asked Jonah: 'Tell us, is it you that made all these problems for us? What are you doing? Where do you come from? Where is your home, your ^aland? Who are your people?'

⁹Jonah said to the men: 'I am a ^bHebrew man. I ^cworship the [•]Lord, the God of ^dheaven. He made the world, the sea and the ^eland.'

^p **god:** an *idol that people made and *prayed to. [see *drawing]

^q **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^r **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^s **captain:** the *leader of the *seamen who work on a *boat.

^t **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^u **pray:** is to talk to God and ask Him for help.

^v **trouble:** big problems.

^w **storm:** strong winds that blow and make the *waves of the sea very big. [see *drawing]

^x **draw_lots:** how people asked their *gods to show them who did something wrong.

^y **drew_lots:** is how people asked God to show them what He wanted them to do.

^z **seamen:** men who work on a *boat at sea.

^a **land:** the *country of *Israel *which God gave to his people.

^b **Hebrew:** Hebrews or *Jews were the people of *Israel.

^c **worship:** is to *pray to God and *serve Him.

^d **heaven:** is where the *throne of God is and where his *angels *worship Him.

^e **land:** the *ground, the dry parts of the world, not the sea.

¹⁰ Jonah also said to them that he was running away from God. The ^fseamen became ^gafraid when they heard what Jonah said. They said to Jonah: 'Do you •know what you have done? You have done a very bad thing.'

¹¹ The wind and the ^hwaves of the sea became bigger and bigger and the ⁱseamen asked Jonah: 'What must we do to make the sea ^jstill and calm again?'

¹² Jonah said to them: 'You must throw me into the sea, then the sea will be ^kstill and calm again. I •know that it is my ^lfault that this wind and big ^mstorm has come to us.'

¹³ But the seamen did not want to throw Jonah into the sea. They tried hard to get the ⁿboat back to the ^oland, but the wind was too strong and the ^pwaves on the sea were too big. The ^qstorm was getting bigger and bigger and they •could not get the ^rboat to the land. ¹⁴ Then the seamen who worked on the ^sboat ^tprayed and said: 'O •Lord, please do not let us die because of this man. We are going to throw him into the sea, please do not ^upunish us if he is ^vinnocent. We •know that You are God, we know that You can do what

^f **seamen:** men who work on a *boat at sea.

^g **afraid:** is when you worry because you think something bad will happen.

^h **wave:** is the water in the sea that goes up and down near the *beach.

ⁱ **seamen:** men who work on a *boat at sea.

^j **still:** something that does not stop, it goes on.

^k **still:** something that does not stop, it goes on.

^l **fault:** is when you do something wrong or you *sin.

^m **storm:** strong winds that blow and make the *waves of the sea very big. [see *drawing]

ⁿ **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^o **land:** the *ground, the dry parts of the world, not the sea.

^p **wave:** is the water in the sea that goes up and down near the *beach.

^q **storm:** strong winds that blow and make the *waves of the sea very big. [see *drawing]

^r **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^s **boat:** people get into a boat when they go over the water or on sea. [see *drawing]

^t **pray:** is to talk to God and ask Him for help.

^u **punish:** is to make someone *suffer to help him stop doing wrong.

^v **innocent:** is when a person has not done anything wrong.

You want to do.'

¹⁵ Then they •took Jonah and they threw him into the sea. The wind and the ^wstorm stopped, the sea became still and calm again. ¹⁶ When the ^xseamen saw this, they were more ^yafraid of the •Lord. So they ^zsacrificed ^aofferings to the Lord and they ^bpromised to ^cpray to Him and to ^dserve Him. ¹⁷ God sent a big fish to ^eswallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for 3 days and 3 nights.

2

Jonah ^fprays to the •Lord

¹ Jonah was inside the fish and he ^gprayed and he talked to the •Lord his God. ² Jonah said:

'I was in big ^htrouble.

I asked the •Lord to help me,
and He listened to me and He answered me.

I was nearly dead,
but I asked You to help me o Lord,
and You heard what I said.

³ You threw me into the deep water
I went down to the deepest part of the sea.

^w **storm:** strong winds that blow and make the *waves of the sea very big. [see *drawing]

^x **seamen:** men who work on a *boat at sea.

^y **afraid:** is when you worry because you think something bad will happen.

^z **sacrifice:** is to give an *offering to God to thank Him or to *pray to Him.

^a **offering:** a *special *gift that people give to God to thank Him or *pray to Him.

^b **promise:** is when you say you are speaking the *truth and people can *believe you.

^c **pray:** is to talk to God.

^d **serve God:** is to *pray to God, to live and work for Him.

^e **swallow:** is when you eat and the food goes from your mouth, down to your *stomach.

^f **pray:** is to talk to God and ask Him for help.

^g **pray:** is to talk to God and ask Him for help.

^h **trouble:** big problems.

The water was all ⁱaround me,
big and strong ^jwaves of water came over me.
⁴ It looked to me as if You threw me away
and that You did not want to see me again.
But I was sure that I will see your holy •temple again.
⁵ The water was ^karound me,
I was ^ldrowning.
I ^mfell deep down into the sea,
the water was over me.
ⁿSeaweed was round my head.
⁶ I was in the deepest part of the sea,
there where the ^omountains ^pbegin.
It looked to me as if the ^qearth has tied me up
and it will keep me there ^rforever.
But you, O •Lord my God,
You ^ssaved me and I did not die.
⁷ I did not ^thope that I will live any more,
but then I remembered You
and I talked to You and I ^uprayed to You O •Lord.

ⁱ **around:** in front of me, to my right, to my back and to my left.

^j **wave:** is the water in the sea that goes up and down near the *beach.

^k **around:** in front of me, to my right, to my back and to my left.

^l **drown:** is when a person goes down into water and can not come up again, and dies.

^m **fell:** today you fall to the *ground, yesterday you fell.

ⁿ **seaweed:** a long *plant that grows in the sea. [see *drawing]

^o **mountain:** where the *ground is not flat, it goes up high. [see *drawing]

^p **begin:** to begin is to start. Jonah was there where the mountains start.

^q **earth:** the world, the *ground and *land.

^r **forever:** it will go on and on, it will never stop.

^s **save:** is when you have very big problems and someone comes and helps you.

^t **hope:** is when you wish that something good will happen.

^u **pray:** is to talk to God and ask Him for help.

And in your ^vholy •temple,
you listened to my prayer.

⁸ People who ^wbow before other ^xgods
and ^yworship ^zidols,
do not love You, o •Lord.

⁹ But I will give an ^aoffering to You,
I will ^bpray to You,
and I will thank You.

I have made a ^cpromise
and I will do what I said.

It is the •Lord that ^dsaves people.'

¹⁰ Then the •Lord told the fish to ^espit Jonah out on the ^fland and the fish
did what the Lord said.

3

Jonah goes to the city of Nineveh

¹ Again the •Lord said to Jonah: ² 'You must go to the big city of Nineveh.
You must tell the people what I say to you.'

^v **holy**: is to *belong to God so that He can use someone or something in a *special way.

^w **bow**: when someone bows down before an *idol or a *god, he bends his body down to
the *ground before the god. [see *drawing]

^x **god**: an *idol that people made and *prayed to. [see *drawing]

^y **worship idols**: when someone worships *idols, he prays to that idols or *gods and he
*hopes that the idols will help him.

^z **idol**: a *false *god that *Gentiles made and *prayed to. [see *drawing]

^a **offering**: a *special *gift that people give to God to thank Him or *pray to Him.

^b **pray**: is to talk to God.

^c **promise**: your words when you say that people can *believe you.

^d **save**: is when you have very big problems and someone comes and helps you.

^e **spit**: is when you blow out the water and slime that is in your mouth.

^f **land**: the *ground, the dry parts where the sea stops.

³ Jonah did what the •Lord said, he went to Nineveh. Nineveh was a very big city. If a person walked from one side of the city to the other side, he walked for 3 days. ⁴ Jonah walked into the city for one day, he said to the people: 'After 40 days God will ^gpunish all the people of Nineveh and He will ^hdestroy the city.'

⁵ The people of Nineveh ⁱbelieved the words and the ^jmessage that God gave to Jonah. They stopped doing things that are wrong and they ^kfasted. They •took off their clothes and put on ^lsackcloth. This was to show that they felt sorry because they have ^msinned so much. All the people in the city felt sorry because they have done wrong, also the ⁿimportant people. ⁶ The •king of Nineveh heard what Jonah said. He ^ogot up from his ^pthrone, he •took off his beautiful ^qroyal clothes and he put on ^rsackcloth and he sat on the ^sash_heap. ⁷ Then the •king and his ^timportant people made a ^ulaw and he said to all the people of Nineveh:

'No person may eat food or drink anything. All the people and their animals

^g **punish:** is to make someone *suffer because he has done something wrong.

^h **destroy:** is to kill all the people and break everything down.

ⁱ **believe:** is when you •know that God will do what He said He will do.

^j **message:** the words that God says to people.

^k **fast:** is when people do not eat or drink for some time, to *pray.

^l **sackcloth:** a dress made from *rough *material that people put on to show that they were *sad. [see *drawing]

^m **sinned:** is when someone has done bad things *which God hates.

ⁿ **important:** is when a person can tell other people what they must do.

^o **got up:** today you stand or get up, yesterday you got up.

^p **throne:** the beautiful chair that a •king sits on. [see *drawing]

^q **royal:** the things that *belong to the •king and *queen are royal.

^r **sackcloth:** a dress made from *rough *material that people put on to show that they were *sad. [see *drawing]

^s **ash_heap:** a place where people *throw away and burn things they do not want any more. [see *drawing]

^t **important:** is when a person can tell other people what they must do.

^u **law:** a *rule that a •king made and all the people must do what the law says.

must ^vfast. ⁸ Every person must put on ^wsackcloth, their animals must also have on sackcloth. All the people must ^xpray to God and they must stop all the bad things and ^ysins that they are doing. ⁹ Maybe God will change his plan and feel sorry for us. Maybe He will stop being angry with us and not ^zpunish us, then we will not die.'

¹⁰ God •saw that the people of Nineveh had stopped doing bad things and then God felt sorry for them and He did not ^apunish them as He had planned.

4

Jonah is angry because God did not ^bpunish the people

¹ Jonah was very angry and ^cupset. ² He said to the •Lord:

'Lord, before I went away from my home, I ^dknew that You •would do this. I knew that You would ^eforgive these people and You would not think of all the bad things that they did. That is why I went away to the city of Tarshish. I knew that You are a good and ^fpatient God. I knew that You are full of love and You do not want to ^gpunish people. I knew that You would be ready to change your plans and that You will not punish these people. ³ Now, Lord, You must let me die. It is better for me to be dead than to live. I do not want to live any more.'

^v **fast:** is when people do not eat or drink for some time, to ^{*}pray.

^w **sackcloth:** a dress made from ^{*}rough ^{*}material that people put on to show that they were ^{*}sad. [see ^{*}drawing]

^x **pray:** is to talk to God and ask Him for help.

^y **sin:** bad things that people do ^{*}which God hates.

^z **punish:** is to make someone ^{*}suffer because he has done something wrong.

^a **punish:** is to make someone ^{*}suffer to help him stop doing wrong.

^b **punish:** is to make someone ^{*}suffer to help him stop doing wrong.

^c **upset:** is when you are angry or ^{*}sad because something bad has happened.

^d **knew:** today I •know, I have seen it, yesterday I knew.

^e **forgive:** is when God does not ^{*}punish people for the ^{*}sins that they have done.

^f **patient:** is when a person does not get angry ^{*}quickly.

^g **punish:** is to make someone ^{*}suffer to help him stop doing wrong.

⁴ But God said to Jonah: 'Do you think it is right for you to be angry? No, you are wrong.'

⁵ Jonah went out of the city. He sat down ^heast of the city. He made a ⁱshelter of ^jbranches for himself. He sat in the ^kshade of the shelter and he waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ God made a ^lplant grow up near Jonah. This plant made better shade and Jonah did not have to sit in the hot sun. Jonah was very happy that the plant came to give him some shade. ⁷ But the next morning when the sun came up and started to shine, God sent a ^mworm that started to eat the plant and the plant died. ⁸ When the sun started to get hot, God sent a hot ⁿeast wind. The hot wind and sun on Jonah's head made him feel very sick. Jonah felt he wanted to die. He was not happy and he said: 'It is better for me to be dead than to live.'

⁹ But God said to Jonah: 'Do you think it is right to be angry about the ^oplant that died?'

Jonah answered and said: 'Yes, I am very angry, I am so angry that I want to die.'

¹⁰ Then God said:

'You did not work to make that plant grow. The plant started to grow up in the night and it died in the night and now you say you feel sorry that the plant has died. ¹¹ But you say I must not feel sorry for all the people of Nineveh. You are wrong. It is a very big city, more than 120 000 people live here and they do not know what is right and what is wrong. There are also many animals that live here. I feel sorry for them all.'

^h **east:** the side where the sun comes up in the morning.

ⁱ **shelter:** a few *branches of a tree put together to give *shade. [see *drawing]

^j **branch:** part of the tree where the *leaves and *fruit hang from. [see *drawing]

^k **shade:** is where you are away from the light of the sun, like under a tree.

^l **plant:** something that grows out of the *ground, like a flower.

^m **worm:** a small *insect that eats *plants or meat. [see *drawing]

ⁿ **east:** the side where the sun comes up in the morning.

^o **plant:** something that grows out of the *ground, like a flower.