

NT 615 EXEGETICAL PROCESS NOTEBOOK¹

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PASSAGE: _____Jonah_____

STEP 6. CULTURAL CONTEXT

6.1 List features of your text that you suspect might be clarified by a greater knowledge of Jewish or Greco-Roman history and culture.

In Verse 11, God said the Ninevites did not know the right hand from the left. What does that mean in the Jewish culture? Anything specific?

6.2 Choose one of these and, using the bibliography in Duvall and Hayes (pp. 120-134), explore the cultural background a little further and explain how this study may aid in an understanding of the cultural milieu of the author.

The Ninevites did not have knowledge of God and his law, as opposed to the Israelites who knew God's law. Therefore, God had mercy on the Ninevites and they were worthy of compassion.

6.3 Evaluate the significance of this background data for the understanding of your passage.

It is important to know that the Ninevites did not know God and his law, therefore they sinned against God without even knowing it. But look at how God is, he had compassion not only for the Israelites who were chosen, but also for those who didn't know him and never heard of his law. The background helped us to understand the heart of God for the people who didn't know him.