

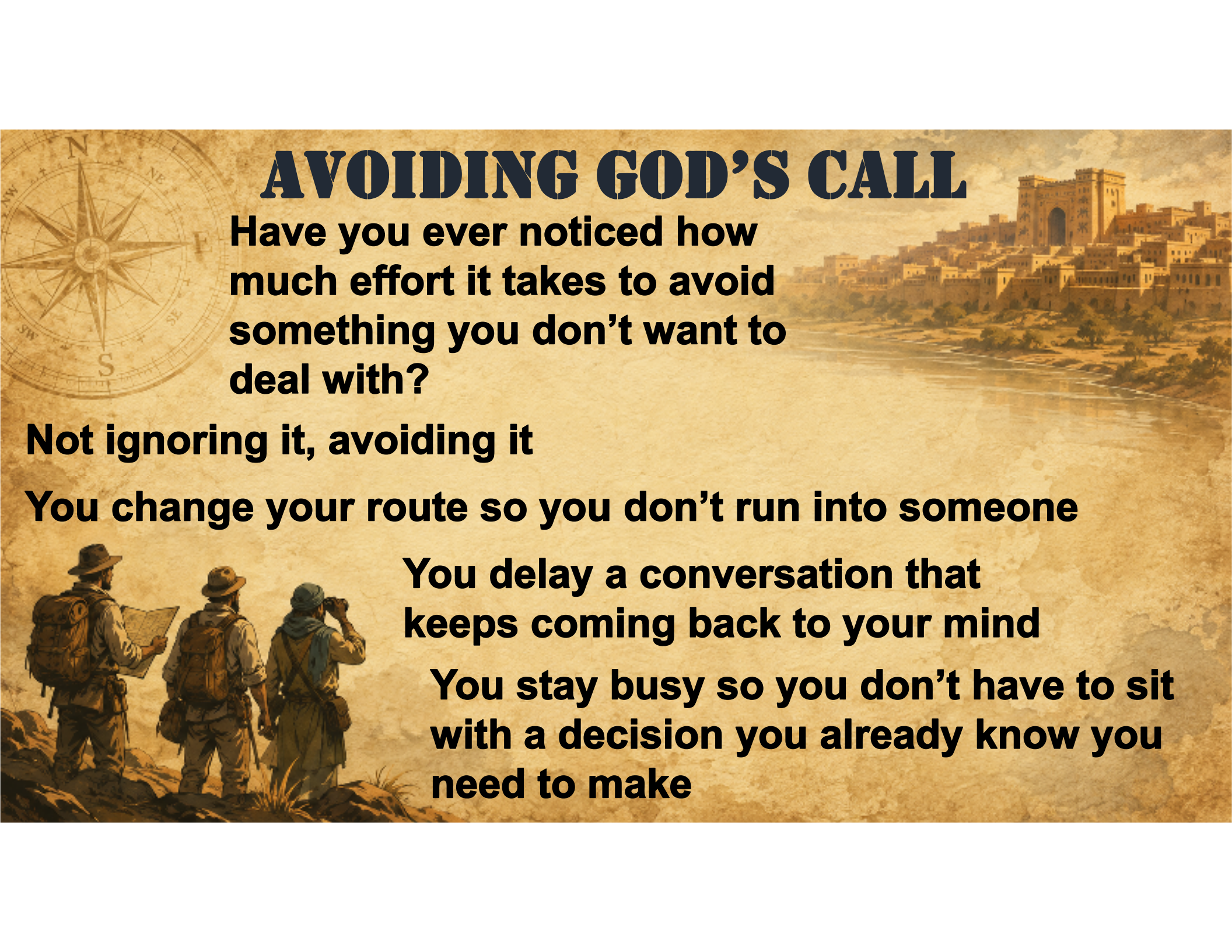
Major Messages from the

MINOR PROPHETS



FINDING NINEVEH





AVOIDING GOD'S CALL

Have you ever noticed how much effort it takes to avoid something you don't want to deal with?

Not ignoring it, avoiding it

You change your route so you don't run into someone

You delay a conversation that keeps coming back to your mind

You stay busy so you don't have to sit with a decision you already know you need to make

AVOIDING GOD'S CALL

Avoidance takes planning

It takes energy

Sometimes it takes money

**And the strange thing is, while
we're avoiding the thing we
don't want to face, we
often feel productive
Like we're doing something**



MEETING JONAH BEFORE JUDGING JONAH

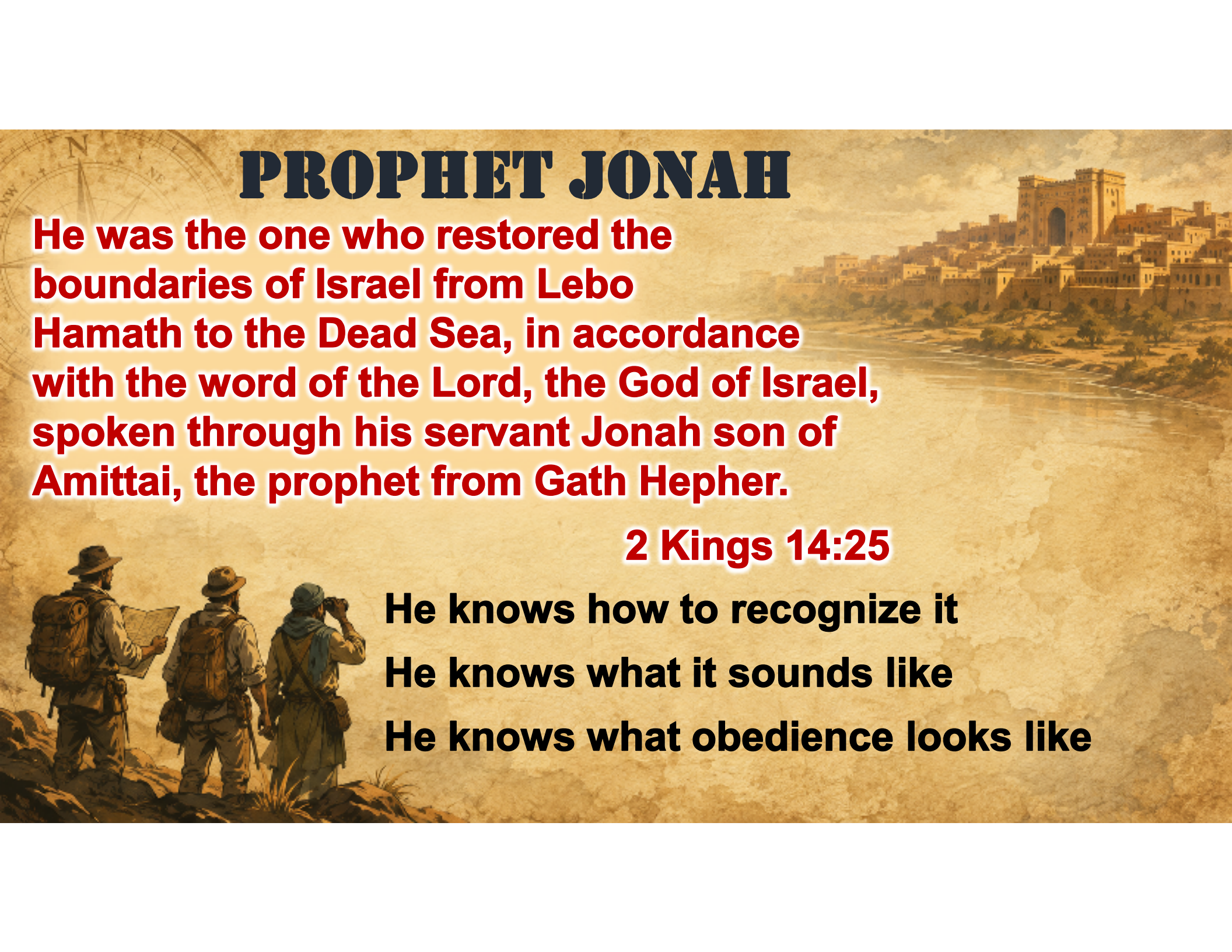
**Most people know something
about Jonah**

They remember a storm

They remember a fish

**They remember a
prophet who ran
from God**





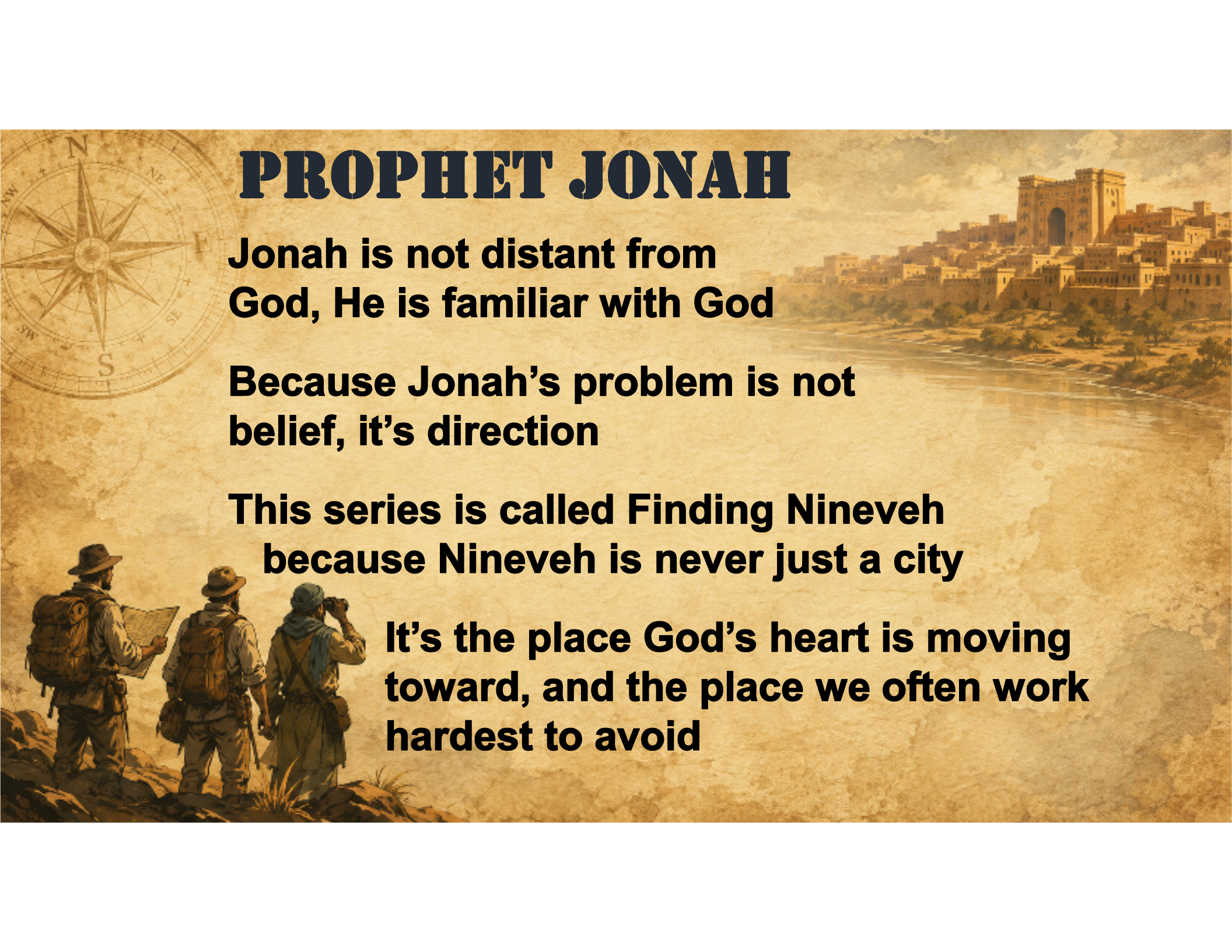
PROPHET JONAH

He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher.

2 Kings 14:25



**He knows how to recognize it
He knows what it sounds like
He knows what obedience looks like**

The background is a sepia-toned illustration. In the upper left, a large compass rose is visible. In the upper right, a city with a prominent tower sits on a hill overlooking a body of water. In the lower left, three explorers in hats and backpacks stand on a rocky outcrop, looking towards the city. The overall style is that of an old map or a historical painting.

PROPHET JONAH

**Jonah is not distant from
God, He is familiar with God**

**Because Jonah's problem is not
belief, it's direction**

**This series is called Finding Nineveh
because Nineveh is never just a city**

**It's the place God's heart is moving
toward, and the place we often work
hardest to avoid**

GOD'S CALL REVEALS GOD'S HEART

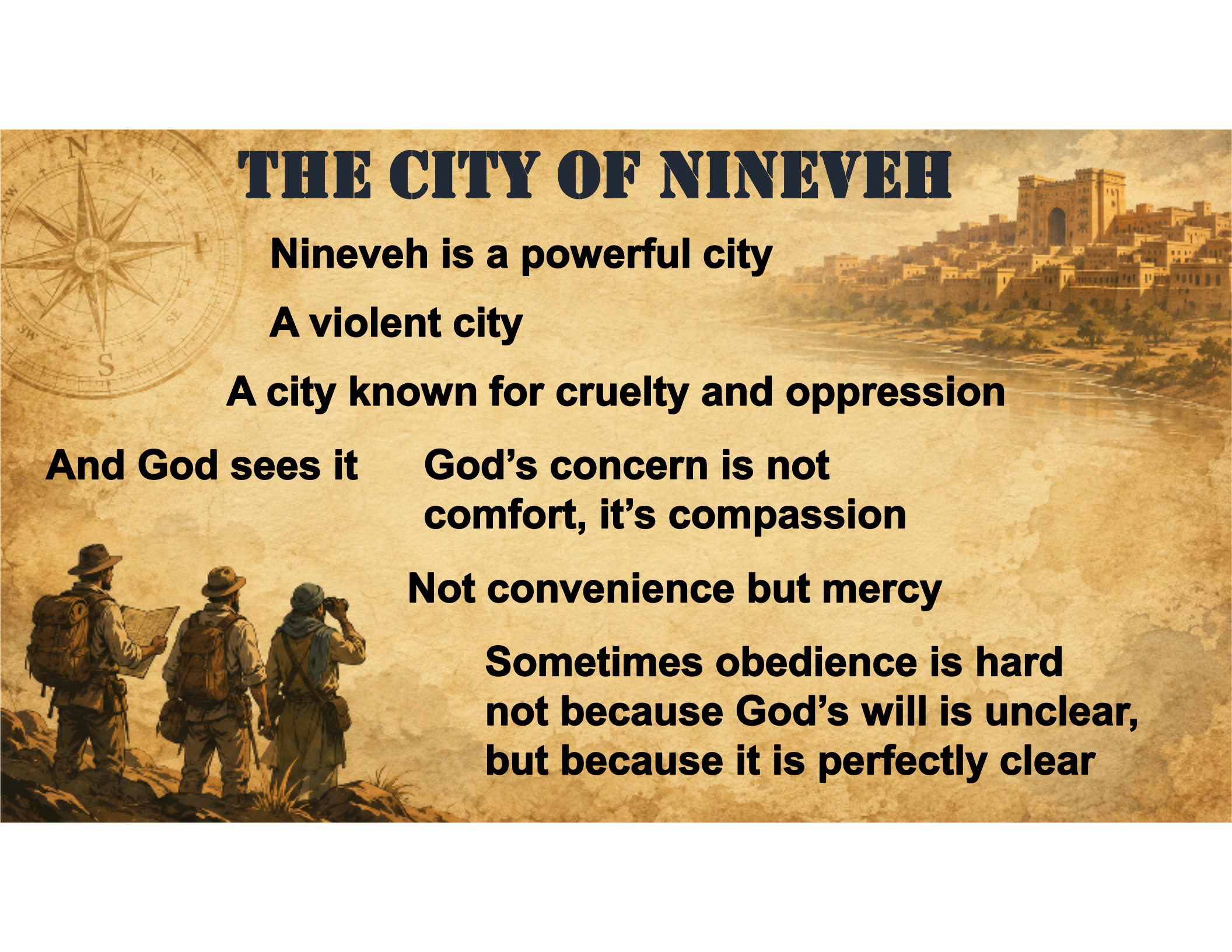
**The word of the Lord came to Jonah
son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of
Nineveh and preach against it, because its
wickedness has come up before me."**

Jonah 1:1-2

**The command is simple, clear
and direct**

**God doesn't ask Jonah to pray about it
He doesn't offer options
He gives direction**





THE CITY OF NINEVEH

Nineveh is a powerful city

A violent city

A city known for cruelty and oppression

And God sees it

**God's concern is not
comfort, it's compassion**

Not convenience but mercy

**Sometimes obedience is hard
not because God's will is unclear,
but because it is perfectly clear**

RUN JONAH RUN

But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.



Jonah 1:3

Jonah's Response Reveals His Disinterest in Pursuing God

Jonah responds immediately





RUN JONAH RUN

He gets up

He takes action

Jonah puts effort into disobedience

Running from God is rarely chaotic, it's often organized, justified, and well-planned

And actions combined with effort means its intentional

Instead of going east to Nineveh, he goes west to Tarshish, the farthest place he can imagine

TARSHISH: AVOIDANCE DISGUISED AS FREEDOM

Jonah is not abandoning faith

He's not rejecting God

He's not turning to idols

He simply does not want this assignment

**Tarshish represents a version of
life where Jonah can still be God's
prophet just without Nineveh**



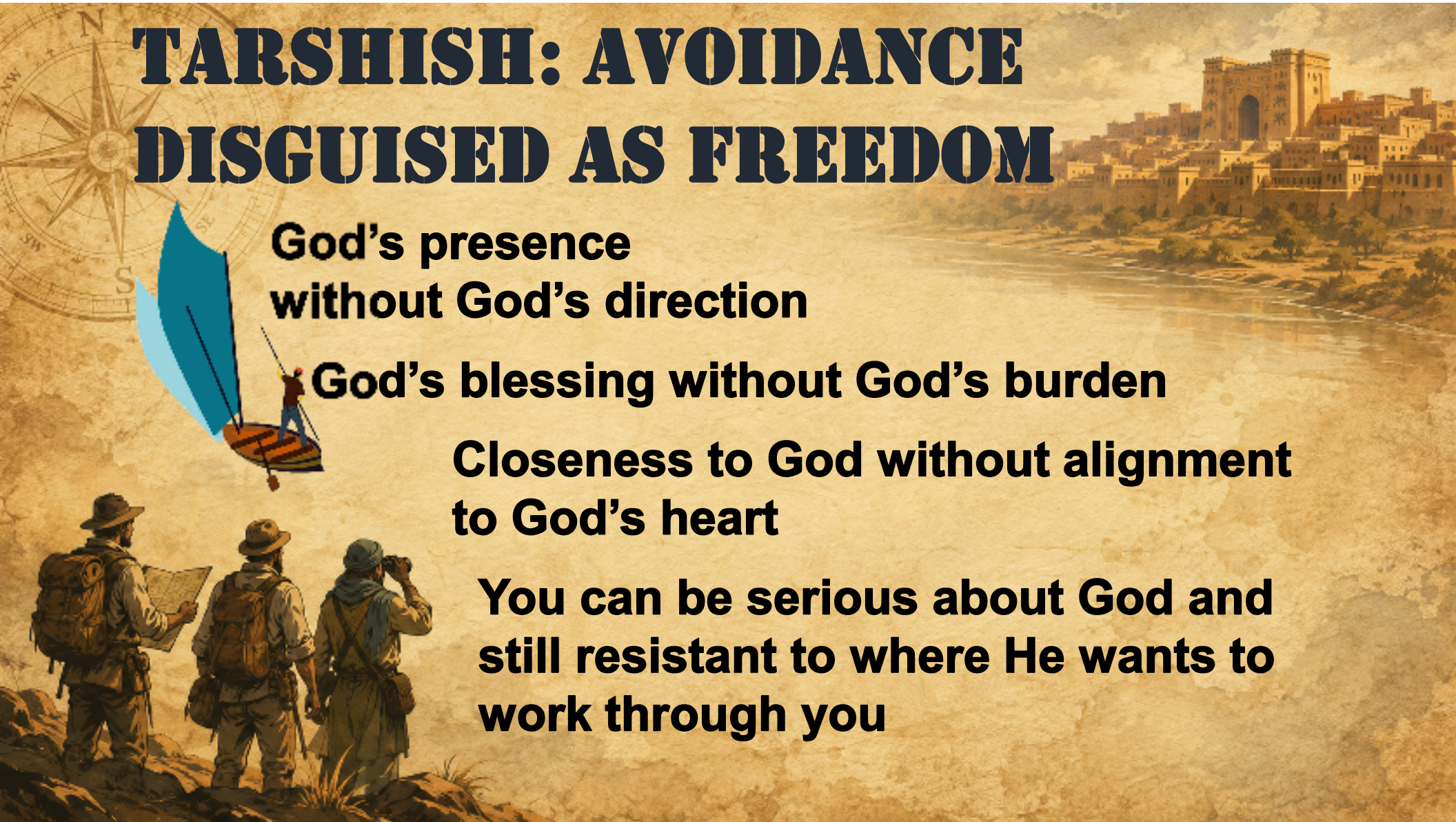
TARSHISH: AVOIDANCE DISGUISED AS FREEDOM

**God's presence
without God's direction**

God's blessing without God's burden

**Closeness to God without alignment
to God's heart**

**You can be serious about God and
still resistant to where He wants to
work through you**



FINDING NINEVAH



BEFORE ANYTHING GOES WRONG

**At the end of verse 3, nothing
bad has happened yet**

No storm No crisis No consequences

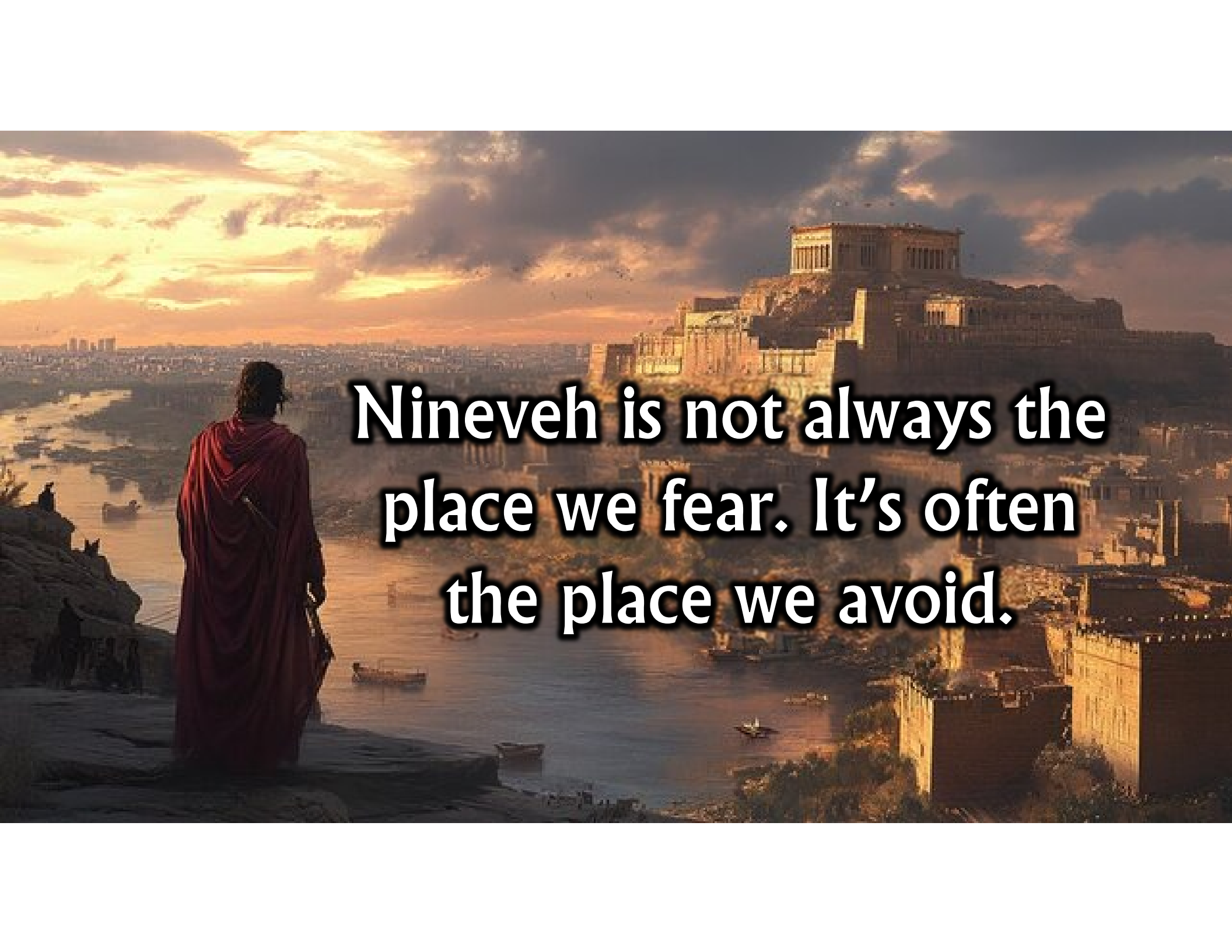
**Just a prophet calmly
sailing away from God's call**

Faith intact

Beliefs correct

Direction quietly off





**Nineveh is not always the
place we fear. It's often
the place we avoid.**