

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill against a sunset sky. The person is facing right, looking out over a landscape of rolling hills. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, with the sun setting on the horizon. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Be Caring

Jonah

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

**A missed
opportunity**



Do you care for people?



How does God want us to
respond to **unresponsive**
people?



The background of the image is a composite of twelve portraits of the apostles, arranged in a 3x4 grid. The portraits are set against a light blue background that resembles an open book. The text is overlaid on this background.

The Twelve

Courage to Confront Culture

—A Preaching Series on the Minor Prophets—

MINOR PROPHETS MAJOR POINTS



JONAH



Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water...

DVD
VIDEO

UNIVERSAL

Unique Elements in Jonah

600

1. Jonah speaks entirely through the *experience* of a prophet—not his words.
2. Jonah is the only prophet in Scripture who *tried to run* from God.
3. Jonah is the only entire biblical book on Israel's response to the *Gentile* nations.
4. The *historicity* of Jonah has been denied by many scholars.

*God turns events to show us
His **compassion** for people.*

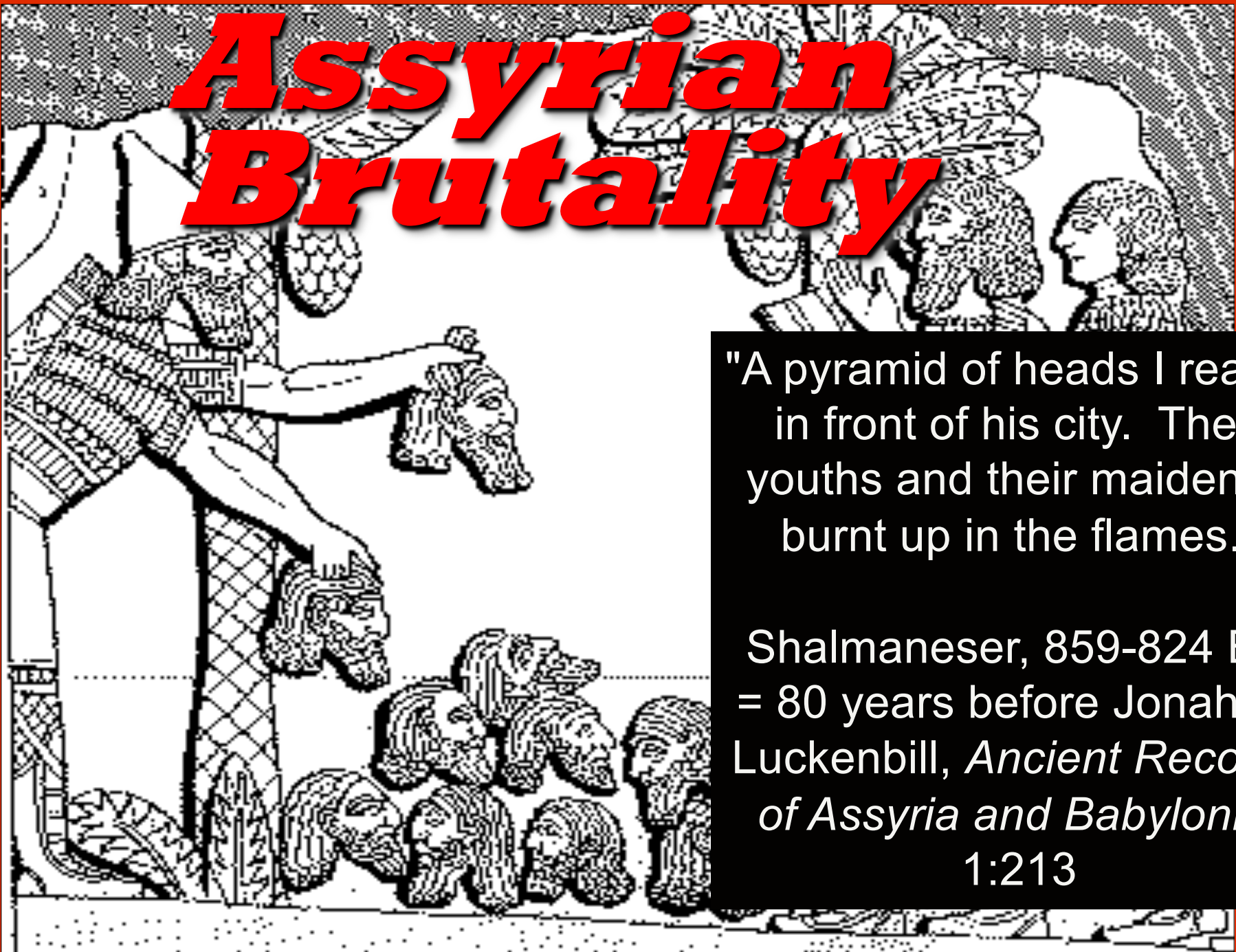
"Go! No! So Row!"

Jonah 1

Jonah 1: Go!

- I. God commands His people to tell the wicked how much He hates their **sin** (1-2).

Assyrian Brutality



"A pyramid of heads I reared
in front of his city. Their
youths and their maidens I
burnt up in the flames."

Shalmaneser, 859-824 BC
= 80 years before Jonah, in
Luckenbill, *Ancient Records
of Assyria and Babylonia*,
1:213

"Assyrian execution might involve tortures such as flaying...pulling out the lying tongue, burning, or..."

"I pierced his chin with my keen hand dagger. Through his jaw... I passed a rope, put a dog chain upon him and made him occupy a kennel."

**Ashurbanipal, 669-626 BC
= 100 years after Jonah, in
Luckenbill, *Ancient Records of
Assyria & Babylonia*, 2:319**





Esarhaddon's Ego (660 BC)

**"I am powerful, I am *all* powerful,
I am a hero, I am gigantic, I am
colossal, I am honored, I am
magnified, I am without equal
among all kings, the chosen one
of Asshur, Nabu, and Marduk!"**

Luckenbill, *Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia*, 2:226



Assyrian Expansion

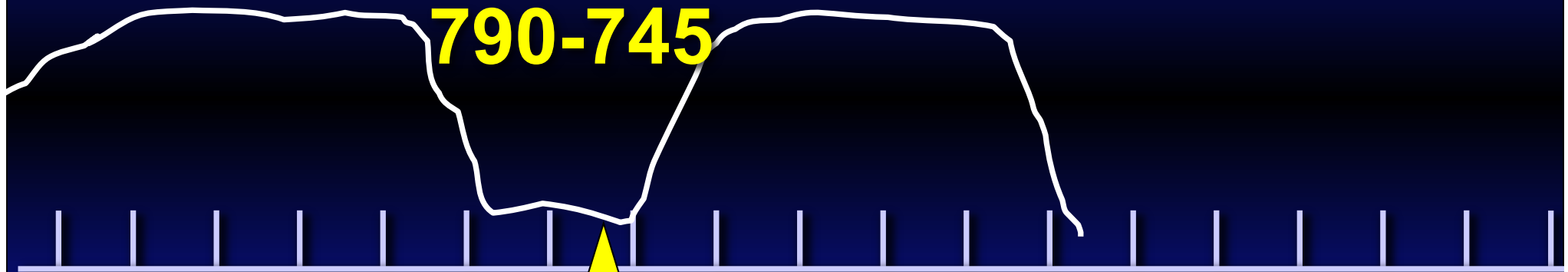
The Setting: Assyrian Might

Strong
883-783

Weak

Strong
745-626

790-745



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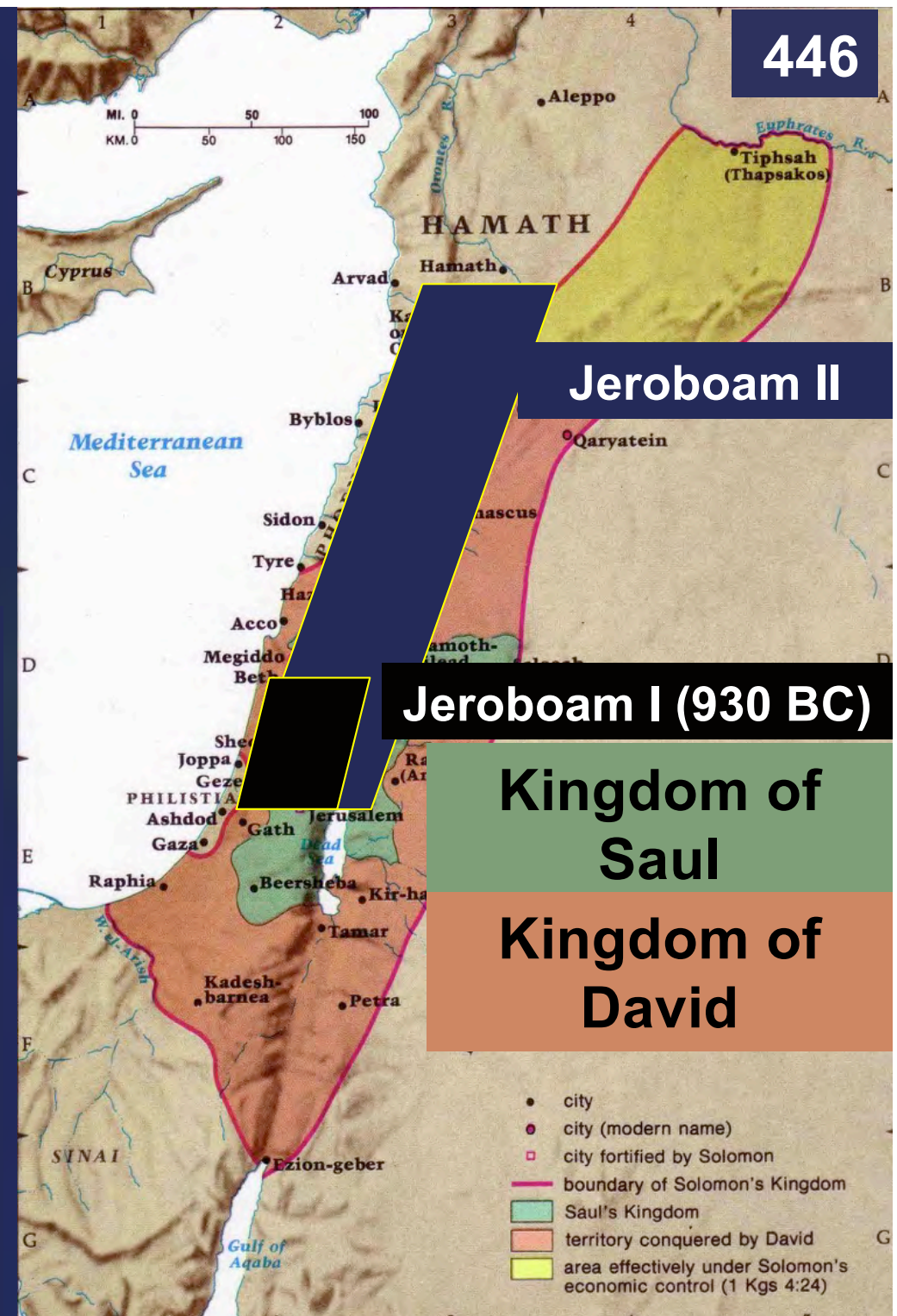
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Jonah

Expansion under Jeroboam II

"Jeroboam II recovered the territories of Israel between Lebo-hamath and the Dead Sea,* just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had promised through **Jonah son of Amittai**, the prophet from Gath-hepher."
(2 Kings 14:25 NLT).

* Hebrew *the sea of the Arabah*



Have You
Heard
of the **FOUR**
SPIRITUAL
LAWS?

God loves you and
offers a wonderful
plan for your life?

A photograph of a forest fire at night. The background is filled with intense orange and yellow flames consuming trees. In the foreground, a dark, silty stream flows, and two deer are standing in the water, their forms silhouetted against the fire's glow.

What a Message...

Jonah's Message...

"Nineveh's *bad* and God's *mad*!

You better *turn* or you're gonna *burn*!"

Jonah 1: Go! No!

- I. God commands His people to tell the wicked how much He hates their **sin** (1-2).
- II. God's people often don't want to tell bad people that they're **bad** (3).

Where would Jonah go?

Tarshish

Nineveh

Gath-Hepher

Joppa



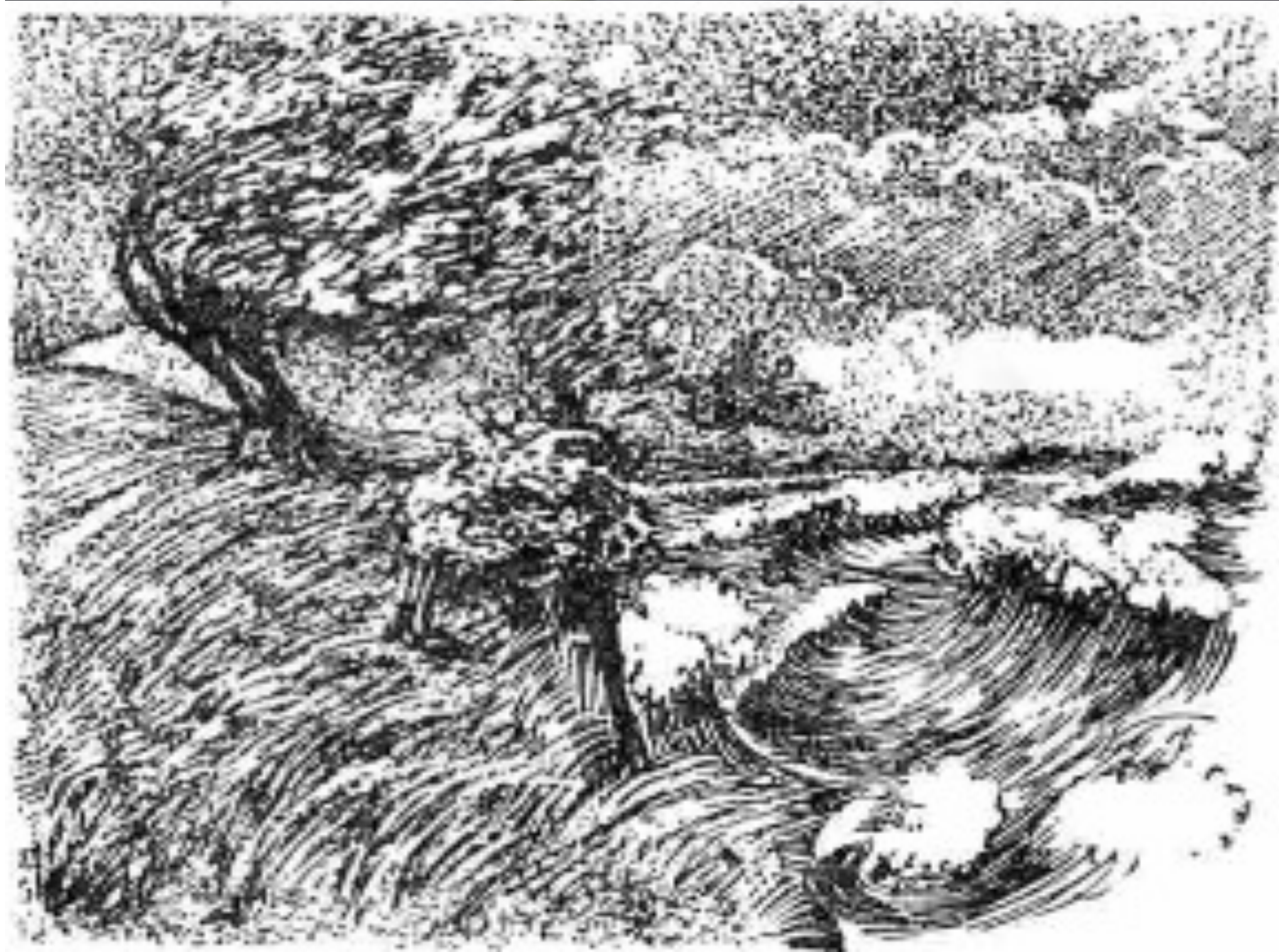
Joppa was an important seaport

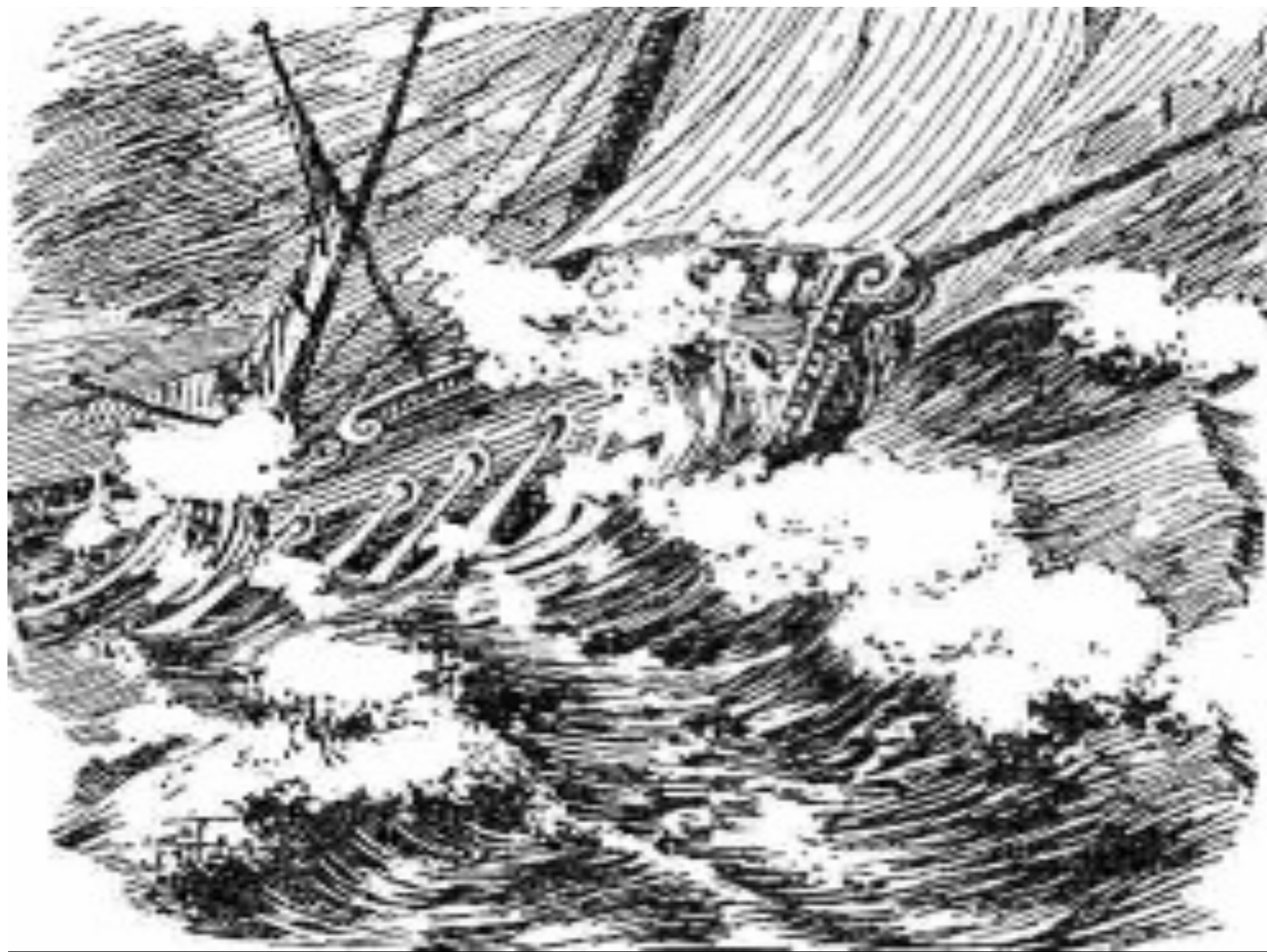


- **Going down to Joppa was the way to get out of Israel by ship—unlike Peter 800 years later**

Jonah 1: Go! No! So Row!

- I. God commands His people to tell the wicked how much He hates their **sin** (1-2).
- II. God's people often don't want to tell bad people that they're **bad** (3).
- III. Neglecting evangelism brings **consequences** (4-16).





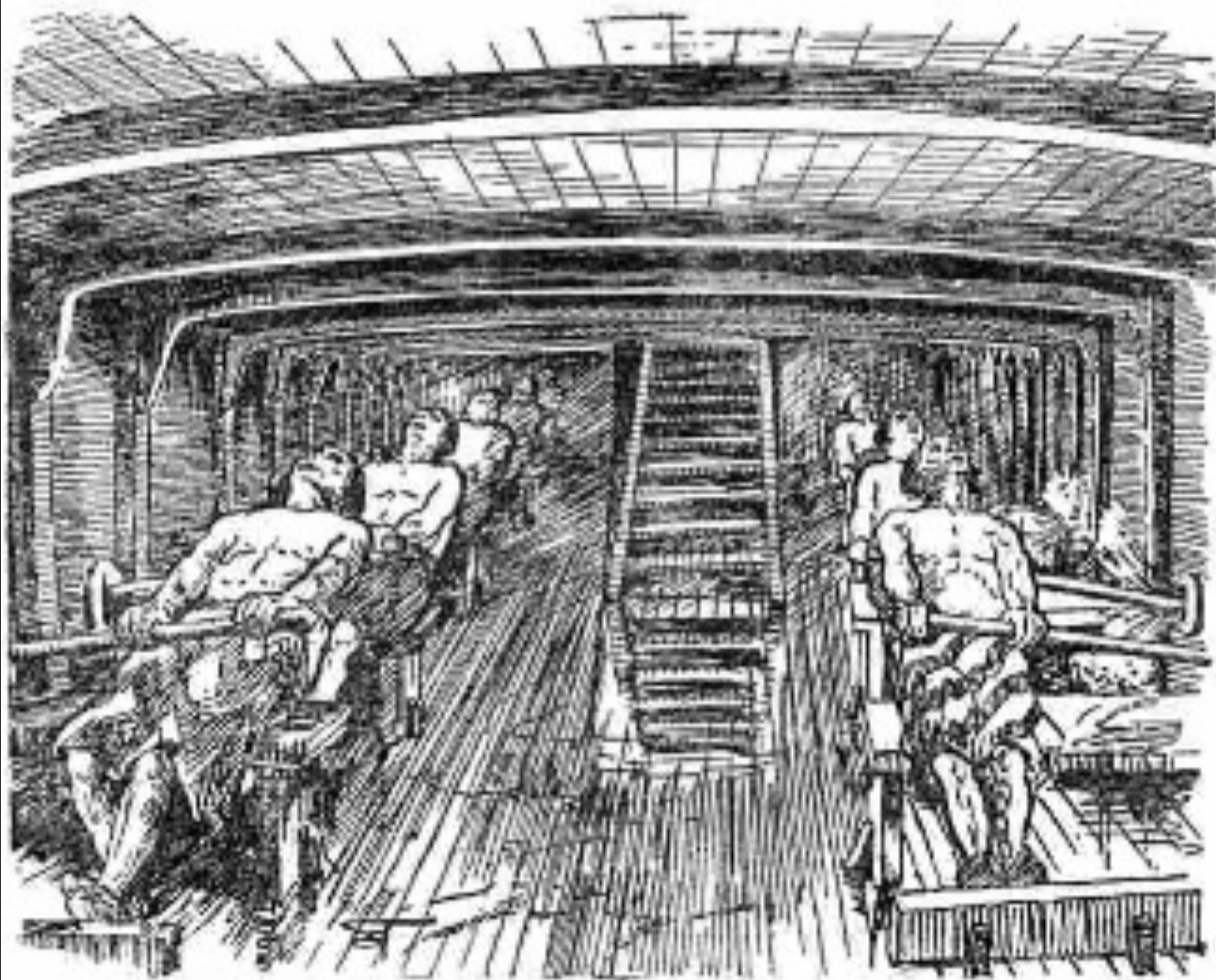




⁷ Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit.

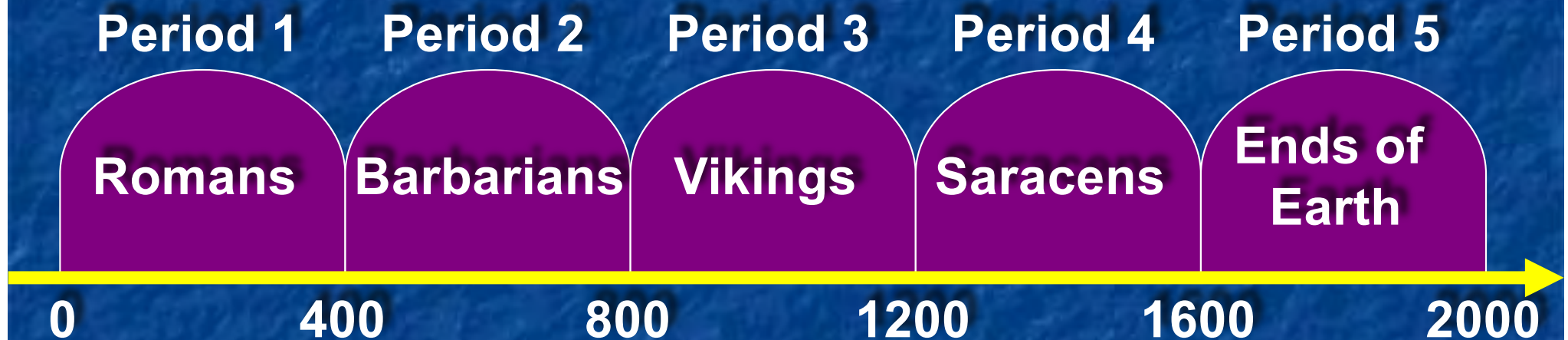
⁸ "Why has this awful storm come down on us?" they demanded. "Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?"

⁹ Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land" (1:7-9 NLT).





Periods of Christian Expansion



God often used invasions of His people
to convert the invaders!

Ralph Winter, *The World Christian Movement*


Main Idea of Jonah 1

Neglecting evangelism
brings consequences

*God still uses means
today to show us His
seriousness about
evangelism*

The Ten Million Dollar Question

**How should we respond
to God's goodness
despite our sin?**

A large whale shark is swimming underwater, its mouth open. A diver is visible in the background to the left. The water is dark blue with some white foam on the surface.

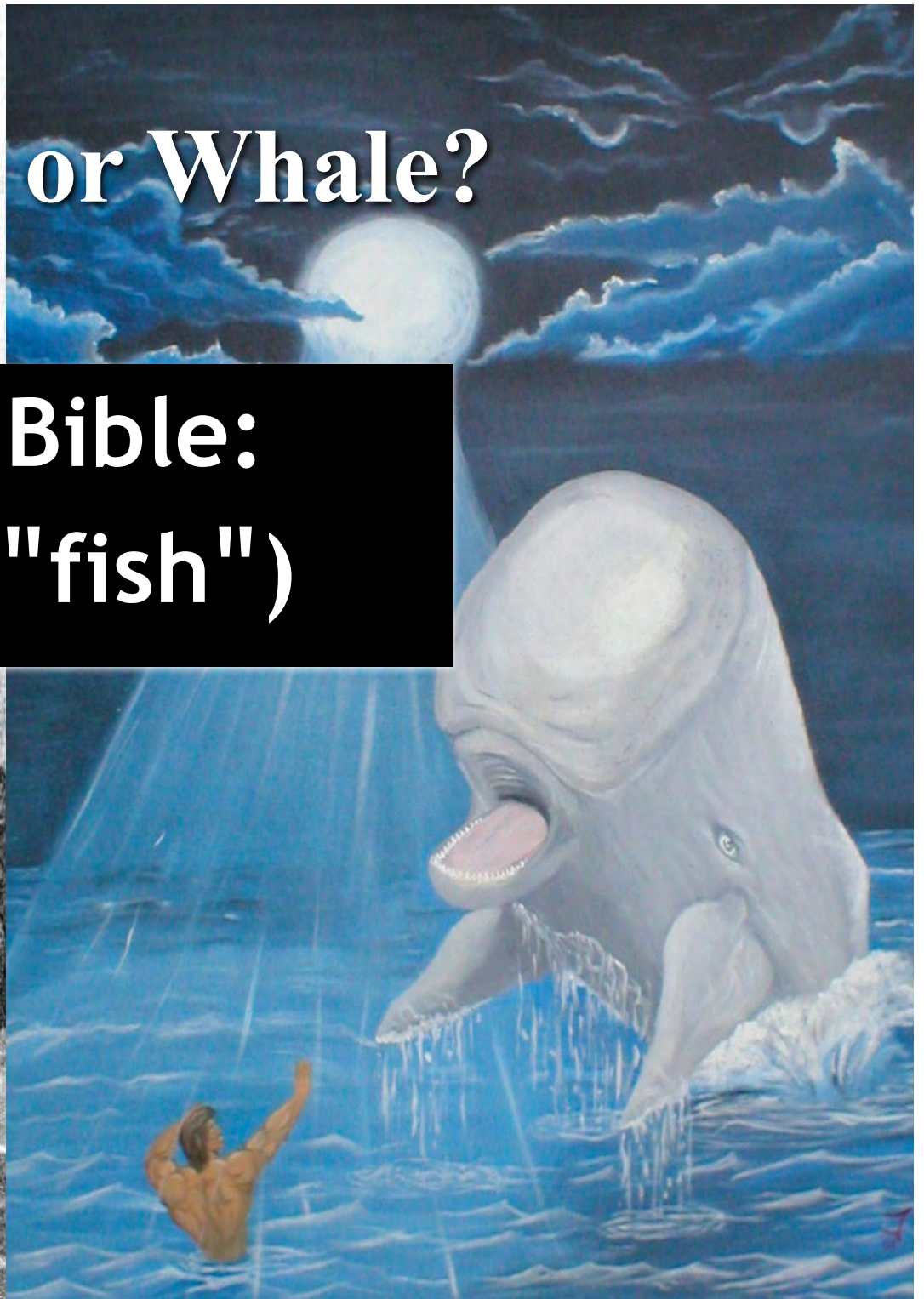
Thank God for His
***compassion on you—despite
your sin.***

"Lo!" Jonah 2

Huge Fish?

or Whale?

**The Bible:
Dag ("fish")**

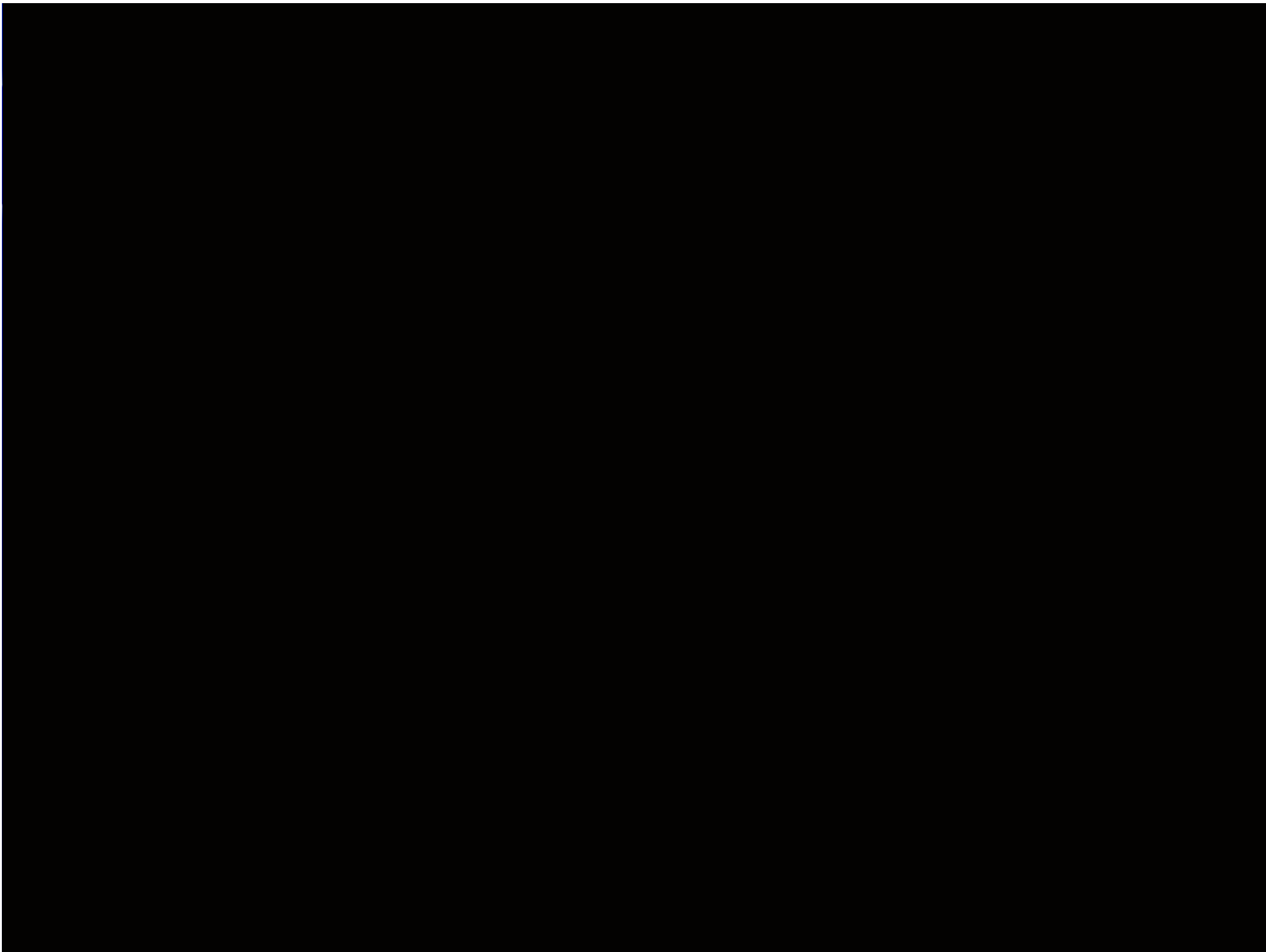


Inside the Fish



Inside the Fish





Jonah **thanked** God for
delivering him from
drowning (1:17–2:10)

Wouldn't you?



Judgment?

Deliverance!

Thanksgiving Psalm

Prayer (1-2)
Lament (3-7)
Vow (8-9)



Jonah 2



Jonah 2

Thanksgiving Psalm

Prayer (1-2)

**"In my distress I
called to the
LORD and he
answered
me..."**



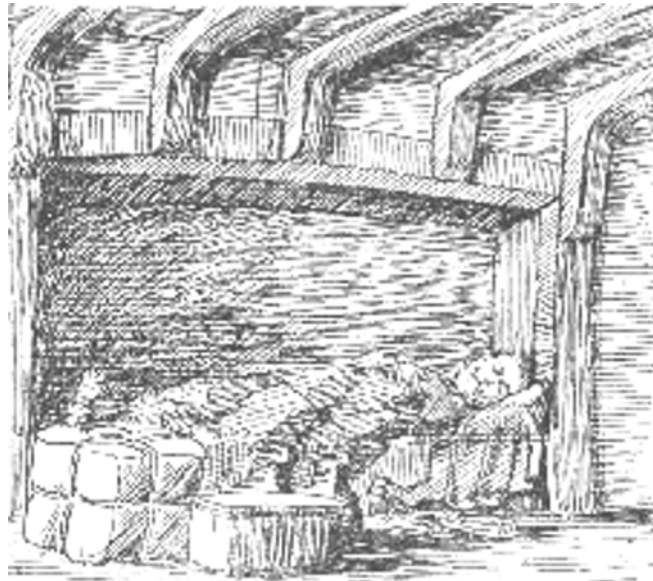
Jonah 2

Thanksgiving Psalm

Prayer (1-2)
Lament (3-7)

"You hurled
me..."
(2:3, cf. 1:4, 5,
12, 15)

"went **down** to
Joppa" (1:3a)



"had gone **down**
below deck" (1:5)

"**Down**" in
Jonah



"sank **down** to
the roots of the
mountains" (2:6)



Jonah 2

Thanksgiving Psalm

Prayer (1-2)
Lament (3-7)
Vow (8-9)

Jonah's Vow

"But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD" (2:9 NIV)



The Result? Jonah Vomited



The Ten Million Dollar Question

**How should we respond
to God's goodness
despite our sin?**

We should **thank** God
that He spares us
despite our
disobedience

Distinguishing some key terms...



Grace: God gives us what we don't deserve

Mercy: God doesn't give us what we do deserve

Justice: God gives us what we do deserve

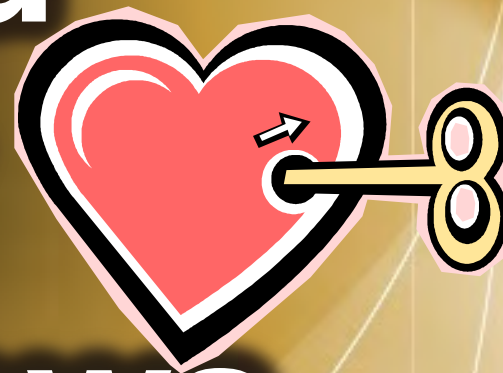
The Big Idea of Jonah 2

Thank God

His **mercy**

overshadows

His **justice**



*Share God's message since
people are **responsive**.*

"Go! Yo! Whoa!"
Jonah 3



SUCCESS



FAILURE

Do you fear

f

a

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?



Many Fear Evangelism!

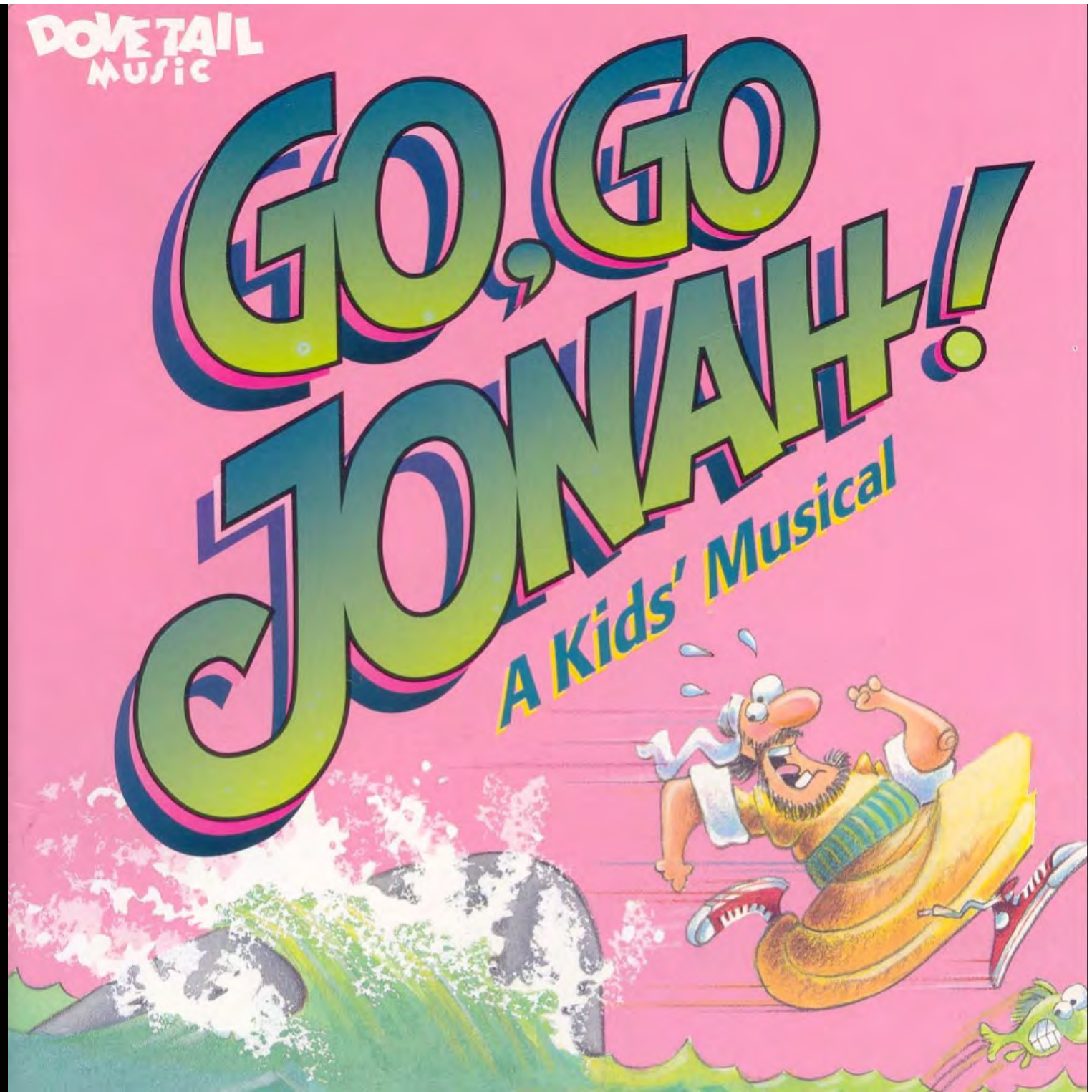


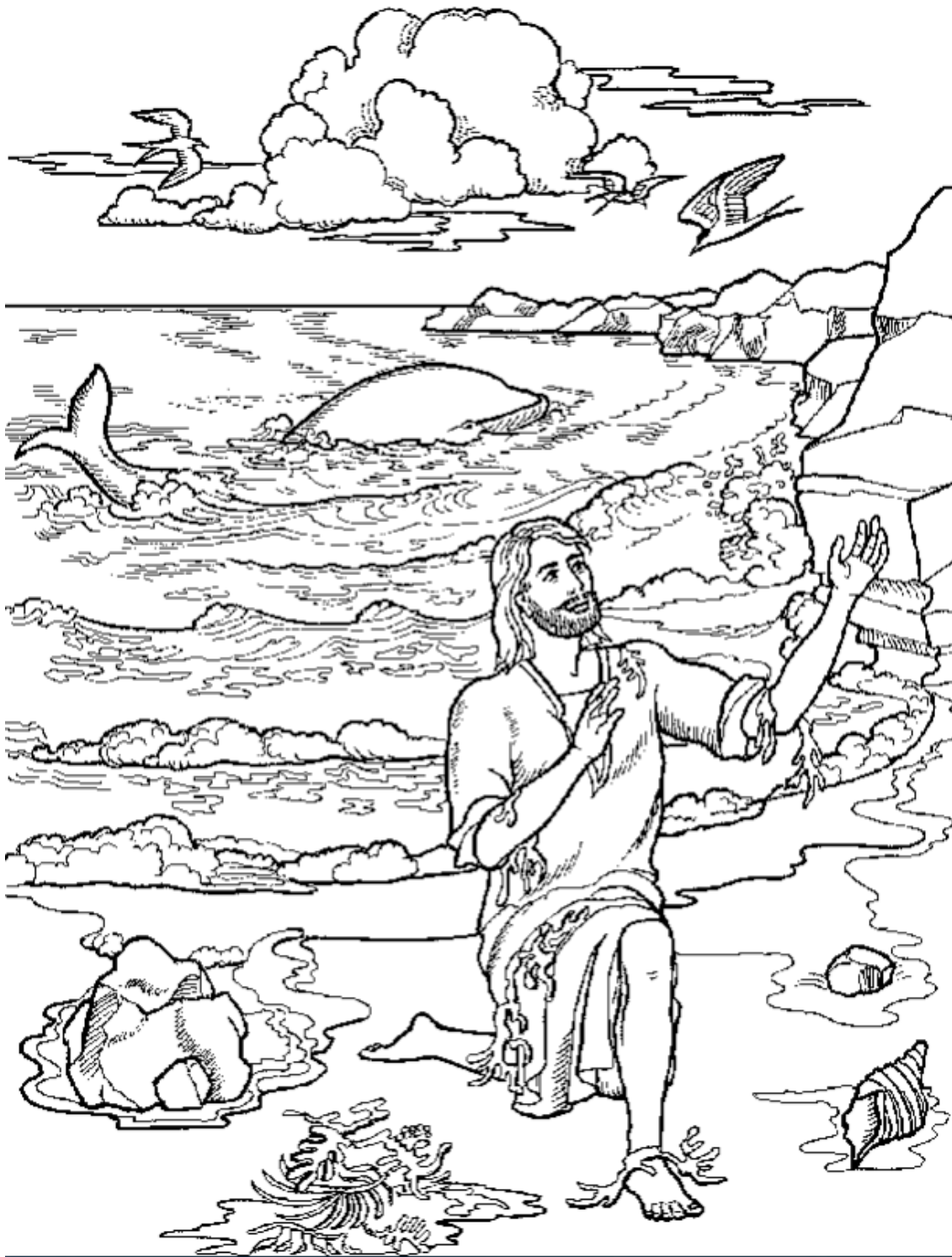
“When I was a kid I would go up to someone’s porch, ring the doorbell, and run like the dickens. I still do it, except now our church calls it ‘outreach training.’”

The background of the slide is an abstract composition of vibrant red and yellow wavy lines and dots, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines are thick and slightly blurred, while the dots are small and bright, scattered throughout the composition. The overall effect is a dynamic and energetic visual field.

**How does God look at
failure—especially in
evangelism?**

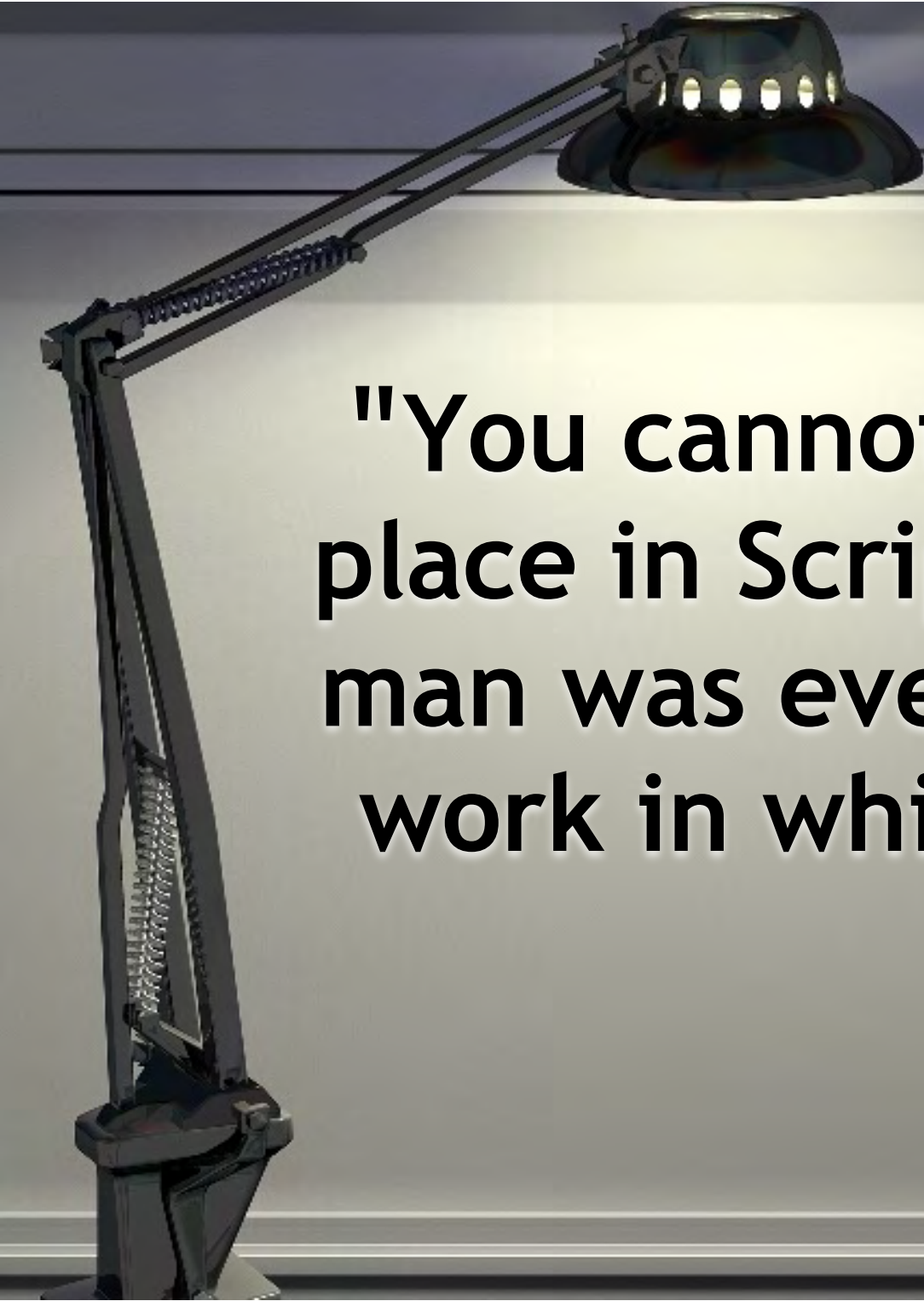
Jonah
failed
to go
at first





Jonah 3: Go!

- I. GO! God is the God of the **second chance** for unfaithful messengers (1-2).



**"You cannot find a single
place in Scripture where a
man was ever sent to do a
work in which he failed"**

—D. L. Moody

The God of the "Second Chance"

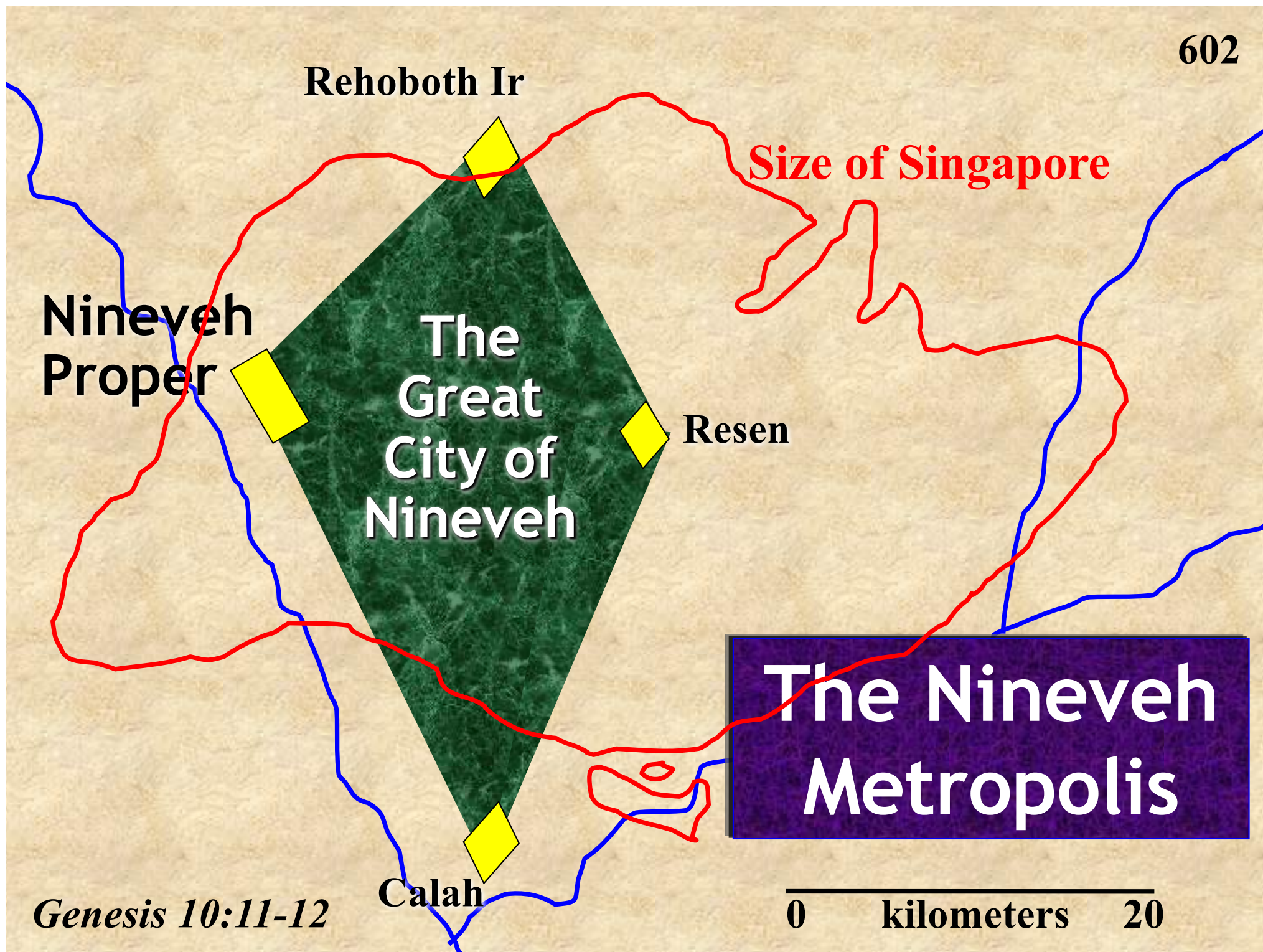
- Abraham
- Moses
- David
- Paul
- John Mark

Failure is an event—Not a person



Jonah 3: Go! Yo!

- I. GO! God is the God of the **second chance** for unfaithful messengers (1-2).
- II. YO! God's people especially need to declare His message to those who have never **heard** (3-4).





**"Now 40 days
and Nineveh
overturned!"
(Hebrew message in
5 words)**

עוֹד אַרְבַּעִים יוֹם וְנִינְוָה נֶהְפְּכָת:

Jonah 3: Go! Yo! Whoa!

- I. GO! God is the God of the **second chance** for unfaithful messengers (1-2).
- II. YO! God's people especially need to declare His message to those who have never **heard** (3-4).
- III. WHOA! The results of sharing about God are often surprisingly **positive** (5-10).



“What did I do?”

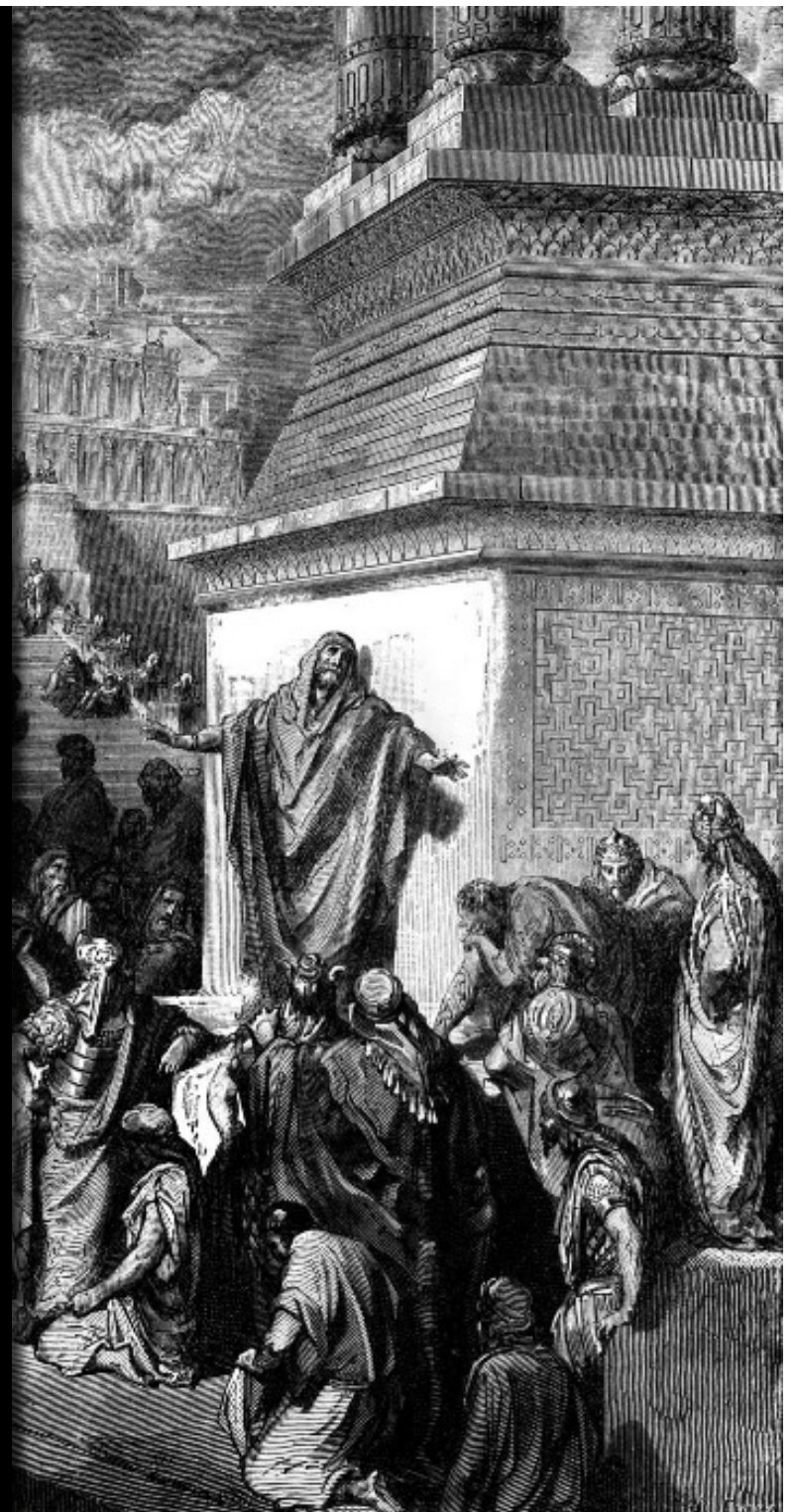


Jonah 3:5-10

Jonah in Wonderland?

"And what a wonderful result followed his preaching! The greatest prophets in Israel had not been able to accomplish anything like this... We are in wonderland! Surely this is not the record of actual historical events nor was it ever intended as such. It is a sin against the author to treat as literal prose what he intended as poetry"

(Julius A. Bewer, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Jonah*, ICC, 3-4).



Preparation for Repentance?

Events Leading to Nineveh's Repentance in 758 BC:

- 787 Monotheistic worship of Nabu started
- 765 Plague throughout Assyria
- 763 Revolt in the city of Asshur
- 763 Eclipse of the sun
- 762 Revolt in the city of Asshur
- 761 Revolt in the city of Arrapha
- 760 Revolt in the city of Arrapha
- 759 Another plague
- 758 "Peace in the land" (repentance under Jonah?)





**People are
more
responsive
than you
think!**

**The Main Idea
of Jonah 3**

God's Compassion on Gentiles

Disobeys Missionary Mandate			Obeys Missionary Mandate		
Chapters 1–2			Chapters 3–4		
God's Mercy on Jonah			God's Mercy on Nineveh		
The Great Sea			The Great City		
Commis- sioning 1:1-2	Disobed- ience 1:3	Conse- quences 1:4–2:10	Recommis- sioning 3:1-2	Obed- ience 3:3-4	Conse- quences 3:5–4:10
"Go!"	"No!"	"So Row!" "Lo!"	"Go!"	"Yo!"	"Whoa!" "Oh No!"
Jonah's Perversity Chapter 1		Jonah's Prayer Chapter 2	Jonah's Preaching Chapter 3		Jonah's Pouting Chapter 4
about 760 BC					

*Show greater compassion on
people than things*

“Oh, No!”

Jonah 4

**Jonah got uptight about
things and forgot about
people (4:1–9).**



A. God's concern was for **Nineveh**, but its salvation made Jonah angry (4:1-4).

Key Verse

"[Jonah] prayed to the LORD, 'O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity'" (4:2)

Dear God, I beg you!



**Give me the Wisdom
to understand my boss.**

**Give me the Love
to forgive him.**

**Give me the Patience
to understand his deeds.**

**But Dearest God,
Don't give me the Power.**

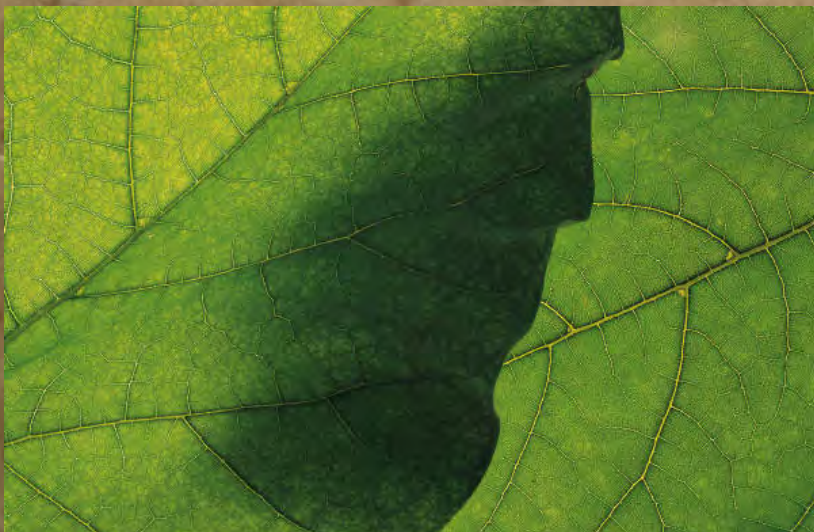
**Because if you give me the
Power...**

I'll break his head

Hudson Taylor



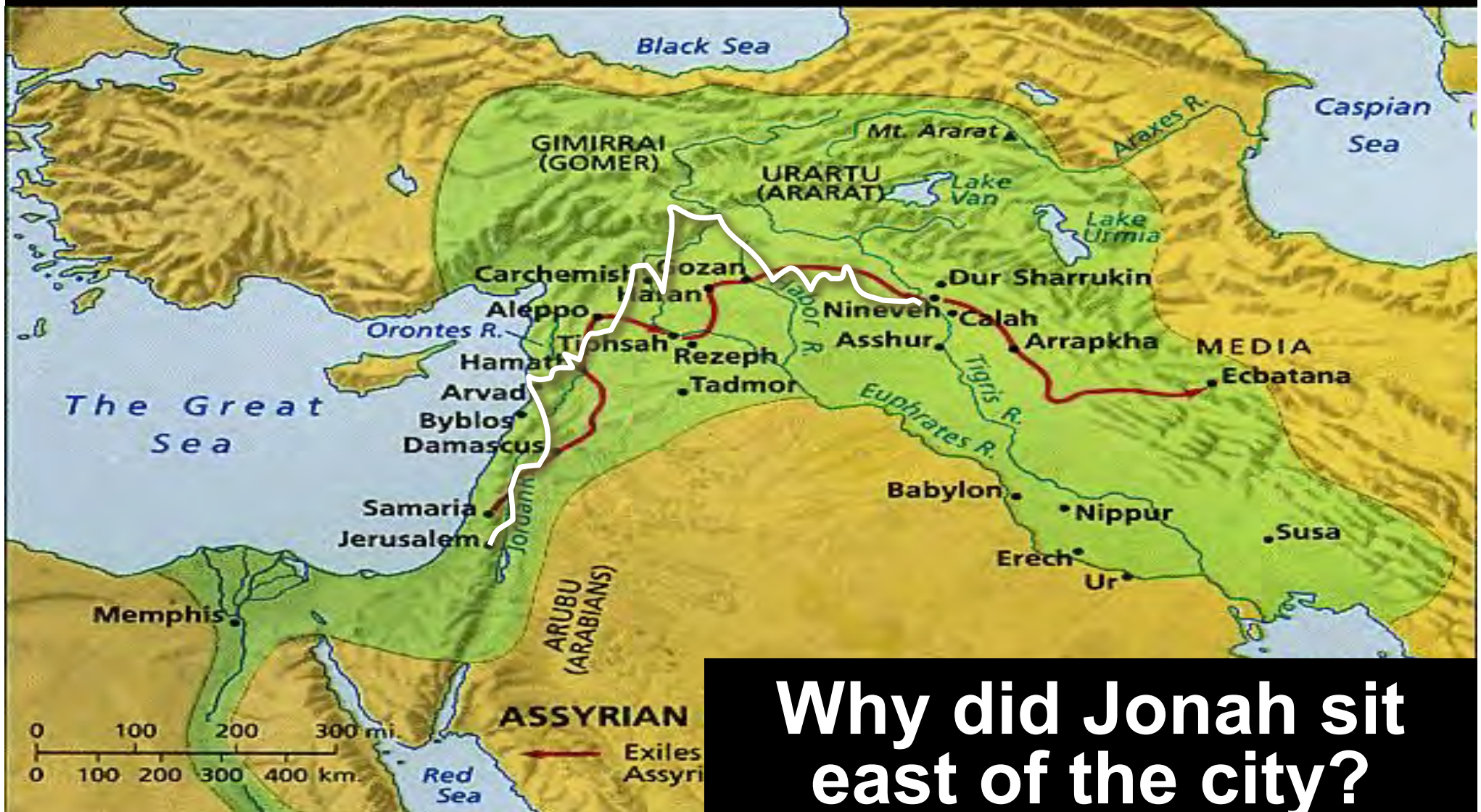
JONAH'S CONCERN
WAS FOR A **PLANT**, SO
ITS DESTRUCTION MADE
HIM ANGRY (4:5-9)



JONAH
POUTED

Jonah
went to
the east
of the
city





Why did Jonah sit east of the city?

Perhaps he thought God's judgment was going to come from Jerusalem on the west and he didn't want to be in the way!

Feast of Tabernacles (Shelters)



Attack & Burn



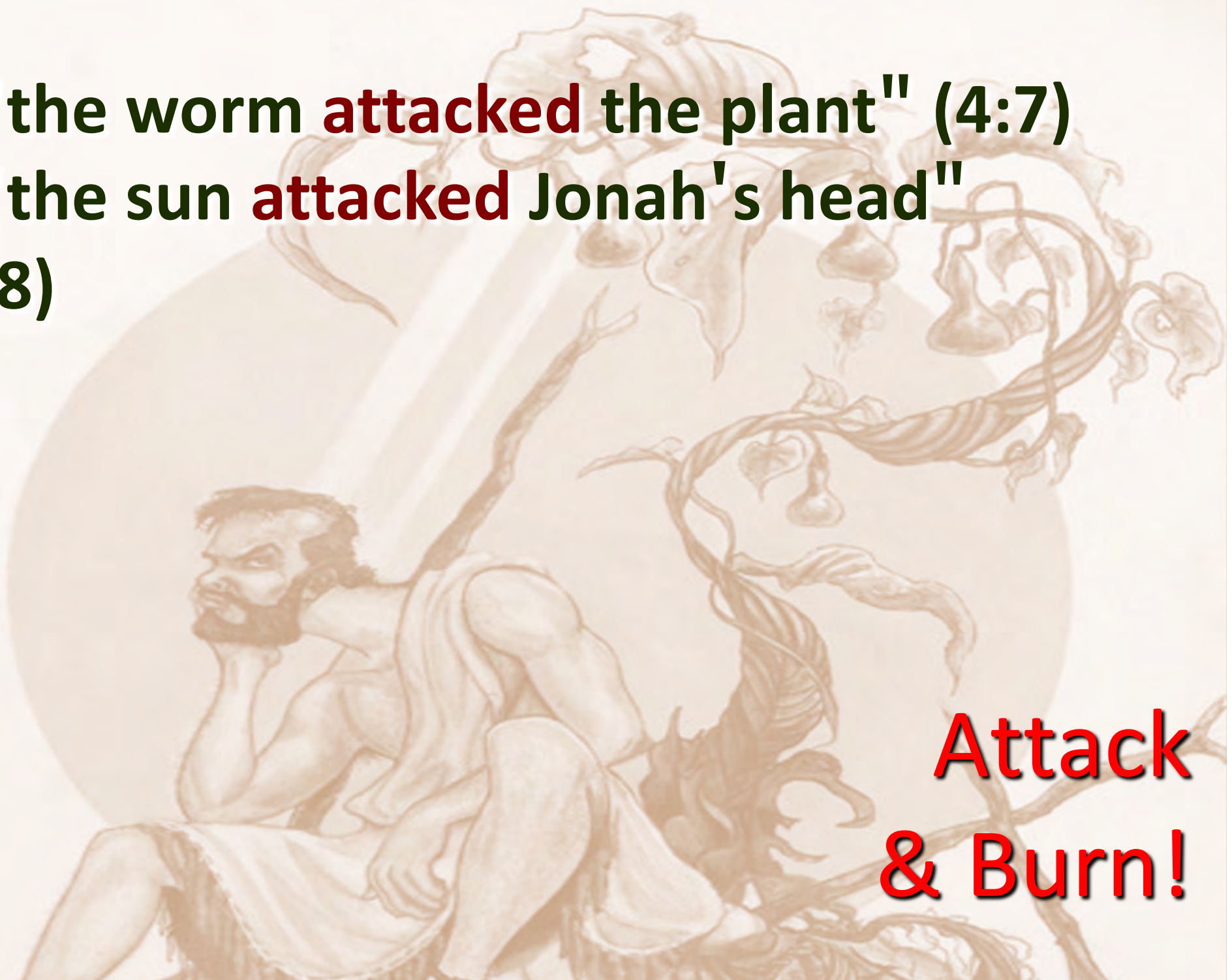
God...

- **"appointed a fish"** (1:17)
- **"appointed a plant"** (4:6)
- **"appointed a worm"** (4:7)
- **"appointed a wind"** (4:8)

**A play on
words**

- "the worm **attacked** the plant" (4:7)
- "the sun **attacked** Jonah's head" (4:8)

**Attack
& Burn!**



What a turn of events....

Chapter 1: Jonah's message...

"Nineveh's **bad** and God's **mad**!

You better **turn** or you're gonna **burn**!"

Chapter 4: Jonah's mean...

"God's **glad** and Jonah's **mad**!

Nineveh *has* **turned** & Jonah's **burned**!"



Put **people** over
things (4:10-11)

Things? or People?



Things? or People?



Then the Lord said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly" (4:10 NLT).

Only Three Things are Eternal

1. God
2. God's Word
3. People

*So where
should you
invest your life?*

JONAH

**120,000
to judge**

Barbarians

**Who cares for
their animals?**

GOD

**120,000
to save**

Naïve

"I do"

**"You had pity
on the plant..."**

**Shouldn't I
have pity on
the 120,000
people of
Nineveh?**

**... and the
animals as well?"**

How can you have God's compassion for people?



Your time
Your money
Your view
Your ear

"If you don't share, then you don't care"



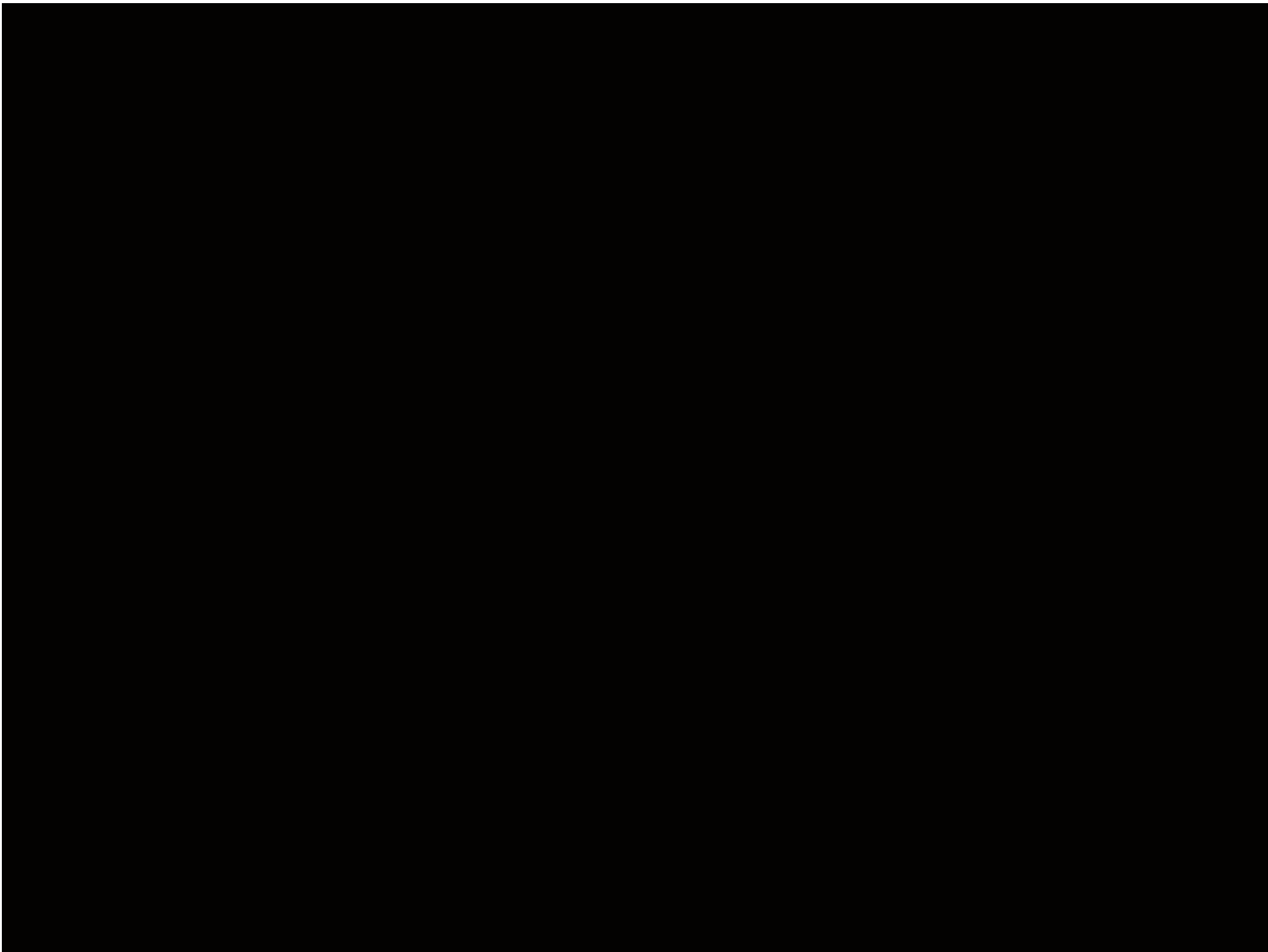
The Point of Jonah:

**Make people the highest
priority in your life.**

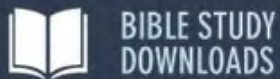
***Responding to God's heart means
catching His heart for the lost.***

Thought Questions

- What parallels do you see between your life and Jonah?
- What causes Christians—especially older ones—to lose their compassion for the lost?
- What practices have you found helpful to maintain your compassion for unbelievers?




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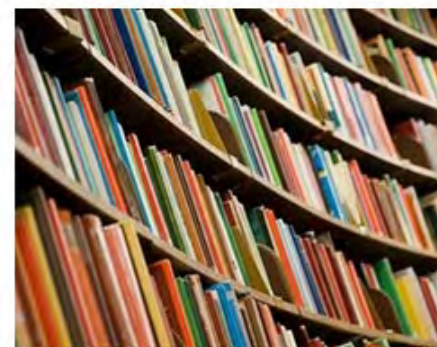
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A large banner image showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. The book has a small gold cross emblem on the front cover.

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