Formation and the Word

Models of how Scripture/ God’s word functions formationally
The Jonah Model

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 2 “Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.”
Analysis (Jonah Model)

- Source of the revelation?
- Mediator of the revelation?
- Recipient of the revelation?
- Content of revelation?
- Context of revelation?
Dual response to authority

- Response by Jonah-- 1:3 But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.
- Faulty theology of the ‘man of God’: henotheism
- True Yahwists: Jonah 1:8-16
Structure of Jonah 1

I. Heading 1:1
II. God’s commission 1:2
III. Jonah’s response 1:3
IV. God’s counter-response 1:4
V. Jonah and the sailors 1:5-16
VI. God’s response 1:17
Jonah and the sailors 1:5-16

A. Sailors fear & pray 1:5a
B. Sailors throw 1:5b
C. Captain approaches Jonah 1:6
   D. Crew tries to determine cause 1:7
   E. Question and answer 1:8-9
   F. Realization of the divine 1:10
      E’. Question and answer 1:11-12
      D’. Crew tries to save ship 1:13
      C’. Crew approaches God 1:14
      B’. Sailors throw 1:15
A’. Sailors fear and pray 1:16
The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2 “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.

The grudging prophet
Response from pagan Assyria

- Jonah 3:6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.
- Another unexpected Yahwist
- Role of prophecy: to call people away from folly to a correct following after God
Jonah’s 3\textsuperscript{rd} response

4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.
Characterizing Jonah

- Blatant, willful disobedience
- Anger at God
- God’s response?
- Listens without punishment; attempts to teach (4:6-11)
- Comes down harder on those who are pious frauds (Israelite model) than those who are outright rebels