The prophete Ionas with an introduccion before teachinge to vnderstonde him and the right vse also of all the scripture/ and why it was ...

Tyndale, William

Transcriber's note

The spelling and word divisions are inconsistent throughout the original. No changes have been made, but some possible typographical errors are marked with a mouse-hover <u>like this</u> and listed at the <u>end of the etext</u>.

There are no page are numbers in the original. The introduction has "The Prologe." as a running header.

Contents:

The Prologe.

The Storie of the prophete lonas.

¶ The prophete

lonas with an introducciō before teachinge to vnderstōde him and the right vse also of all the scripture and why it was written and what is therin to be sought and shewenge wherewith the scripture is locked vpp that he which readeth it can not vnderstōde it though he studie therin neuer so moch: and agayne with what keyes it is so opened that the reader can be stopped out with no sotilte or false doctrine of man from the true sense and vnderstondynge therof.

W. T. vn to the Christen reader.

As y^e ēvious Philistenes stopped y^e welles of Abraham ād filled them vpp with erth / to put y^e memoriall out of mīde / to y^e entent y^t they might chalenge y^e grounde: even so the fleshly mīded ypocrites stoppe vpp the vaynes of life which are in y^e scripture / w^t the erth of theyr tradiciōs / false similitudes & lienge allegories: & y^t of like zele / to make y^e scripture theyr awne possessiō & marchaundice: and so shutt vpp the kingdome of heven which is Gods worde nether enterīge in thē selues nor soferinge them that wolde.

¶ The scripture hath a body with out $\bar{a}d$ within a soule sprite & life. It hath w^t out a barke / a shell $\bar{a}d$ as it were an hard bone for y^e fleshly mynded to gnaw vppon. And within it hath pith *cornell* mary & all swetnesse for Gods electe which he hath chosen to geve them his spirite / & to write his law & y^e faith of his sonne in their hertes.

¶ The scripture cōteyneth .iii. thīges in it first y^e law to cōdemne all flesh: secōdaryly y^e Gospell / y^t is to saye *promises of mercie* > for all y^t repent & knowlege their sinnes at the preachīge of y^e law & cōsent in their hertes that the law is good / & submitte them selues to be scolers to lern to kepe the lawe & to lerne to beleue y^e mercie that is promised thē: & thridly the stories & liues of those scolars both what chaunces fortuned thē & also by what meanes their scolemaster taught thē and made them perfecte & how he tried the true from the false.p>

¶ When y^e ypocrites come to y^e lawe / they put gloses to ād make no moare of it then of a worldly law which is satisfied with y^e outwarde worke and which a turke maye also fulfill. Whē yet Gods law never ceaseth to cōdemne a man vntill it be written in his herte and vntill he kepe it naturally without cōpulsion & all other respecte saue only of pure love to God and his neyboure as he naturally eateth whē he is an hongred without cōpulsiō & all other respecte saue to slake his hongre only.p>

¶ And whē they come to the Gospell there they mīgle their leuen & saye God now receaueth vs no moare to mercie but of > mercie receaueth vs to penaunce that is to wete holy dedes y^t make them fatt belies & vs their captiues / both in soule and body. And yet they fayne theyr Idole y^t Pope so mercifull / y^t if thou make a litle money glister in his Balams eyes there is nether penaunce ner purgatory ner any fastīge at all but to fle to heven as swefte as a thought and at the twinkellynge of an eye.p>

¶ And the liues stories and gestes of men which are cōtayned in the bible they reade as thīges no moare perteynīge vn to thē then a <u>take</u> of Robī hode & as thīges they wott not wherto they serue saue to fayne false discāt & iuglinge

allegories / to stablish their kingdome with all. And one ye chefest & fleshliest studie they have / is to magnifie ye sayntes aboue measure & aboue ye trueth & with their poetrie to make them greater then euer God make them. And if they finde any infirmite or synne asscribed vn to ye saintes that they excuse with all diligēce diminushīge the glorie of ye mercie of God & robbinge wretched sinners of all theyr coforte & thinke therby to flater the sayntes > and to obtayne their fauoure & to make speciall aduocates of the: even as a man wold obtayne ye fauoure of wordely tirantes: as they also fayne the saintes moch moare cruell then ever was any heathe man & moare wrekefull and vengeable then ye poetes faine their godes or their furies yt torment ye soules in hell / if theyr eues be not fasted & their images visited & saluted wyth a Pater noster (whych prayer only oure lippes be accoynted with oure hertes vnderstodinge none at all) and worsheped wt a candell & ye offeroge of oure deuocio/ in ye place which their haue chosen to heare ye supplicacios & meke peticios of their clientes therin.

¶ But thou reader thīke of y^e law of God how y^t it is all to gether spirituall / & so spirituall y^t it is neuer fulfilled w^t dedes or werkes / vntill they flow out of thyne herte w^t as greate loue toward thy neyboure for no deseruīge of his ye though he be thine enimie as Christ loued y^e ād did for the for no deseruīge of thyne but evē whē thou wast his enimie. And in y^e meane time thoroute all our infancie & childhod in Christ tyll we be growen vpp in to perfecte men in the full knowlege of christ & full loue of christ agayne & of oure neyboures for his sake / after y^e ensample of his loue to vs > y^e rembenbir that y^e fulfillynge of y^e law is / a fast fayth in christes bloud coupled y^e our professiō & submyttīge our selues to leme to doo better.

¶ And of y^e Gospell or promises which thou metest in y^e scripture / beleue fast y^t God will fulfill them vn to y^e / and that vn to y^e vttemost lott at the repentaunce of thyne herte whē thou turnest to hym & forsakest euell even of his goodnesse & fatherly mercie vn to the ād not for thy flatterīge hym with ypocritish workes of thyne awne fayninge. So y^t a fast faith only with out respecte of all workes is the forgeuenesse both of the synne which we did in tyme of ignoraunce with luste ād cōsent to synne & also of all the synne which we doo by chaunce & of frailte / after y^t we are come to knowlege ād have professed y^e law out of oure hertes. And all dedes serue only for to helpe oure neyboures & to tame oure flesh that we fall not to synne agayne & to exercice oure soules > in vertue / & not to make satisfaction to Godward for y^e synne y^t is once paste.

¶ And all other stories of y^e bible with out excepciō are y^e practisinge of y^e law & of the Gospell / and are true and faitfull ensamples & sure erneste y^t God will euen so deale with vs as he did with the in all infirmities in all temptaciōs & in all like cases & chaunces. Wherin ye se on y^e one syde how fatherly & tendirly & with all cōpassion god entreateth his electe which submitte them selues as scolers to leme to walke in the wayes of his lawes & to kepe the of loue. If they forgatt the selues at a time & wet astraye he sought the out & sett the agayne with all mercie. If they fell & hurte the selues he healed the agayne with all compassion & tendernesse of hert. He hath ofte brought greate tribulation & aduersite vppon his electe: but all of fatherly loue only to teach the & to make them se their awne hertes & y^e sinne y^t there laye hid that they might aftirwarde feale his mercie. For his mercie wayted vppon the to rid them out agayne assone as they ware lerned & come > to y^e knowlege of their awne hertes: so that he neuer cast man awaye how depe so euer he had sinned / saue the oly which had first cast y^e yocke of his lawes fro their neckes with vtter diffiaunce & malice of herte.p>

Which ensamples how cōfortable are they for vs whē we be fallen in to sinne & God is come vppō vs with a scorge y^t we dispeare not / but repēt with full hope of mercie after y^e ensamples of mercie y^t are gone before: And therfore they were written for our lernīge as testifieth Paul Ro. xv. to cōforte vs y^t we might y^e better put oure hope & trust in God whē we se how mercifull he hath bene in tymes past vn to our weake brethern y^t are gone before in all theyr aduersities neade temptaciōs ye & horrible synnes in to which they now & then fell.

¶ And on y^e other side ye se how they y^t hardened their hertes & synned of malice & refused mercie y^t was offered the & had no power to repet / perished at y^e later ende with all confusion & shame mercilessely. Which ensamples are very good & necessary to kepe vs in awe & dreade in tyme of prosperite > as thou maist se by Paul. j. Cor. x. that we abyde in the feare of God & wax not wild and fall to vanities ād so synne ād prouoke God and bringe wrath vppon vs.p>

¶ And thridly ye se in that practise how as god is mercifull & longesoferynge euen so were all his true prophetes & prechers beringe the infirmities of their weake brethern & their awne wrōges & iniuries with all paciēce & longesoferinge neuer castinge any of thē of their backes / vn tyll they synned agenst yº holygost / maliciously persecutinge yº open & manifest trouth: cōtrary vn to the ensample of yº Pope / which in sinninge agenst God & to quench yº trueth of his holy spirite is euer chefe captayne and trōpetblower to sett other awerke ād seketh only his awne fredome liberte priuilege welth prosperite profite pleasure pastyme honoure & glorie with yº bondage thraldome captiuite miserie wretchednesse & vile subiectiō of his brethern: & in his awne cause is so feruent so steffe & cruell that he will not sofre one word spoken agenst his false magiste wily inuenciōs ād iuglynge > ypocrisie to be vnaduēged > thongh all christendome shuld be sett to gether by the eares and shuld cost he cared not how many hundred

Now y^t thou mayst reade lonas frutefully & not as a poetis fable but as an > <u>obligaco</u> betwene God and thy soule / as an ernist peny geuen y^e of God / y^t he wil helpe y^e in time of nede / if thou turne to him ad as the word of god y^e only fode ad life of thy soule / this marke & note. First count lonas the frend of god ad a man chosen of god to testifie his name vn to y^e worlde: but yet a younge scolar weake & rude after y^e facio of y^e appostles while Christ was yet with them bodyly. Which though Christ taught the euer to be meke & to vmble the selues yet oft stroue amonge them selues who shuld be greatest. The sonnes of Zebede wold sitt / the one on the right hode of Christ ad the other on y^e lifte. They wold praye that fire might descede from heuen and consume the Samaritanes.

¶ Whē Christ axed who saye men that I am Peter answered thou arte the sonne of the Iyuinge God as though Peter had bene as perfecte as an angell. But immediatly after when Christ preached vn to the of his deeth & passio / Peter was angre & rebuked Christe & thought ernestly y^t he had raued & not wist what he sayde: as at a nother time / when Christ was so feruetly busied in healinge y^e people / y^t he had not leyser to eate they went out to holde him supposinge that he had bene besyde him selfe. Ande one y^t cast out deuels in Christes name they forbade because he wayted not on them so glorious were they yet.p>

¶ And though christ taughte all waye to forgeue yet peter after longe goenge to scole axed wether men shuld forgeue .vij. tymes / thynkinge y^t .viij. tymes had bene to moch. And at y^e last soper Peter wold have died with christe but yet within fewe howres after he denied hym / both cowardly & shamefully. And after y^e same maner though he had so loge herd that nomā might auenge him selfe but rather turne y^e other cheke to then to smyte agayne yet when Christ was in takīge peter axed whether > it were lawfull to smyte with y^e swerde ād taried none answere but layed on rashly. So that though when we come first vn to y^e knowlege of the trueth and the peace is made betwene God & vs & we loue his lawes & beleue & trust in hym / as in oure father & haue good hertes vn to him & be born anew in y^e sprite: yet we are but childern ād younge scolars weake & foble & must have leysar to grow in y^e spirite in knowlege loue & in y^e dedes therof as younge childern must have tyme to grow in their bodies.p>

¶ And God oure father & scolemaster fedeth vs & teached vs accordinge vn to the capacite of oure stomakes & maketh vs to grow & waxe perfecte & fineth vs & trieth vs as gold / in yº fire of temptaciōs & tribulations. As Moses wittneseth Deutero. viij. sayēge: Remēber all yº waye by which yº lord thy God caried yº this .xl. yeres in yº wildernesse to vmble the & to tēpte or proue the y¹ it might be knowen what were in thine hert. He brougt the in to aduersite & made yº an hongred / & then feed yº with mā which nether thou ner yet thi fathers euer knew of / to teach yº that a mā liueth not by bred only / but by all that proceadeth out of the mouth of God. For yº promises of god are life vn to all y¹ cleaue vn to thē / moch moare thē is bred & bodyly sustinaunce: as yº iourney of yº childern of Israel out of egypte in to yº londe promised them / ministreth the notable ensamples & y¹ aboundātly / as doeth all y⁰ rest of the bible also. How be it / it is impossible for flesh to beleue & to trust in y⁰ trueth of gods promises vntyll he haue lerned it in moch tribulacion after that God hath deliuered hī out therof agayne.

¶ God therfore to teach lonas & to shew him his awne hert & to make him perfecte & to enstructe vs also bi his ensample / sent him out of ye lande of Israel where he was a prophete / to goo amonge ye heathe people & to ye greatest & mightiest citie of ye world the / called Niniue: to preache yt within .xl. dayes they shuld all perish for their sinnes & that ye citie shuld be ouerthrowe. Which message ye frewil of lonas had as moch power to doo as the weakest herted woma in the world hath power if she were comaunded > to leppe in to a tobbe of lyuinge snakes & edders: as happely if God had comaunded Sara to haue sacrificed hir sonne Isaac as he did Abraha she wold haue disputed with hi yer she had done it or though she were stroge ynough yet many an holy seint coud not haue found in their hertes / but wold haue disobeyed ad haue runne awaye fro ye presens of ye comaudemet of god wt lonas if thei had bene so strogly tepted.

¶ For lonas thought of this maner: loo I am here a prophete vn to Gods people the Israelites. Which though they have gods word testified vn to them dayly yet dispice it & worshepe God vnder y^e likenesse of calues & after all maner facions save after his awne worde / & therfore are of all naciōs y^e worst & most worthy of punishment. And yet god for loue of few y^t are amonge them & for his names sake spareth them & defendeth them. How the shuld god take so cruell vengeaunce on so greate a multitude of them to whome his name was never preached to ād therfore are not y^e tenth parte so euel as these? If I shal therfore goo preach so shall I lye & shame my selfe & God therto and make them the moare to dispice god and sett the lesse by him ād to be the moare cruell vn to his people.

¶ And vppon that imaginaciō he fled frō the face or presens of God: that is / out of ye contre where God was worsheped in & frō prosecutynge of Gods cōmaundemēt and thought I wyll gett me a nother waye amonge ye hethen people & be no moare a prophete / but Iyue at rest & out of all cōbraunce. Neuer ye lesse the god of all mercie which careth for his electe childern & turneth all vn to good to them & smiteth thē to heale them agayne & killeth thē to make thē aliue

agayne & playeth with the (as a father doth some tyme with his youge ignoraunt childern) & tempteth them & proueth them to make them se theyr awne hertes prouided for lonas how all thinge shuld be.p>

¶ When lonas was entered in to the sheppe he layed him downe to slepe ād to take his rest: that is his cōscience was tossed betwene the cōmaudemēt of God which sent him to Niniue & his fleshly wisdome that > dissuaded & counseled hym yº cōtrary & at yº last preualed agēst yº cōmaundemēt & caried hym a nother waye as a sheppe caught betwene .ii. streames & as poetes faine the mother of Meliager to be betwene diuers affectiōs while to aduēge hir brothers deeth she sought to sle hir awne sonne. Where vppon for very payne & tediousnesse he laye downe to slepe for to put yº cōmaundement which so gnew & freate his cōscience out of minde as yº nature of all weked is whē they haue sinned a good to seke al meanes with riot reuell & pastyme to driue yº remembraunce of synne out of their thoughtes or as Adā did to couer their nakednesse with aporns of pope holy workes. But God awoke hym out of his dreame and sett his synnes before his face.

¶ For when y^e Lott had caught lonas / the be sure y^t his synnes came to remebraunce agayne & that his conscience raged no lesse the y^e waves of the se. And the he thought that he only was a sinner & y^e hethen that ware in y^e shepp none in respecte of him > ad thought also as veryly as he was fled fro > god / that as verily god had cast hi awaye: for y^e sight of y^e rod maketh y^e natural child not oly to se & to knowlege his faulte / but also to forgett all his fathers olde mercie & kindnesse. And then he cofessed his synne openly & had yet lever perish alone the y^t y^e other shuld have perished with him for his sake: and so of very desperacion to have lived any lenger / bad cast him in to y^e see betymes excepte they wold be lost also.p>

¶ To speake of lottes how ferforth they are lawfull is a light questiō. First to vse thē for the breakinge of strife as when partenars their goodes as equally divided as they cā take every mā his parte by lott to avoyde all suspiciō of disceytfulnesse: & as ye appostles in ye first of ye Actes whē they sought a nother to succede ludas the traytoure & .ii. persones were presentes thē to breake strife & to satisfie all parties did cast lottes wheter shuld be admitted desirynge god to teper thē & to take whō he knew most mete seynge they wist not wheter to preferre or haply coude not all agre on ether is lawfull > ad in all like cases. But to abuse them vn to ye temptinge of God & to cōpell him therwith to vtter thinges wherof we stōd in doute when we have no commaundemēt of him so to do as these hethē here dyd though God turned it vn to his glorie can not be but evell.

¶ The hethen scepmē asstonied at y^e sight of y^e miracle feared God prayed to him offered sacrifice & vowed vowes. And I doute not but that some of the or haply all came therby vn to the true knowlege & true worshepinge of God & ware wone to God in theyr soules. And y^s God which is infinite mercifull in all his wayes / wrought their soules health out of y^e infirmite of lonas euen of his good will & purpose & loue wherewith he loued them before the world was made & not of chaunce as it appeareth vn to the eyes of the ignoraunt.p>

¶ And that Ionas was .iii. dayes & .iii. nightes in the bely of his fish: we cā not therby proue vn to te lewes & īfideles or vn to any man / y^t Christ must therfore dye ād be buried & rise agayne. But we vse y^e ensample ād likenesse to strength the faith of the weake. For he that beleaueth the one can not doute in ye other: in as moch as the had of God was no lesse mightie in preseruīge Ionas aliue agenst all naturall possibilite & in deliuerynge hī safe out of his fish / thē in reysynge vpp Christe agayne out of his sepulchre. And we maye describe y^e power & vertue of y^e resurrecciō therby / as Christ hī selfe boroweth ye similitude therto Mat. xij. sayēge vn to ye lewes that came aboute him & desyred a signe or a woder fro heuen to certifye the that he was christ: this euell & wedlockebreakige nacio (which breake ye wedlocke of faith wherwith they be maried vn to God ād beleue in their false workes) seke a signe but there shal no signe be geuen thē saue ye signe of the Prophete Ionas. For as Ionas was .iij. dayes ād iij. nightes in the bely of the whale euē so shall the sonne of man be .iij. dayes & .iij. nyghtes in the herte of the erth. Which was a watch word as we saye / & a sharpe threateninge vn to ye lewes & as moch to saye as thus ye harde herted lewes seke a signe: loo thys shalbe youre sygne as Ionas > was reysed out of the sepulchre of his fishe & then sent vn to the Niniuites to preach y^t they shuld perish / euen so shall I ryse agayne out of my sepulchre & come & preach repentaunce vn to you. Se therfore when ye se ye signe that ye repet or else ye shal suerly perish & not escape. For though the infirmities which ye now se ī my flesh be a lett vn to youre faythes ye shall yet then be with out excuse when ye se so greate a miracle & so greate power of god shed out vppō you. And so Christe came agayne after ye resurrecciō in his spirite & preached repētaunce vn to them by the mouth of his appostles & disciples / & with miracles of ye holy gost. And all that repented not perished shortly after ād were for ye most parte slavne with swerde ād ye rest caried awaye captiue in to all quarters of the world for an ensample as ye se vn to this daye.p>

¶ And in lyke maner sens the world beganne where soeuer repentaunce was offered and not receaued there God toke cruell vengeaunce immediatly: as ye se in y^e floud of Noe in the ouerthrowege of Sodo > & Gomor & all the contre aboute: & as ye se of Egipte of the Amorites Cananites & afterwarde of the very Israelites & then at the last of the lewes to \bar{a} d of the Assyriens and Babyloniens and so thorout all the imperes of the world.

¶ Gyldas preached repētaunce vn to y^e olde Britaynes that inhabited englōd: they repented not & therfore God sent in theyr enimies vppō thē on euery side & destroyed thē vpp & gaue the lōd vn to other naciōs. And greate vengeaunce hath bene takē in that lande for synne sens that tyme.p>

¶ Wicleffe preached repētaunce vn to oure fathers not longe sens: they repēted not for their hertes were indurat & theyr eyes blinded with their awne Pope holy rightwesnesse wherwith they had made theyr soules gaye agenst the receauinge agayne of yº weked spirite that bringeth .vii. worse then hym selfe with him & maketh yº later ende worse then the beginninge: for in open sinnes there is hope of repentaunce but in holy ypocrisie none at all. But what folowed? they slew their true & right kinge ād > sett vpp .iii. wrōge kīges arow vnder which all the noble bloud was slayne vpp ād halfe the comēs therto what in fraunce & what with their awne swerde / in fightīge amonge thē selues for yº crowne / & yº cities and townes decayed and the land brought halfe in to a wyldernesse in respecte of that it was before.

¶ And now Christ to preach repētaunce is resen yet ōce agayne out of his sepulchre in which the pope had buried him and kepte him downe with his pilars and polaxes and all disgysinges of ypocrisie with gyle wiles and falshed ād with the swerd of all princes which he had blynded with his false marchaundice. And as I dowte not of y^e ensamples that are past so am I sure that greate wrath will follow excepte repētaunce turne it backe agayne and cease it.

¶ When lonas had bene in to fishes bely a space & the rage of his conscience was somewhat quieted ād swaged and he come to him selfe agayne and had receaued a lytle hope the qualmes & panges of desperaciō which went ouer hys hert halfe ouercome > he prayed / as he maketh menciō in the texte sayēge: lonas prayed vn to the lord his god out of the bely of the fishe. But the wordes of that prayer are not here sett. The prayer y here stondeth in the texte is the prayer of prayse & thākesgeuēge which he prayed and wrote when he was escaped and past all ieopardie.p>

¶ In the end of which prayer he sayth I will sacrifice with the voyce of thankesgeuenge and paye that I haue vowed that sauinge cometh of the lorde. For verely to cōfesse out of the herte that all benefites come of God euen out of the goodnesse of his mercie and not deseruinge of oure dedes is the only sacrifice that pleaseth God. And to beleue that god only is the sauer is the thynge that all the lewes vowed in theyr circumcision as we in oure baptim. Which vowe lonas now tawght with experiēce promiseth to paye. For those outwarde sacrifices of bestes vn to which lonas had haply asscribed to moch before were but feble & childish thinges & not ordeyned that the workes of thē selues shuld be a seruice > vn to god but vn to the people to put thē in remembraunce of this inwarde sacrifice of thankes & of faith to trust and beleue in God the only sauer. Which significacion when was awaye they were abhominable and deuellysh ydolatrye and imageseruice: as oure ceremonies and sacramentes are become now to all that trust & beleue in the werke of them and ar not taught the significacions to edifye theyr soules with knowlege and the doctrine of God.

¶ When Ionas was cast vppō Iond agayne then his will was fre ād had power to goo whother God sent him & to doo what God bade his awne imaginacions layed a parte. For he had bene at a new scole ye ād in a fornace where he was purged of moch refuse & droshe of fleshly wisdome which resisted ye wisdome of god & led Ionases wil cōtrary vn to ye will of god. For as ferre as we be blynd in Adam we can not but seke & will oure awne profitt pleasure & glorie. And as ferre as we be taughte in the sprite we can not but seke & wyll the pleasure and glorie of God only.p>

¶ And as for the .iij. dayes iourney of Niniue whether it were in length or to goo rounde aboute it or thorow all the stretes I cōmitte vn to the discreciō of other men. But I thinke that it was then the greatest citie of the world.

¶ And that Ionas wēt a dayes iourney in the citie I suppose he did it not in one daye: but wēt fayre & easyly preachīge here a sermon & there a nother & rebuked the synne of the people for which they must perishe.p>

¶ And when thou art come vn to the repētaunce of the Niniuites there hast thou sure emest that how soeuer angre god be yet he remembreth mercie vn to all that truly repent and beleue in mercie. Which ensample oure sauioure Christ also casteth in the teeth of the indurat lewes sayenge: the Niniuites shall rise in iudgemēt with this nation and condemne them for they repented at the preachynge of lonas and beholde a greater thē lonas here meanynge of hym selfe. At whose preachinge yet though it were neuer so mightie to perce the herte & for all his miracles therto the hard herted > lewes coude not repent: when the heathen Niniuites repented at the bare preachynge of lonas rebukinge theyr synnes with out any miracle at all.

¶ Why? for y^e lewes had <u>leuēded</u> the spirituall law of God and with theyr gloses had made it all to gether erthie ād fleshly and so had sett a vayle or coueringe on Moses face to shodowe and darken y^e glorious brightnesse of his contenaunce. It was synne to stele: but to robbe wedowes howses vnder a coloure of longe prayēge & to polle in the name of offeringes and to snare y^e people with intollerable cōstitucions agēst all loue to ketch theyr money out of theyr purses was no synne at all.

¶ To smyte father ād mother was synn: But to withdraw helpe frō them at theyr nede for blynde zele of offeringe vn to the profytt of the holy phareses was then as meritorious as it is now to let all thy kynne chose wheter they will synke or

sweme while thou byldest and makest goodly fundatios for holy people which thou hast chosen to be thy christe for to sowple thy soule > with the oyle of theyr swete blessynges / & to be thy lesus for to saue thy soule from y^e purgatory of the bloud that only purgeth synne with theyr watchige fastige / wolward goinge & rysynge at mydnyght etc. where wyth yet they purge not them selues from theyr couetousnesse pryde lechury or any vyce that thou seyst amonge the laye people.

¶ It was greate synne for Christ to heale the people on the sabboth daye vn to the glorie of God hys father but none at all for them to helpe theyr catell vnto theyr awne profett.p>

¶ It was synne to eate wyth vnwashen handes or on an vnwashen table or out of an vnwashen dish: but to eate out of that purifyed dysh that which came of brybery theft & extorsion was no synne at all.p>

¶ It was exceadynge meritorious to make many dyscyples: But to teach them to feare God in hys ordynaunces had they no care at all.p>

¶ The hye prelates so defended the ryght of holy church ād so feared the people with the curse of God & terreble paynes of hell that no man durst leaue the vilest > herke in hys gardeyne vntythed. And the offerynge and thynges dedycat vn to God for the profitt of hys holy vycars where in soch estymacion and reuerēce that it was moch greater synne to sweare truly by them the to forswere thy selfe by God: what vengeaunce then of God and how terreble and cruell damnacion thynke ye preached they to fall on the that had stolen soch holy thiges? And yet sayth Christ that ryghtwesnesse ād faith in kepynge promise mercie and indyfferent iudgement were vtturly troden vnder fote and cleane dispysed of those blessed fathers whych so mightely mayntened Arons patrimony ād had mad it so prosperous ād enuironed it and walled it aboute on euery syde with ye feare of god that noman durst twech it.p>

 \P It was greate holynesse to garnysh y^e sepulchres of y^e prophetes & to codemne their awne fathers for sleynge of them: and yet were they the selues for blinde zele of their awne costitucions as ready as their fathers > to sle whosoeuer testified vn to them the same trueth which the prophetes testified vn to theyr fathers. So that Christ copareth all the rightwesnesse of those holy patriarkes vn to the outwarde bewtye of a paynted sepulchre full of stench and all vn clennesse wythyn.p>

¶ And finally to begyld a mans neyboure in sotle bargeninge and to wrappe and copase him in with cauteles of the law / was then as it is now in the kingdome of y^e Pope. By the reason where of they excluded the law of loue out of theyr hertes / $\bar{a}d$ cosequetly all true repentaunce: for how coude they repet of y^t they coude not se to be sinne?

¶ And on the other syde they had sett vpp a rightwesnesse of holy workes to clense theyr soules with all: as the Pope sanctifieth vs with holy oyle holy bred holy salt holy candels holy dome ceremonies ād holy dome blessynges and with what soever holynesse thou wilt saue with the holynes of Gods worde which only speaketh vn to the herte and sheweth the soule hir filthynesse and vnclennesse of synne and leadeth > hir by ye waye of repentaunce vn to ye fountayne of Christes bloude to washe it awaye thorow faith. By the reason of which false rightwesnesse they were dysobedient vn to the rightwesnesse of God which is the forgeuenesse of synne in Christes bloude and coude not beleue it. And so thorow fleshly interpretynge the law ād false imagined rightwesnesse their hertes were hardened ād made as stony as clay in an hote furnace of fire that they coude receaue nether repentaunce ner faith or any moyster of grace at all.p>

¶ But the hethen Niniuites though they were blynded with lustes a good yet were in those. ii. poyntes vncorrupte and vnhardened & therfore with the only preachinge of lonas came vn to the knowlege of their synnes and confessed them & repented truly & turned euery man from his euell dedes & declared theyr sorow of hert & true repentaunce with theyr dedes which they dyd out of faith & hope of forgeuenesse chastysinge their bodies with prayer & fastinge & with takinge all pleasures from the flesh: > trustynge as god was angre for their wekedness even so shuld he forgeue them of hys mercye yf they repēted & forsoke their mysse lyuinge.p>

¶ And in the last ende of all thou hast yet a goodly ensample of lernynge to se how erthye lonas is styll for all hys tryenge in the whales bely. He was so sore displeased because the Niniuites perished not that he was wery of hys lyfe and wished after the deeth for very sorow & payne that he had loost the glorie of his prophesienge in that his prophesie come not to passe. But god rebuked him with a likenesse sayenge: it greueth thyne hert for the losse of a vile shrobbe or spraye wheron thou bestoweddest no loboure or cost nether was it thyne handwerke. How moch moare then shuld greue myne herte the losse of so greate a multitude of innocētes as are in Niniue which are all myne handes werke. Nay lonas I am God ouer all and father as well vn to the hethen as vn to the lewes ād mercifull to all and warne yer I smyte: nether threte I so cruelly by any prophete but that I wyll forgeue yf they repent ād ax mercie: nether on the other syde what soeuer I promyse wyll I fulfyll it saue for theyr sakes only whych trust in me and submitte them selues to kepe my lawes of very loue as naturall chyldern.

On thys maner to read y^e scripture is y^e right vse therof & why y^e holy gost caused it to be writte. That is y^t thou first seke out y^e law what god will have the to doo interpretinge it spiritually with out glose or coveringe the brightnesse of

Moses face / so y^t thou fele in thyne hert how that it is damnable synne before god not to loue they neyboure that is thyne enimie as puerly as Christ loued the and y^t not to loue thy neyboure in thyne herte is to have cōmitted all ready all synne agenst him. And therfore vn tyll that loue become thou must knowlege vnfaynedly that there is synne in the best dede thou doest. And it must ernestly greue thyne hert and thou must washe all thy good dedes in christes bloude yer they can be pure and an acceptable sacrifice vn to God and must desire god y^e father for his sake / to take thi dedes aworth & to pardō y^e imperfectenesse of them & to geue the power to doo thē better and with moare feruent loue.p>

¶ And on the other syde thou must serch diligently for the promises of mercie which God hath promised the agayne. Which .ii. poyntes that is to wete ye lawe spiritually interpreted how that all is dānable synne that is not vnfayned loue out of the grownde and botom of the herte after the ensample of Christes loue to vs because we be all equally created ād formed of one god oure father and indifferently bought & redemed with one bloud of oure sauioure lesus Christe: ād that the promises be geuen vn to a repentynge soule that thursteth and longeth after them of the pure and fatherly mercie of god thorow oure faith onely with oute al deseruinge of oure dedes or merites of oure werkes but for Christes sake alone and for the merites ād deseruinges of his werkes deth and passions that he sofered all to gether for vs & not for him selfe: whych .ii. poyntes I saye if they be > written in thine herte are the keyes which so open all the scripture vn to the that no creature can locke the out and with which thou shalt goo in and out and finde pasture and fode euery where. And yf these lesons be not written in thyne herte then is all the scripture shutt vpp as a cornell in the shale so that thou mayst read it and comen of it and reherse all the stories of it and dispute sotilly and be a profounde sophister and yet vnderstond not one lot therof.

¶ And thridly that thou take the stories & liues which are cōteyned in the bible for sure ād vndowted ensamples y God so will deale with vs vn to the worldes ende.

¶ Here with Reader farewell and be commended vn to God and vn to the grace of hys spryte. And first se that thou stoppe not thyne eares vn to the callynge of god and that thou harden not thine herte begyled with fleshly interpretinge of the law & false imagined and ypocritish rightwesnesse / and so the Niniuites ryse with the at yº day of iudgement & condemne the.

¶ And secōdarily if thou finde ought amisse when thou seyst thy selfe in the glasse of Gods worde thynke it cōpendious wisdome / to amende y^e same betymes moneshed & warned by the ensample of other men rather the to tary vntill thou be beten also.

¶ And thridly if it shall so chaunce / that y^e wild lustes of thy flesh shall blynd the and carie the cleane awaye with them for a tyme: yet at the later ende / when y^e god of all mercie shall have compased the in on every syde with teptacios tribulacions adversities & cobraunce / to bringe y^e home agayne vn to thyne awne herte & to set thy sinnes wich thou woldest so fayne cover & put out of mynd with delectacio of voluptuous pastymes before y^e eyes of thy coscience: then call y^e faithfull ensample of lonas & all lyke stories vn to thy remebraunce / ād with lonas turne vn to thi father that smote y^e : not to cast y^e awaye / but to laye a corosie ād a freatige playster vn to y^e pocke that laye hid & fret inwarde / to draw y^e disease out & to make it appere / y^t thou mightest feale thy seckenes & y^e daunger therof & come & receave the healynge playster of mercie.

¶ And forget not y^t what soeuer ensample of mercie god hath shewed sens y^e beginninge of y^e world the same is promised the y^t thou wilt in like maner turne agayne and receaued it as they dyd. And with lonas be aknowen of thy synne & cōfesse it & knowlege it y^t to the father.

¶ And as y^e law which freteth thy coscience is in thyne herte & is none outwarde thige eve so seke within in thine herte / y^e playster of mercie the promyses of forgeuenesse in oure sauioure lesus Christe accordinge vn to all the ensamples of mercie that are gonne before.

¶ And with Ionas let the that wayte on vanities & seke god here & there & in euery teple saue in their hertes goo / & seke thou y^e testamet of god in thyne hert. For in thyne hert is the worde of y^e law / & in thyne hert is y^e worde of fayth in the promises of mercie in lesus Christe. So that yf thou coefesse with a repentynge herte & knowlege and surely believe y^t lesus is lorde ouer all synne thou art saffe.p>

¶ And finally when the rage of thy coscience is ceased and quieted with fast faith in the promises of mercie then offer with lonas the offeringe of prayse and thankesgeuinge & paye the vowe of thy baptim that God only saueth of his oly mercie & goodnesse: that is believe stedfastly & preach costantly that it is God only that smyteth / and God only that healeth: ascribynge ye cause of thy tribulation vn to thyne awne synne / and ye cause of thy deliveraunce vn to the mercie of God.

¶ And be ware of the leuē y^t saith we have power in oure fre will before y^e preachinge of y^e Gospell to deserve grace to kepe y^e law of cōgruite or god to be vnrightwesse. And saie with Ihon in the first / y^t as y^e law was geuē by Moses euē

so grace to fulfill it is geuē by christe. And whē they saye oure dedes with grace deserue heuen / saye thou w^t Paule Ro. vj. yt euerlastīge life is the gifte of god thorow lesus Christ oure lorde / & yt we be made sonnes by faith Ihon. j. & therfore heyres of god with christ Ro. viij. And saye that we receaue al of god thorow faith that foloweth repentaunce / & yt we doo not oure werkes vn to god but ether vn to oure selues to sley ye sinne that remayneth in ye flesh & to waxe perfecte ether vn to oure neyboures which doo as moch for vs agayne in some other thiges. And whe a ma exceadeth in giftes of grace let hī vnderstōde that they be geuē him as wel for his weake brethern as for him selfe: as though all the bred be comitted vn to the panter yet for his felowes with hym which geue the thankes vn to theyr lorde and recompence the panter agayne with other kynde seruice in theyr offices. And when they saye that Christ hath made no satisfaccion for the synne we doo after oure baptym: save thou wyth the doctrine of Paule that in oure baptym we receaue the merytes of Christes deeth thorow repentaunce and fayth of which two baptim is the sygne. And though when we synne of frailtie after oure baptym we receaue the sygne no moare yet we be renewed agayne thorow repentaunce and faith in Christes bloude whych twayne the sygne of baptym ever contynved amonge vs in baptisynge oure younge childern doeth euer kepe in mynde and call vs backe agayne vn to oure profession if we be gonne astraye & promiseth vs forgeuenesse. Nether can actuall synne be washed awaye with oure werkes but with Christes bloude: nether can there be any other sacrifice or satisfaccion to Godward for them saue Christes bloude. For as moch as we can doo no werkes vnto God but receaue only of his mercie with oure repentynge fayth thorow lesus Christe oure lorde and only sauer: vnto whom & vn to God oure father thorow him and vn to hys holy spirite that only purgeth sanctifieth & washeth vs in the innocet bloude of oure redemption be prayse for ever AMEN.p>

¶ The Storie of the prophete lonas.

The first Chapter.

The worde of the lorde came vn to the prophete lonas y^e sonne of Amithai sayenge: ryse & gett the to Niniue that greate citie & preach vn to the how that theyr wekednesse is come vpp before me.p>

¶ And Ionas made hī ready to fle to Tharsis frō the presens of yº Iorde & gatt hym downe to Ioppe and founde there a sheppe ready to goo to Tharsis & payed his fare & wēt aborde to goo with them to Tharsis frō the presens of the Iorde.p>

¶ But y^e lorde hurled a greate winde in to y^e se / so that there was a myghtie tepest in the se: in so moch y^t the shepp was lyke to goo in peces. And the mariners were afrayed & cried euery man vn to his god / & cast out y^e goodes y^t were in y^e sheppe in to y^e se / to lighten it of the. But lonas gatt him vnder the hatches & layed him downe and slombrede. And y^e master of the sheppe came to him & sayd vn to $h\bar{l}$ why slomberest thou? vpp! & call vn to thy god that God maye thinke on vs that we perish not.p>

¶ And they sayde one to a nother come & lett vs cast lottes to know for whose cause we are thus troublede. And they cast lottes. And y^e lott fell vppon lonas.

¶ The they said vnto hī tel vs for whose cause we are thus trowbled: what is thine occupacio whence comest thou how is thy cotre called & of what nacion art thou?

¶ And he answered the I am an Ebrue: & the lord God of heuen which made both se and drie land I feare. Then were the men exceadingly afrayd & sayd vn to him why diddest thou so? For they knew that he was fled from the presens of the lorde because he had told them.

¶ Then they sayd vn to hym what shall we doo vnto the that the se maye cease frō trowblinge vs? For the se wrought & was trowblous. And he answered them take me and cast me in to the se & so shall it lett you be in reste: for I wotte is is for my sake that this greate tempest is come oppon you. Neuerthelesse the men assayed wyth rowenge to bringe the sheppe to lande: but it wold not be because the se so wrought & > was so trowblous agenst them. Wherefore they cried vn to the lorde & sayd: O lorde latt vs not perin for this mans deeth nether laye innocēt bloud vn to oure charge: for thou lorde even as thy pleasure was so thou hast done.

¶ And the they toke Ionas / & cast hī in to y^e se / & the se left ragynge. And y^e men feared the Iorde excedingly: & sacrificed sacrififice vn to the Iorde: and vowed vowes.

¶ The seconde Chapter.

But y^e lorde prepared a greate fyshe / to swalow vp lonas. And so was lonas in y^e bowels of y^e fish .iij. dayes & .iij. nightes. And lonas prayed vnto y^e lord his god out of y^e bowels of the fish.

¶ And he sayde: in my tribulacion I called vn to the lorde and he answered me: out of the bely of hell I cried ād thou

herdest my voyce. For thou hadest cast me downe depe in the middes of the se: & the floud copased me aboute: and all thy waves & rowles of water wet over me: & I thought yt I had bene cast awaye out of thy sight. But I will yet agayne loke towarde thy holy temple. The water copased me even to the very soule of me: the depe laye aboute me: ad the wedes were wrappte aboude myne heed. And I wet downe vn to the botome of the hylles and was > barredin with erth on every syde for ever. And yet thou lorde my God broughest vp my life agayne out of corrupcion. When my soule faynted in me I thought on the lorde: & my prayer came in vn to the even in to thy holy temple. They yt observe vayne vanities have forsake him that was mercifull vn to them. But I wil sacrifice vn to the with the voce of thankesgevinge & will paye that I have vowed that savinge cometh of the lorde.p>

¶ And the lorde spake vn to the fish: and it cast out lonas agayne vppon y^e drie lande.

¶ The .iij. Chapter.

Then came the worde of the lorde vn to Ionas agayne sayenge: vpp / ād gett ye to Niniue that greate citie / & preache vn to the the preachynge which I bade ye. And he arose & wet to Niniue at ye Iordes comaundmet. Niniue was a greate citie vn to god coteynige .iij. dayes iourney.p>

¶ And Ionas went to & entred in to y^e citie euen a dayes iourney and cried sayenge: There shall not passe .xl. dayes but Niniue shalbe ouerthrowen.p>

¶ And the people of Niniue beleued God and proclaymed fastynge ād arayed them selues in sackcloth as well the greate as the small of them.p>

¶ And y^e tydinges came vn to the kinge of Niniue which arose out of his sete and did his apparell of & put on sackcloth / & sate hī downe in asshes. And it was cried ād commaunded in Niniue by y^e auctorite of y^e kinge ād of his lordes sayenge: se that nether mā or beest oxe or shepe tast ought at al & that they nether fede or drinke water.

¶ And they put on sackcloth both man ād beest & cried vn to God mightily ād turned euery man from his weked waye and frō doenge wrōge in which they were acustomed sayenge: who can tell whether god will turne & repent & cease from his fearce wrathe that we perish not? And when god saw theyr workes how they turned from theyr weked wayes he repented on ye euell which he sayd he wold doo vn to them ād dyd it not.p>

¶ The .iiij. Chapter.

Wherfore Ionas was sore discontent ād angre. And he prayed vn to the Iorde ād sayd: O Iord was not this my sayenge when I was yet in my contre? And therfore I hasted rather to fle to Tharsis: for I knew well ynough that thou wast a mercifull god ful of cōpassion long yer thou be angre and of great mercie and repentest when thou art come to take punishment. Now therfore take my life from me for I had Ieuer dye then liue. And the Iorde said vn to Ionas art thou so angrie?p>

¶ And lonas gate him out of the citie and sate him downe on the est syde theroffe ād made him there a bothe ād sate thervnder in the shadowe till he might se what shuld chaunce vn to the citie.

 \P And y^e lorde prepared as it were a wild vine which sprāge vp ouer lonas that he might have shadowe ouer his heed to deliuer him out of his payne. And lonas was exceadynge glad of the wild vine.

¶ And the lorde ordeyned a worme agenst the springe of y^e morow mornīge which smote the wild vine that it wethered awaye. And assone as the sonne was vpp God prepared a feruent eest winde: so that y^e sonne bete ouer the heed of lonas that he fainted agayne ād wished vn to hys soule that he might dye and sayd it is better for me to dye then to liue.p>

¶ And god sayd vn to Ionas art thou so angre for thy wild vine? And he sayde I am angrie a goode even on to the deeth. And the Iorde sayde thou hast compassion on a wild vine wheron thou bestoweddest no Iaboure ner madest it growe which sprange vp in one night and perished in a nother: and shuld not I have compassion on Niniue that greate citie wherin there is a multitude of people even above an hundred thousande that know not theyr right hand from the lyfte besydes moch catell?p>

Transcriber's note

During transcription, a number of possible typographic errors and doubtful readings were found, as listed below. No changes were made.

"then a take of Robī hode" possible error for "then a tale of Robī hode"

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"<u>rembenbir</u> that y<sup>e</sup> fulfillynge of y<sup>e</sup> law" possible error for "remenbir that y<sup>e</sup> fulfillynge of y<sup>e</sup> law"
"agenst y<sup>e</sup>holygost" possible error for "agenst y<sup>e</sup> holy gost"
"though all christendome" possible error for "though all christendome"
"an <u>obligacō</u> betwene God and thy soule" possible error for "an obligaciō betwene God and thy soule"
"younge scolars weake & <u>foble</u>" possible error for "younge scolars weake & feble"
"He brougt the in to adversite" possible error for "He brought the in to adversite"
"the <u>cōmaudemēt</u> of God" possible error for "the cōmaūdemēt of God"
"none in respecte of him / ad" possible error for "none in respecte of him ād"p>
"did cast <u>lotttes</u>" possible error for "did cast lottes"
"to <u>teper</u> thē" possible error for "to tēper thē"
"is lawfull ad in all like cases." possible error for "is lawfull ād in all like cases."
"proue vn to te lewes" possible error for "proue vn to the lewes"
"Ionas had bene in te fishes bely" possible error for "Ionas had bene in the fishes bely"
"for y<sup>e</sup> lewes had <u>leuēded</u>" possible error for "for y<sup>e</sup> lewes had leuēed"
"leaue the vilest <a href="herke" possible error for "leaue the vilest herbe" herbe" herbe" herbe" herbe" herbe" herbe" herbe" herbe "leaue the vilest herbe "leaue the vilest herbe" herbe "leaue the vilest herbe "leaue 
"in <u>thofe</u> .ii. poyntes vncorrupte" possible error for "in those .ii. poyntes vncorrupte"
"to loue they neyboure" possible error for "to loue thy neyboure"
"written in thyne herte" possible error for "written in thyne herte"
"contynved amonge vs" possible error for "contynued amonge vs"
"latt vs not <u>perih</u> for this mans deeth" possible error for "latt vs not perish for this mans deeth"
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"& sacrificed sacrififice" possible error for "& sacrificed sacrifice" (hyphenated over line break)

"and was <u>barredin</u>" possible error for "and was barred in"