

NT 615 EXEGETICAL PROCESS NOTEBOOK¹

NAME: _____Priscilla Wong_____

PASSAGE: _____Jonah chapter 4:1-11_____

STEP 4: OVERVIEW OF LITERARY CONTEXT

4.1 Describe the literary character of the document (i.e., identify what kind of literature your passage reflects such as narrative [extended story form], a psalm, law, prophecy, epistle, or apocalypse). Remember, some biblical literature contains mixed forms such as the Book of Revelation, which consists of letters, prophecy, an extended narrative, and hymns.

The paragraph that I chose Jonah 4:1-11 was mainly descriptive. It described how God used a plant to show Jonah that it was wrong for Jonah to be angry that God showed mercy to the Ninevites who Jonah thought did not deserve God's grace.

4.2 All literary works have a structure in the mind of the human author. Biblical writers have a purpose in writing that guides their choices, whether to write a letter or produce a narrative. Even the very words they use are intentional. Cast the interpretive net widely before looking at the individual pieces that make up the message.

Jonah was disobedient to God's call and God's action towards Jonah's disobedience: Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah's prayer to the lord: Jonah 2:1-10

Jonah obeyed the lord and went to Nineveh to preach the message of repentance of sins: Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah's anger towards God's grace for the Ninevites: Jonah 4:1-4

Using a plant, God showed Jonah that his anger was not right and that God cared for all humanity: Jonah 4:5-10

4.3 Start to make informed observations. Remember, you are not referring to commentaries right now, otherwise, you will become commentary-dependent and not able to bring fresh insight to the passage. You do not want to simply recycle other people's ideas!

My passage is at the end of the book. The main theme of my selected passage was that God showed Jonah that he cared for all humanity by using the plant, and it was wrong for Jonah to get angry at God because of God's grace for the Ninevites, a people who Jonah thought did not deserve God's grace. What happened right before my selected passage 4:1-10 was that the Ninevites repented of their sins at Jonah's message, and God relented and did not bring on the destruction that he had planned.