

Jonah and the Plant

4: 1-11

This chapter again focuses on **the disgruntled prophet's** relationship with **ADONAI** as they dialogue about **Yonah's anger** over the mercy and grace shown by **YHVH**. **God** argues **His** preference for compassion, even in horrible circumstances. **The LORD** has compassion for **His** creation, no matter how ignorant, abusive, or violent the culture. **Jonah** is about this, so **HaShem** gives **His reluctant servant** an object lesson in the form of **a plant**. **He** attempts to convince **Jonah** (and us) that **His** response of compassion is better than justice and more important than strict justice. **Elohim, the God of creation and destruction**, argues that, "If you, **Yonah**, are moved to pity over the destruction of **a plant** that you did not create, shouldn't I have pity over the destruction of **people** and **animals** that I did create." **God** loves all of **His** creation, for **He** is **gracious and compassionate (4:2)**.⁸⁶

What do you do when you've yielded to the divine intervention but things still have not turned out as you'd like. You followed **God's** path, resting in the comforting thought that at least some things might work out the way you wanted. Now, after the fact, you sit in stunned disbelief. **NOTHING** turned out the way you'd hoped. **NOTHING**. Without verbalizing it, you realize that you made a deal with **God**. You just thought **He'd** hold up **His** end of the bargain.

"OK, **God**. I'll do this if the result will be that."

Obviously you forgot to shake hands on it because **ADONAI** didn't keep **His** part of this one-sided deal. You're upset. Disappointed, and angry with **the Lord**.

Ever been there?

Why do you think we make unspoken deals with **God** when choosing to yield to **His** will?⁸⁷