

The aim of this work is to portrait prophet Jonah and the tales of his book according to the Jewish tradition. It tries to map the historical and theological background of the origin of the book of Jonah, and on this basis to select the themes the book reacts to and reshapes. One chapter tries to capture the mythological and archetypal motives described in the book of Jonah. The main body of this work, though, is devoted to the very story of Jonah in his book, and its interpretation in the Jerusalem Talmud, in the Babylonian Talmud, in midrashim, in the Kabbalistic text of the Zohar, and in Jona-Vita, the legend of Jonah's life. It also pays attention to the connection between the book of Jonah and the Feast of Yom Kippur, as well as to the comprehension of repentance phenomenon in Judaism. In the conclusion, this work tries to summarize the elementary approaches to interpretation of the book of Jonah, and their significance in Jewish traditions.