

Chapter 0

Jonah

Technical Notes

Introduction

It is exceedingly tedious to repeat common words. We will encounter the following words in Jonah, which will not be referenced unless a special instance requires doing so:

καὶ,

adverb (additionally, also, as well as, moreover, too) or conjunction (and), indeclensionate from *καί*: and; additionally, also, as well as, moreover, too. *Καὶ* is a basic start-stop with a wide variety of nuances, commonly expressing *vav* consecutive, *vav* continuo, or *vav* conversive, often retaining the Hebrew idiom, in which case it should usually be left untranslated in English unless a particular nuance must be expressed, since English idiom deplores run-on sentences connected with and. It occurs too frequently to bother to count.

κύριος,

- *κύριε*, noun, masculine vocative singular
- *κύριον*, noun, masculine accusative singular
- *κυρίου*, noun, masculine genitive singular
- *κύριος*, noun, masculine nominative singular
- *κυρίῳ*, noun, masculine dative singular

κύριος, -ου: lord; especially when capitalized, the translation of the tetragrammaton, YHWH; when un-capitalized, designating one's male ancestor, father, husband, king, leader, master, mentor, owner, ruler, superior, teacher, tutor. The female counterpart, *κυρία*, -ας: lady is not used in Jonah. Another word not found in Jonah is a word for empire or kingdom, *κυριεία*, -ας, which is feminine as well. 1:1, 3, 3, 4, 9, 9, 10, 14, 14, 14, 16, 16; 2:1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11; 3:1, 3; 4:2, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10 – 26x.

πρὸς,

adjective (beside), adverb (almost, near, nearly) or preposition (before), indeclensionate from πρός: before; spatially in the sense of face-to-face, rather than previously, which would be πρό, a closely related word); to, toward; temporally, about, at, before, impending, near, now. 1:1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; 2:2, 3, 5, 7, 8; 3:1, 2, 6, 8; 4:2, 4, 9 – 24x; also used as a prefix 1:3, 3, 6, 10; 2:1, 2, 5, 8, 11; 3:2; 4:2, 6, 7, 8 – 15x (see also the very similar πρό 4:2).

Ἰωνᾶς,

- Ἰωνᾶ, noun, masculine genitive singular
- Ἰωνᾶν, noun, masculine accusative singular
- Ἰωνᾶς, noun, masculine nominative singular

Ἰωνᾶς, -ᾶ: capitalized, the proper noun, Jonah; it has no other meaning in Greek.

However Jonah is a nearly exact transliteration of the Hebrew, Yonah, which does mean dove: different pointing would derive from a (possibly) different stem meaning to oppress, vex, dispossess, drive out. Even though we have a resulting noun without a verb stem, it is usually translated dove, 22 times, or pigeon, 10 times; it has one unknown use in the title of Psalm 56; otherwise it seems to be Jonah's name. Hosea 11:11 has the unusual expression, "dove from Assyria," which may be a double entendre reference to Jonah, the prophet who came back from Assyria: Amos and Hosea are contemporaries of Jonah. There is another, rare, Hebrew word for dove or pigeon, gozal (Genesis 15:9; Deuteronomy 32:11).

On the other hand, the Greek word for dove or pigeon is περιστέρα (Genesis 8:8, 9, 10, 11, 12; Leviticus 5:7, 11; 12:6, 8; 14:22, 30; 15:14, 29; Numbers 6:10; 2 Kings 6:25; Psalm 54 (55):6; 67 (68):13; Song of Solomon 1:15; 2:10, 13, 14; 4:1; 5:2, 12; 6:8 (9); Hosea 7:11; 11:11; Nahum 2:7 (8); Zephaniah 3:1; Isaiah 38:14; 59:11; 60:8; Jeremiah 31 (48): 28; Ezekiel 7:16; Matthew 3:16; 10:16; 21:12).

So, if the meaning dove has theological importance, it seems strange that the Jewish translator did not draw attention to this when translating the Hebrew into Greek: circa 200 BC it was merely a name. We must

beware of reading into the biblical text, mystical meanings which neither the translator, nor the ancient fathers and mothers support. 1:1, 3, 5, 7, 12, 15; 2:1, 1, 2, 11; 3:1, 3, 4; 4:1, 4, 5, 6, 6, 8, 9 – 20x.

The definite article, ὁ, ἡ, τό: the.

Singular: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative Plural: nominative, etc.

- Masculine: ὁ, τοῦ, τῷ, τόν οἱ, τῶν, τοῖς, τούς
- Feminine: ἡ, τῆς, τῇ, τήν αἱ, τῶν, ταῖς, τάς
- Neuter: τό, τοῦ, τῷ, τό τά, τῶν, τοῖς, τά

Again, far too many to count.

λέγω, the irregular verb

- εἶπα, verb, aorist active indicative, first person singular
- εἶπαν, verb, aorist active indicative, third person plural
- εἶπε(ν), verb, aorist active indicative, third person singular
- εἶπον, verb, aorist active indicative, first person singular or third person plural
- ἐρρέθη, verb, aorist passive indicative, third person singular
- λέγοντες, verb, present active participle, masculine accusative plural
- λέγων, verb, present active participle, masculine nominative singular

λέγω, λέγειν, εἶπον, or εἰπεῖν: speak, or say; usually introducing a direct quotation. 1:1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14; 2:3, 5; 3:1, 4, 7, 7, 8; 4:2, 4, 8, 9, 9, 10 – 22x (see ἐπιλέγω).

εἰς,

preposition, indeclensionate of εἰς: in or into; more than approach, rather enter; anticipating some act of entrance in the verb. 1:2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 12, 15; 2:4, 6, 7, 8, 10; 3:2, 3, 4; 4: 2 – 20x.

Νινευή,

noun, feminine nominative singular, indeclensionate from Νινευή: a proper name, Nineveh. 1:2; 3:2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; 4:11 – 9x.

έν,

preposition, indeclensionate of έν: in; the state of being among; to. 1:2, 4, 5, 7, 8; 2:1, 3, 8; 3:2, 7, 8; 4:2, 11 – 13x.

The third person personal, or reflexive pronoun, αὐτός, -ή, -όν: he, she, it, him, her, his, her, hers, its; they, them, their, theirs; self.

Singular: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative Plural: nominative, etc.

- Masculine: αὐτός, αὐτοῦ, αὐτῷ, αὐτόν
αὐτοί, αὐτῶν, αὐτοῖς, αὐτούς
- Feminine: αὐτή, αὐτῆς, αὐτῇ, αὐτήν
αὐταί, αὐτῶν, αὐταῖς, αὐτάς
- Neuter: αὐτό, αὐτοῦ, αὐτῷ, αὐτό
αὐτά, αὐτῶν, αὐτοῖς, αὐτά

1:2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 15; 2:2, 7, 9; 3:2, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10, 10, 10; 4:5, 6, 6, 6, 8, 10, 10, 11, 11 – 43x.

The demonstrative pronoun, οὗτος, αὕτη, τοῦτο: that, this.

Singular: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative Plural: nominative, etc.

- Masculine: οὗτος, τούτου, τούτῳ, τοῦτον
οὗτοι, τούτων, τούτοις, τούτους
- Feminine:¹ αὕτη, ταύτης, ταύτῃ, ταύτην
αὐταί, τούτων, ταύταις, ταύτας
- Neuter: τοῦτο, τούτου, τούτῳ, τοῦτο
ταῦτα, τούτων, τούτοις, ταῦτα

1:7, 8, 10, 12; 4:2 – 5x.

The first person personal pronoun, ἐγώ: I, me, my, mine; we, us, our, ours.

Singular: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative Plural: nominative, etc. Note: singular syllable words frequently drop the accent; with pronouns the accent is often absorbed by the previous word.

- Genderless: ἐγώ, (ἐ)μοῦ, (ἐ)μοί, (ἐ)μέ
ἡμεῖς, ἡμῶν, ἡμῖν, ἡμᾶς

1:2; 9, 9, 12, 12, 12, 12, 2:3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8; 2:5, 6, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 10, 10; 3:2; 4:2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 8, 8, 9, 11 – 44 x.

Θαρσις,

noun, masculine nominative singular, indeclensionate from Θαρσις: the proper noun Tarshish, a real city²; possibly meaning courageous in Greek; a Hebrew word meaning beryl, or precious stone, direct transliteration. 1:3, 3, 3: 4:2 – 4x

ἐκ, ἐξ,

preposition, indeclensionate of ἐκ, ἐξ: out of, forth, from; separation from; emphasizing the source of separation. 1:3, 3, 8, 10, 15; 2:2, 3, 5, 7; 3:1, 9; 4:5 – 12x (see ἀπό for contrast).

Ἰόππην,

noun, feminine accusative singular from Ἰόππη, -ης: the proper noun Joppa. 1:3 – 1x.

θεός,

- θεόν, noun, masculine accusative singular
- θεός, noun, masculine nominative singular
- θεῷ, noun, masculine dative singular

θεός, -οῦ: god, idol; when Capitalized, the living God; one who judges or provides; a king, judge, parent, superior. 1:5, 6, 6, 9; 2:2, 3, 7; 3:3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 10; 4:6, 7, 8, 9 – 17x.

ἀπ', ἀπό,

preposition, indeclensionate of ἀπό: from; emphasizing the distance of separation. 1:5; 2:8; 3:5, 6, 8, 8, 10; 4:3, 6 – 9x; also used as a prefix 1:6, 8, 10, 14; 2:4, 5, 10; 3:8, 9, 9, 10; 4:3, 5, 5, 7, 8, 10 – 17x (see ἐκ, ἐξ for contrast).

The second person personal pronoun, συ: you, your, yours, (archaic) thine.

Singular: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative Plural: nominative, etc. Note: singular syllable words frequently drop the accent; with pronouns the accent is often absorbed by the previous word.

- Genderless: συ, σοῦ, σοί, σε
ὕμεῖς, ὑμῶν, ὑμῖν, ὑμᾶς

1:6, 6, 8, 11, 12, 12; 2:4, 4, 5, 5, 8, 8, 10, 10; 3:2; 4:2, 9, 10 – 18x

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¹ The demonstrative is presented here to emphasize the close resemblance between the feminine demonstrative and the feminine personal/reflexive. There are other demonstrative forms that we will not examine here.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nora_Stone

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