

**The Many
MASKS
of Gideon**





Today's Goal!

**To unmask this event and look at
the true motivations behind
Gideon's action**

**In so doing we want to debunk
myths about fleece throwing**





The Mask of Doubt

Covering the Face of Distrust

It's not about doubt

**Doubt defined: to call into question the
truth of: to be uncertain**

He is not uncertain about what God wants

***The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the
strength you have and save Israel out***

of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

v. 14





The Mask of Doubt

He does not trust God

The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

Judges 6:16

Distrust Defined: to have no trust or confidence in





Gideon Knew it was God!

The angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And Gideon did so. Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared. **When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, “Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!**

Judges 6:20-22





The Mask of Doubt

How do I know it's a trust issue?

Gideon never questions God's ability to do what he said he would but He Questioned God's honesty...

“Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised”


v. 36






The Mask of Doubt

Important to Us?



Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



Matthew 28:18-20





The Mask of Doubt

Important to Us?

Like Gideon we do not question the source of the command: *“Then Jesus came to them and said”*

Like Gideon we have received proof of who he is -- *Acts 2:32-33*

Like Gideon, we understand exactly what God is asking us to do...

Go... Make Disciples... Baptize... Teach







The Mask of Doubt

Our Issue

**“And surely
I am with you always,
to the very end of the age.”**





The Mask of Doubt



I can't teach others about Jesus what we are really saying God you can't teach through me

I can't speak we are saying is God you can't speak through me

I am too afraid what we are saying is God, I don't think you will be there when I need you

When we will not Go, we are not questioning our ability we are questioning God's availability to keep his promise





The Mask of Discernment

Covering the Face of Disobedience

Knowing God's will is important

Asking God for guidance (*Matthew 7:7*)

Thinking about how God wants you to do your calling (*Romans 12:2*)

Absolutely God is interested offering guidance (*Hebrews 13:20-21*)





The Mask of Discernment

Covering the Face of Disobedience

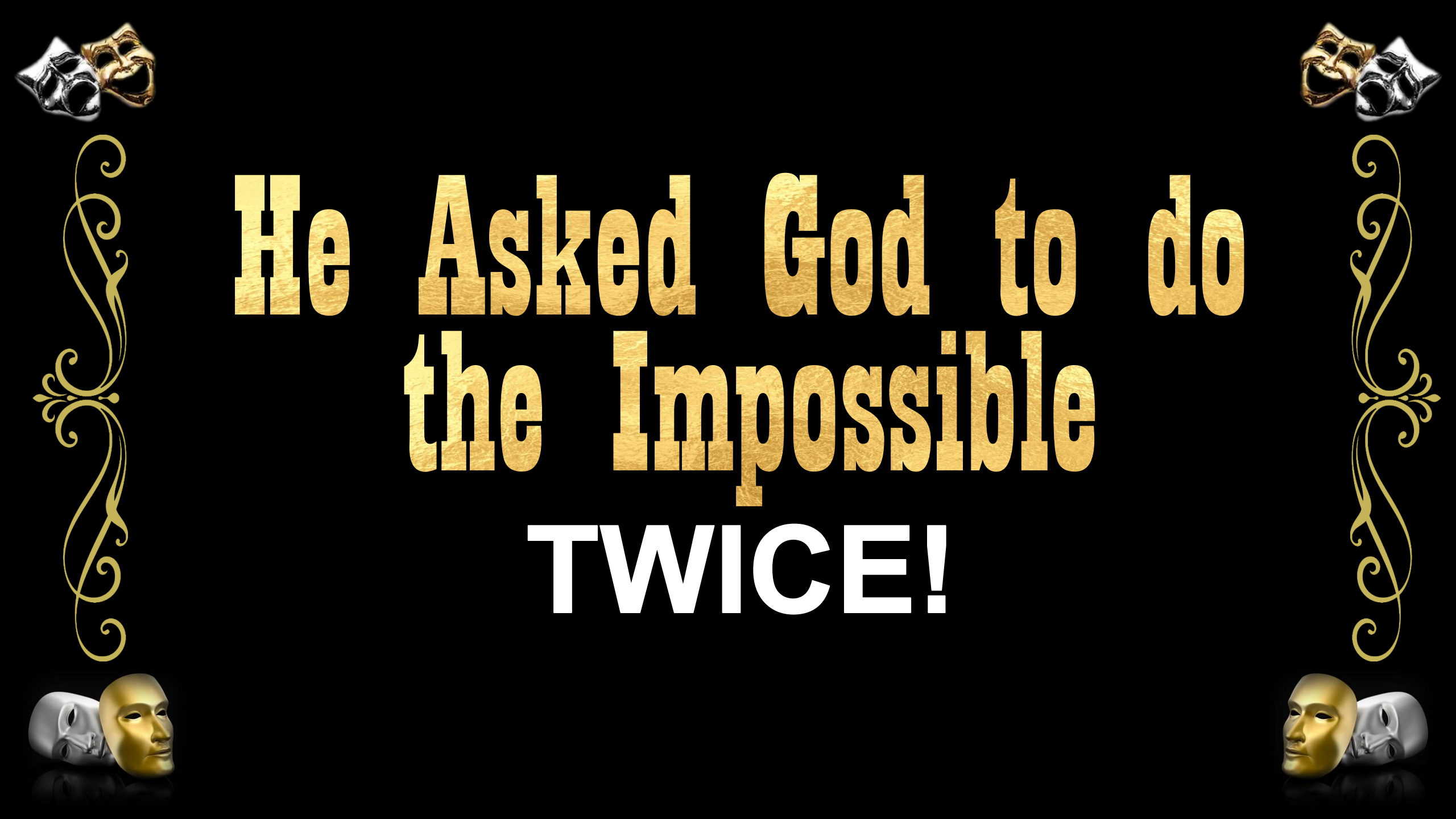
Discernment Defined: The quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure

Gideon definitely comprehended what was being asked of him

God did not approach him in an obscure manner

He was not seeking clarification





**He Asked God to do
the Impossible
TWICE!**



The Mask of Discernment

Covering the Face of Disobedience

Disobedience Defined: refusal or neglect to obey

He was hoping God would find somebody else

He did not have a lack of faith he had a lack of following

Yes, he went but that's because God wore him down not because he had a willing heart







**Is this really how
God wants things to work?**

**Do not mistake God's patience
for God's permission**

Gideon Knew it was Wrong!

**“Do not be angry with me. Let me make just
one more request. Allow me one more test
with the fleece” (v. 39)**





Wicked!

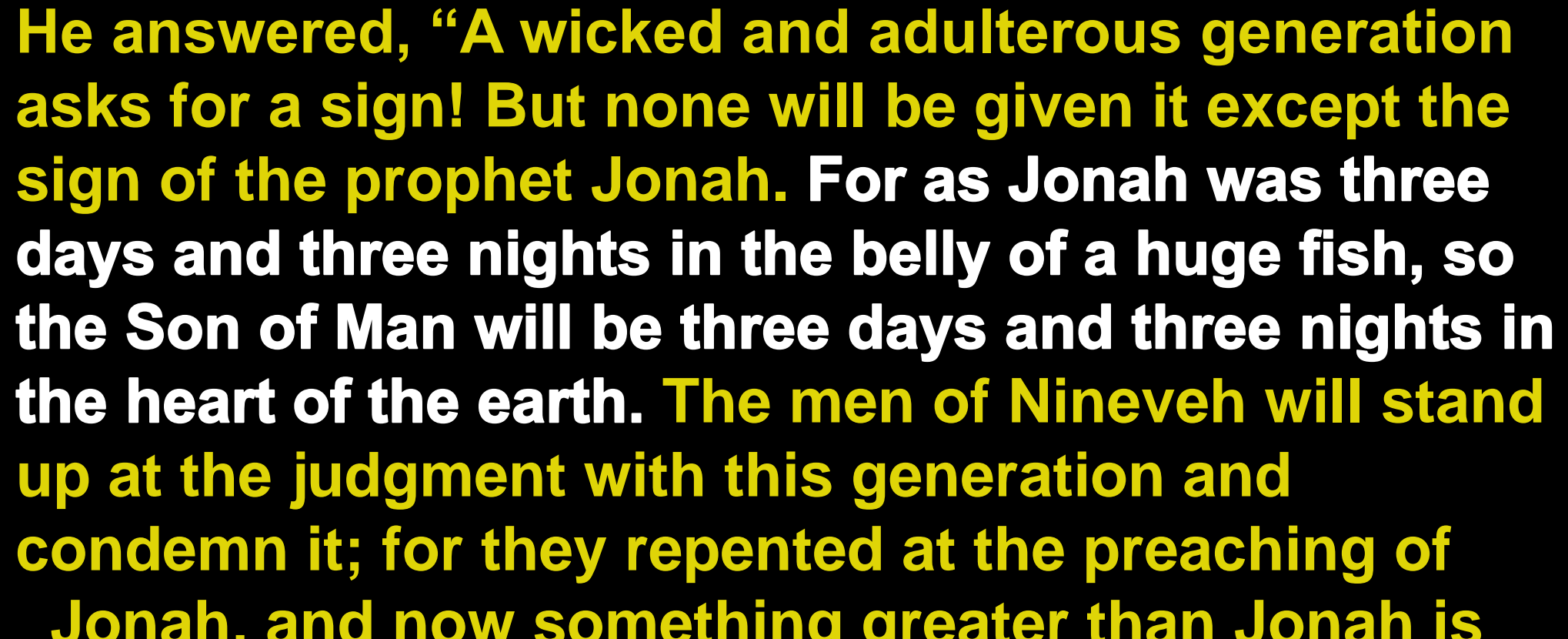
As the crowds increased, Jesus said, “This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation.

Luke 11:29-30





Wicked!



He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.



Matthew 12:39-42

Don't look for signs follow Jesus

**Fleece throwing is for people that
don't have a relationship with God**

**Signs are for people that don't know
where they are going**

**Tests are for People that don't know
the answer**

What Next?

