

UJONA

UJona Ubalekela uJehova

1 Ilizwi likaJehova lafika kuJona indodana ka-Amithayi lathi: ²“Hamba uye edolobheni elikhulu laseNineve utshumayele ngokulisola kakhulu, ngokuba ububi balo sebufinyelele kimi.”

³Kodwa uJona wambalekela uJehova waqonda eThashishi. Wehla waya eJopha, lapho afika khona umkhumbi owawusiya kulelotheke. Eseyikhuphile imali yokukhwela, wangena umkhumbi waqonda eThashishi yena ebalekela uJehova.

⁴UJehova wathumela isiphepho elwandlwe, kwaphenquka isivunguzane esasingathi sizawubhidliza umkhumbi. ⁵Bonke abagwedli bawo besaba, ngulowo lalowo wakhala kunkulunkulu wakhe. Baphosela imithwalo elwandle ukuze baphungule ubunzima bomkhumbi.

Kodwa uJona wayehlele endlwaneni engaphansi, emkhunjini, walala khona ubuthongo obukhulu. ⁶Induna yomkhumbi yaya kuye yathi, “Ungalala njani? Vuka ubize unkulunkulu wakho! Mhlawumbe yena uzasizwa ukuze singabhubhi.”

⁷Abagwedli base becebisana bathi, “Wozani, senze inkatho ukuze sibone ukuthi ngubani osibangele uhlupho lolu.” Bayenza inkatho, yadla uJona.

⁸Basebembuza bathi, “Akusitshela, ngubani osibangele lonke lolu uhlupho na? Wenza msebenzi bani na? Uvela ngaphi? Ungowakuliphi ilizwe? Ungowasiphi isizwe na?”

⁹Waphendula wathi, “NgingumHebheru, ngikhonza uJehova,

uNkulunkulu wasezulwini, owenza ulwandle kanye lomhlabathi.”

¹⁰Lokhu kwabethusa, babuza bathi, “Wenzi pho?” (Babekwazi ukuthi ubalekela uJehova ngokuba wayevele esebatshelile.)

¹¹Ulwandle lwase lulokhu luqubuka lusiya phambili ngamandla. Ngakho base bembuza bathi, “Senzeni kuwe ukuze ulwandle luthule singalimali na?”

¹²Waphendula wathi, “Ngiqukulani lingiphosele elwandle, luzathula. Ngiyazi ukuthi kungumlandu wami okwenze isiphepho esikhulu kangaka sehlela phezu kwenu.”

¹³Kodwa amadoda azama ngamandla ukugwedlela emuva emhlabathini. Kodwa behluleka ngoba ulwandle lwaselusidla amahabula okudlula kuqala.

¹⁴Khonapho base bekhala kuJehova bathi, “Hawu, Jehova, ungasiyekeli sife ngoba sibulele indoda le. Ungasibeki umlandu wokubulala umuntu ongelacala, ngoba wena, O Jehova, wenzile njengokufisa kwakho.” ¹⁵Basebethatha uJona bamphosela olwandle, ulwandle lwase luthula ukugubhaza. ¹⁶Lokhu kwenza amadoda lawo amesabe kakhulu uJehova, ase esenza umhlatshelo kuJehova benza izifungo kuye.

¹⁷Kodwa uJehova waletha inhlanzi enkulukazi yamginya uJona, uJona wahlala phakathi kwenhlanzi izinsuku ezintathu lobusuku obuthathu.

Umthandazo KaJona

2 Ephakathi kwenhlanzi uJona wathandaza kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe. ²Wathi:

“Ekuhluphekeni kwami ngambiza
uJehova,
wangiphendula.

- Ngisekujuleni kwengcwaba ngacela uncedo, wena wakulalela ukukhala kwami.
- ³ Wangiphosela ezinzikini, phakathi emathunjini ezilwandle, amagagasi agubhazela emaceleni wonke; wonke amagagasi akho lezimpophoma zawo kwangisibekela.
- ⁴ Ngathi, ‘Sengixotshiwe ebusweni bakho; kodwa ngizakhangela njalo ethempelini lakho elingcwele.’
- ⁵ Izindonga zamanzi zaziqonde ukungimbokotha, ngangihanqwe yinziki; inkunkuma yotshani bolwandle yangithandela ekhanda.
- ⁶ Ngagalula ngatshona ezimpandeni zezintaba; umhlaba ongaphansi wangivalela okwaphakade. Kodwa wena wayikhupha impilo yami egodini, hawu Jehova, Nkulunkulu wami.
- ⁷ “Lapho impilo yami yayisincipha, ngakhumbula wena, Jehova, umthandazo wami waphakamela kuwe, ethempelini lakho elingcwele.
- ⁸ “Labo ababambelela ezithombeni ezingelamsebenzi balahlekelwa ngumusa ongaba ngowabo.
- ⁹ Kodwa mina, ngizakuthi ngihlabela ingoma yokubonga ngenze umhlatshelo kuwe. Engikufungileyo ngizakugcwalisa. Insindiso ivela kuJehova.”

¹⁰ UJehova walaya inhlanzi, yona yase imhlanza uJona emhlabathini owomileyo.

UJona Uya eNineve

3 Ilizwi likaJehova laselifika kuJona ngokwesibili lathi: ² “Hamba uye edolobheni elikhulu laseNineve uyotshumayela kulo ilizwi engikunika lona.”

³ UJona walilalela ilizwi likaJehova, waya eNineve. Phela iNineve yayilidolobho eliqakathekileyo kakhulu – ukulethekela lonke kwakuthatha izinsuku ezintathu. ⁴ Ngelanga lokuqala, uJona wangena phakathi komuzi. Wamemezela wathi, “Kusele izinsuku ezingamatshumi amane kuphela ukuba iNineve ichithwe.” ⁵ Abantu beNineve babekholwa kuNkulunkulu. Bamemezela ukuthi kuzilwe ukudla, njalo bonke kusukela komkhulu kusiya komncinyane bavunula amasaka.

⁶ Ilizwi selifikile enkosini yaseNineve, yasukuma esihlalweni sayo sobukhosi, yakhumula izingubo zayo zobukhosi, yazembathisa isaka yahlala phansi ebhuqwini. ⁷ Yase ikhupha isimemezelo eNineve esithi:

“Ngomthetho wenkosi lezikhulu zayo:

Akungavunyelwa muntu kumbe inyamazana, imihlambi yezinkomo loba eyezimvu ukuthi ithinte ulutho oludliwayo; makungavunyelwa kudle kumbe kunathe. ⁸ Kodwa akuthi umuntu loba yinyamazana kwembathe amasaka. Wonke umuntu kamemeze ngokukhawuleza kuNkulunkulu. Kabadele izindlela zabo zobubi

lobudlwangudlwangu babo. ⁹Ngubani okwaziyo na? Mhlawumbe uNkulunkulu angadeda kuthi ngesihawu sakhe aphenduke elakeni lwakhe olwesabekayo ukuze singabhubhi.”

¹⁰ Kwathi uNkulunkulu esebonile abakwenzayo ukuthi baguquka ezindleleni zabo zobubi, wabazwela isihawu kazabe esabehlisela incithakalo ayesonge ngayo.

Ukunengwa KukaJona Ngesihawu SikaJehova

4 Kodwa uJona wacaphuka kakhulu wazonda. ² Wakhuleka kuJehova wathi, “Hawu Jehova, kakusikho lokhu yini engakutshoyo ngisesekhaya? Yikho okwangenza ngaphangisa ukubalekela eThashishi. Ngangikwazi ukuthi unguNkulunkulu olomusa lesihawu, ophuza ukuthukuthela njalo ogcwele uthando, uNkulunkulu odedayo ongasoze ehlise ukuhlupheka.

³ Khathesi-ke Jehova, susa ukuphila kwami, ngoba kungcono kimi ukufa kulokuphila.”

⁴ Kodwa uJehova waphendula wathi, “Kambe ubona ulungelo na lokuthi uzonde?”

⁵ UJona waphuma wayahlala endaweni ethile ngempumalanga kwedolobho. Wazenzela khonapho idunjana wahlala emthunzini walo walindela ukubona okwakuzakwenzakala edolobheni lelo. ⁶ Kwasekusithi uJehova uNkulunkulu wakhulisa ivini lanaba lasitha uJona lamenzela umthunzi ekhanda lakhe ukuze ahlaliseke. UJona wathaba kakhulu ngaleli ivini. ⁷ Kodwa emathathakusa ngelanga elilandelayo uNkulunkulu wathumela impehlane, eyaphehla isihlahla sacina sibuna.

⁸ Kwathi ilanga seliphumile uNkulunkulu wathumela umoya wempumalanga ohaqazayo, ilanga lavutha phezu kwekhanda likaJona waze waqaleka. Wafisa ukufa, wathi, “Kungcono kimi ukuthi ngife kulokuthi ngiphile.”

⁹ Kodwa uNkulunkulu wathi kuJona, “Ulungelo na lokuthi uzonde ngenxa yalelivini?”

UJona wathi, “Yebo. Ngizondile kubi, kuthi kangife.”

¹⁰ Kodwa uJehova wathi, “Uyazihlupha ngevini leli loba ungazange ulinakekele loba ulikhulise. Lihlume ngobusuku laphinde lafa ngobusuku. ¹¹ Kodwa iNineve ilabantu abeqa izinkulungwane ezilikhulu elilamatshumi amabili abangehlukaniyo isandla sabo sokudla kwesenxele, lezinkomo ezinengi njalo. Bekungafanelanga yini na ukuthi ngilinqinekele idolobho elikhulu kangaka?”