

# JONAH



**Key Word**

**599  
343**

**Compassion**

**Jonah**



**Theme**

**599**

**God's Compassion on  
Gentiles**

**Jonah**

# Key Verse

599

**"[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).**

**Jonah**

# Kingdom Statement

343

**God is shown as a compassionate King in Jonah's failure to serve as His divine representative to Nineveh (4:10-11), noting Israel's same sin towards all Gentiles.**

**Jonah**





## Summary Statement

**Jonah's disobedience and indifference towards Nineveh symbolize these sins in Israel and depict God's sovereignty and **compassion** for responsive Gentiles to remind Israel of its missionary purpose to the nations.**

# Jonah

# Covenant

347d

**God's covenant was made to Abraham and the nation that came from him, but God invites all Gentiles who trust in the LORD of Israel to enter with Israel in this covenant (2:8; cf. Gen. 12:3).**

**Jonah**



# Redemption

347d

**Redemption from death exists for sailors by acts of honor (1:13-15), for Jonah by the fish (1:17) and plant (4:6-8) and for Nineveh by repentance (3:10) to show God redeems all who trust Him.**

**Jonah**



# Messiah

**Christ cared for Jew and Gentile alike in his death, burial and resurrection depicted in Jonah's three-day fish ordeal, as Jonah is the only prophet that Jesus compared to himself (Matt. 12:39-41).**

**Jonah**

# **Jonah** God's Compassion on Gentiles

599

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 (Wants to die)		Jonah's Prayer Chapter 2 (Wants to live)	Jonah's Preaching Chapter 3 (Wants to live)		Jonah's Pouting Chapter 4 (Wants to die)
about 760 BC					

# Jonah

- 1 **F**light from God's presence
- 2 **I**ntercession from within fish
- 3 **S**ackcloth worn in Nineveh
- 4 **H**uman failure of Jonah



Barry Huddleston, *The Acrostic Summarized Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992)



# Be Caring

A silhouette of a person standing on a grassy hill, looking out over a landscape at sunset. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, and the horizon is visible in the distance.

*Jonah*

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

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




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

**"Go! No! So Row!"**

**Jonah 1**



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**

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

**"Go! Yo! Whoa!"**  
**Jonah 3**

*Show greater compassion on  
**people** than things*

**“Oh, No!”**

**Jonah 4**



## **The Point of Jonah:**

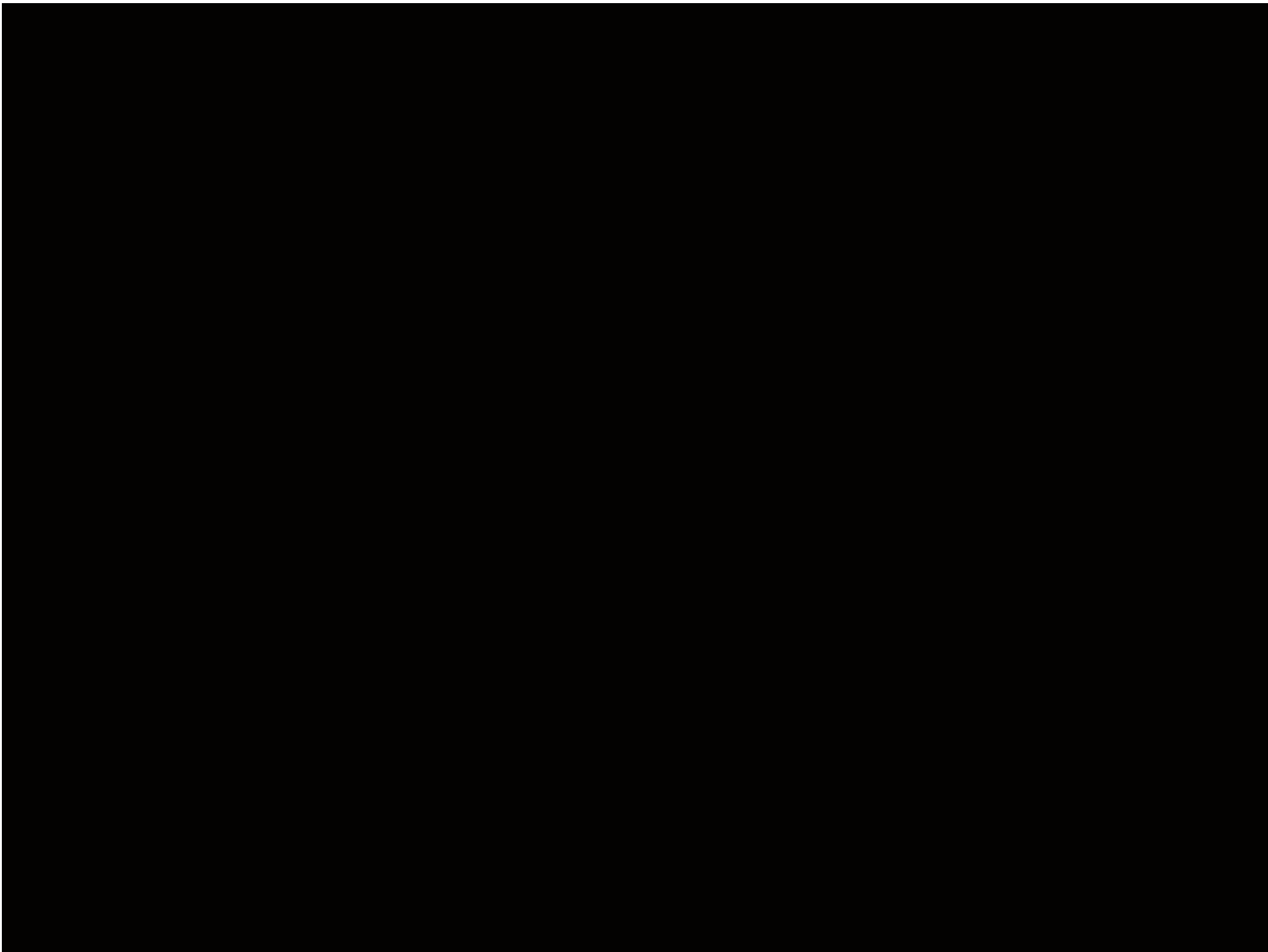
**Make people the highest  
*priority* in your life.**

***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?





**What's Most Important?**

**THE MOST**  
**IMPORTANT**  
**THING**

# What's Most Important?



Mark 12:29-31 • Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. <sup>30</sup> And you must **love the Lord** your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'

<sup>31</sup> The second is equally important:

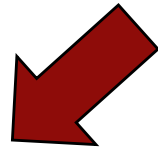
'**Love your neighbor** as yourself.'

No other commandment is greater than these."

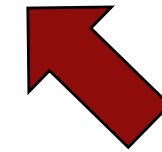
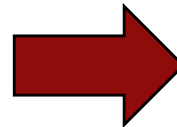


***Our Vision is to...***

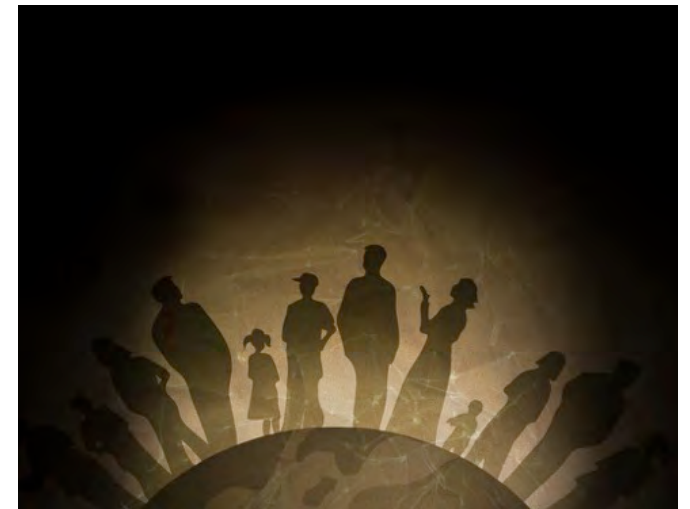
**Love God**



**Love the Church**



**Love the Nations**



A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking out over a landscape at sunset. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, and the horizon is visible in the distance.

# Be Caring

## *The Book of Jonah*

Dr. Rick Griffith, Crossroads International Church Singapore  
[BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)



**A missed  
opportunity**



# Do you care for people?





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





# The Twelve

**Courage to Confront Culture**

**—A Preaching Series on the Minor Prophets—**



Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

**Humble**

**Be...**

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

**Caring**

Jeremiah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi



# MINOR PROPHETS MAJOR POINTS





# JONAH



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



# 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!"**

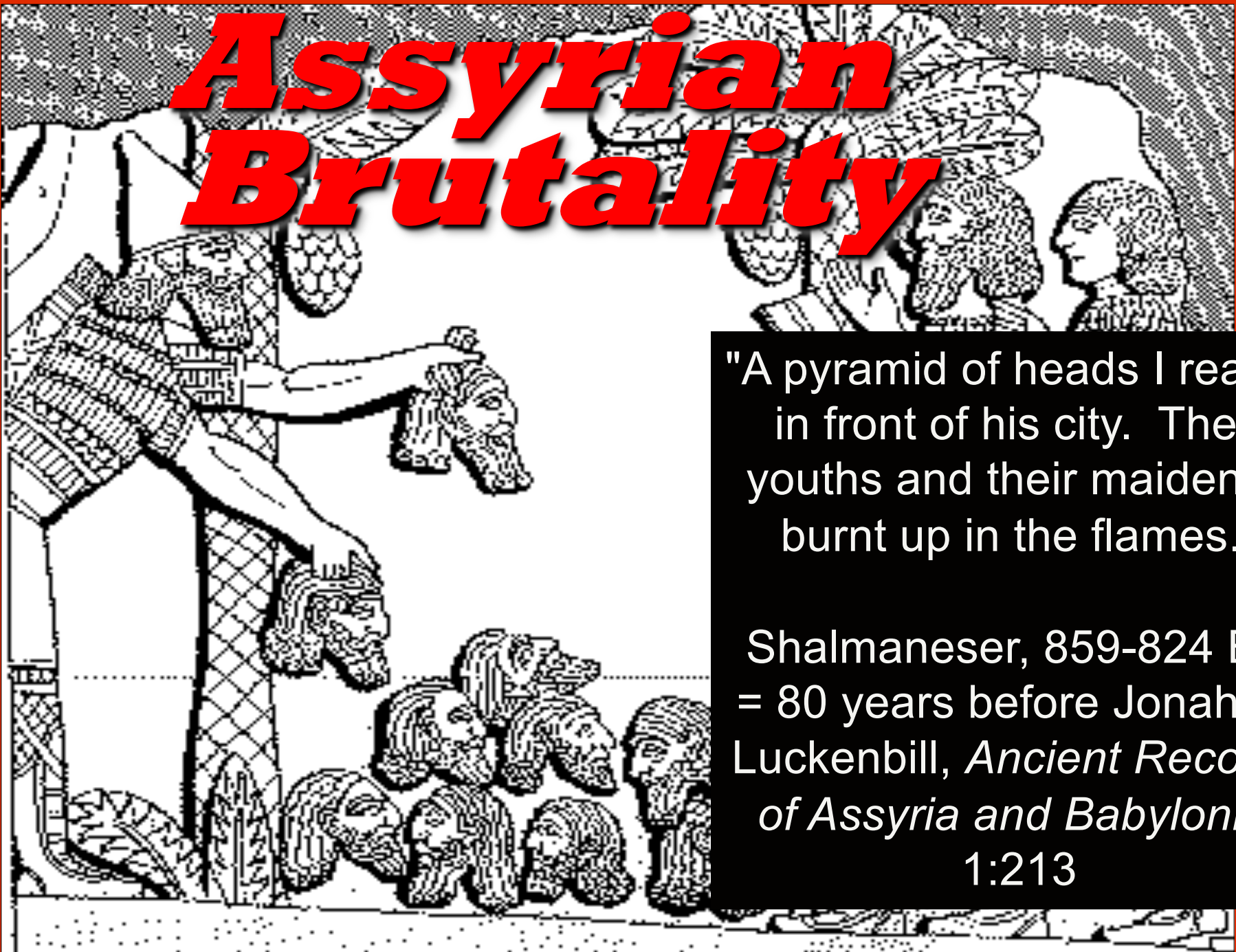
**Jonah 1**

# 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**





# Siege & Attack!



**See H. Hunt, "Sixth Century Siege Warfare,"  
*Biblical Illustrator* (Fall '96): 43-45**



## 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



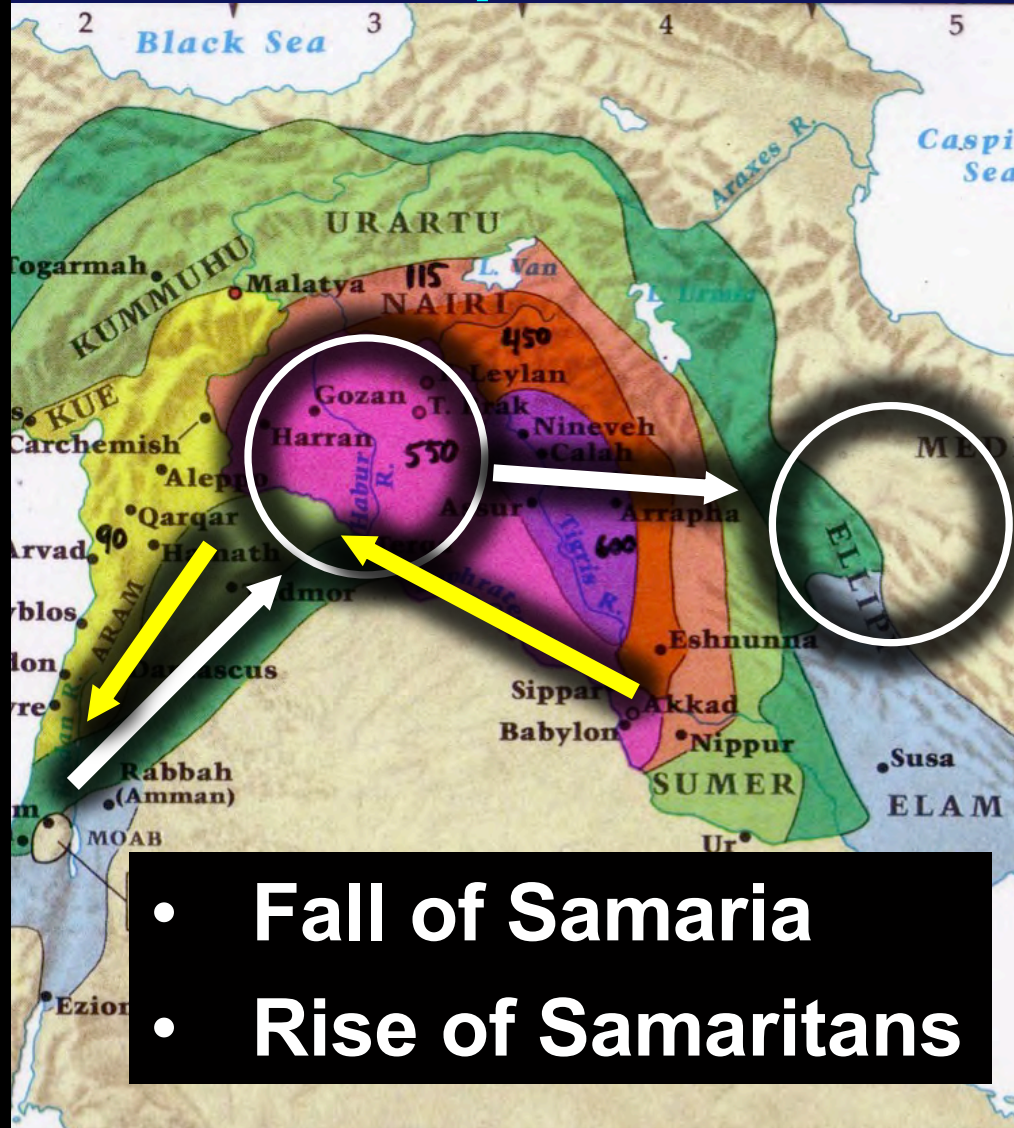


# Assyrian Expansion



And the king of Assyria transported groups of people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and resettled them in the towns of Samaria, replacing the people of Israel. So the Assyrians took over Samaria and the other towns of Israel (2 Kings 17:24).

# Assyrian Developments



- Fall of Samaria
- Rise of Samaritans

Finally, in the ninth year of King Hoshea's reign, Samaria fell, and the people of Israel were exiled to Assyria. They were settled in colonies in Halah, along the banks of the Habor River in Gozan, and among the cities of the Medes (2 Kings 17:6).

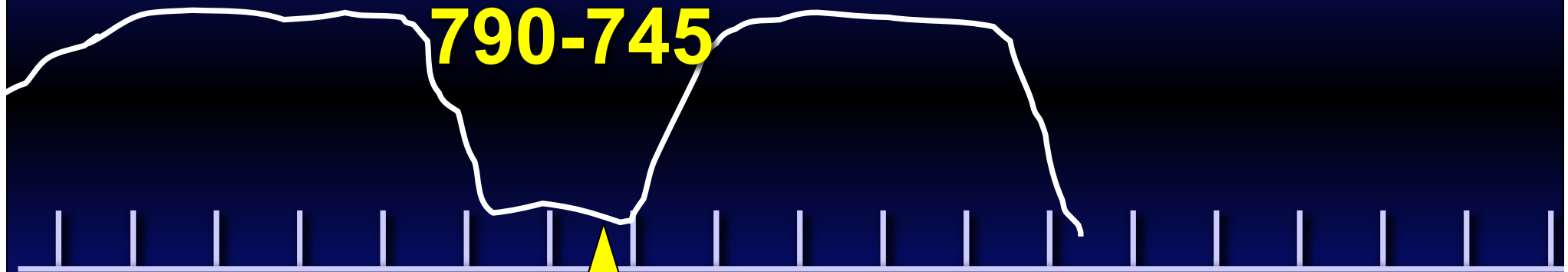
# The Setting: Assyrian Might

**Strong**  
**883-783**

**Weak**

**Strong**  
**745-626**

**790-745**



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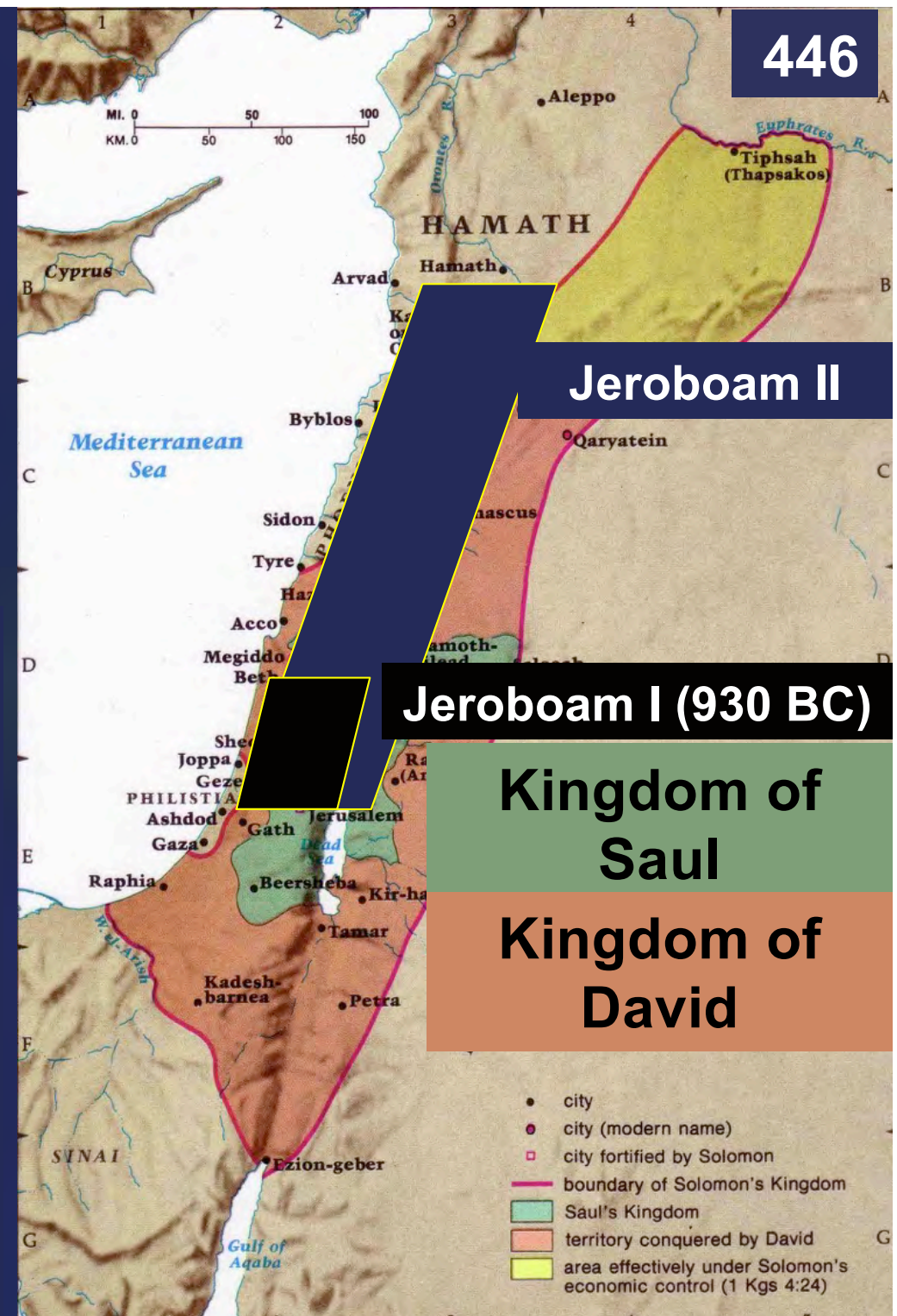
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**Jonah**

# 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, two deer are standing in a body of water, their silhouettes visible against the bright light reflecting off the water's surface.

**What a Message...**

***Jonah's Message...***

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

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



# *Israel's Strategic Location*







**Ivory comb from Megiddo, representative of the wealth  
and luxury assailed by Amos (3:15; 6:4)  
—*Oriental Institute, University of Chicago***



## Summary of Jonah's Time

**Date:** During the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel  
(2 Kings 14:25; 758 BC)

**Setting:**

1. Assyria in temporary decline due to internal dissension
2. Israel's borders expanded tremendously
3. A narrow, nationalistic focus in Israel, which enjoyed its prosperity

# 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

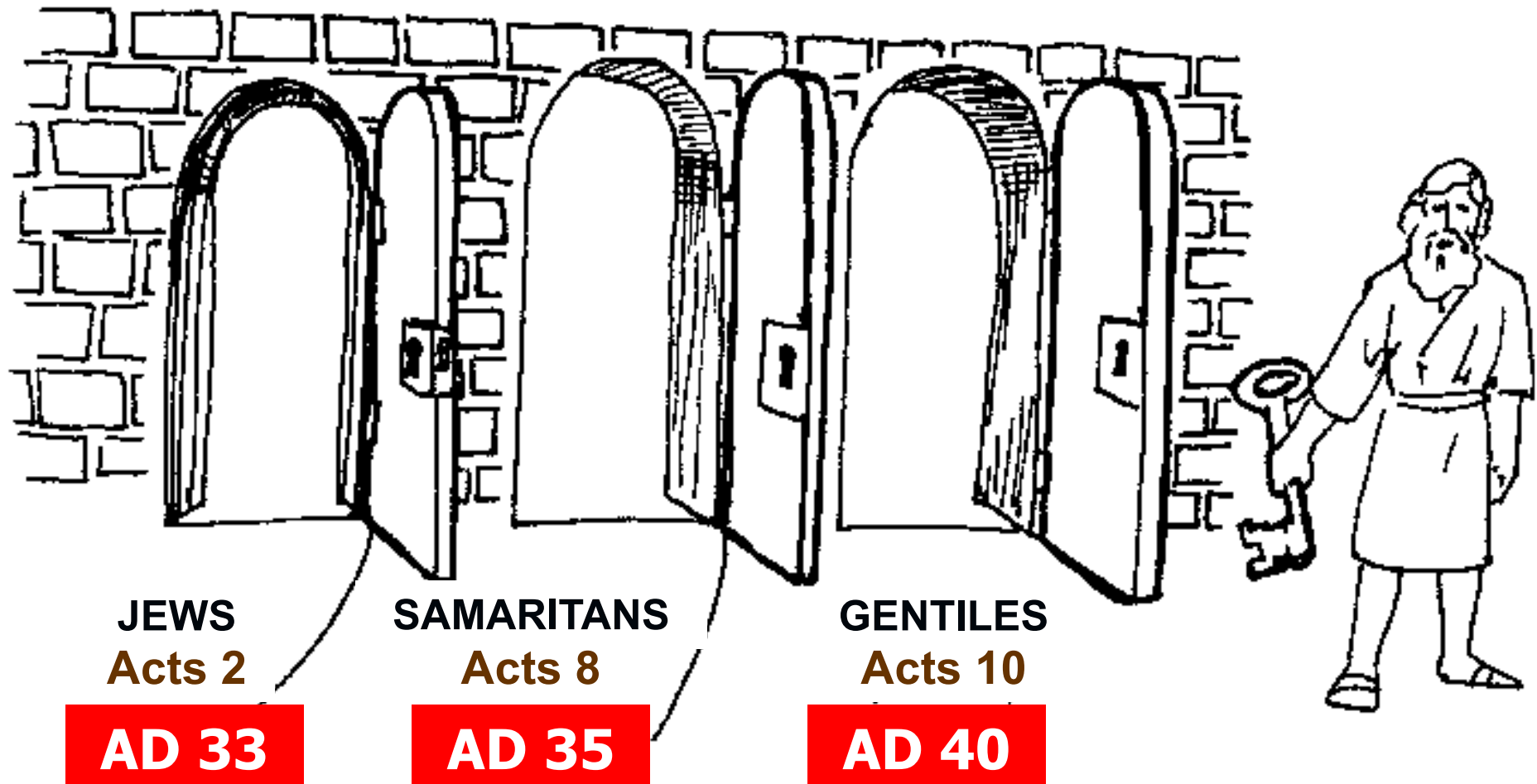


- **Going down to Joppa was the way to get out of Israel by ship—unlike Peter 800 years later**

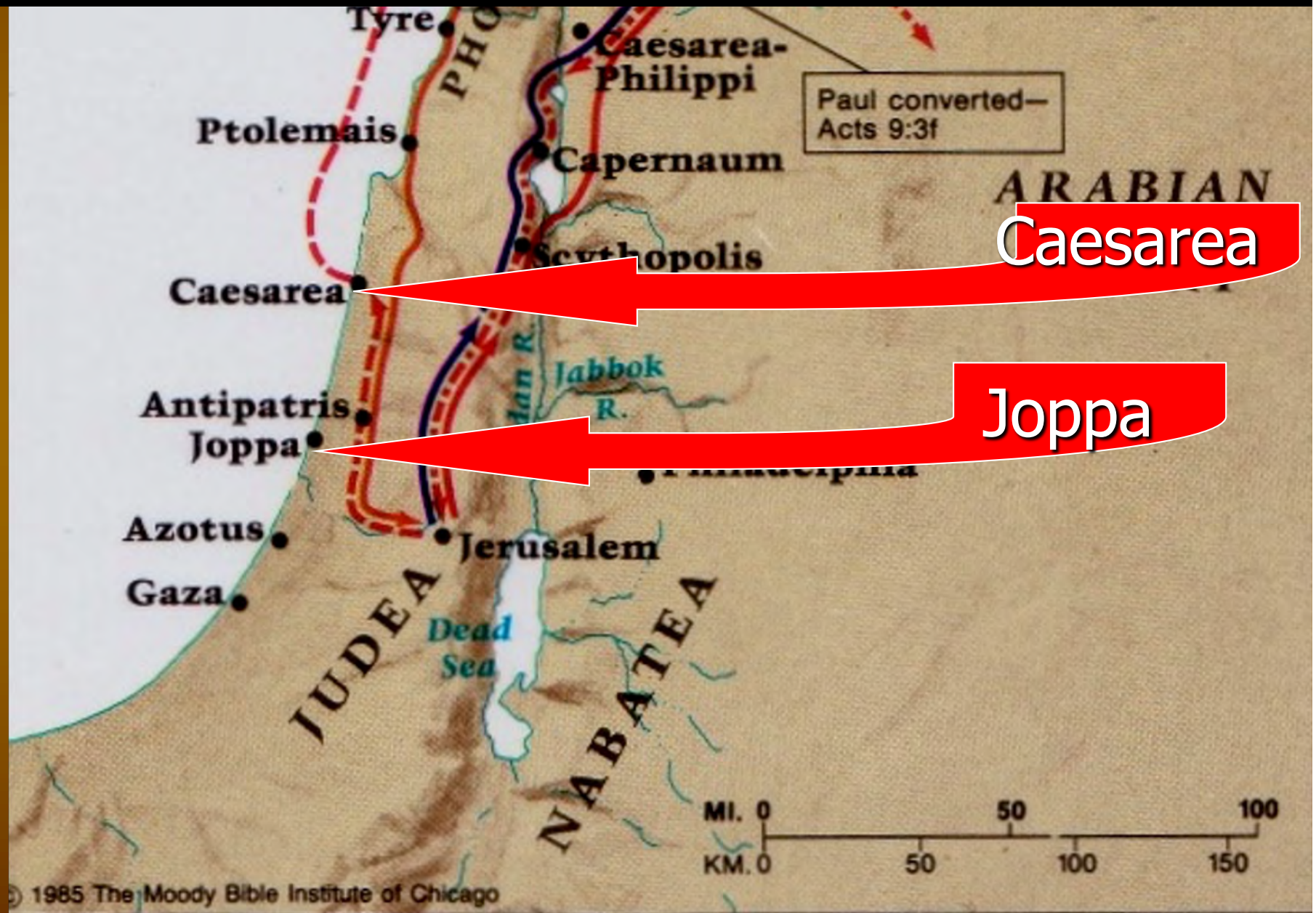
**Q: How did God overcome the prejudice  
in the Church at Jerusalem?**

**A: Gradually**

**PETER'S KEYS OF THE KINGDOM**

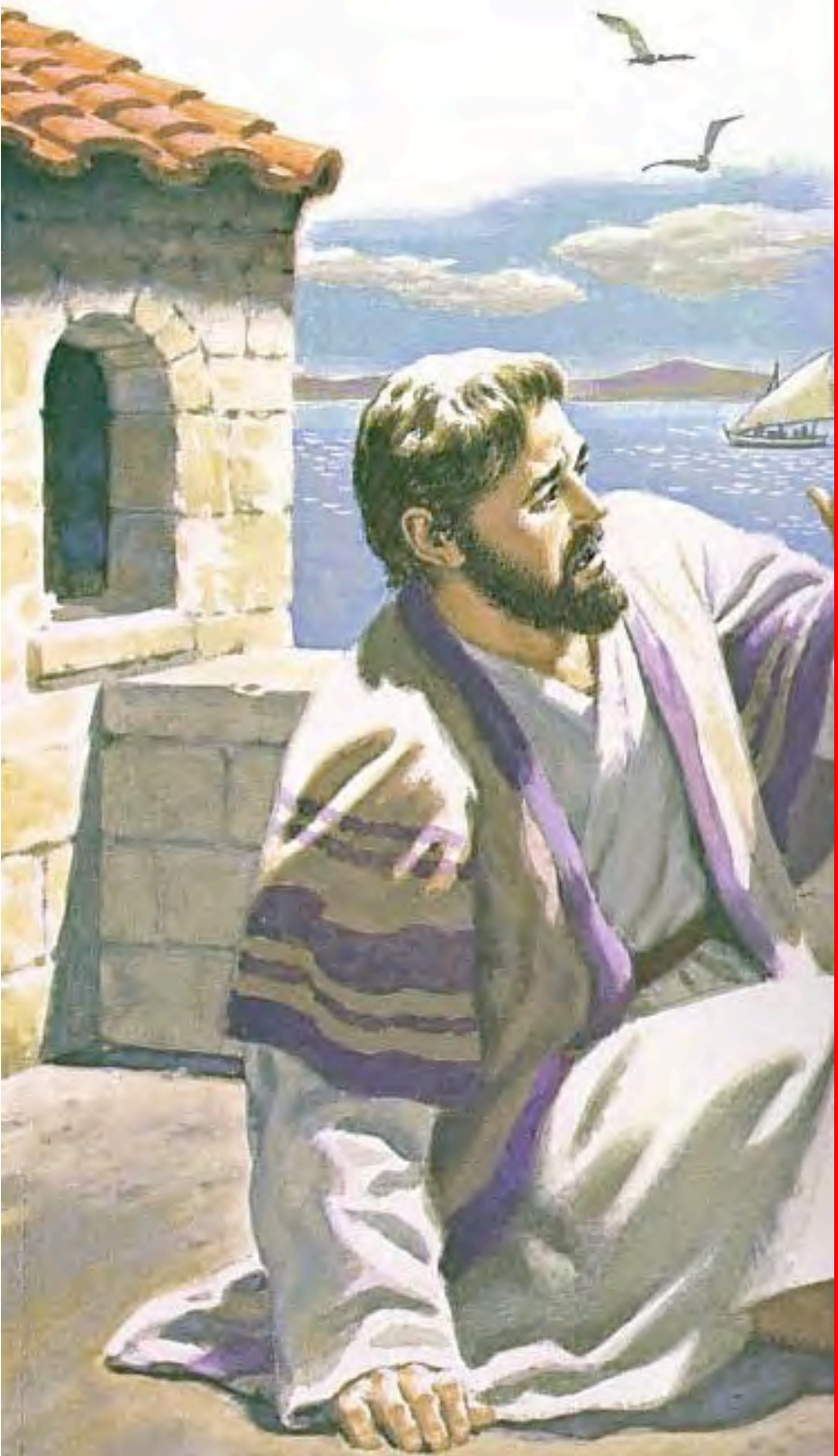


# Peter was not like Jonah at Joppa





"Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!"



"What's God going to do to these unclean men?"

Peter must have wondered why God wanted him to go with the servants of Cornelius





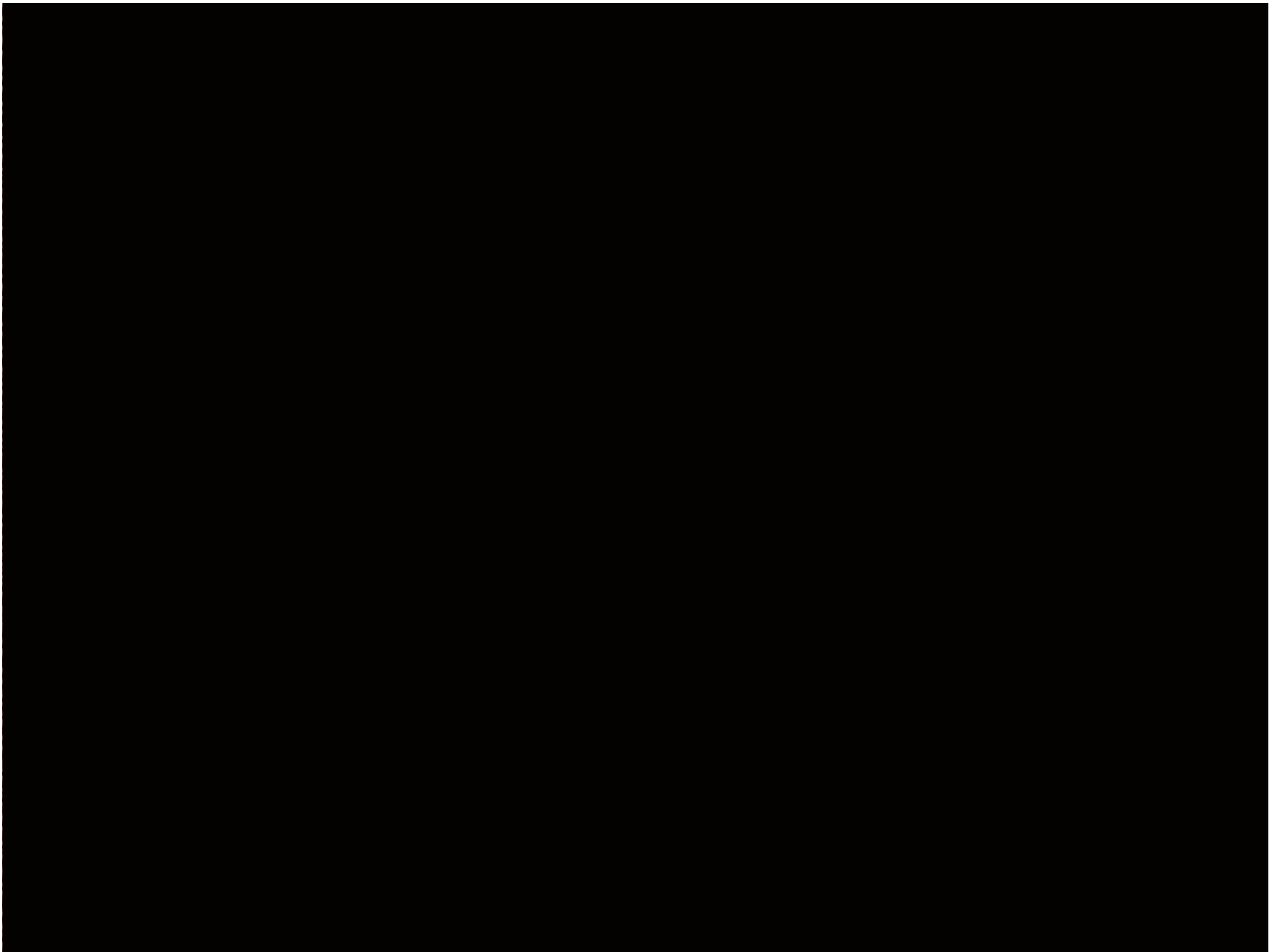
# Cornelius bows to Peter







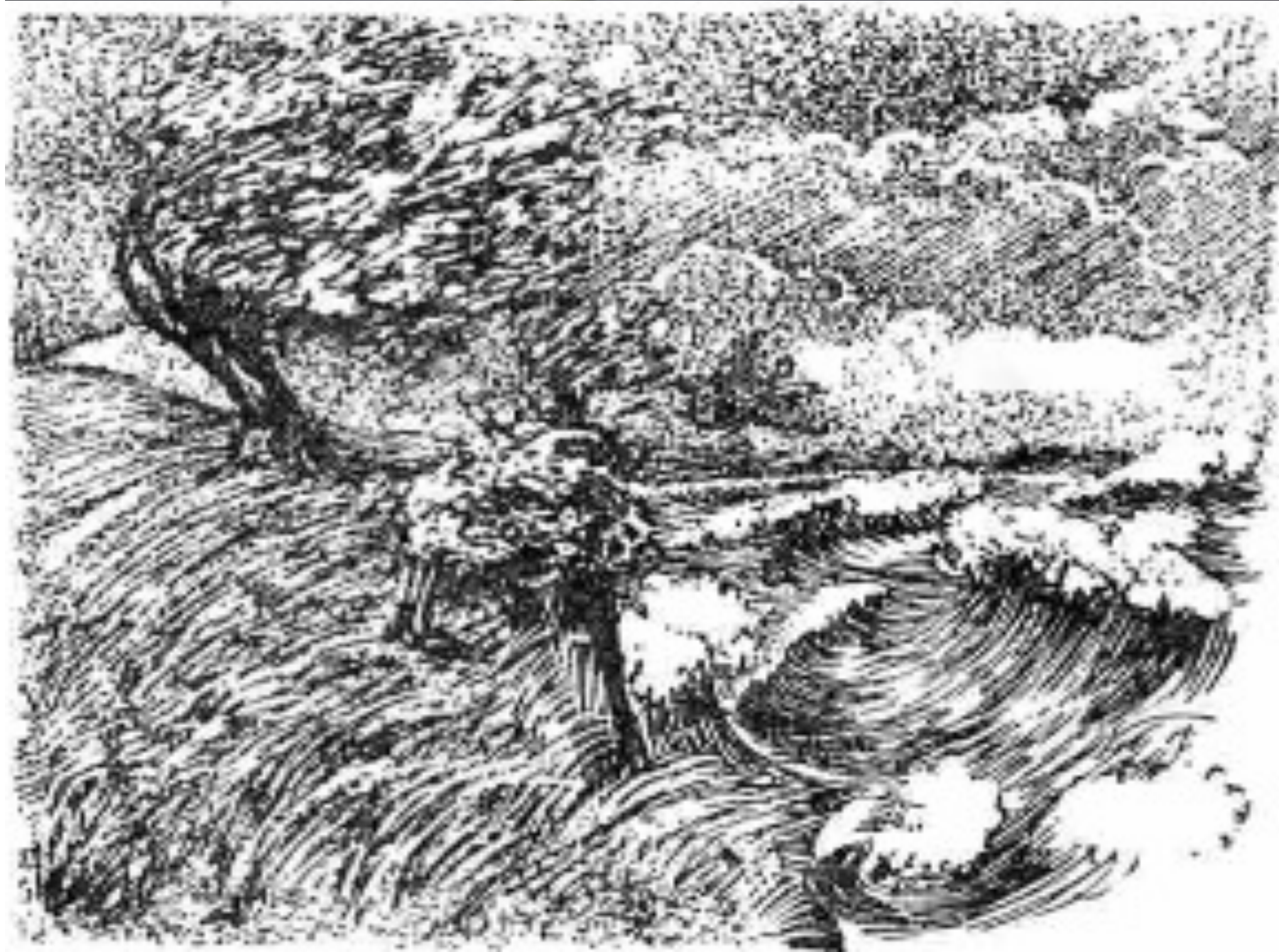
Peter defends his  
*lack of* prejudice

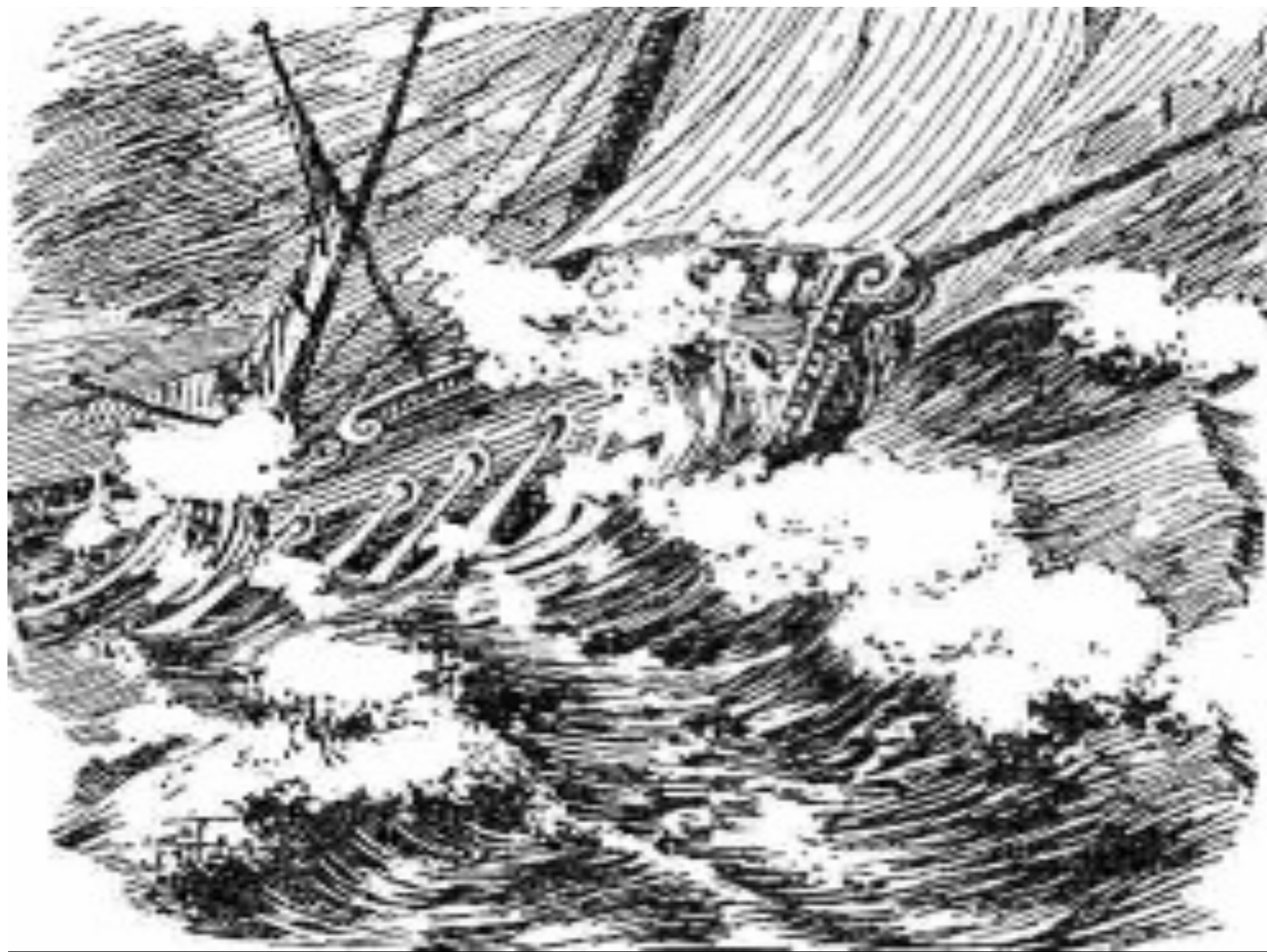


# Jonah 1: Go! No! So Row!

- 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).











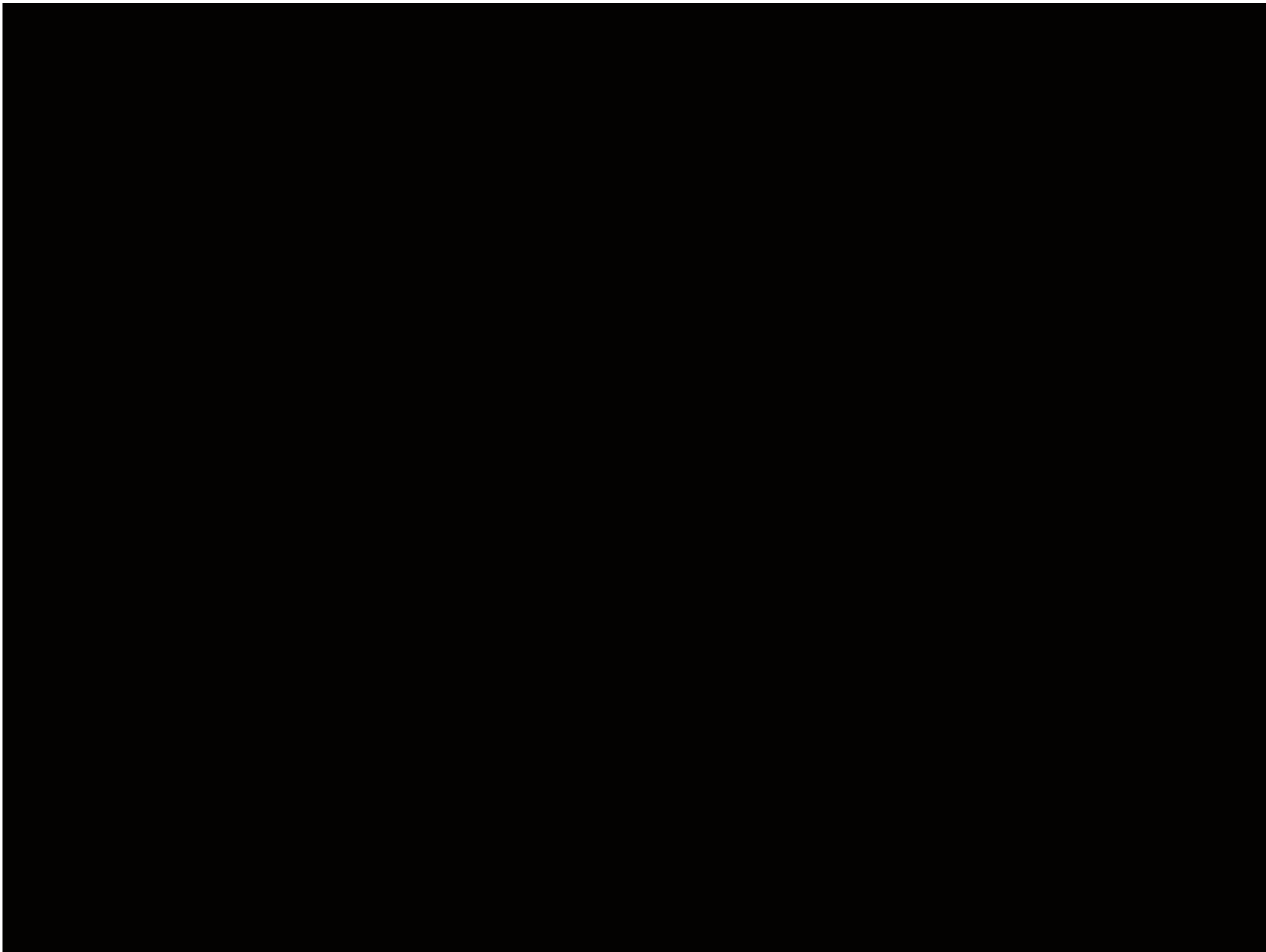




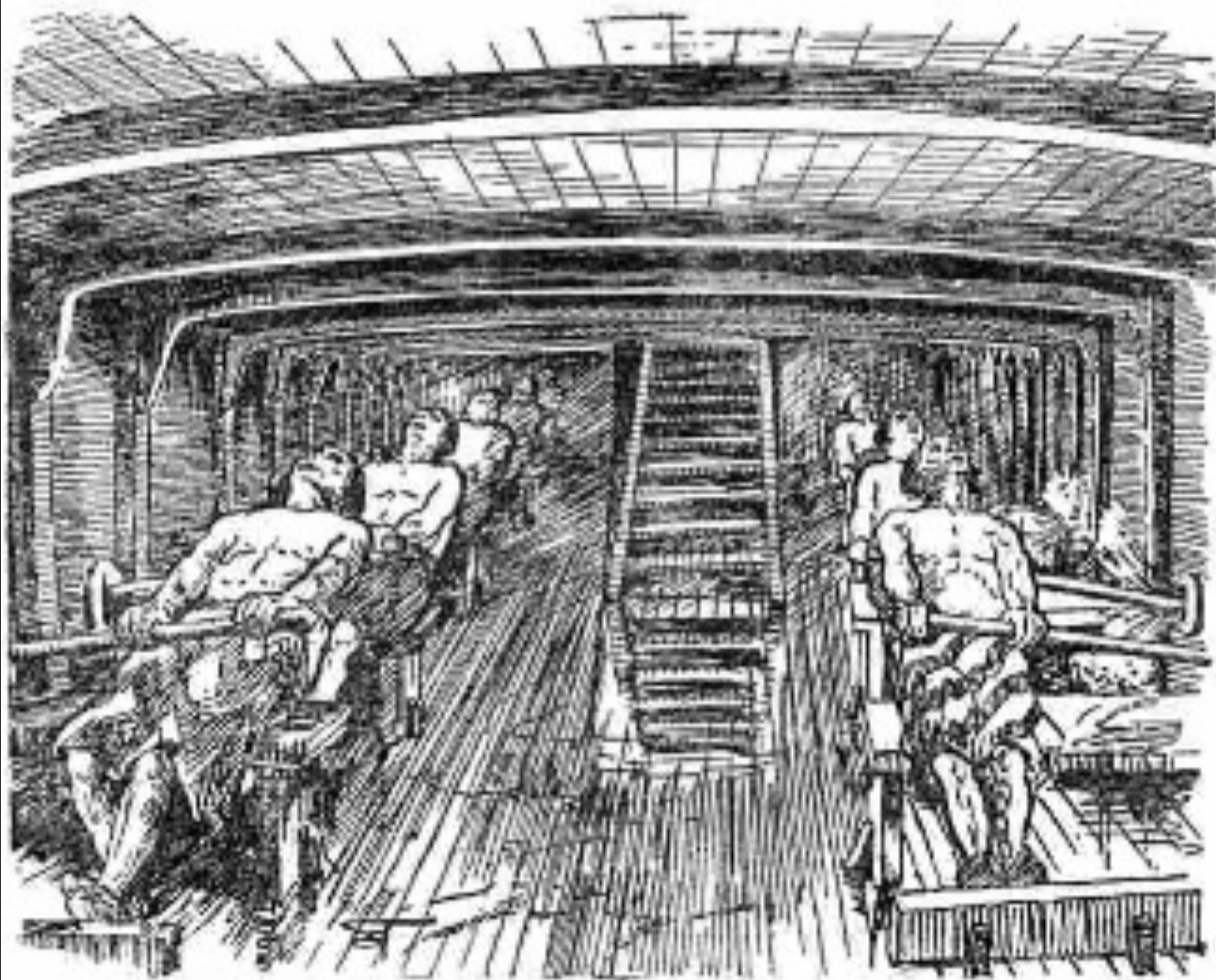
**<sup>7</sup> Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit.**

**<sup>8</sup> "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?"**

**<sup>9</sup> 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).**











40,000 Jews in Rome alone!

83%

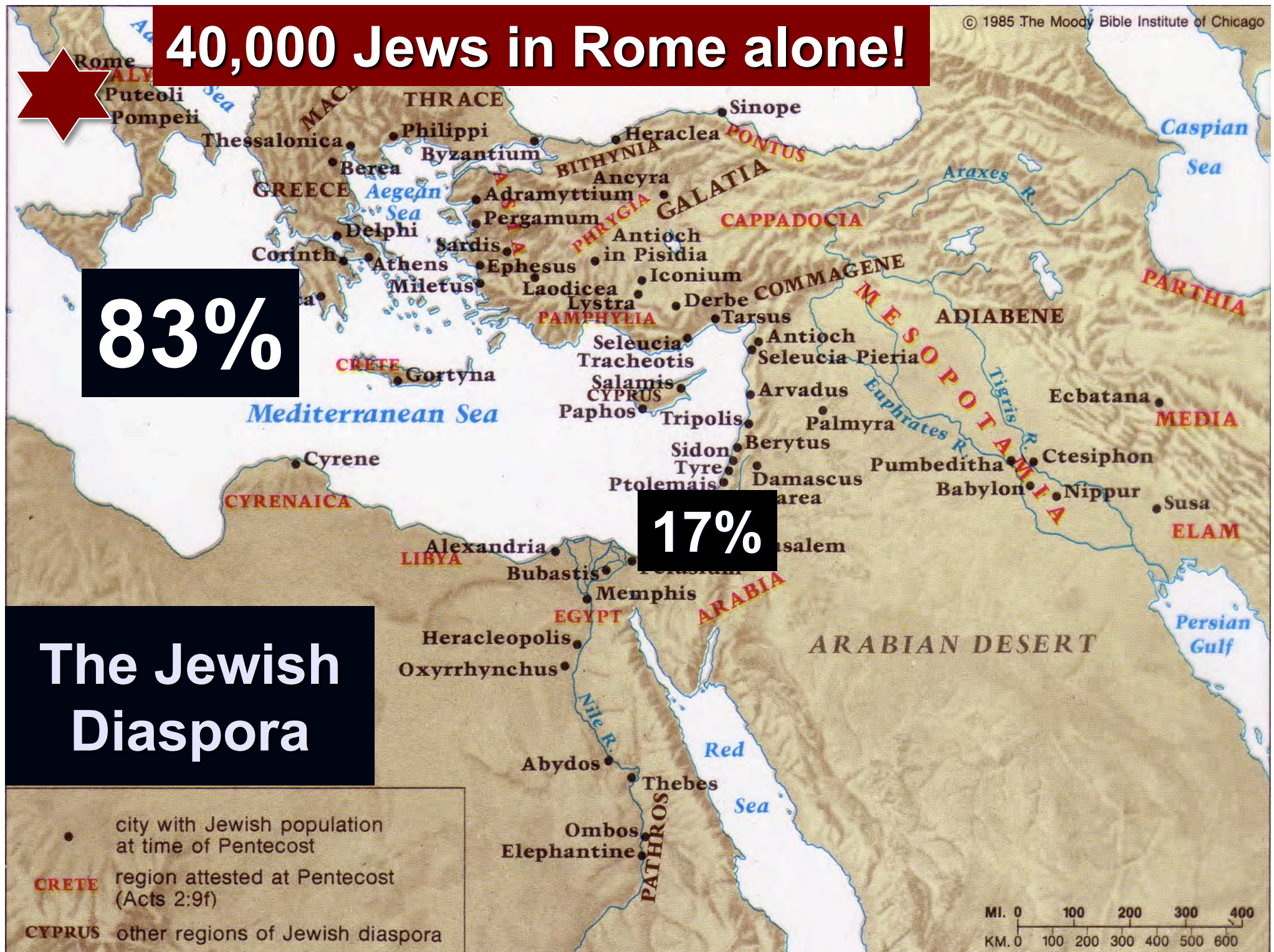
17%

## The Jewish Diaspora

• city with Jewish population at time of Pentecost

CRETE region attested at Pentecost (Acts 2:9f)

CYPRUS other regions of Jewish diaspora





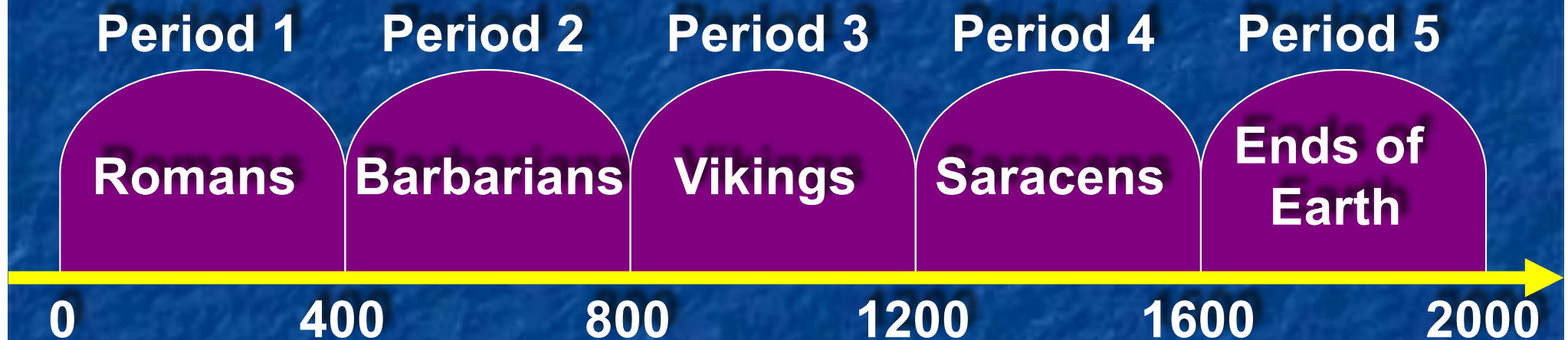
# Main Idea of Jonah 1

Neglecting evangelism  
brings consequences

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

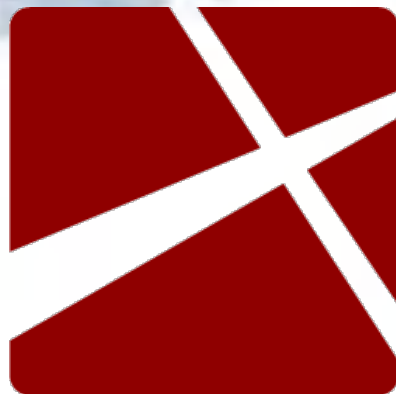
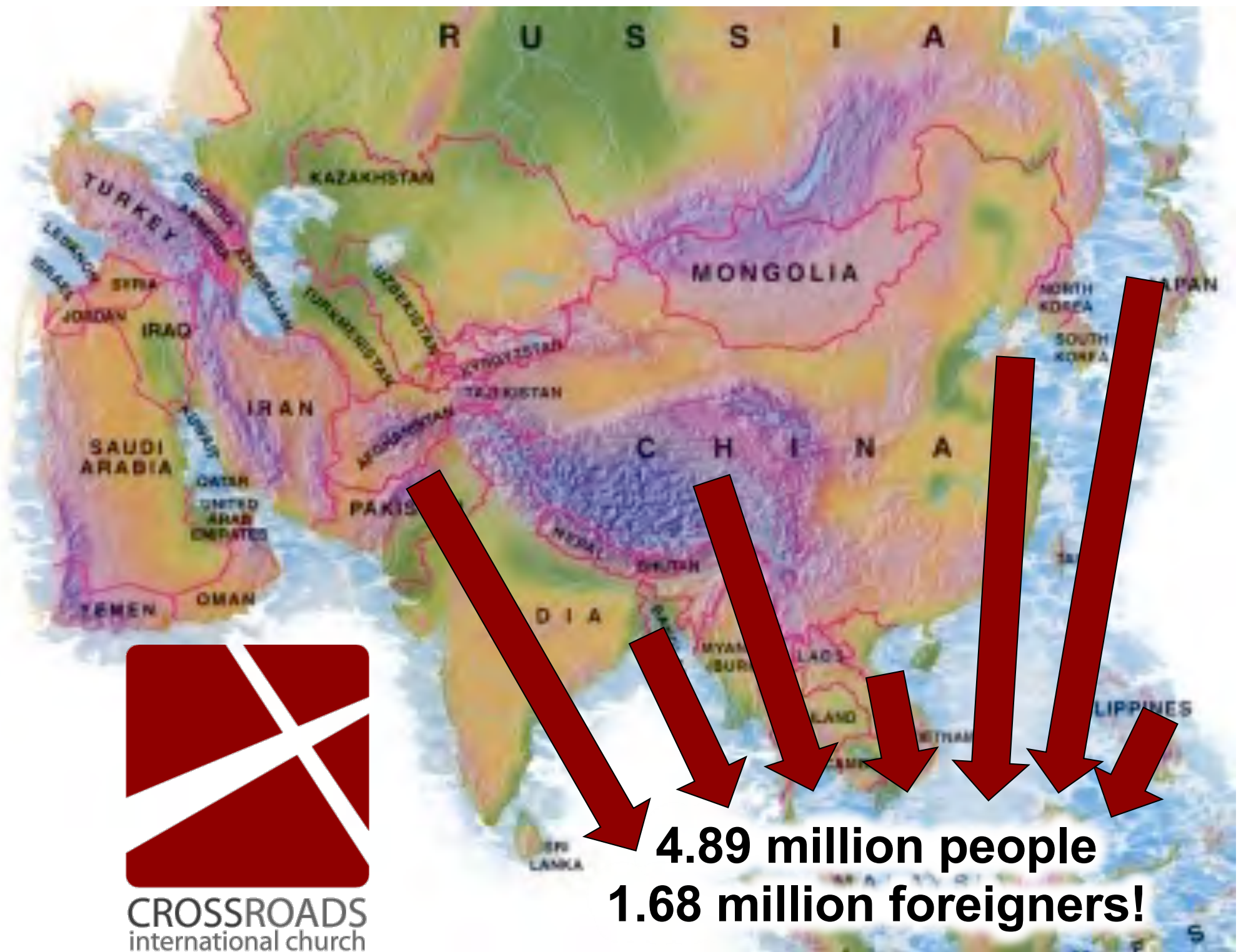


# Periods of Christian Expansion



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

Ralph Winter, *The World Christian Movement*



**CROSSROADS**  
international church



# Our Vision



**Love the Nations**

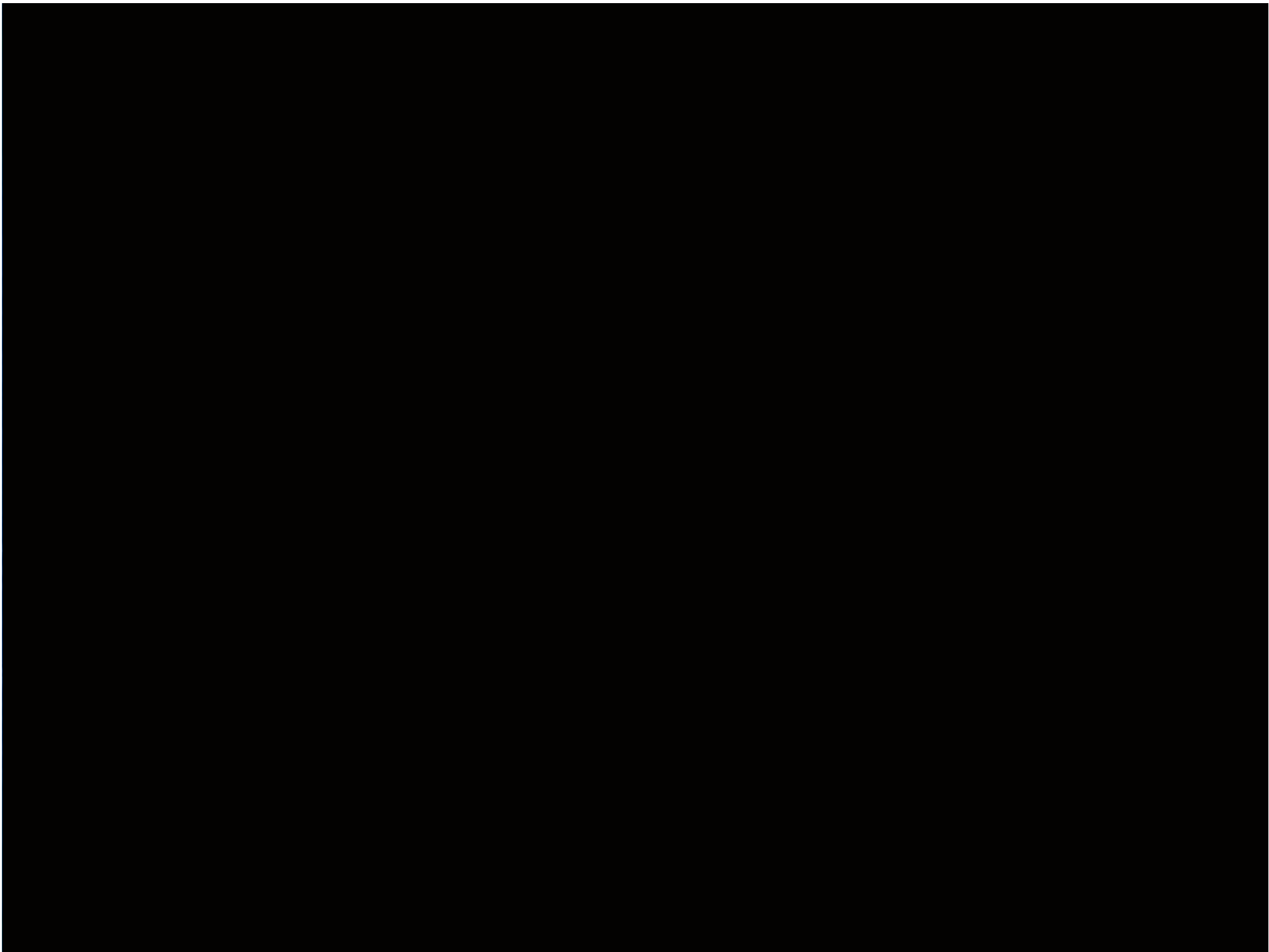
**Love the Church**

**Love  
God**



Mercedes-Benz





# Jonah 1 Small Group Questions

1. Can you share an example of how God got your attention when you disobeyed in evangelism?
2. Do *other* people sometimes suffer for *our* disobedience? How?
3. Why do you sometimes disobey God's Word by refusing to share your faith?
4. What practical steps can you take to change?



# Important Matters

## I. Introduction

A. Date and Setting

B. Nineveh

C. Characteristics and Chart

## II. Issues

A. Historicity and Literary Type

B. Why Jonah Ran and the Importance of 4:2

C. The Book of Jonah Mentioned by Jesus

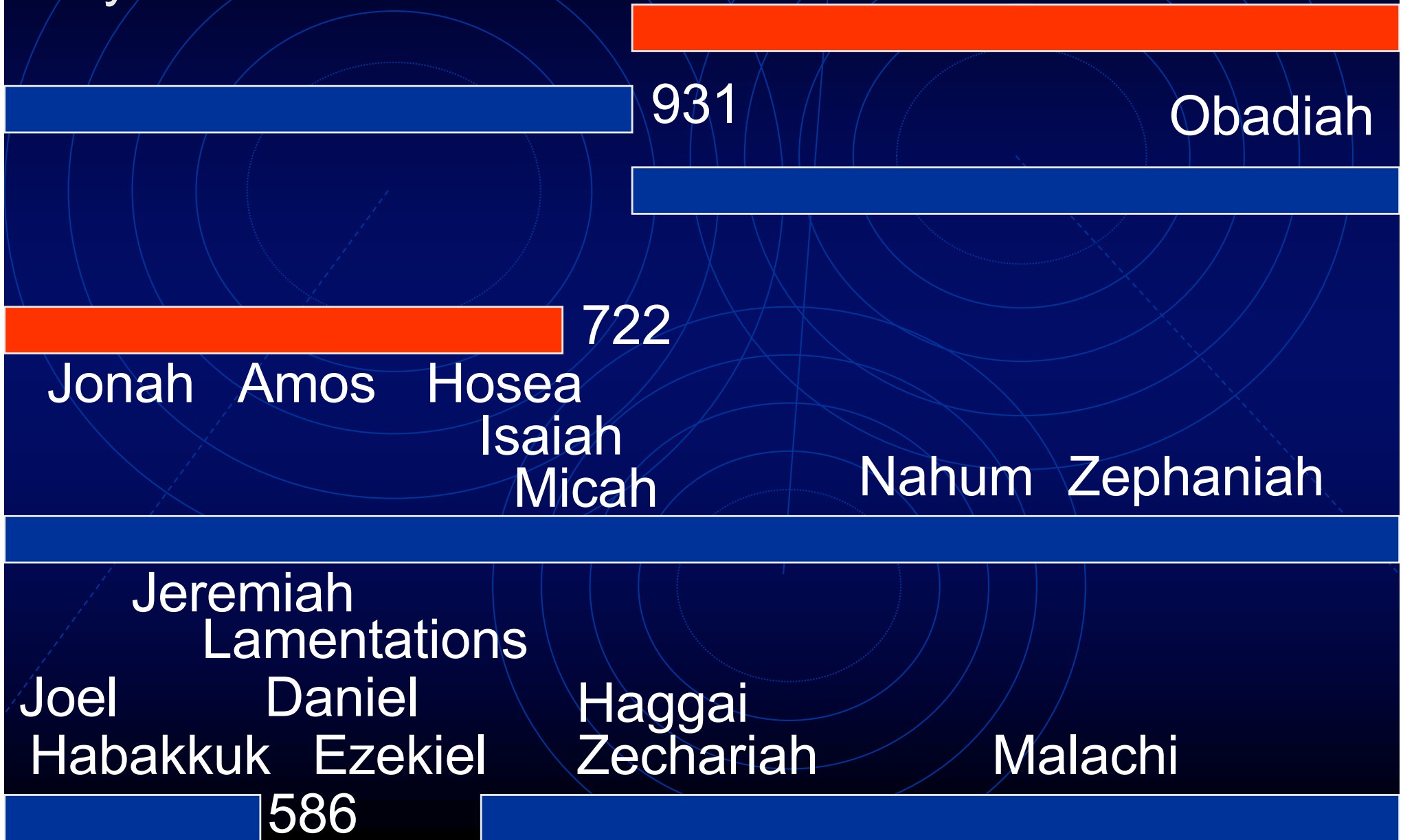
## III. Implications / Messages



# Placing the Prophets

342

Key Dates






# God's Compassion on Gentiles

599

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 (Wants to die)		Jonah's Prayer Chapter 2 (Wants to live)	Jonah's Preaching Chapter 3 (Wants to live)		Jonah's Pouting Chapter 4 (Wants to die)
about 760 BC					

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**



**And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah.  
And Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.**





**Huge Fish?**

**or Whale?**

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





# Inside the Fish

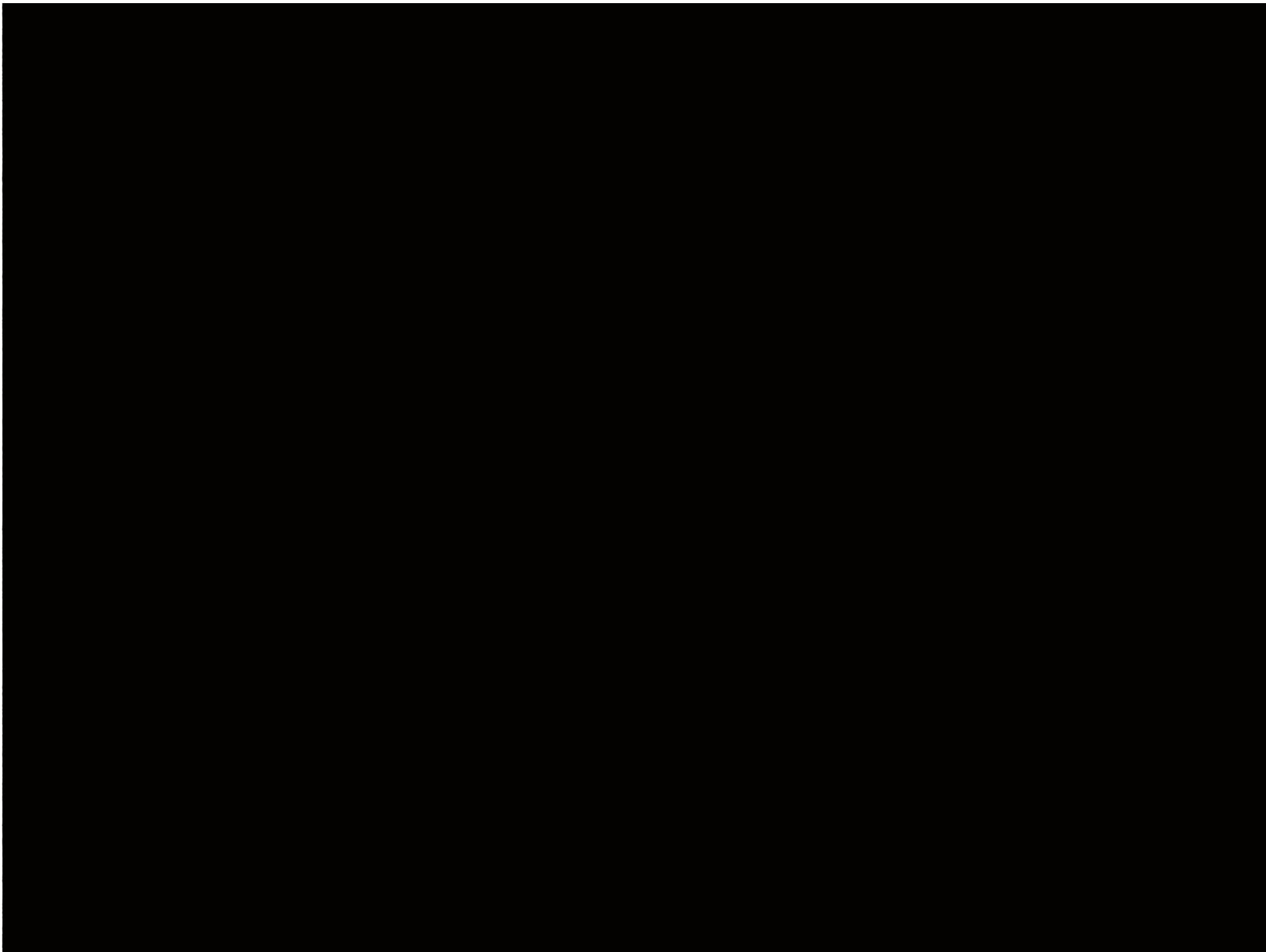




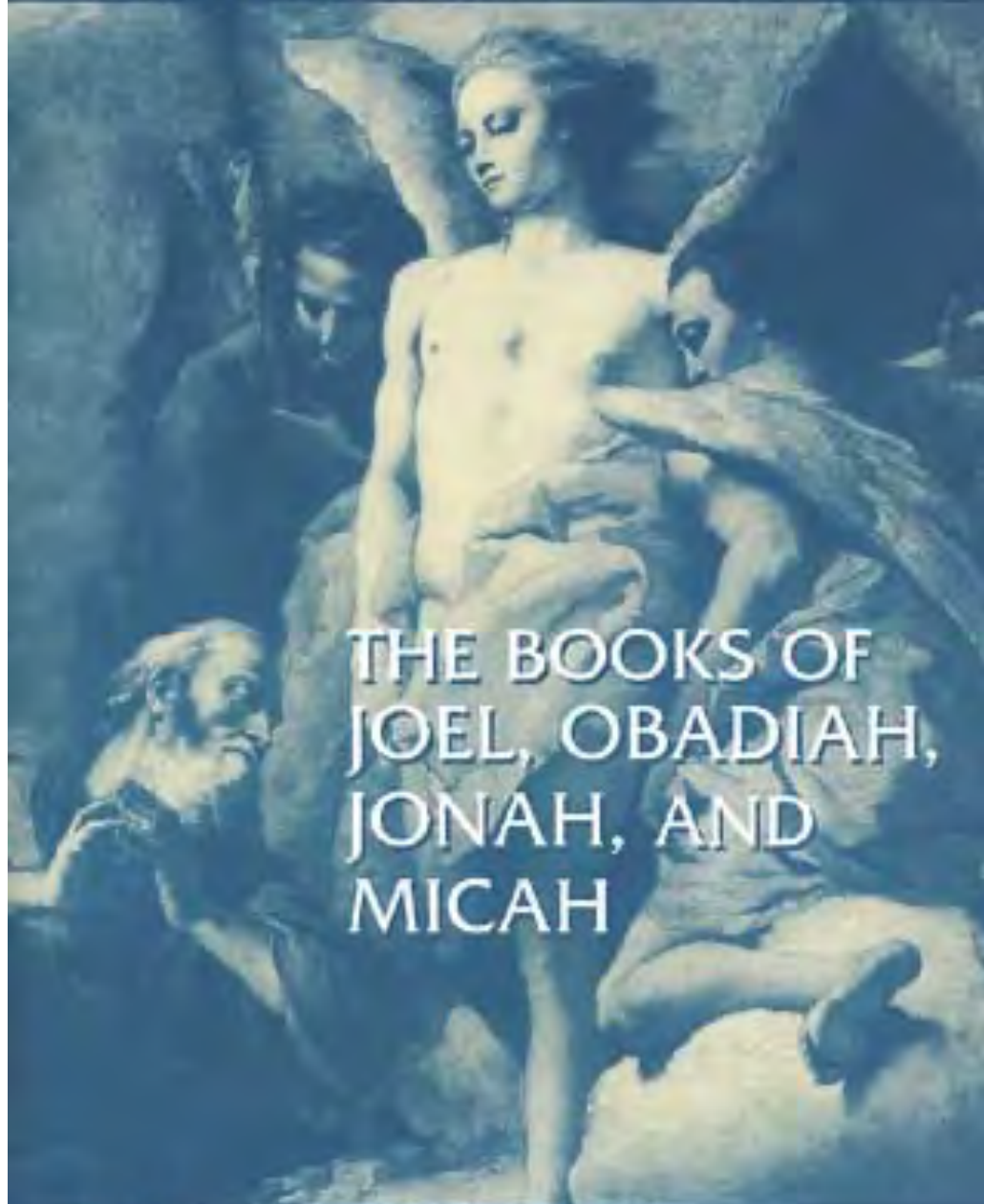
# Inside the Fish







The New International Commentary  
on the Old Testament



LESLIE C. ALLEN

# "Evangelical" Unbelievers?

"...the author's  
intention is other  
than simply to  
describe  
historical facts"  
(p. 176).



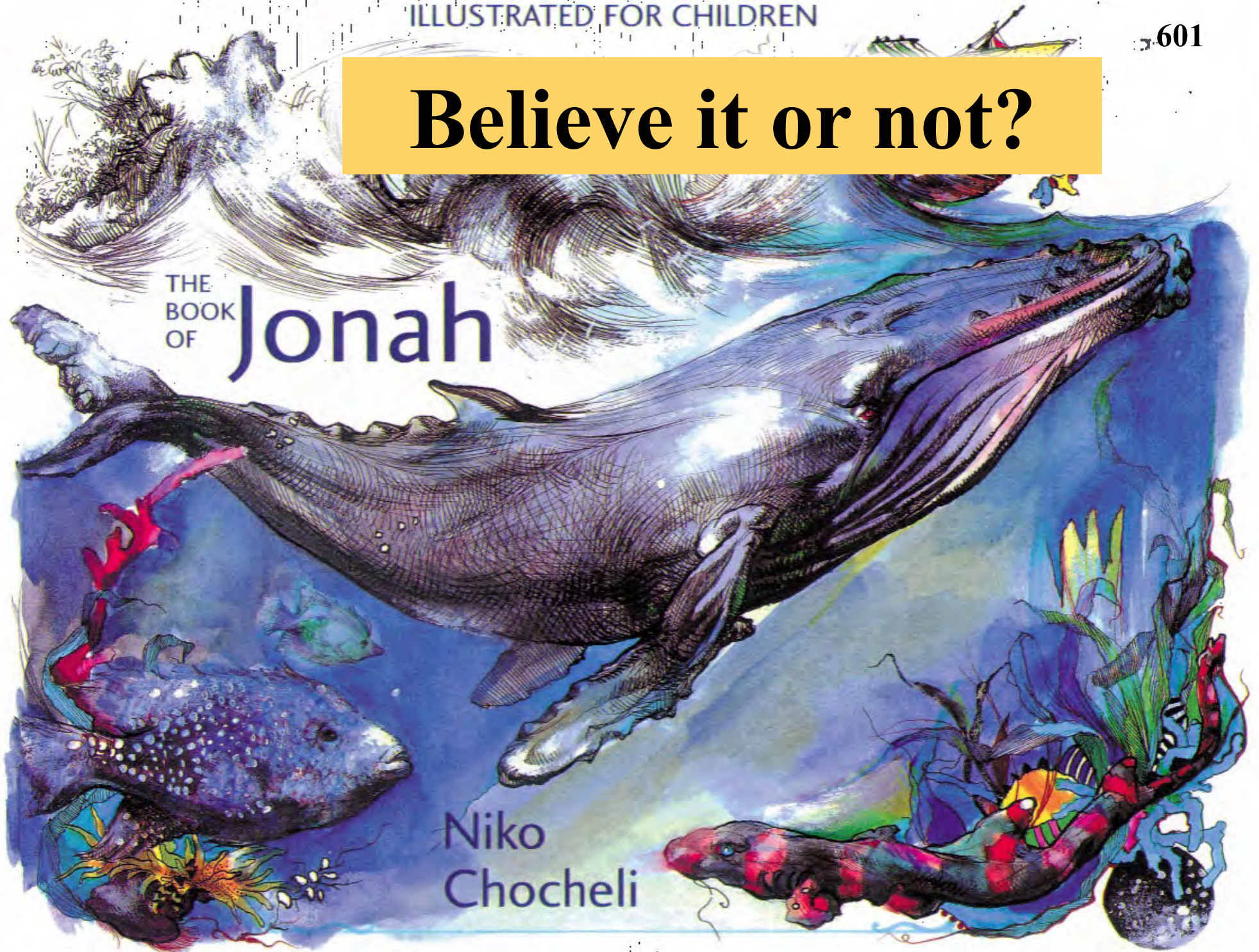
ILLUSTRATED FOR CHILDREN

601

**Believe it or not?**

THE  
BOOK  
OF **Jonah**

Niko  
Chocheli





# Why not accept Jonah?

601-3

**The historicity of Jonah has been denied by many people over three issues:**

- 1. Three days in a great fish (1:17)**
- 2. All of Nineveh repenting (3:5)**
- 3. Nineveh so big it had 120,000 people (4:11)**

**But:**

- 1. Jonah is noted in 2 Kings 14:25 as a historical figure (prophet)**
- 2. Jesus Himself upheld the historicity of the book (Matt. 12:39-41)**

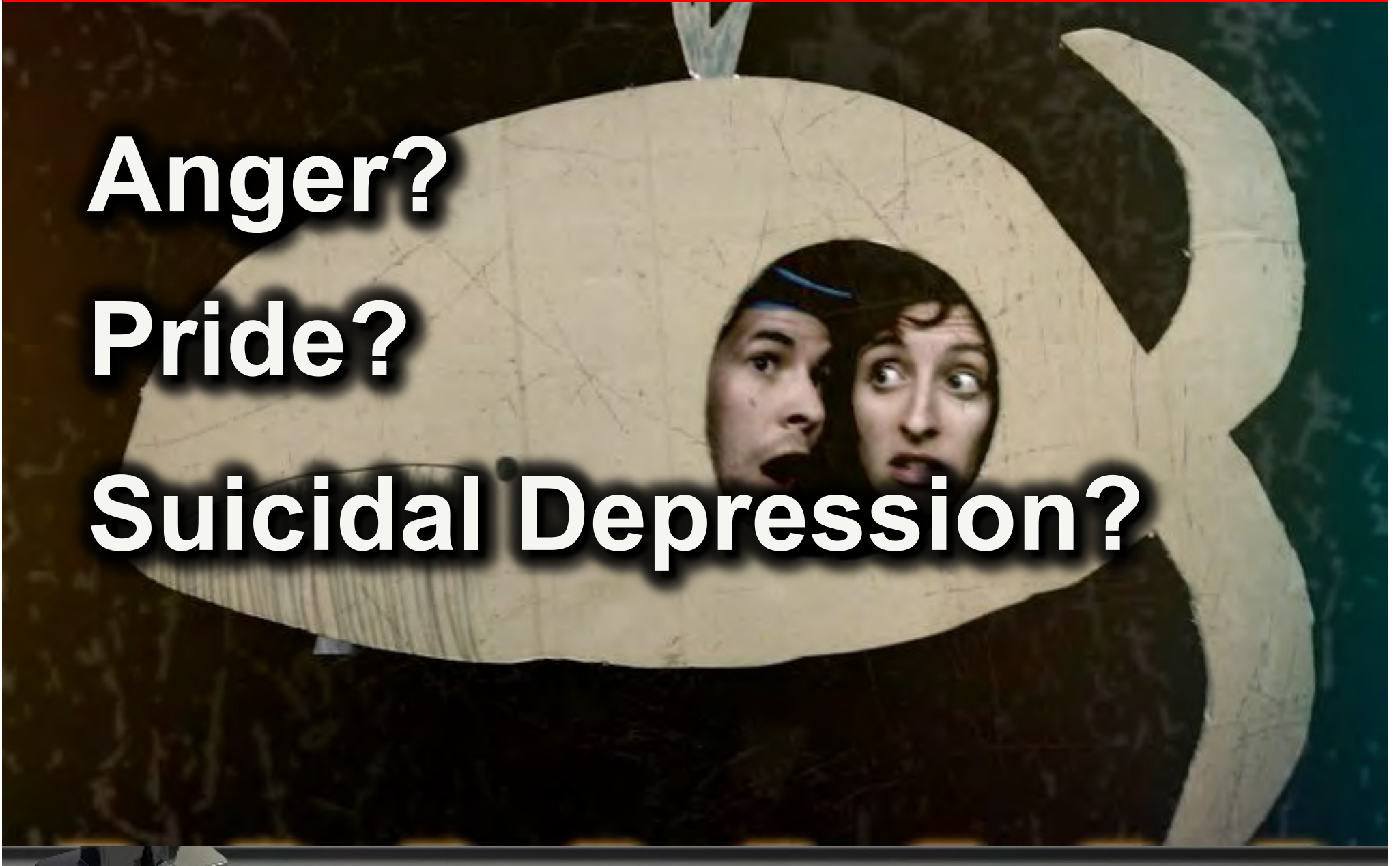


# **Expected Responses:**

**Anger?**

**Pride?**

**Suicidal Depression?**



# The Ten Million Dollar Question

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



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)





God "hurled a storm" (1:4)

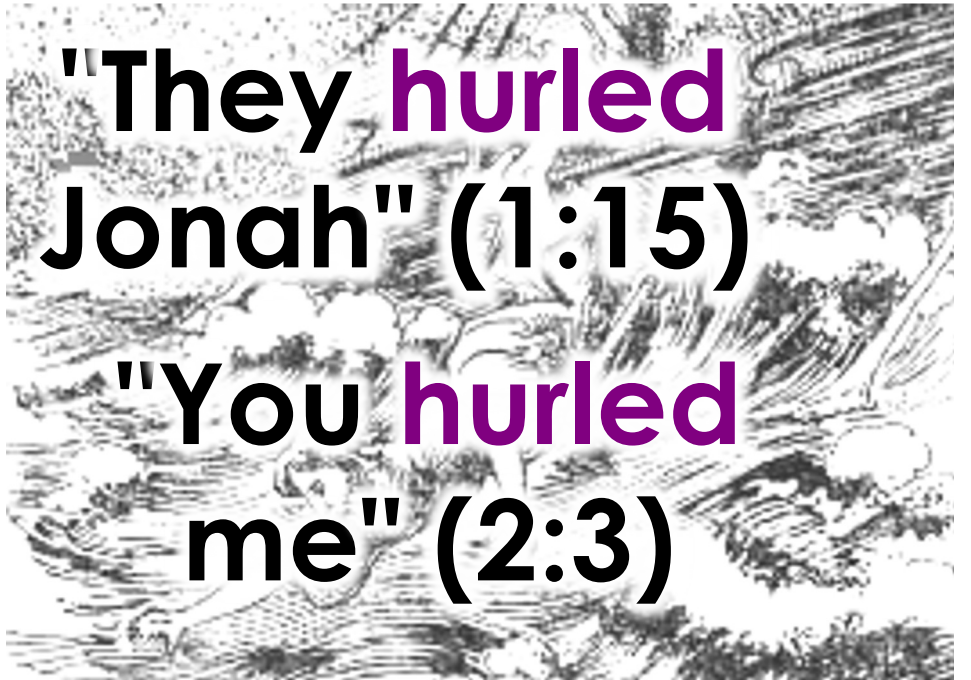


Sailors "hurled the cargo" (1:5)

"To hurl" in Jonah



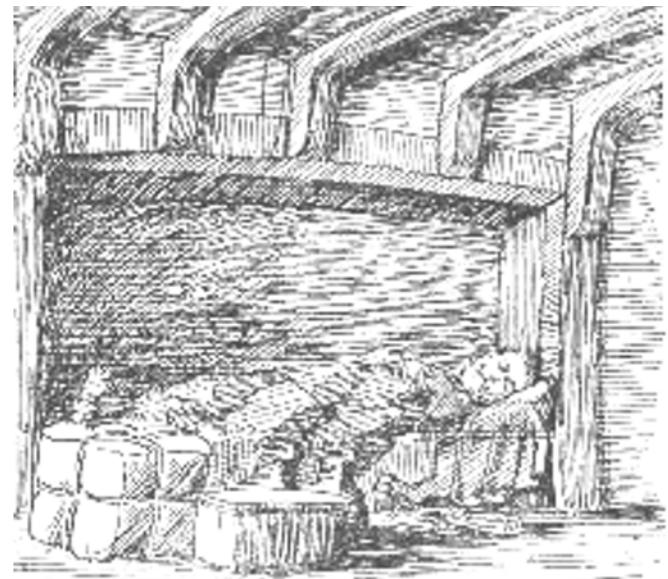
"Hurl me" (1:12)



"They hurled Jonah" (1:15)

"You hurled me" (2:3)





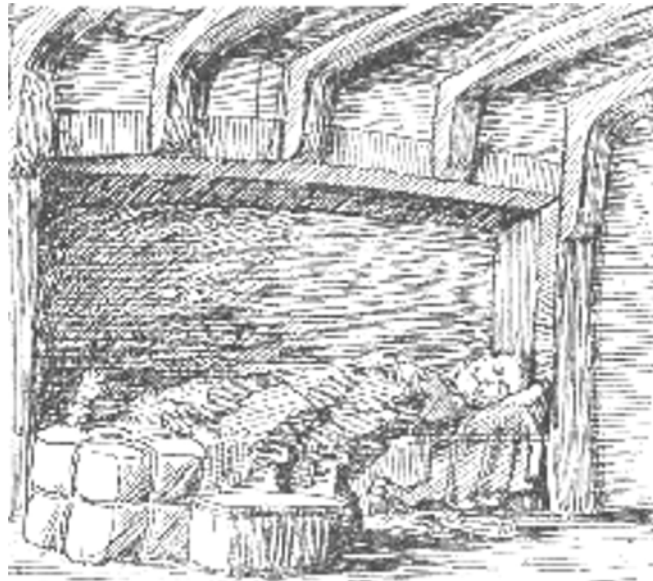
**"Arise and pray to  
your god" (1:6)**

**"Arise and go to  
Nineveh" (1:1)**

**"Arise" in  
Jonah**



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



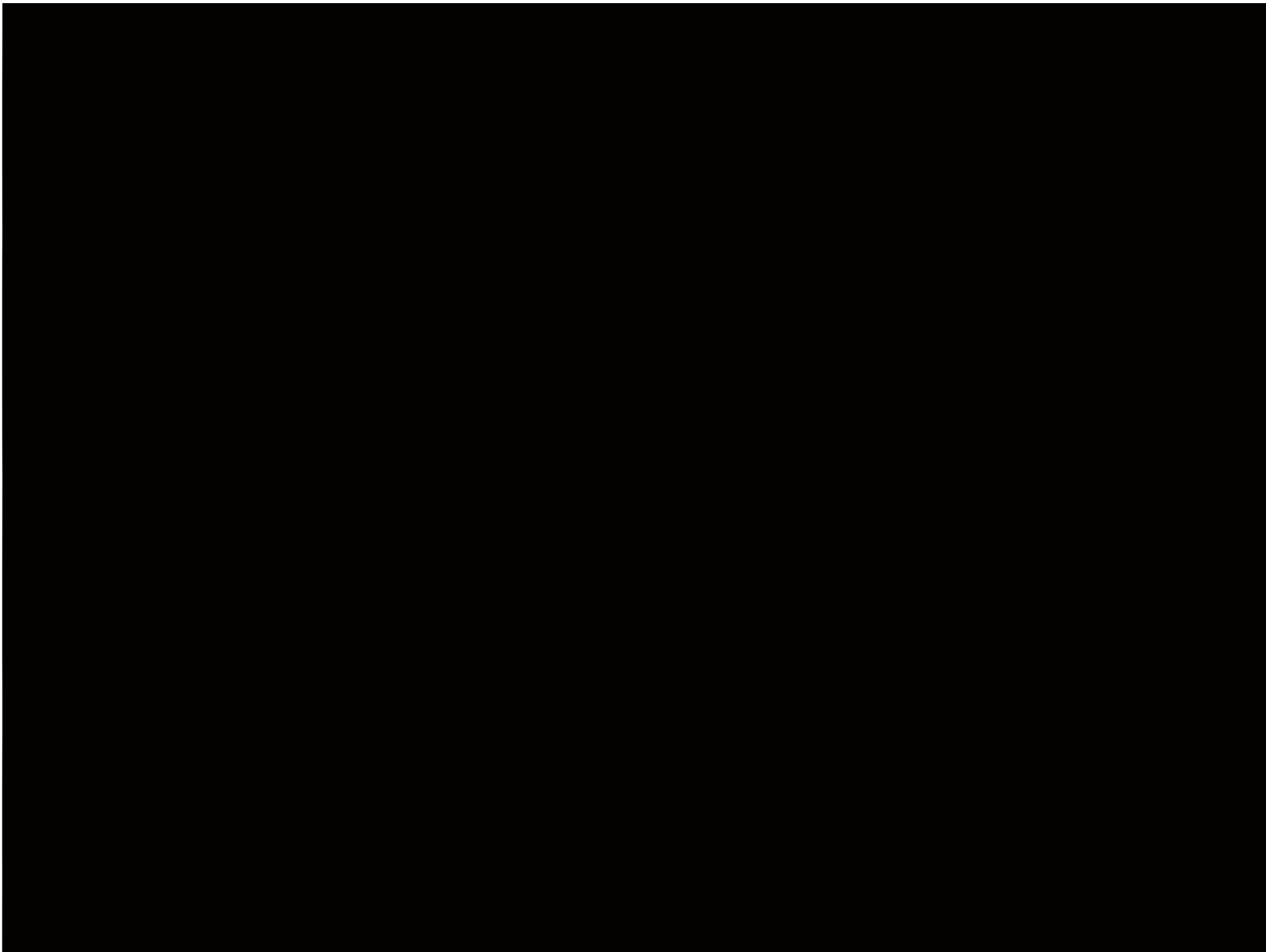
"had gone **down**  
below deck" (1:5)

"**Down**" in  
Jonah



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







# Thanksgiving Psalm

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

**Jonah 2**



# 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**



Quiz Time. . .

**What better motivates you  
to right living?**

◆ **Grace?** or ◆ **Law?**



*Support  
your  
answer!*



# Distinguishing some key terms...

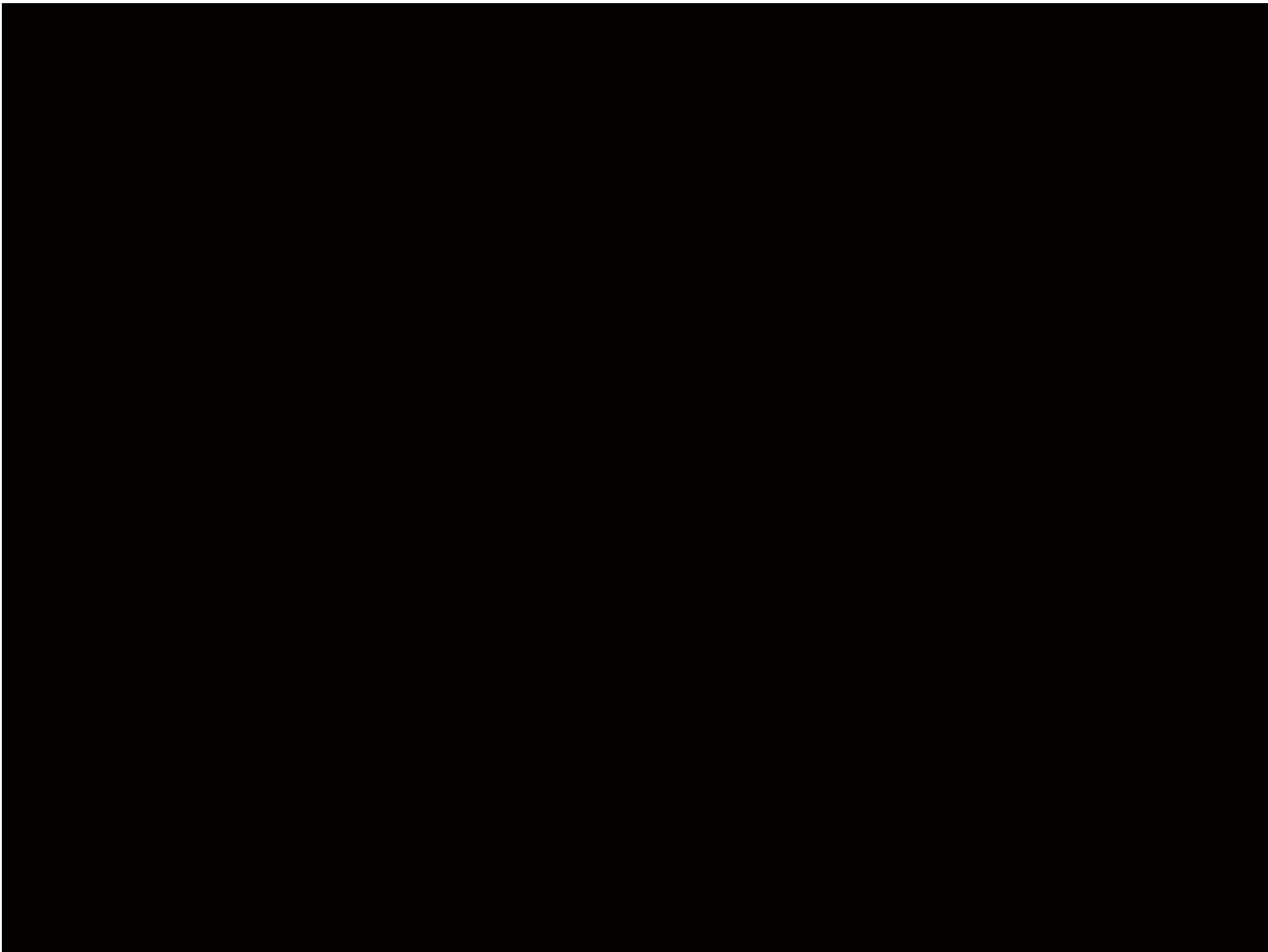
A close-up photograph of a human hand, with fingers slightly curled, set against a solid blue background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the joints of the hand.

**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







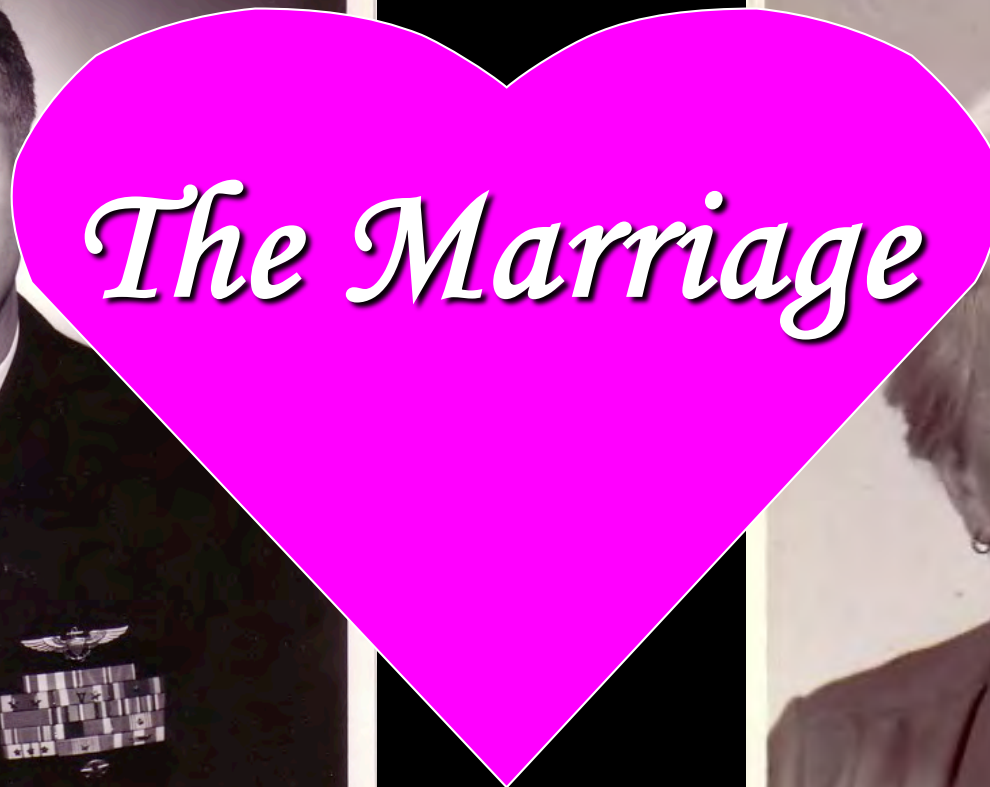
This is My Life

*A Family Album*



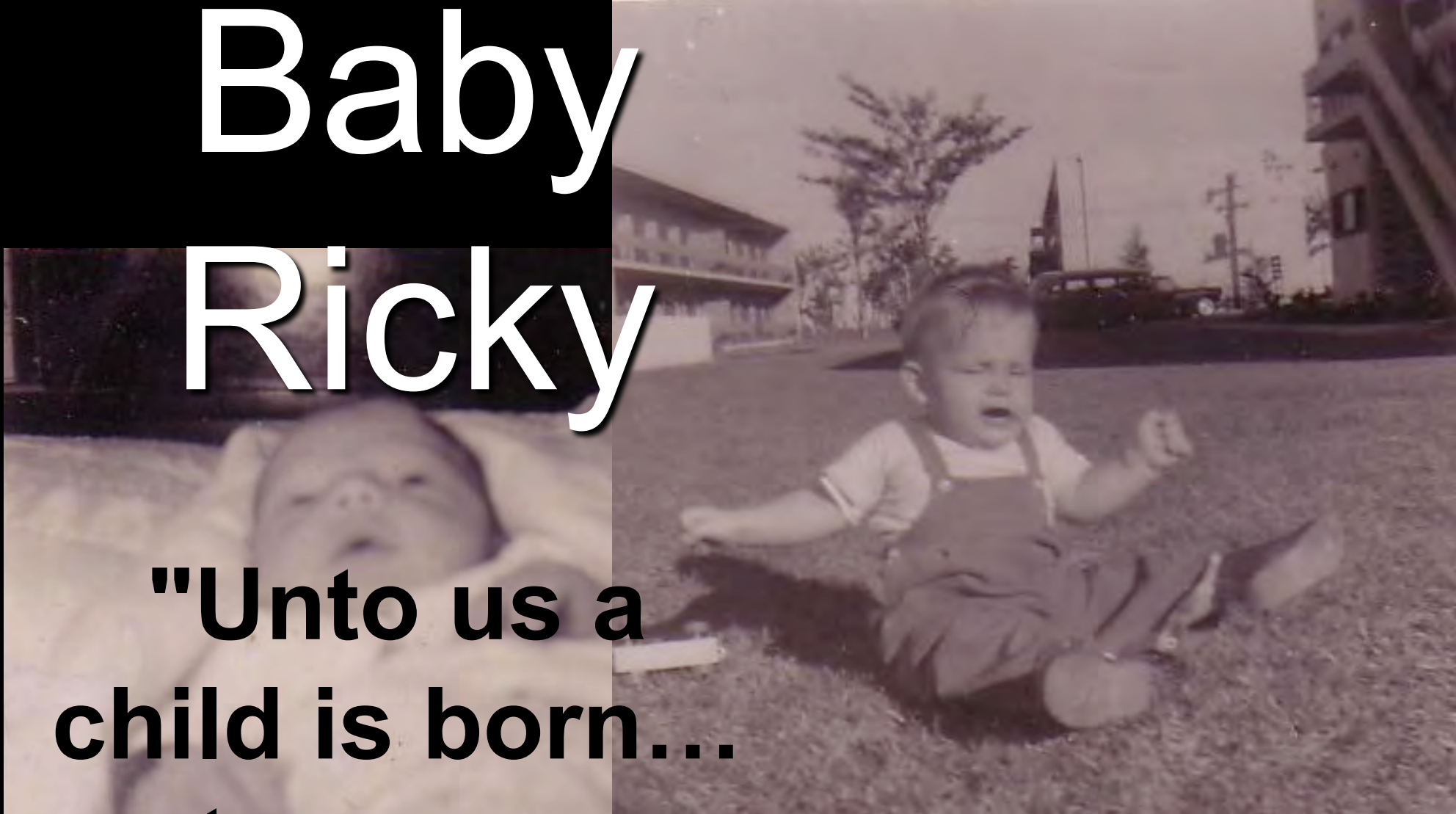


Navy Lieutenant  
Harold F. Griffith  
(alias Dad)



Navy Ensign  
Joyce I. Griffith  
(alias Mom)

# Baby Ricky



**"Unto us a  
child is born....  
unto us a son  
is given..."**

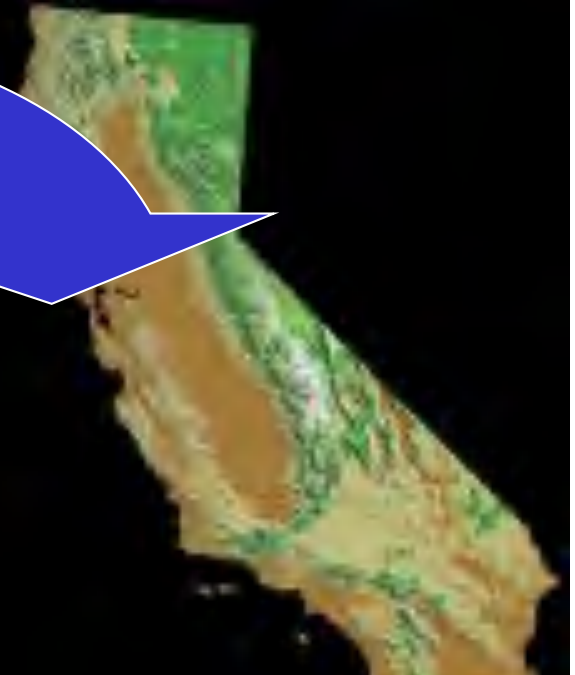
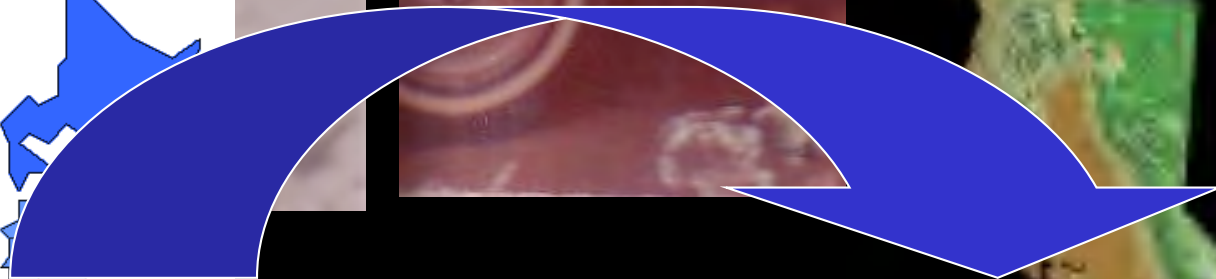
*Tokyo, 1958*



# The Family Grew & Moved...



地図は都道府県別です。  
マウスでクリックしてね。



A detailed map of the San Francisco Bay Area, showing the bay, surrounding cities, and major highways. The map is color-coded with yellow for land and blue for water. Major cities like San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, and San Diego are labeled. The map is used as a background for the text overlays.

# San Francisco Bay Area

**Alameda**

**SF**

**Castro Valley**

**Hayward**





**Navy Commander  
Harold F. Griffith  
(alias Dad)**

# The Divorce

**1962**



**Social Worker  
Joyce I. Griffith  
(alias Mom)**



# Divorce for Mom was tough...

- Bobby, 6
- Ricky, 4
- Kathy, 3
- Tommy, 1

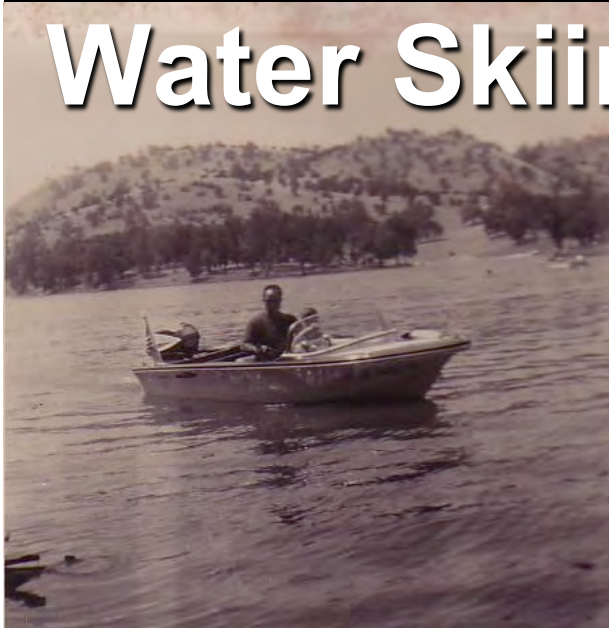


# Renewal Under Bill

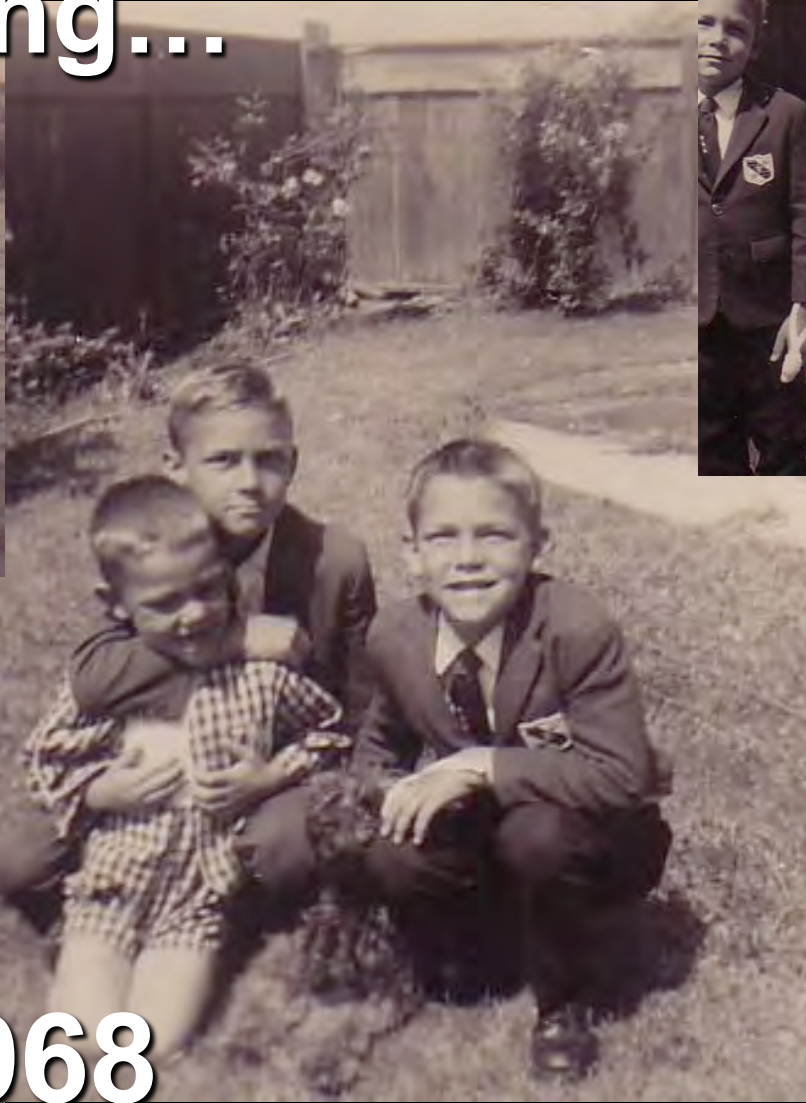




**One Year of  
Water Skiing...**



**1966-1968**



**& One Year  
of Church...**





# Another Divorce...



# But We Had Each Other...





# Our Family of 5 (1972)







**Kindergarten**



**Grade 1**



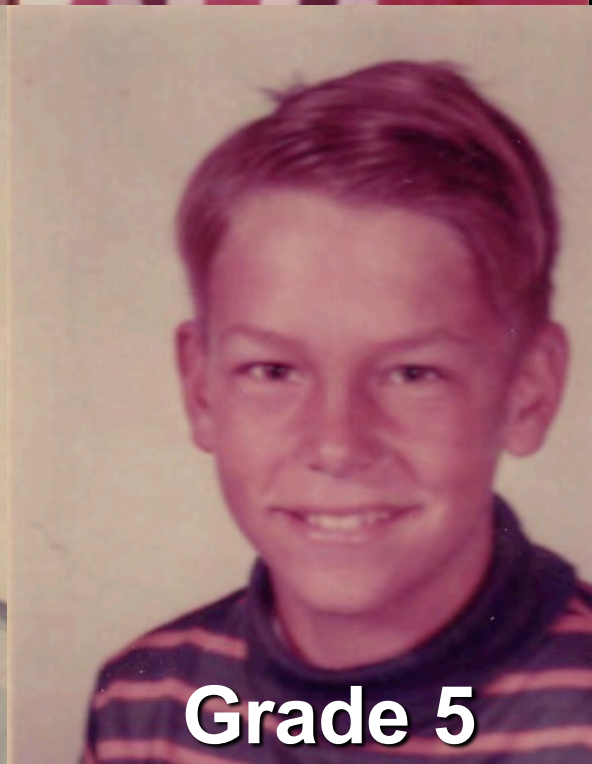
**Grade 2**



**Grade 3**



**Grade 4**



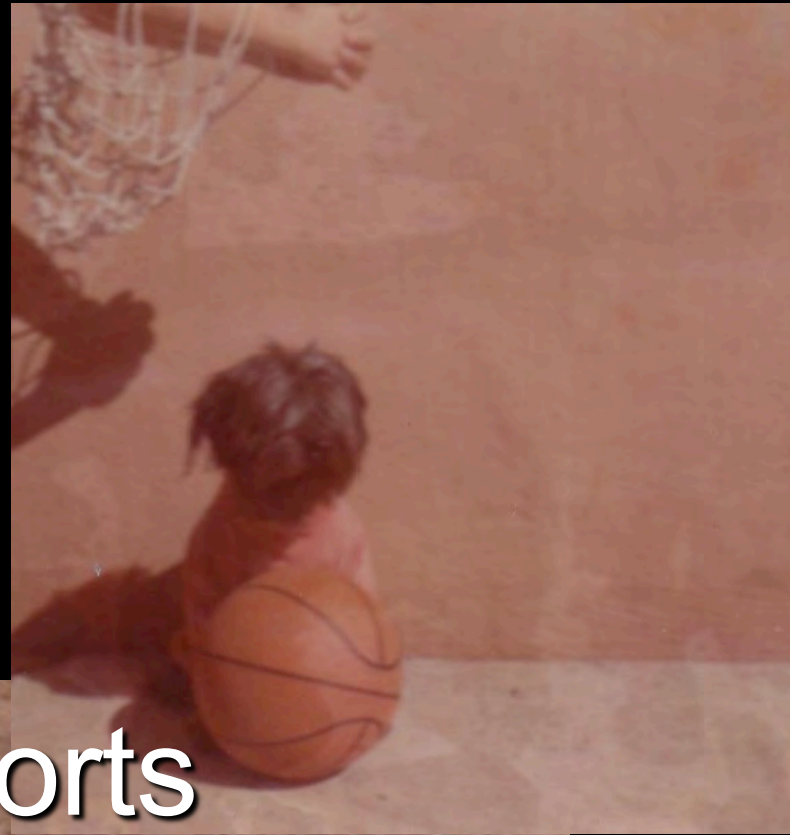
**Grade 5**





Baseball





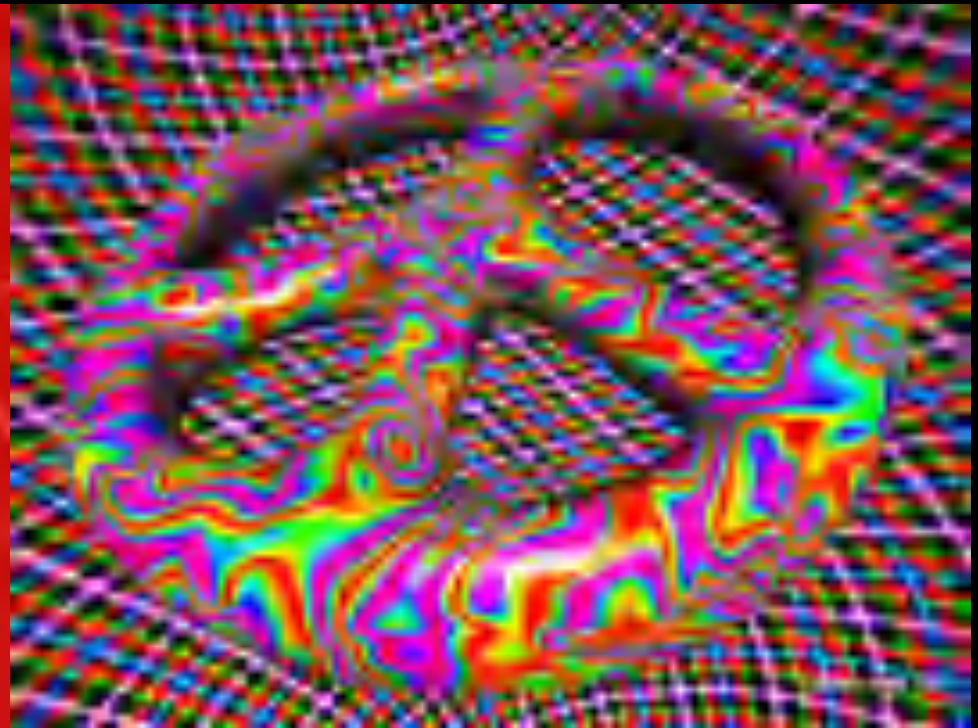
# Peppy Sports



# My Spiritual Journey



# Searching in the 70s...





# The influence of friends



**John**



**Terry**

Finally I understood

---

**Grace**  
to me

- Grace set me free from trying to be "good enough" for God!



# What I've learned over the years...



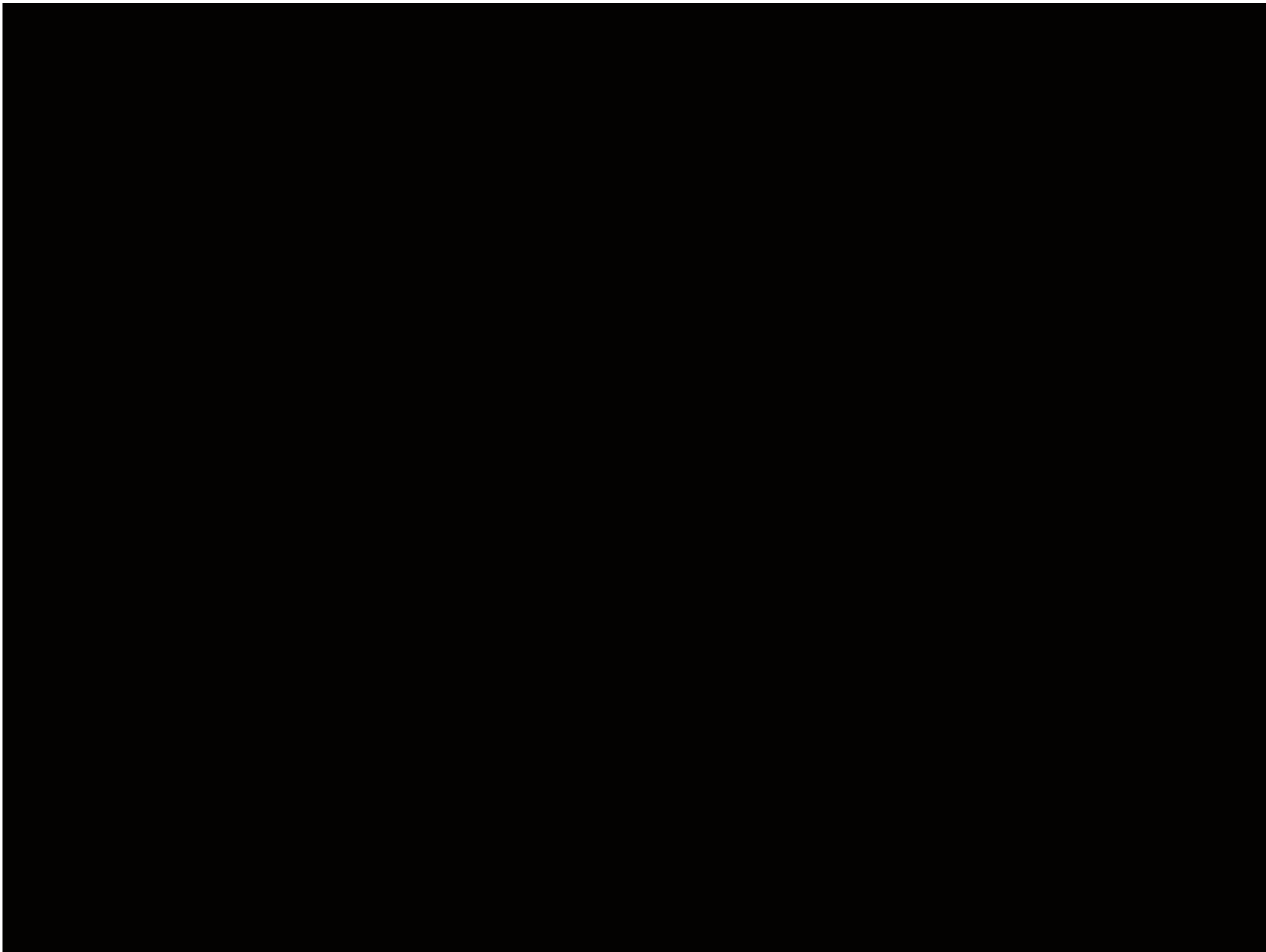
**All**

■ **that I am**

■ **that I have**

■ **that I can do**

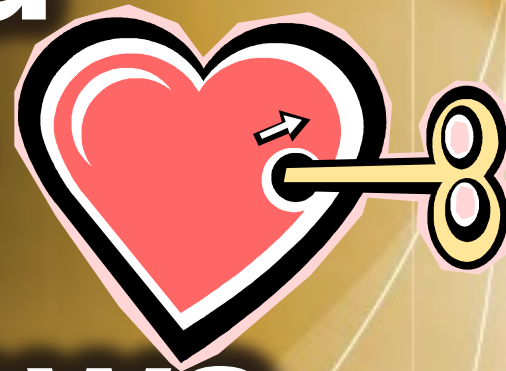
**is due to God's grace!**

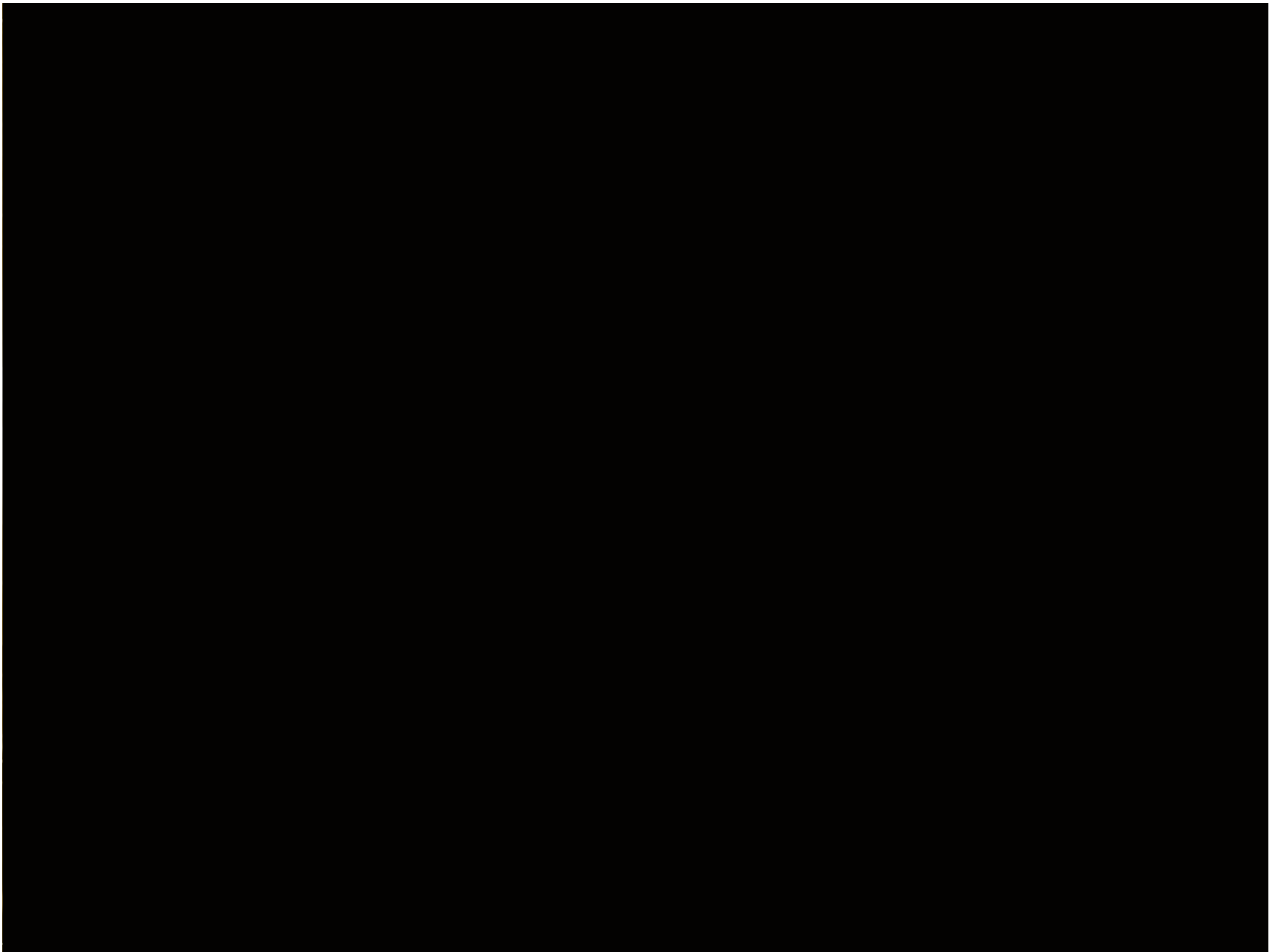




# The Big Idea

Thank God  
His **mercy**  
overshadows  
His **justice**







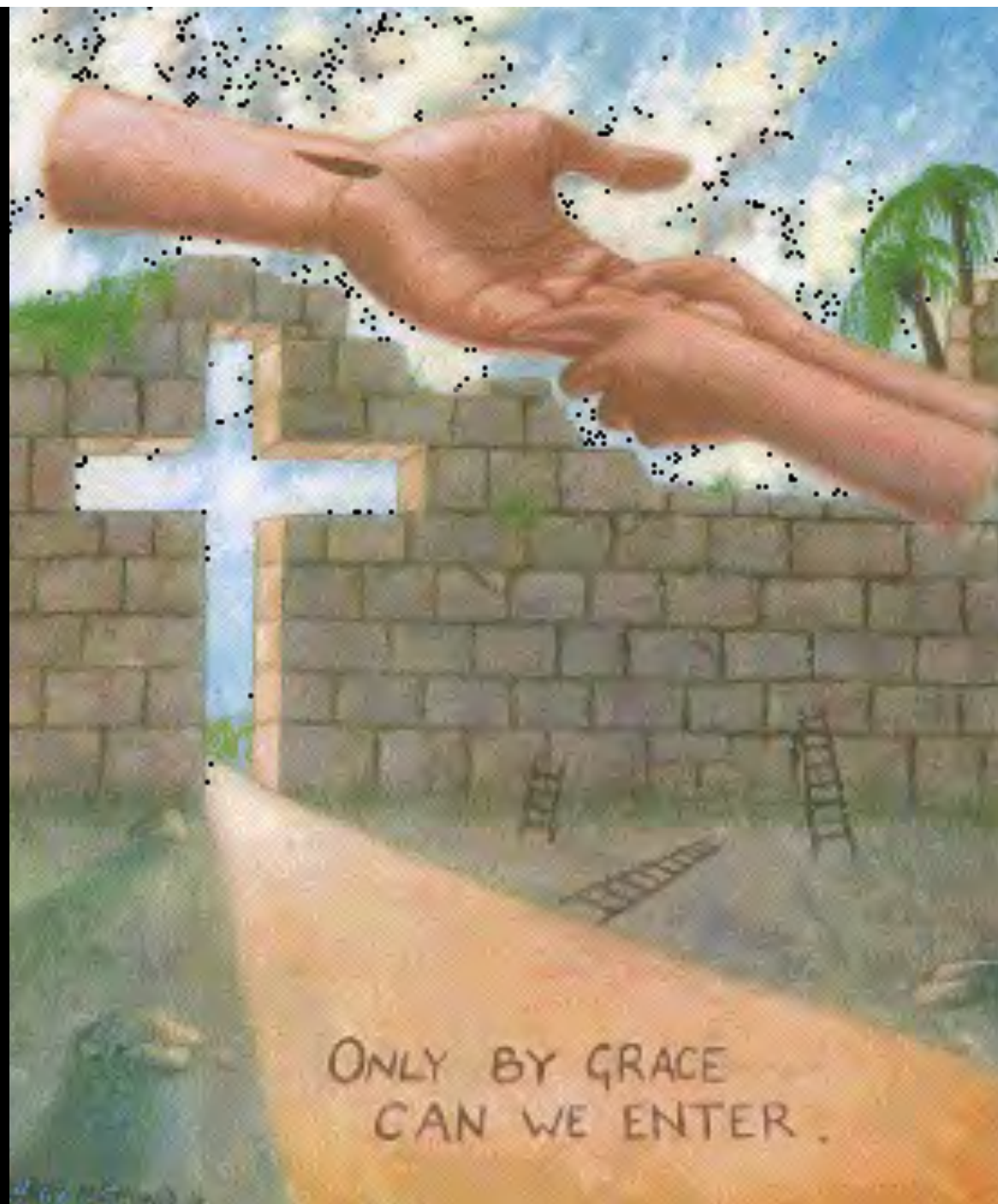
## Jonah 2 Small Group Question

What does **"Thank God His mercy overshadows His justice"** mean to you personally?

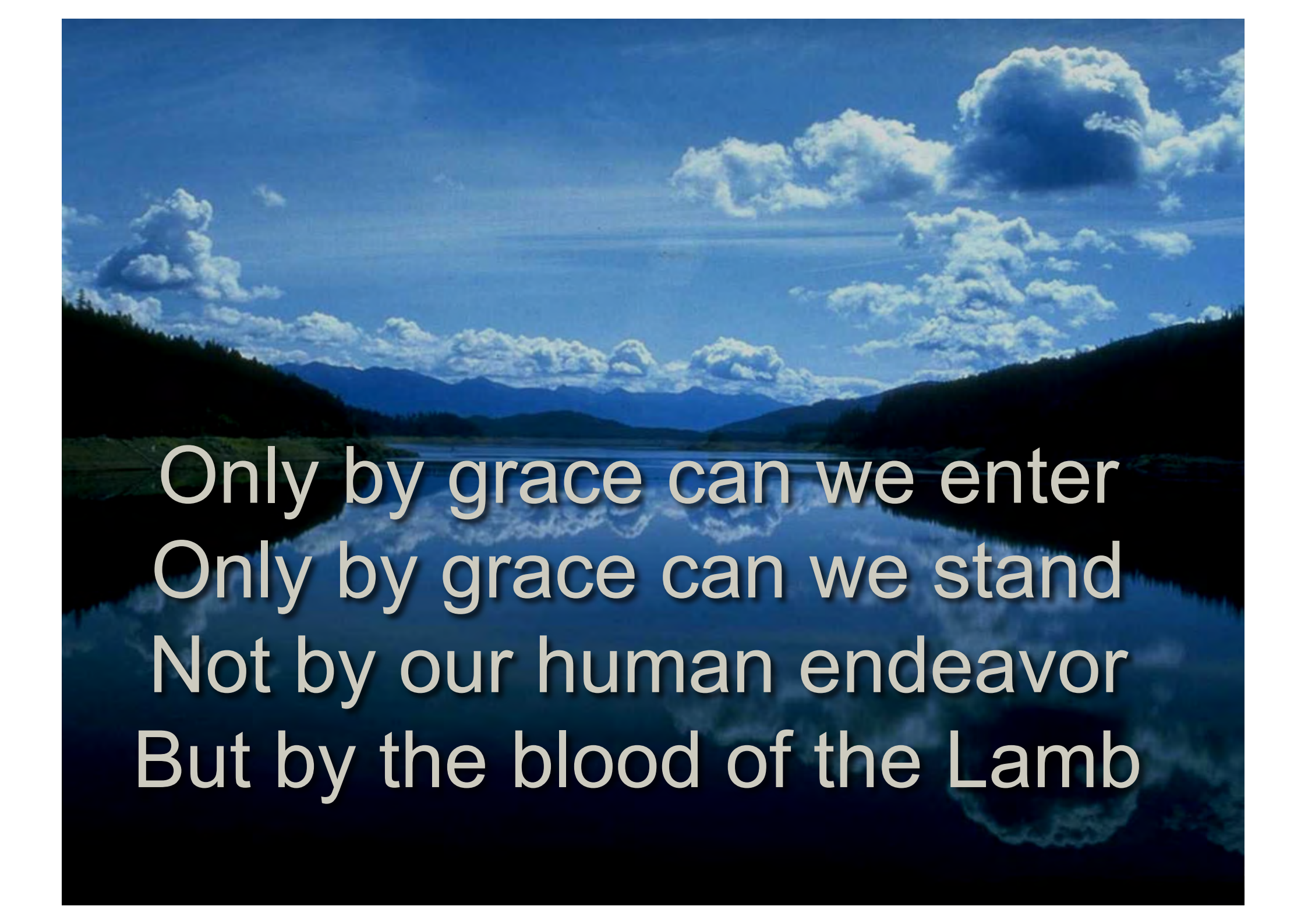
## Jonah 2 Small Group Questions

- 1. What are some different ways you respond to difficulties God allows in your life?**
- 2. Explain what "Thank God His mercy overshadows His justice" means to you personally.**
- 3. Describe what you think life would be like for you now had you not become a Christian.**
- 4. What tangible way can you respond to His call for you to share Him with others?**



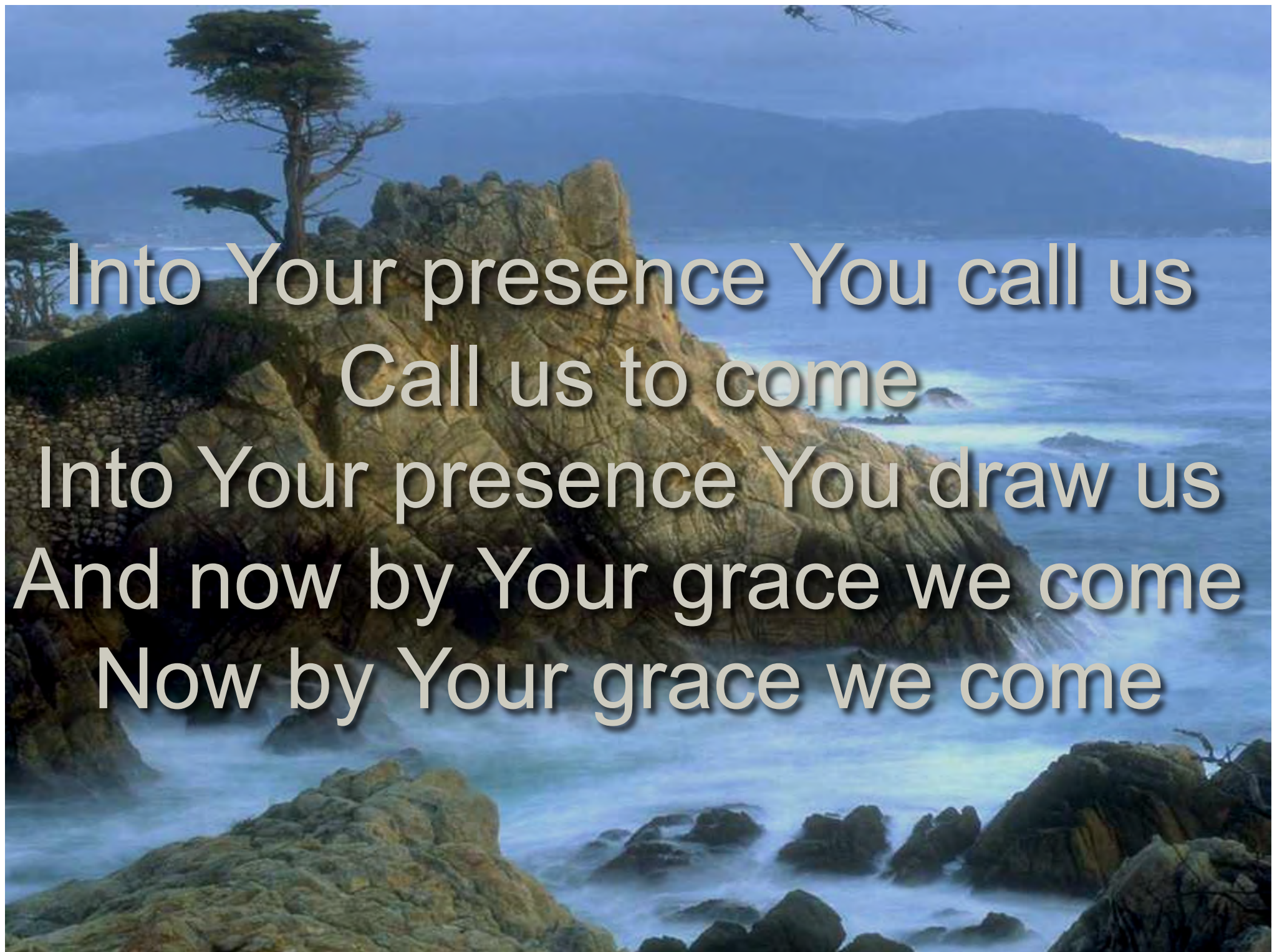


Words & lyrics by Gerrit Gustafson

A scenic landscape featuring a calm body of water in the foreground, which perfectly reflects the sky above. The sky is a deep blue, filled with large, fluffy white cumulus clouds. In the distance, a range of dark, forested mountains stretches across the horizon. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.


Only by grace can we enter  
Only by grace can we stand  
Not by our human endeavor  
But by the blood of the Lamb





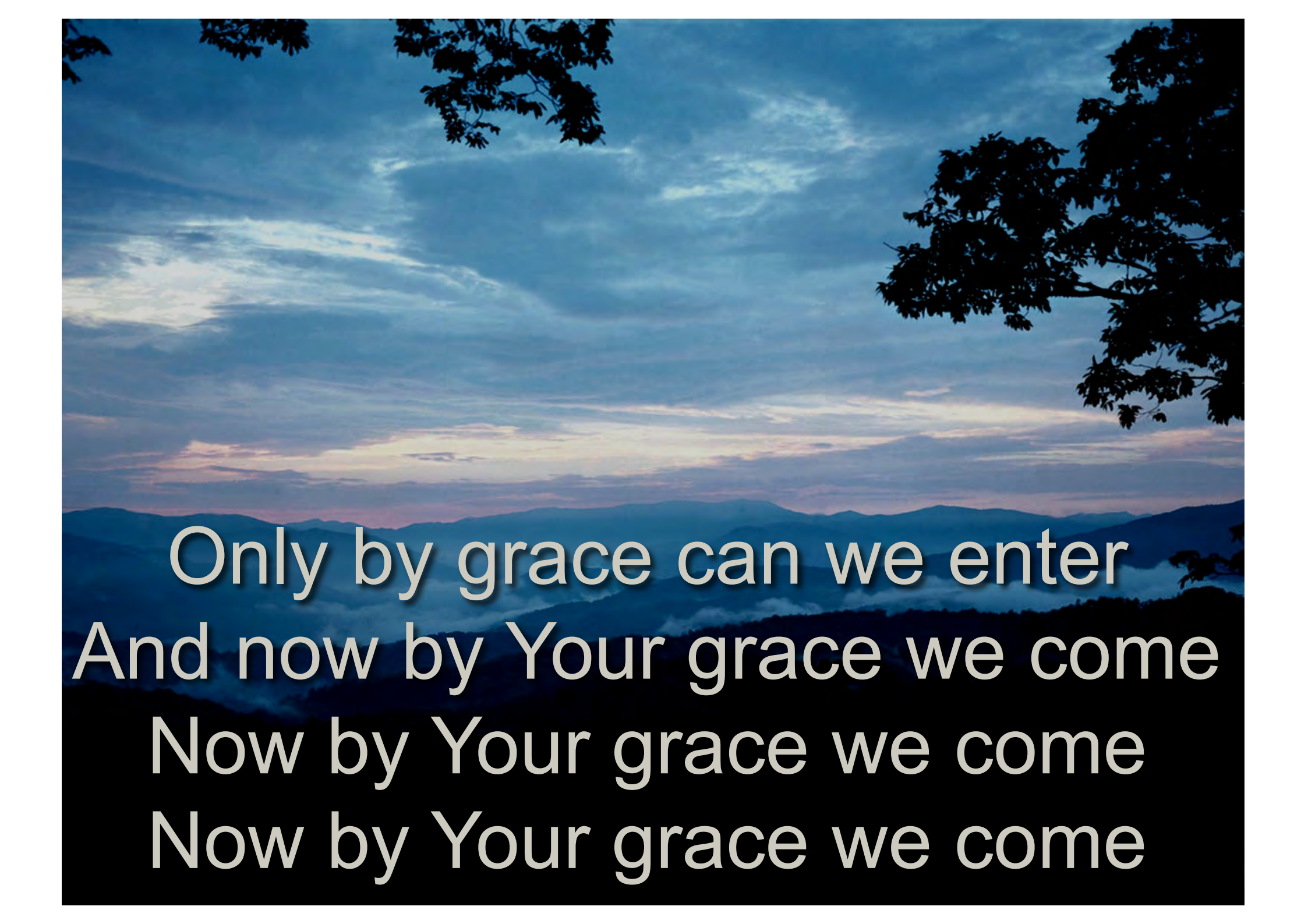
Into Your presence You call us  
Call us to come  
Into Your presence You draw us  
And now by Your grace we come  
Now by Your grace we come



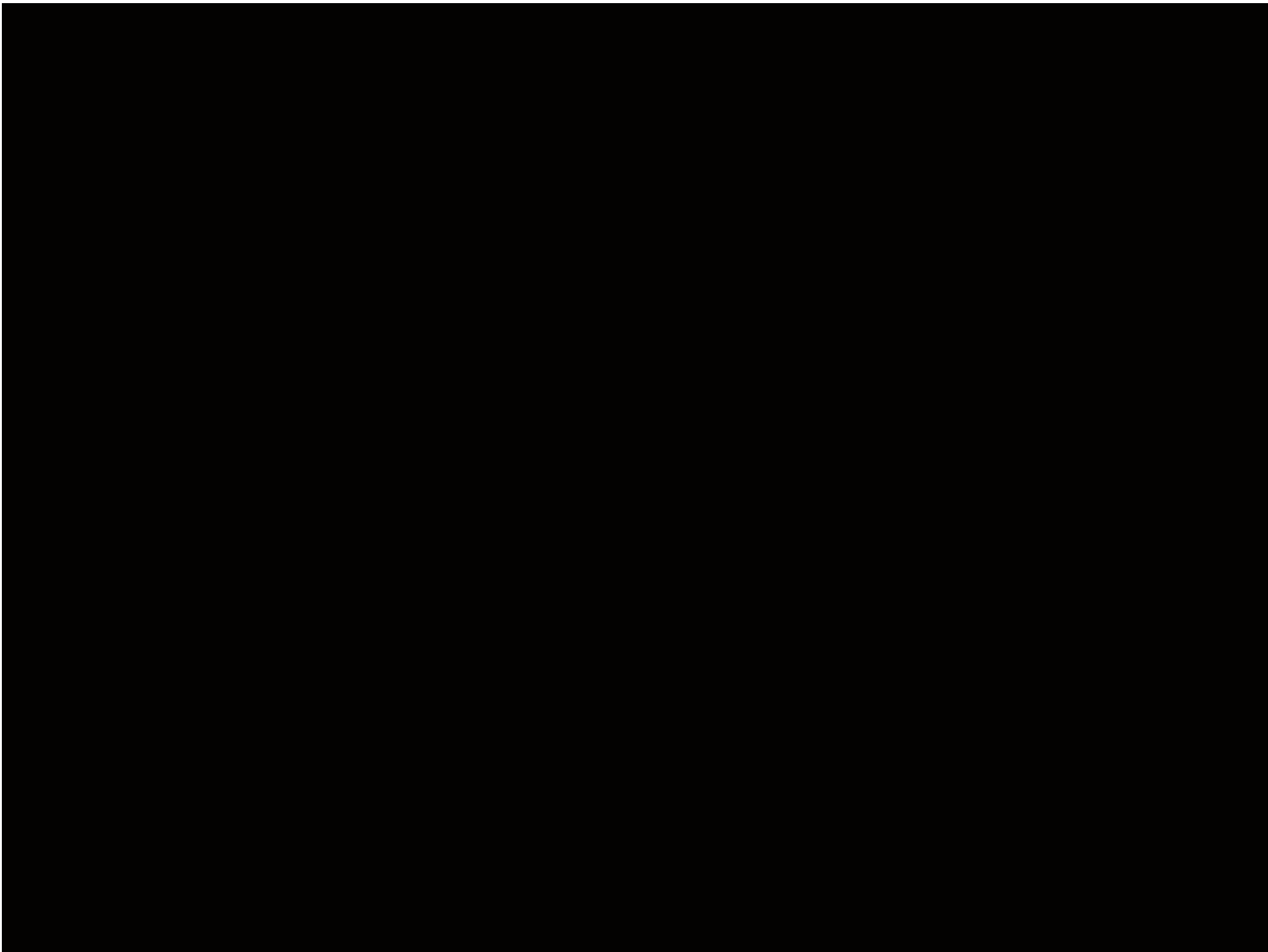
A scenic landscape featuring rolling mountains under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. Pine branches are visible in the upper corners, framing the scene. The text is overlaid in the center.

Lord, if You marked our  
transgressions  
who would stand?  
But thanks to Your grace  
we are cleansed by the blood  
of the Lamb



A scenic landscape at dusk or dawn. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of blue, purple, and orange. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of tree branches are visible against the sky. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with a layer of mist or low clouds settling in the valleys between them. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Only by grace can we enter  
And now by Your grace we come  
Now by Your grace we come  
Now by Your grace we come





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

**"Go! Yo! Whoa!"  
Jonah 3**



**SUCCESS**

**FAILURE**





# FAILURE OF LOGIC

This is why we can't have nice things



# FAILURE

WHEN YOUR BEST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH





# LOSING

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED,  
FAILURE MAY BE YOUR STYLE



# FAILURE

WE CAN'T SPELL FAILURE WITHOUT U.





# FAILURE

SOMETIMES YOU JUST DON'T HAVE AN EXCUSE

Do you fear

f

a

i

l

u

r

e

?





# Many Fear Evangelism!



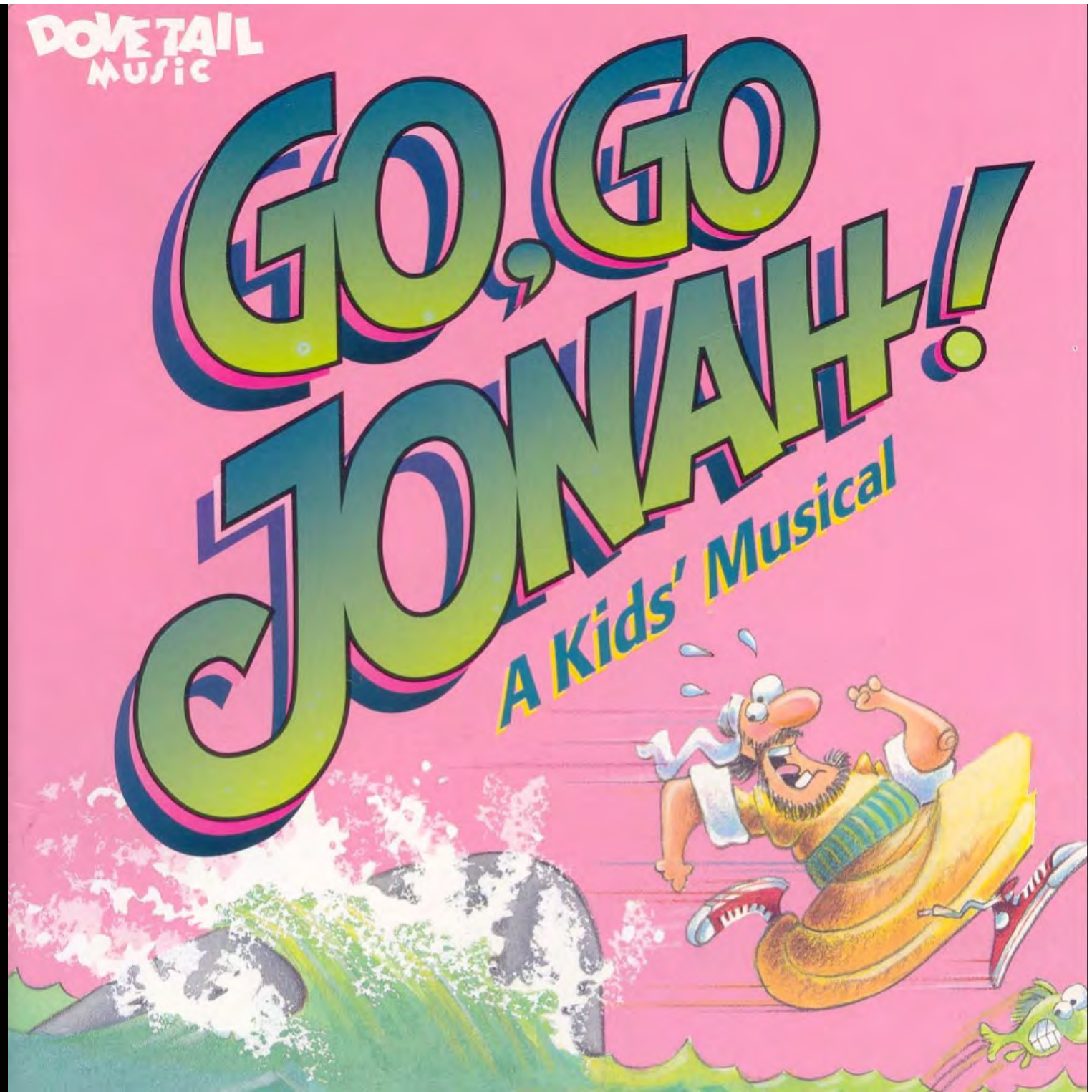
***"When I was a kid I would go up to someone's porch, ring the doorbell, and run like the dickens. I still do it, except now our church calls it 'outreach training.'"***

The background of the slide is an abstract digital composition. It features a series of concentric, wavy lines in shades of red and pink, creating a sense of depth and movement. Interspersed among these lines are numerous small, bright pink dots, some of which appear to be part of the wavy patterns, while others are isolated. The overall effect is a vibrant, textured field of light and color.

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



Jonah  
failed  
to go



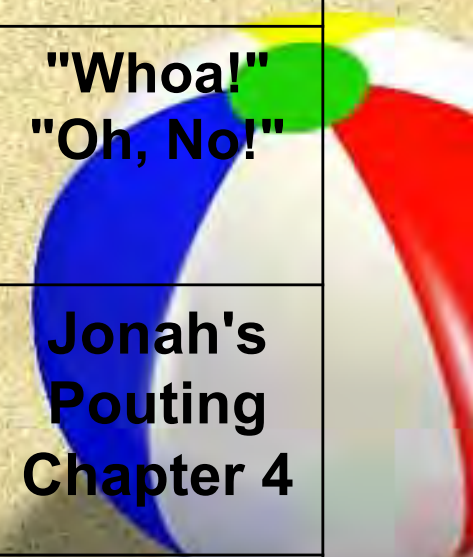


# God's Compassion on Gentiles

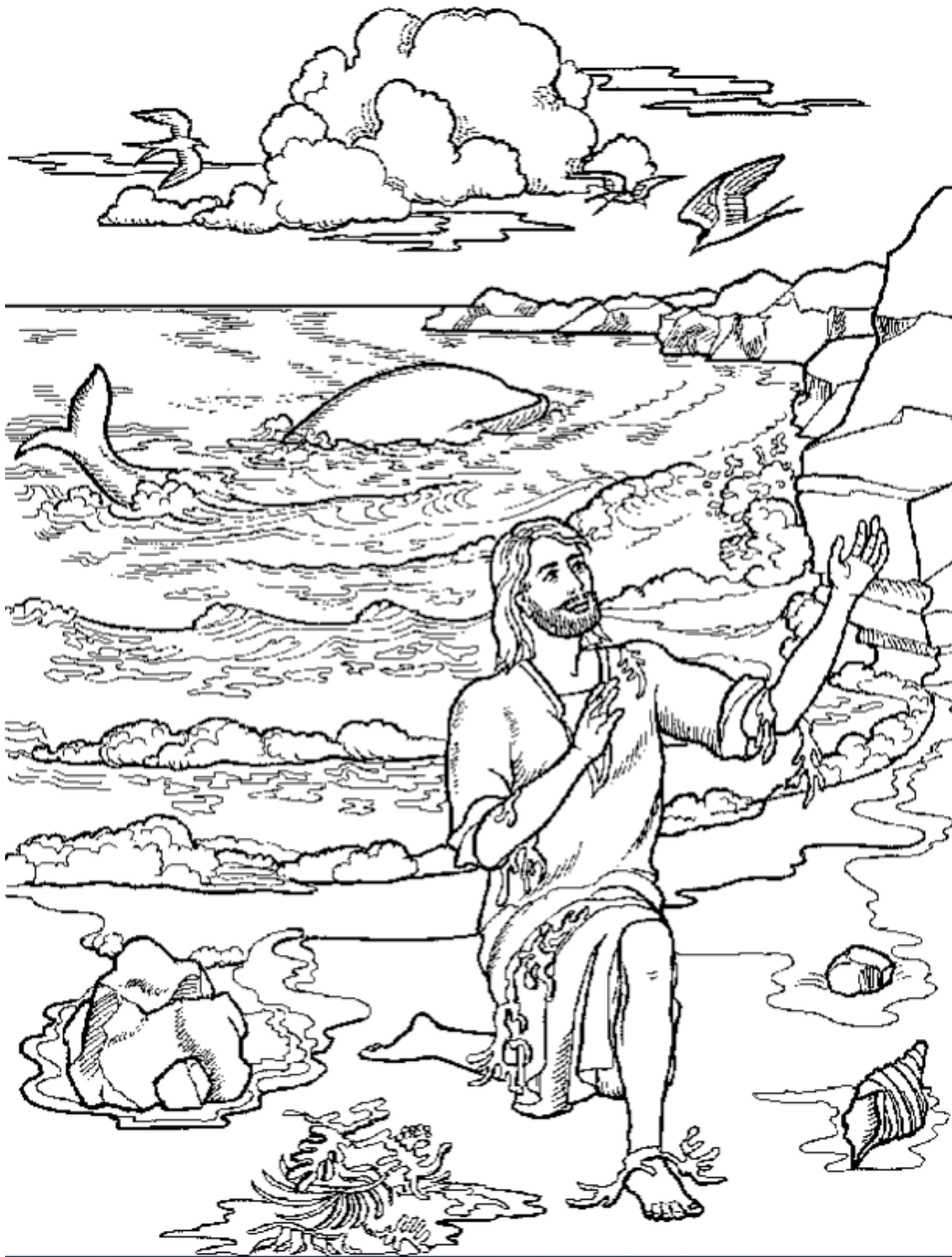
599

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	Diso- bedienc e 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

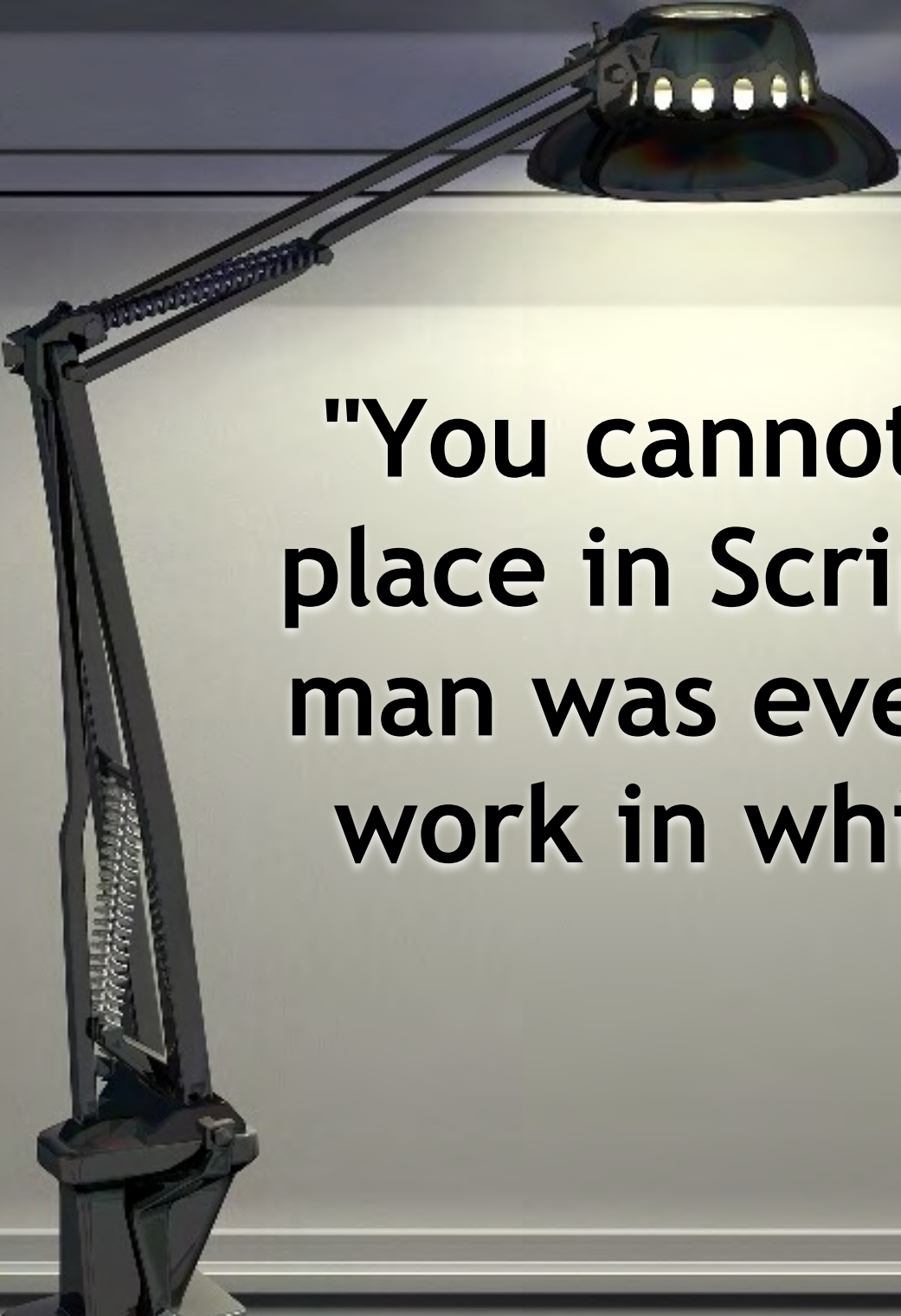






# Jonah 3: Go!

- 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***





**"Experience is a wonderful thing.  
It enables you to recognize a mistake  
when you make it again."**

# The God of the "Second Chance"

- Abraham
- Moses
- David
- Paul
- John Mark



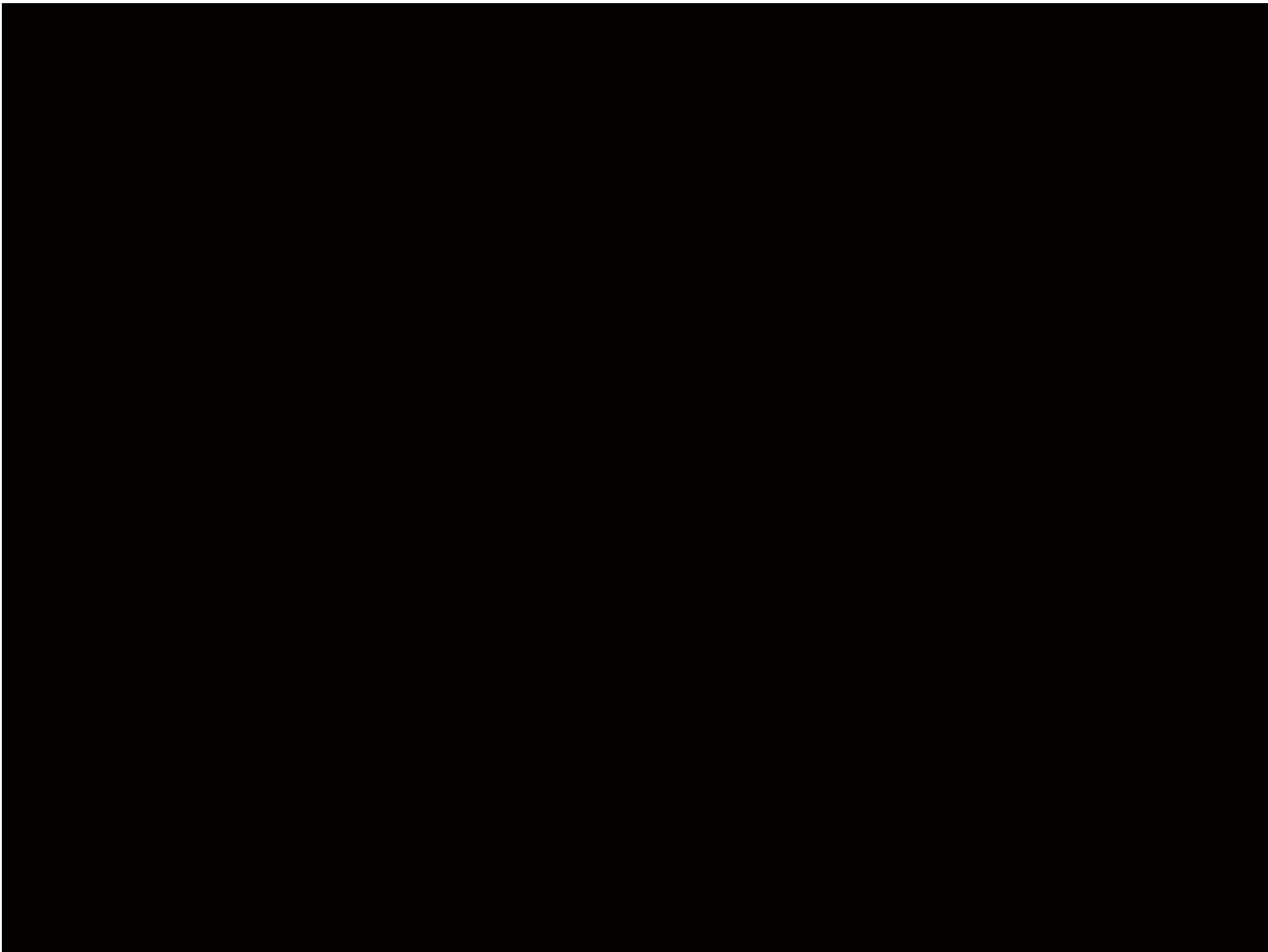
# Failure is an event—Not a person

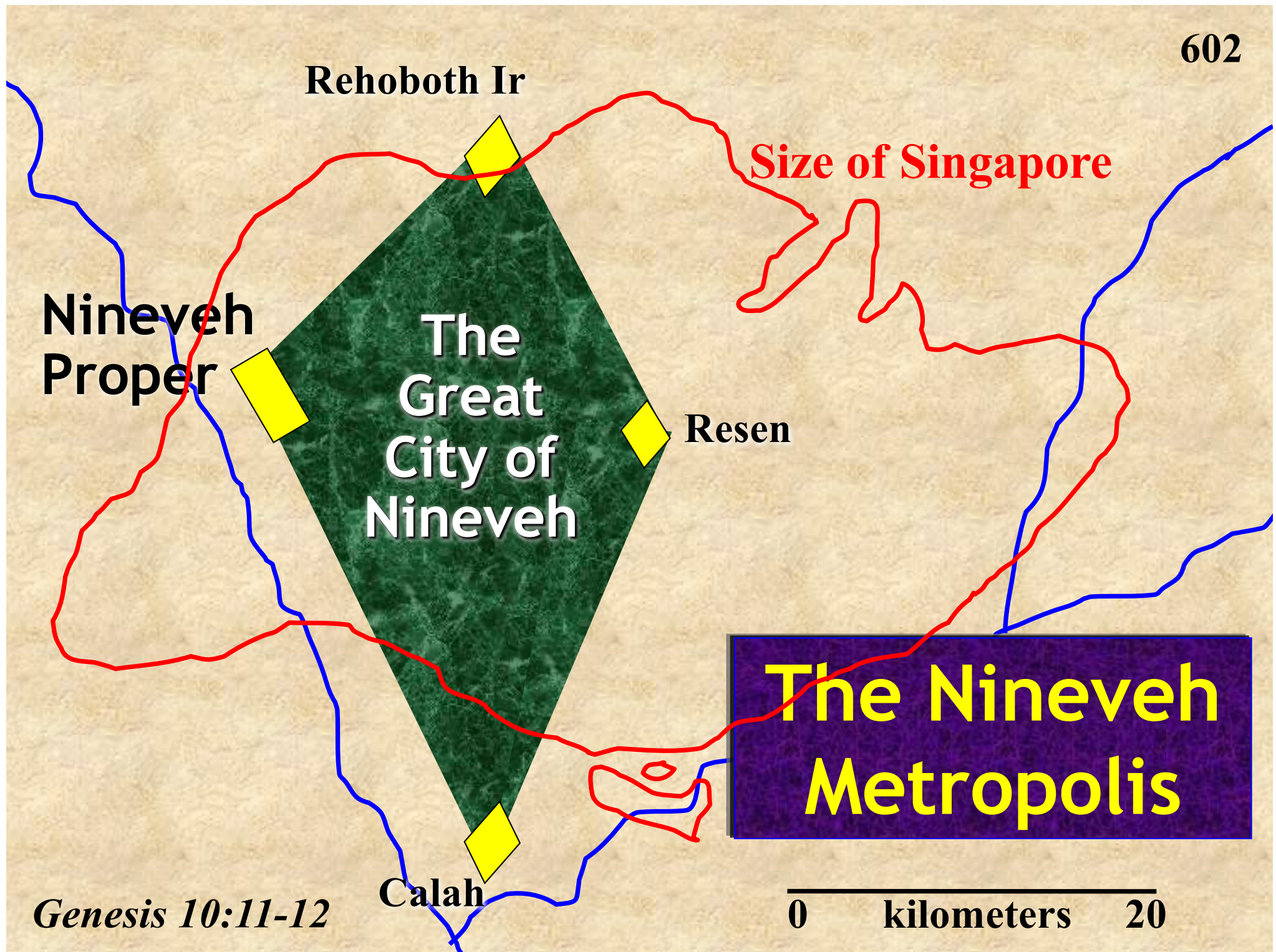


# Jonah 3: Go! Yo!

- 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:**

# What's Most Important?



Mark 12:29-31 -- Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. <sup>30</sup> And you must **love the Lord** your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'

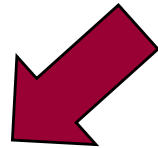
<sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: '**Love your neighbor** as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."



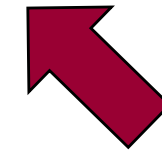
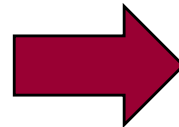


***Our Vision is to...***

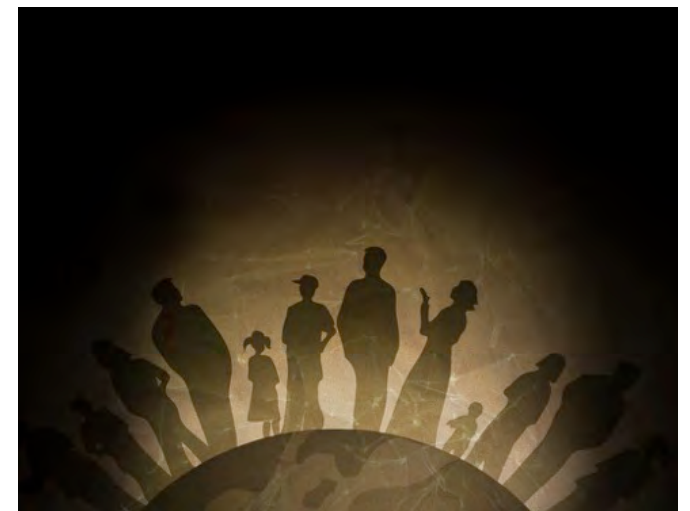
**Love God**



**Love the Church**



**Love the Nations**





# The Candle



And the best evangelist is...

# 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).





**Historicity**



"What did I do?"



*Jonah 3:5-10*

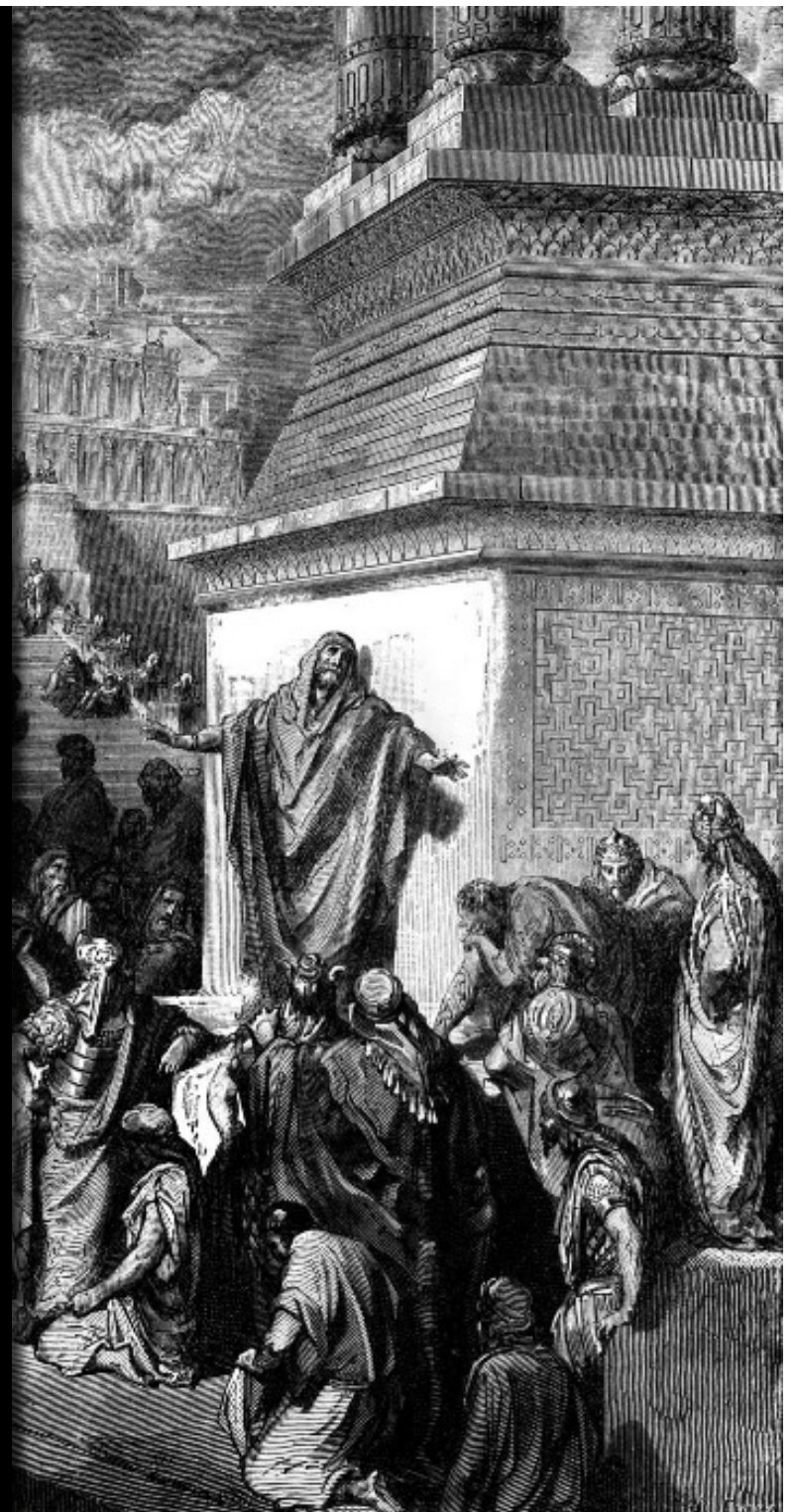


# Jonah in Wonderland?

---

"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?)







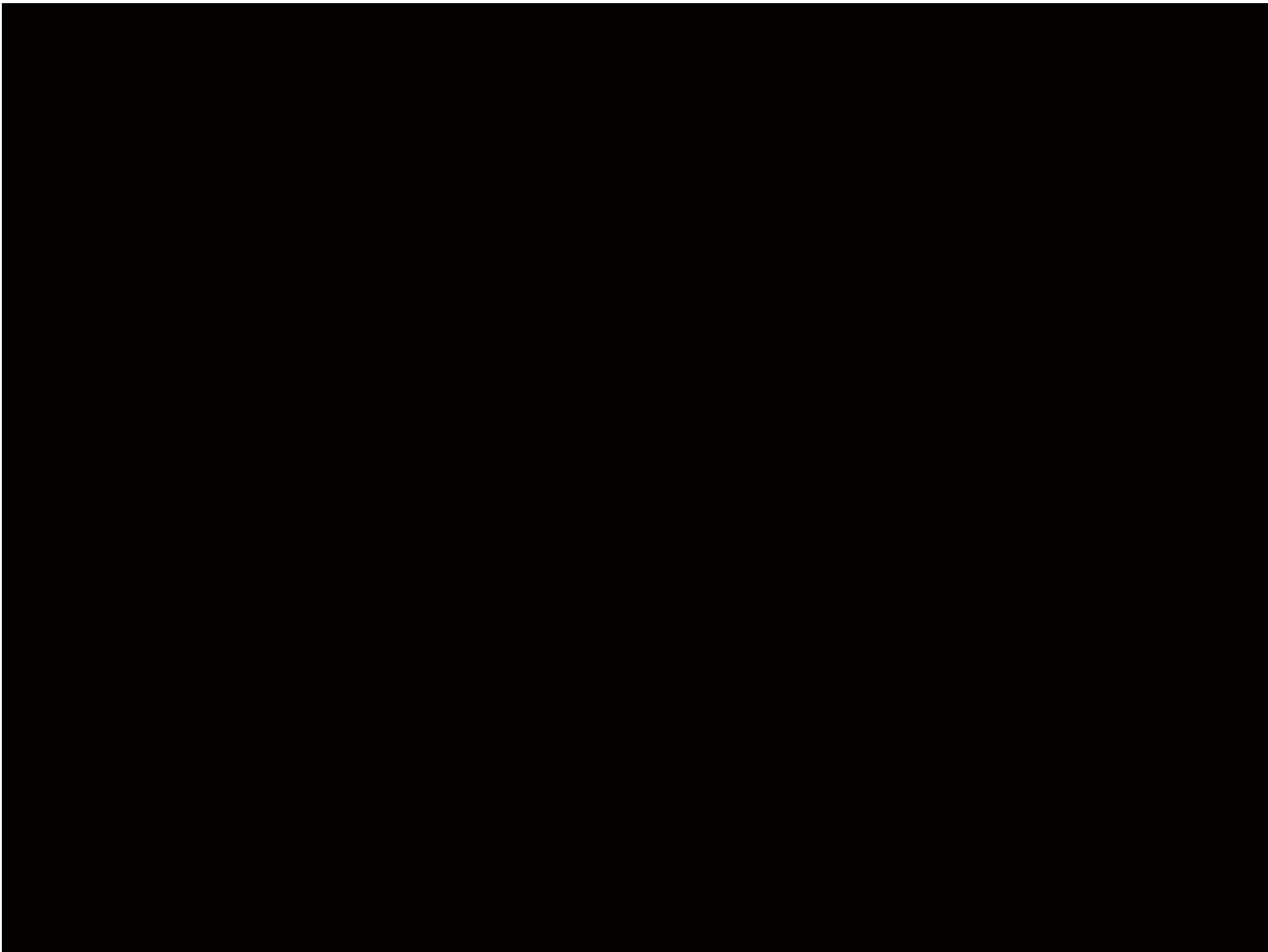
**Jonah  
was a  
sign to  
Nineveh  
(Luke  
11:30)**



# The God of Surprises!









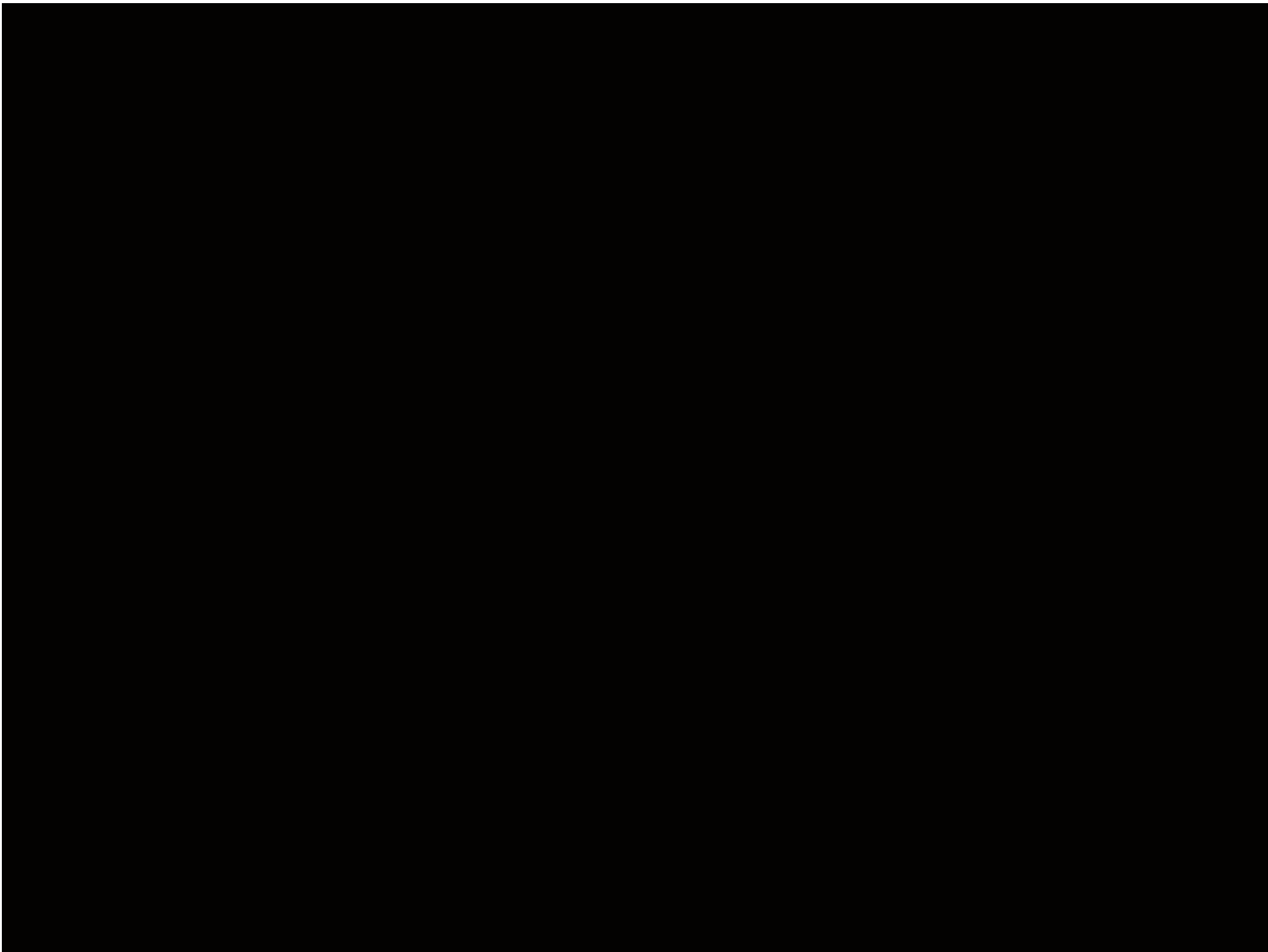
**People are  
more  
responsive  
than you  
think!**

**The Main Idea  
of Jonah 3**





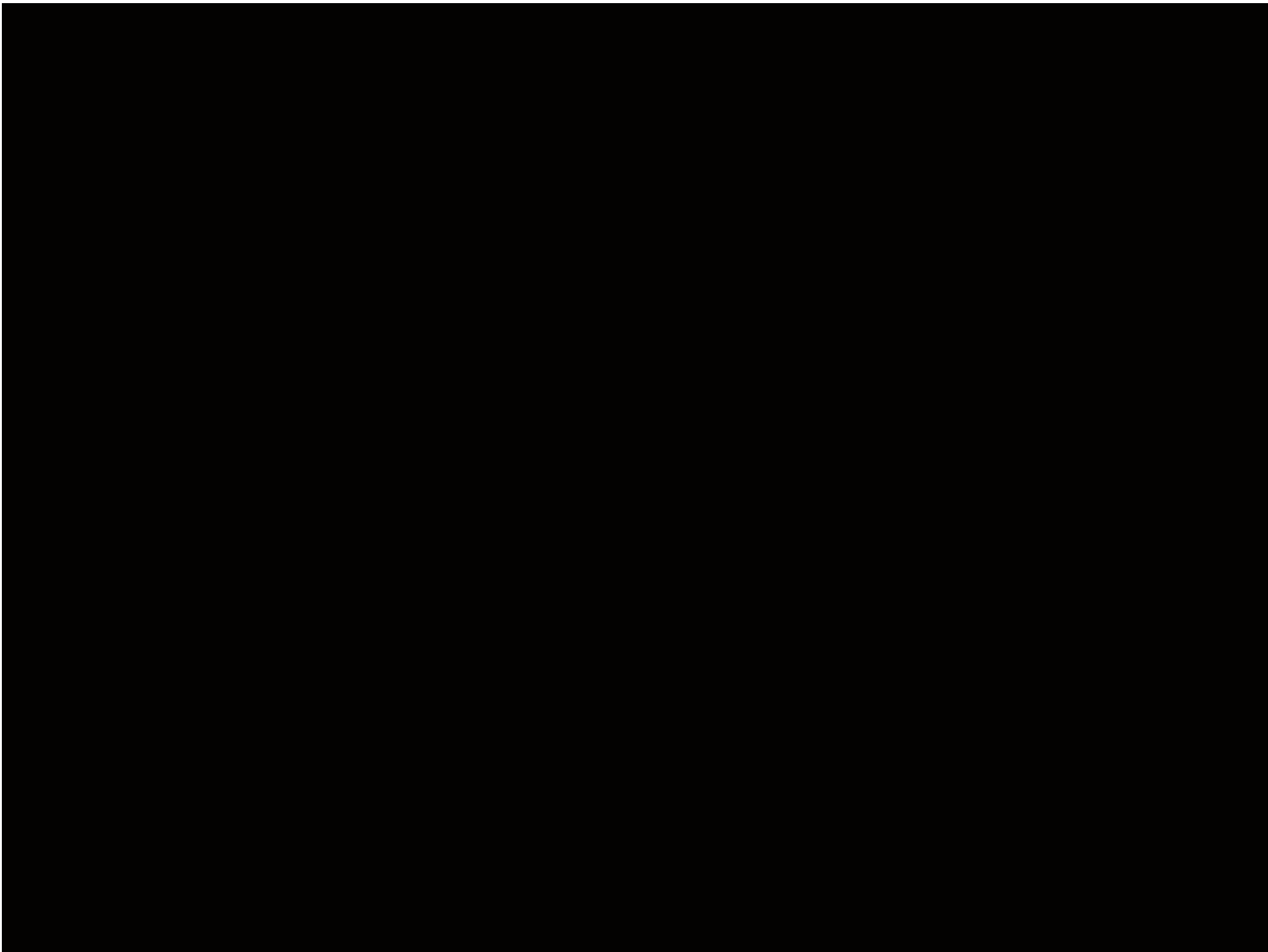
**YOUR  
FAILURES  
DO NOT  
DEFINE  
YOU**





## Jonah 3 Small Group Questions

- 1. What non-Christian do you know whom you think won't respond positively to the gospel, so you haven't yet shared Christ with this person?**
- 2. How could your reluctance to share with the above person show your God is too small?**
- 3. How do you think that person will respond to your sharing about Christ?**





Finally I understood

---

**Grace**  
to me

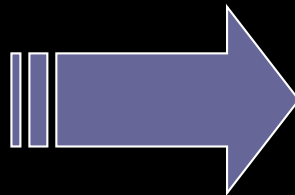
- Grace set me free from trying to be "good enough" for God!

# The Big Move

---



**Castro Valley**



**Hayward**

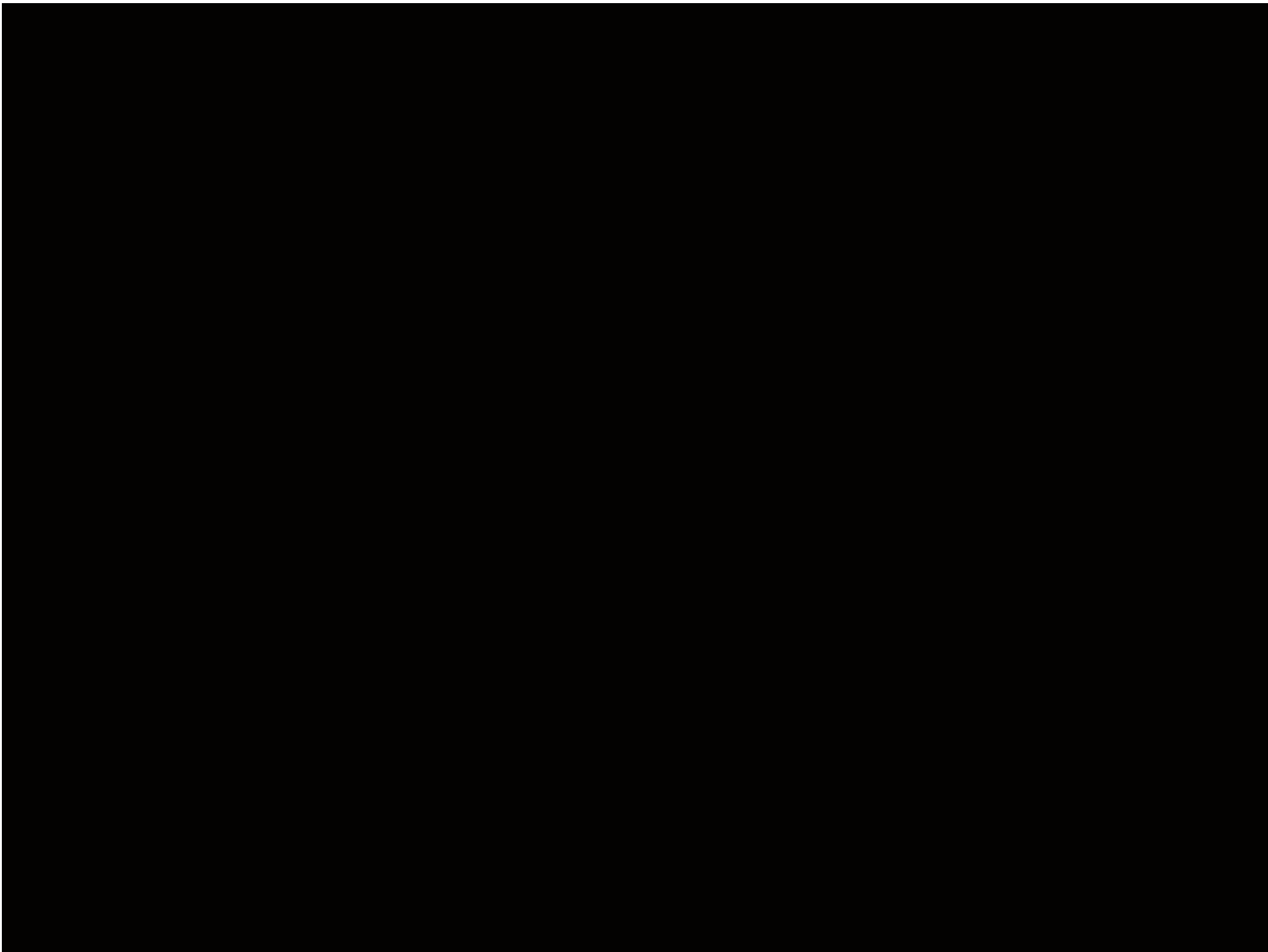


# A New Start



Dean

**Grace**  
to others





# Unique Elements in Jonah

600

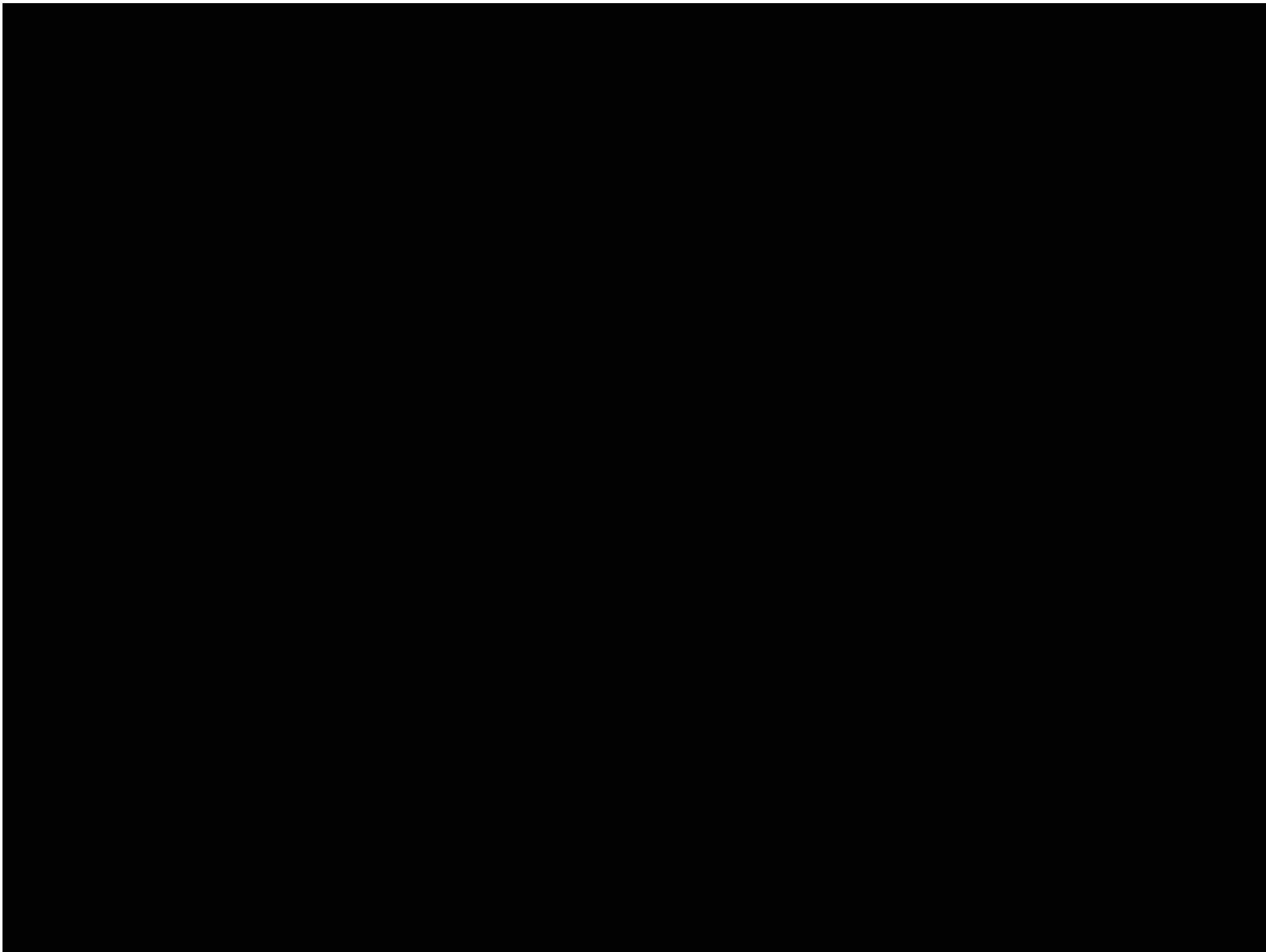
1. Jonah speaks entirely through the *experience* of a prophet—not his words.
2. Jonah is the only prophet in Scripture who *tried to run* from God.
3. Jonah is the only entire biblical book on Israel's response to the *Gentile* nations.
4. The *historicity* of Jonah has been denied by many scholars.

*Show greater compassion on  
**people** than things*

**“Oh, No!”**

**Jonah 4**





*How can we show compassion?*

---







*Where would Jonah go?*

*Tarshish*

*Nineveh*

*Gath-Hepher*

*Joppa*



# Thanksgiving Psalm

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



**Jonah 2**



# The Result? Jonah Vomited







"What did I do?"



*Jonah 3:5-10*



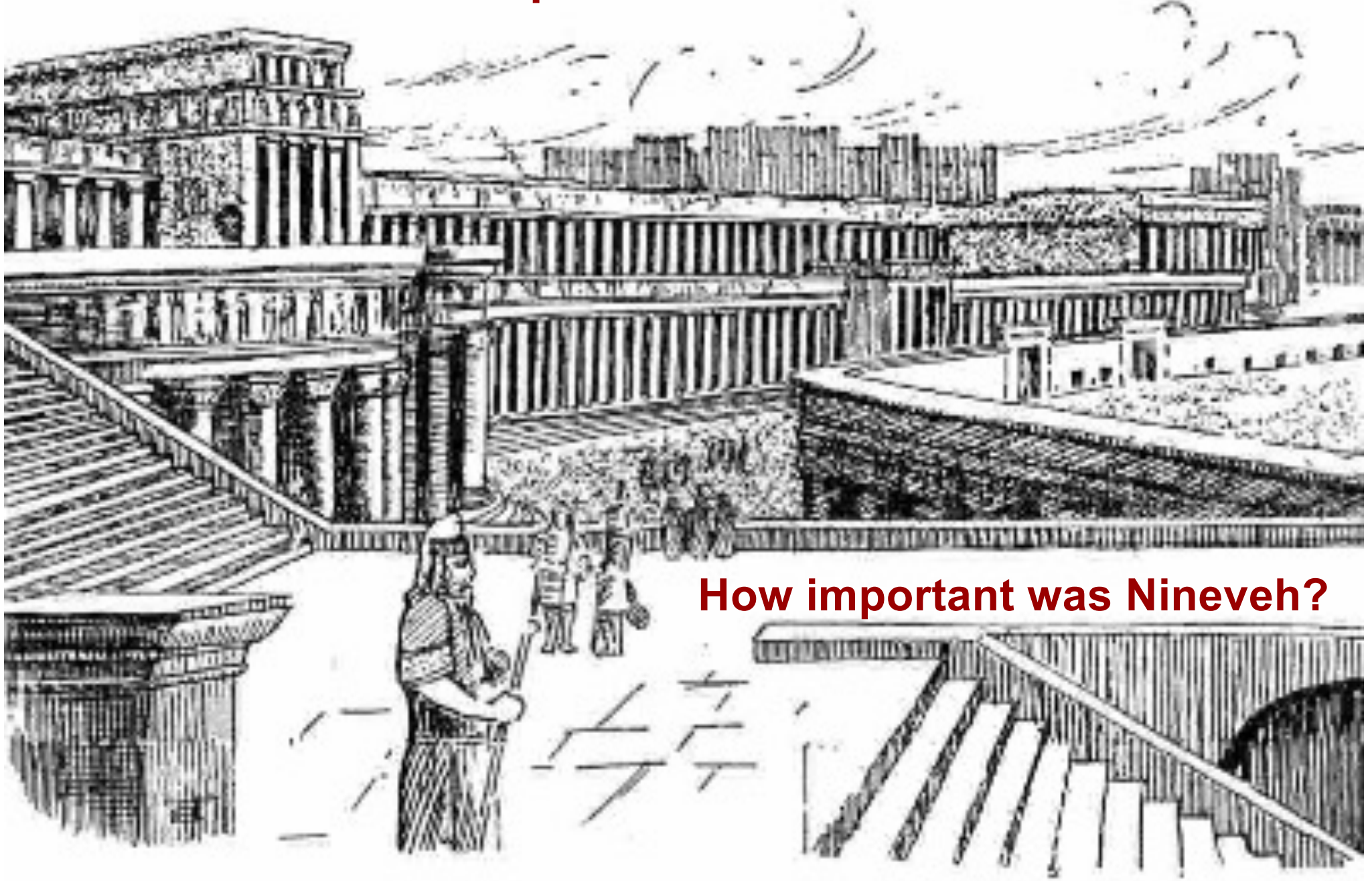
# God's Compassion on Gentiles

599

Disobeys Missionary Mandate			Obeys Missionary Mandate		
Chapters 1—2			Chapters 3—4		
God's Mercy on Jonah			God's Mercy on Nineveh		
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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
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Jonah's Perversity Chapter 1		Jonah's Prayer Chapter 2	Jonah's Preaching Chapter 3		Jonah's Pouting Chapter 4
about 760 BC					



# Jonah's Prophet Priorities Problem



**How important was Nineveh?**



**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...**

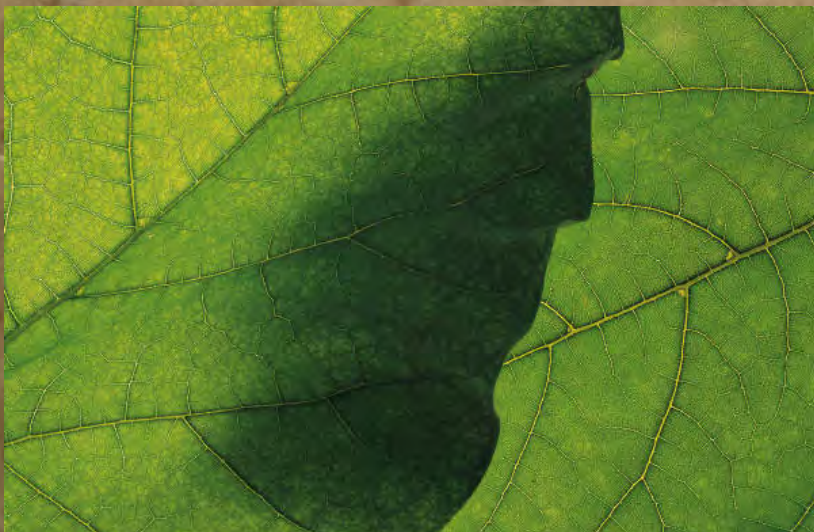
**I'll break his head**



# Hudson Taylor



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



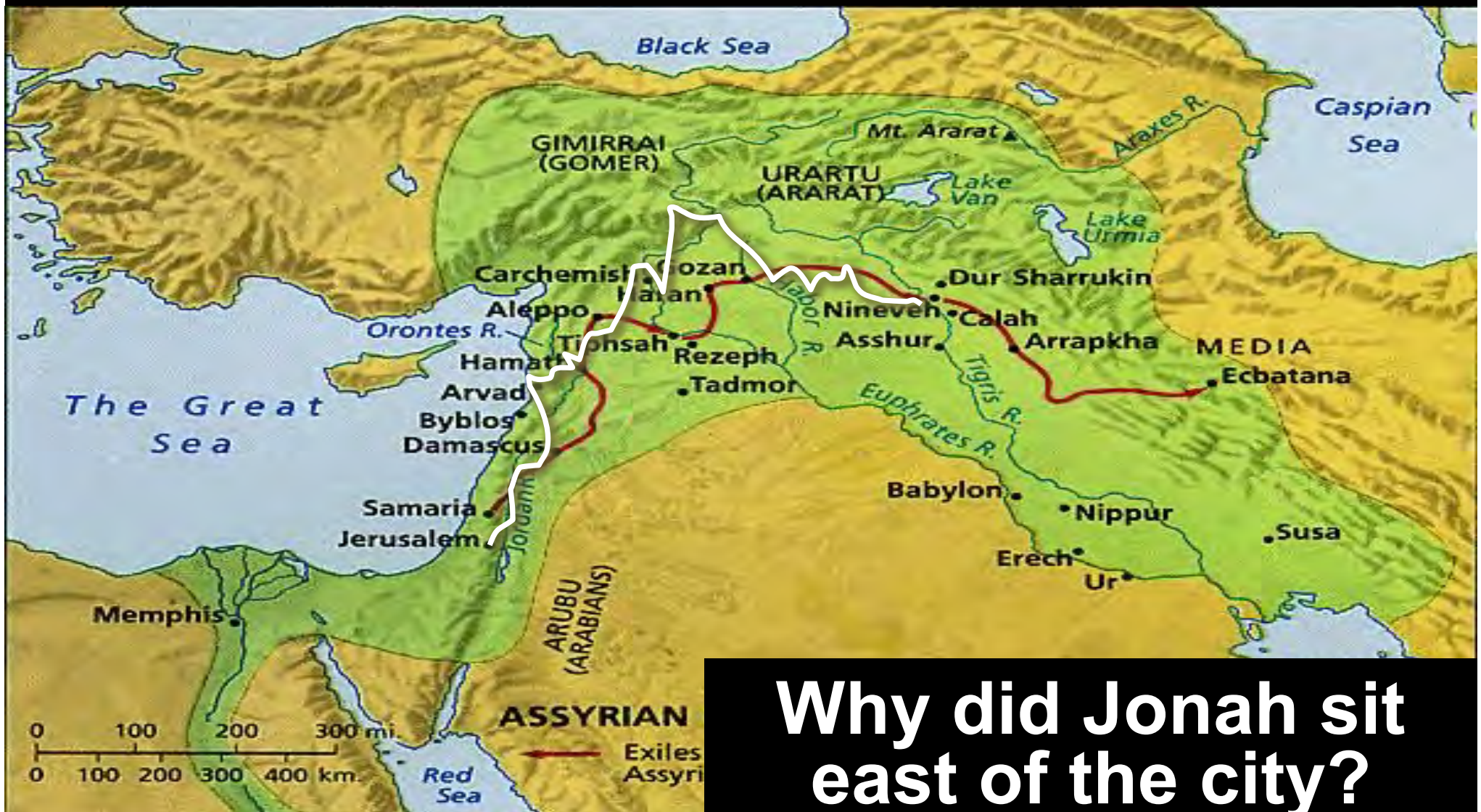
JONAH  
POUTED



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





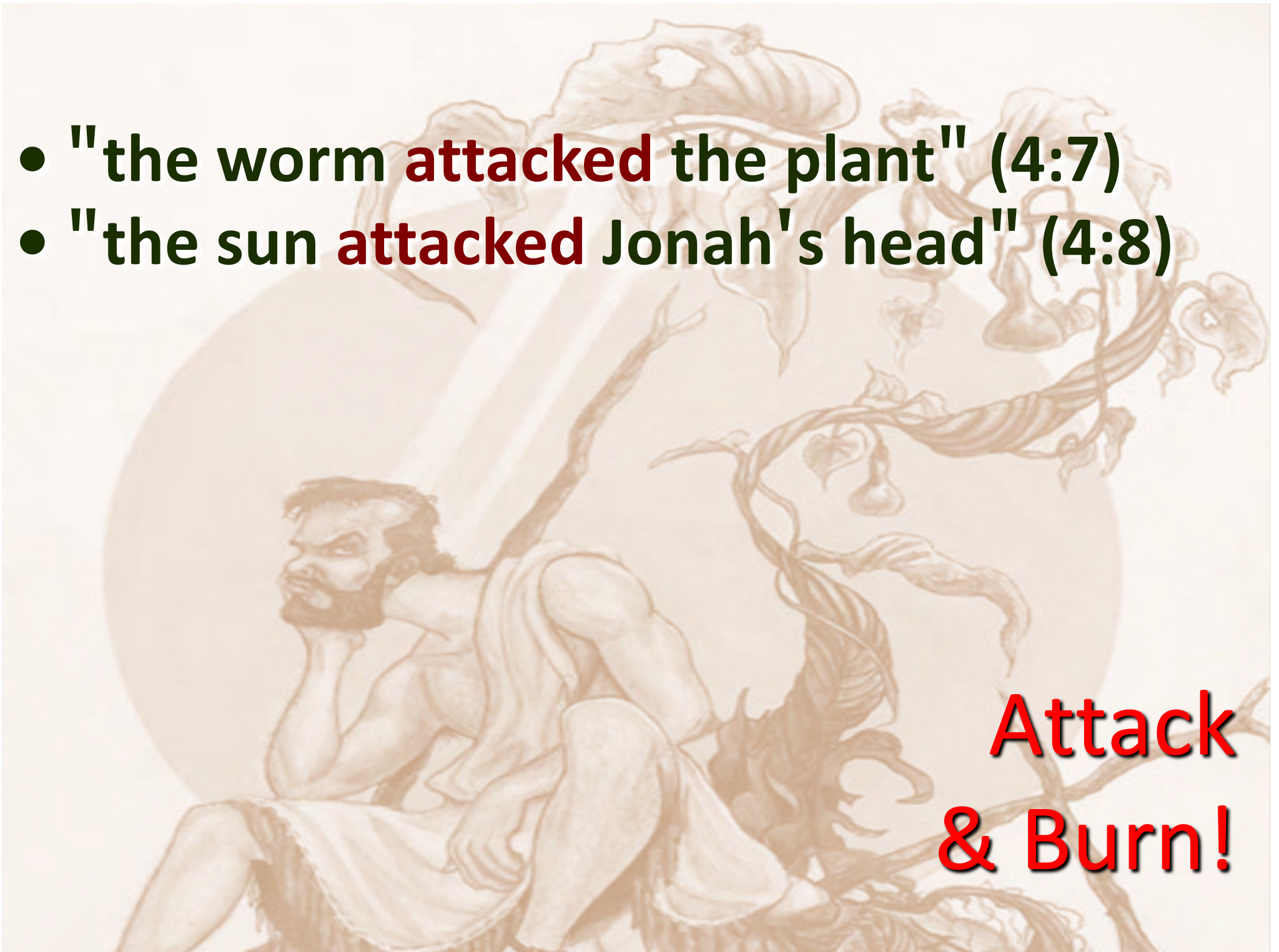
# God...

- **"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**"**

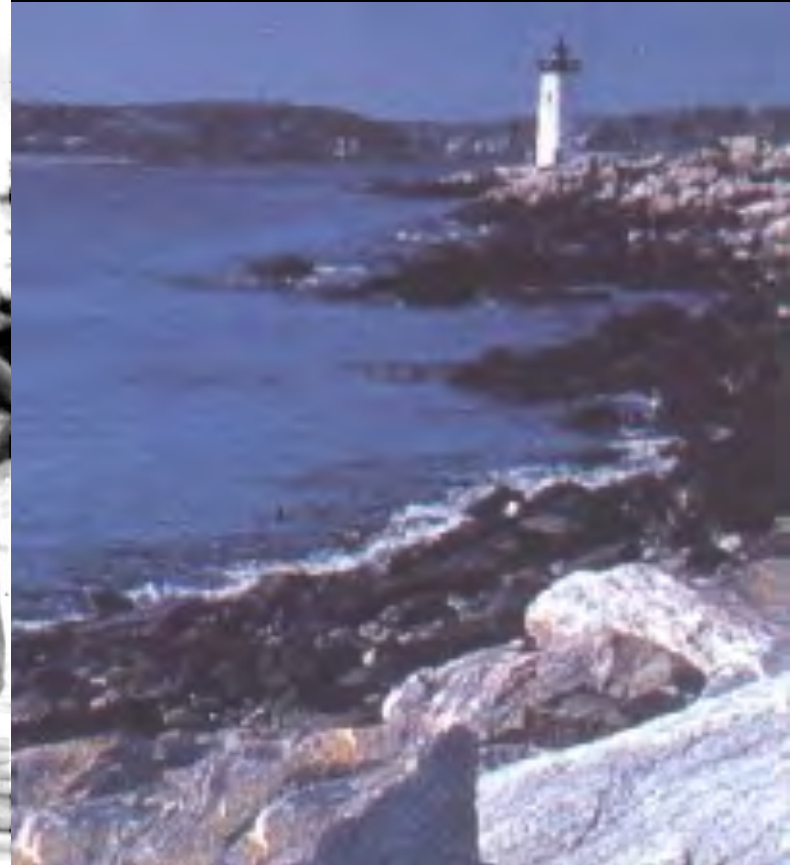


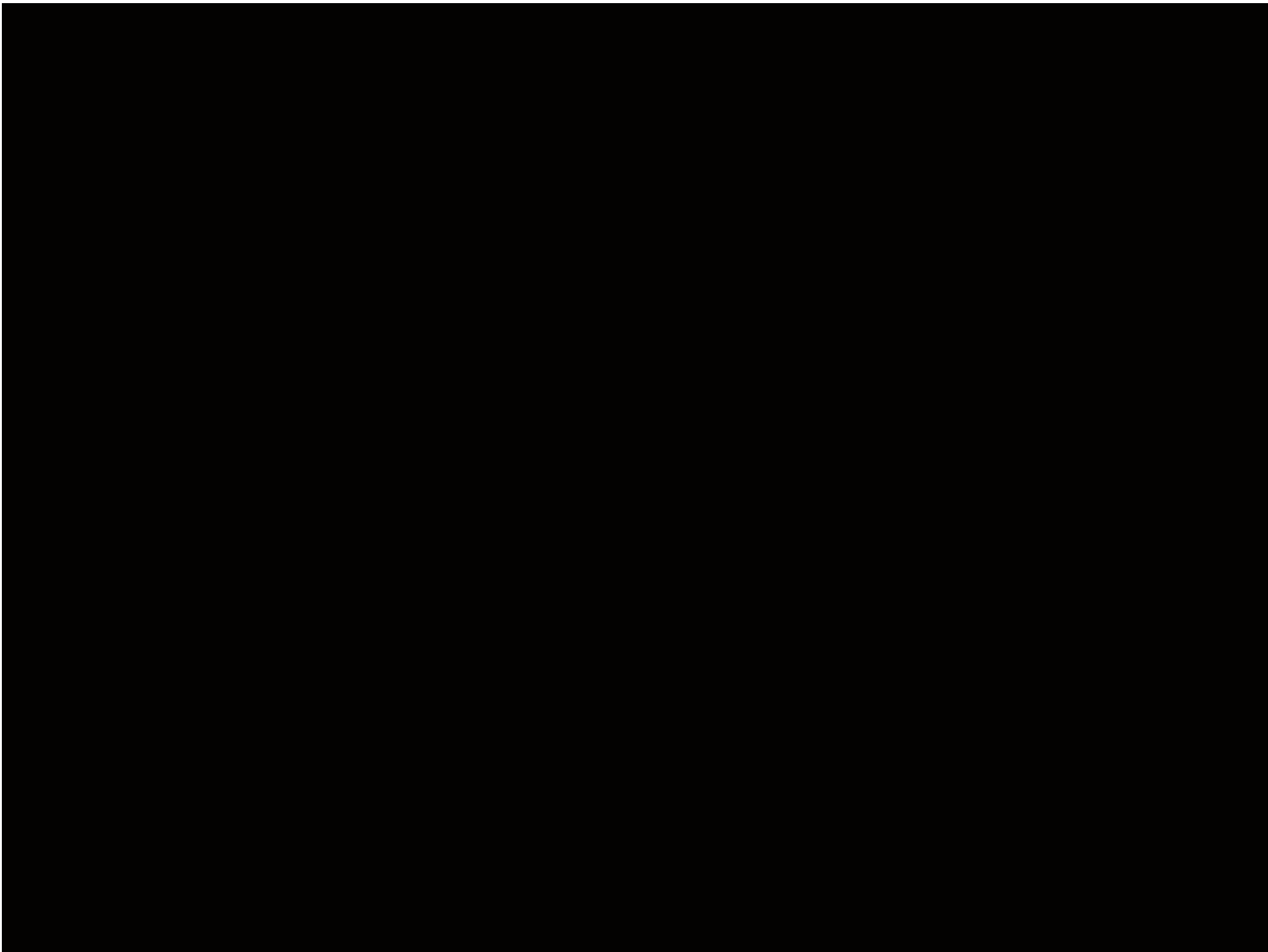
## **The Point of Jonah:**

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

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










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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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# 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?



# Jonah Nahum

760 663 660 612

**United  
Kingdom**

**1050-930**

**Divided  
Kingdom**

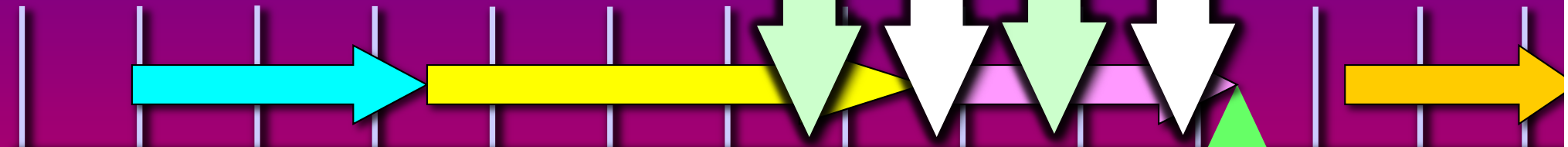
**930-722**

**Solitary  
Kingdom**

**722-586**

**Post-  
Exile**

**536-425**



1	1	1											
1	0	0	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	4
0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Exile 586-536**

**100 Years**

**Later...**

# ASSYRIA

Tiglath-Pileser

Assyria Strong

Jonah 760

Israel's Fall 722

Nahum 660

Zephaniah 630

Nineveh's Fall 612

0011

900

850

800

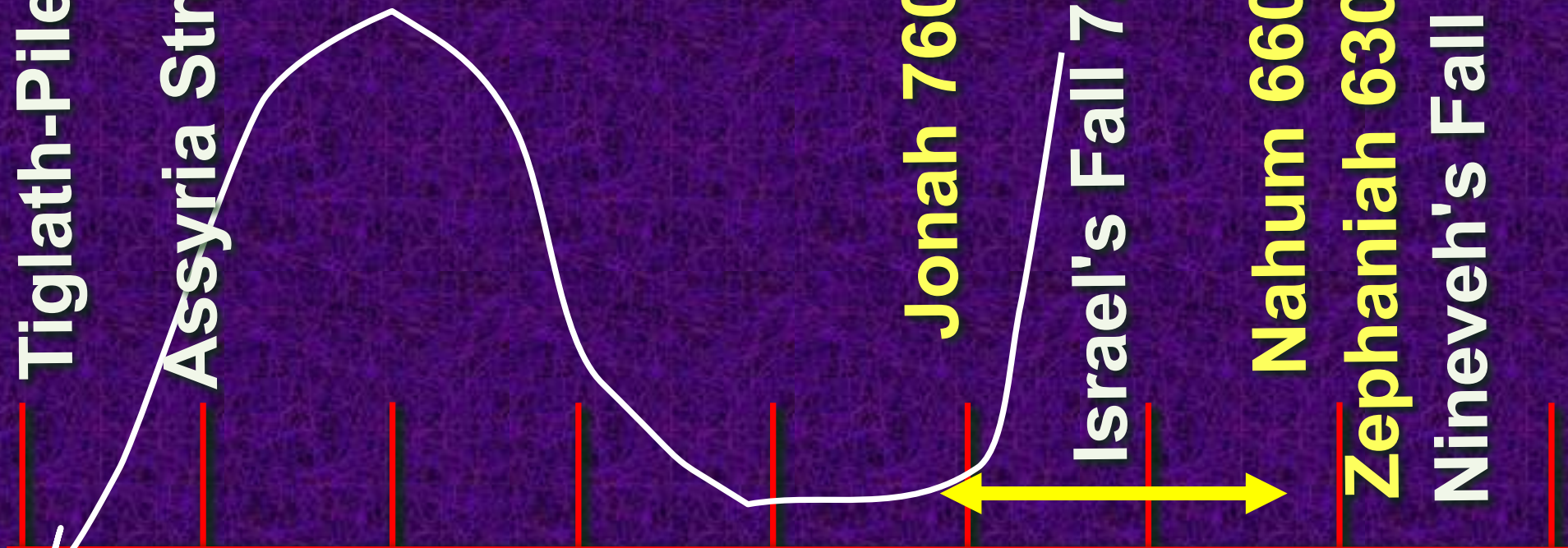
750

700

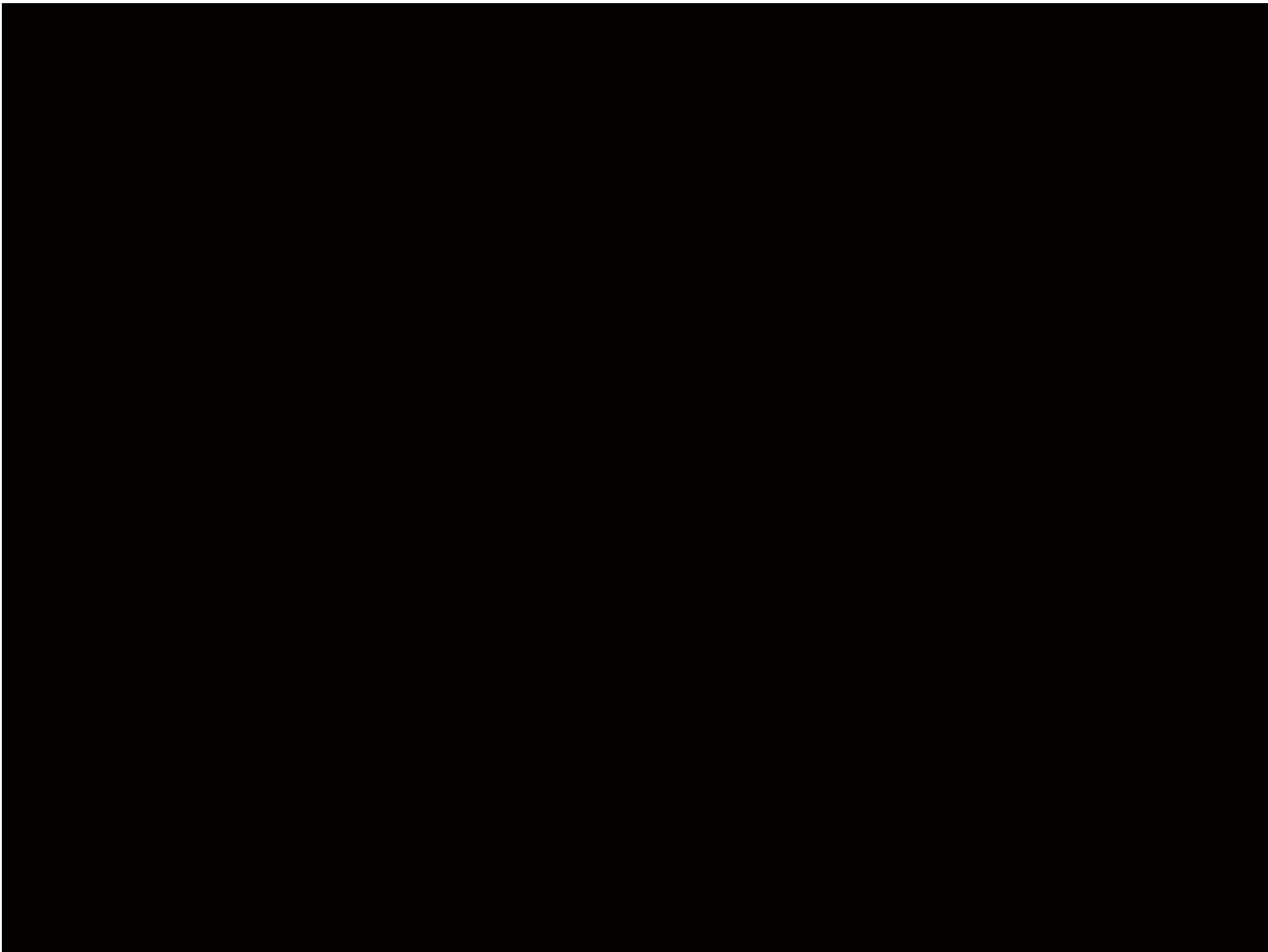
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600

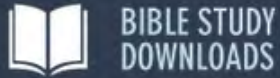
**Nineveh's  
Relapse**








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