

FINDING NINEVEH





THE BIG FISH

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

The waves crashing over him

The weeds wrapping around his head

The terror of sinking toward death











THE BELLY OF THE FISH

**God does not immediately
restore Jonah to dry land**

God suspends Jonah between life and death

Sometimes God's grace doesn't feel like freedom

Sometimes it feels like confinement

**Sometimes God rescues us not by
letting us move forward, but by
preventing us from going any farther
in the wrong direction**





THE BELLY OF THE FISH

**There are moments in life
when you can be pulled
out of danger without
actually being fixed**

Rescue doesn't guarantee repentance

Survival doesn't mean surrender

**God stops Jonah's descent not
because Jonah has changed, but
because God is not finished**



THE BELLY OF THE FISH

**Jonah is alive, but he is
not aligned**

**He is preserved but not
surrendered**

**The storm has passed,
but the rebellion hasn't**

**Jonah has been rescued from
death, but not yet redirected
toward obedience**

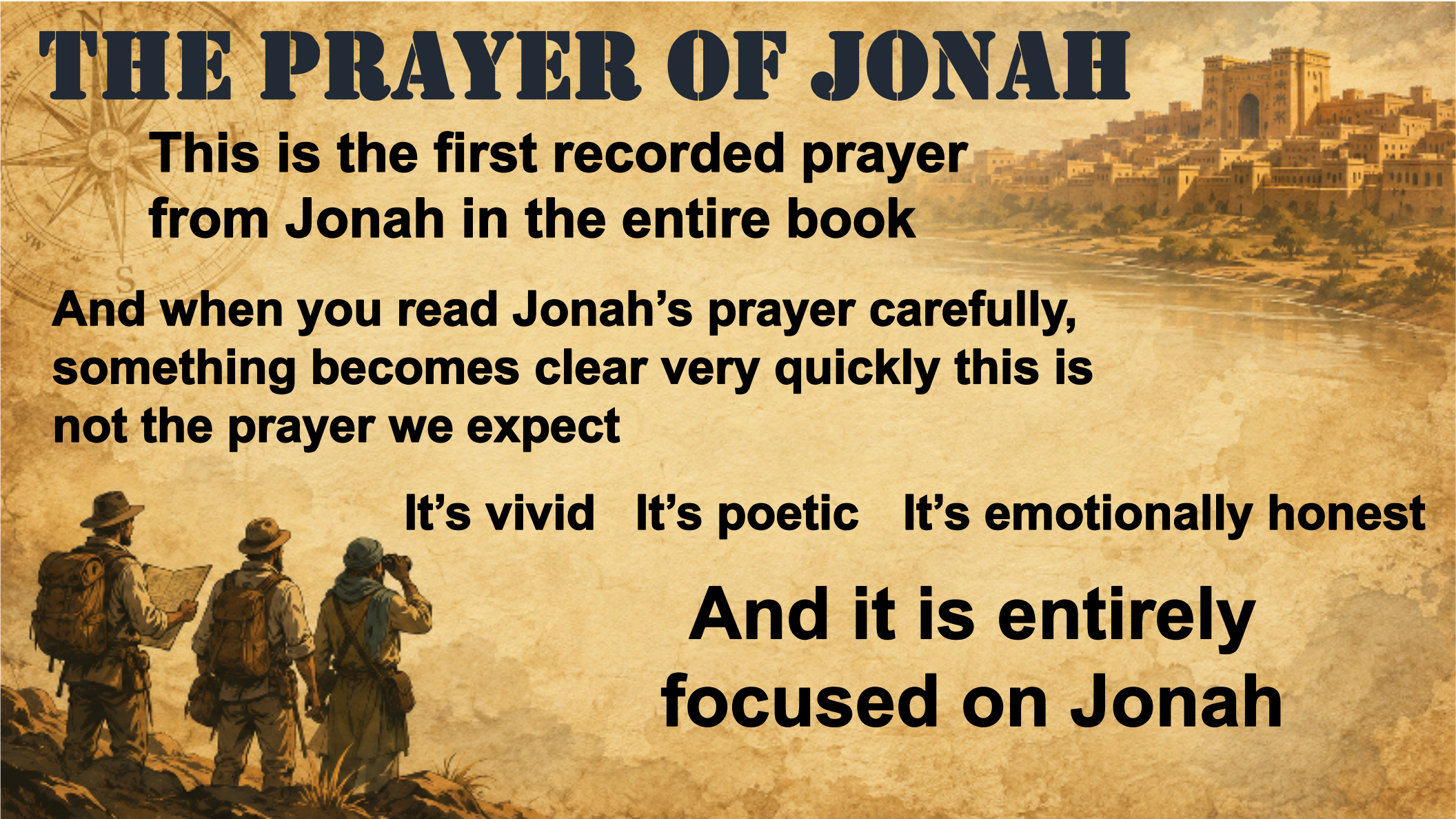
THE PRAYER OF JONAH

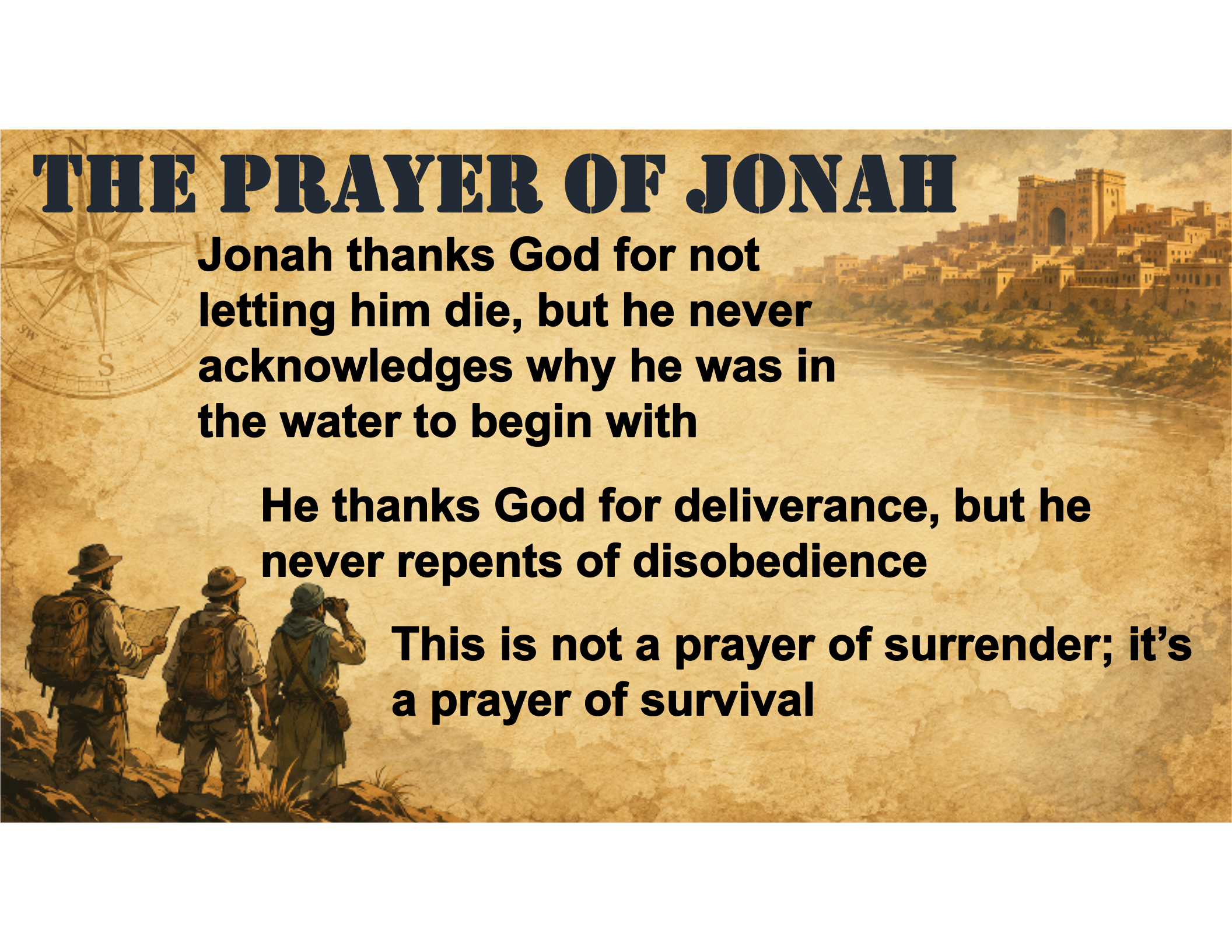
**This is the first recorded prayer
from Jonah in the entire book**

**And when you read Jonah's prayer carefully,
something becomes clear very quickly this is
not the prayer we expect**

It's vivid It's poetic It's emotionally honest

**And it is entirely
focused on Jonah**



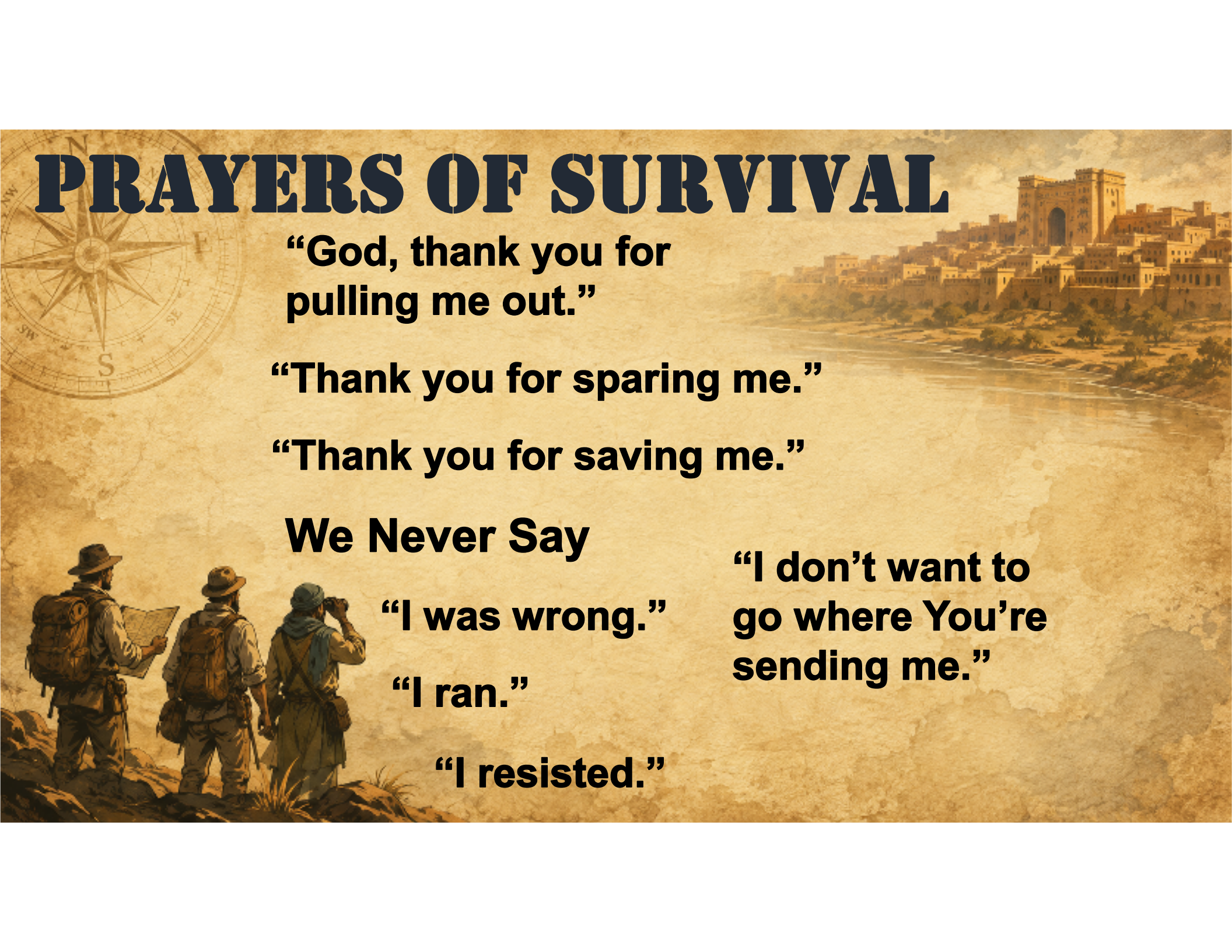
The background is a sepia-toned illustration. In the upper left, a large compass rose is visible. In the upper right, a city with a prominent tower sits on a hill overlooking a body of water. In the lower left, three travelers in desert attire are seen from behind, looking out over the landscape. One traveler holds a map, another uses binoculars.

THE PRAYER OF JONAH

Jonah thanks God for not letting him die, but he never acknowledges why he was in the water to begin with

He thanks God for deliverance, but he never repents of disobedience

This is not a prayer of surrender; it's a prayer of survival



PRAYERS OF SURVIVAL

**“God, thank you for
pulling me out.”**

“Thank you for sparing me.”

“Thank you for saving me.”

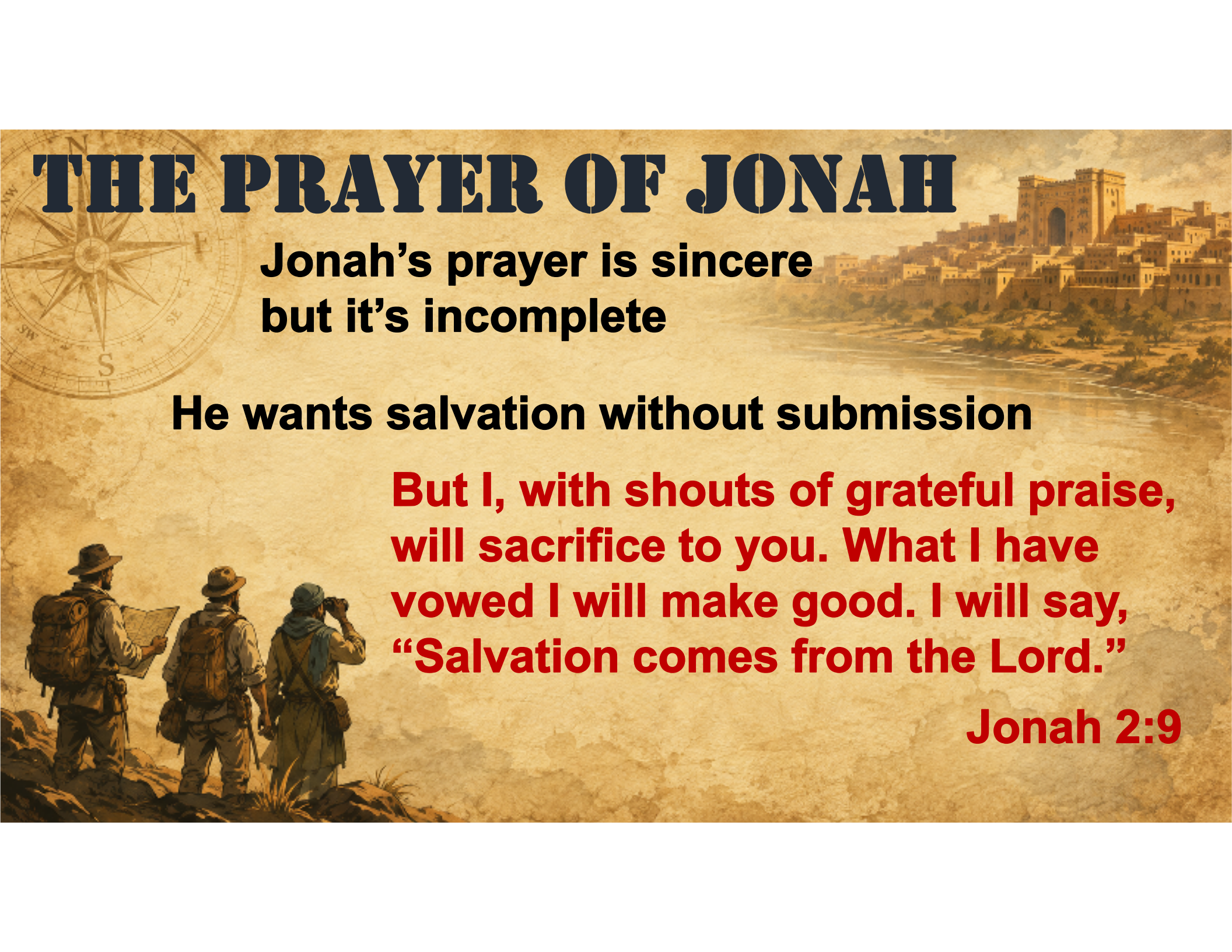
We Never Say

“I was wrong.”

“I ran.”

“I resisted.”

**“I don’t want to
go where You’re
sending me.”**



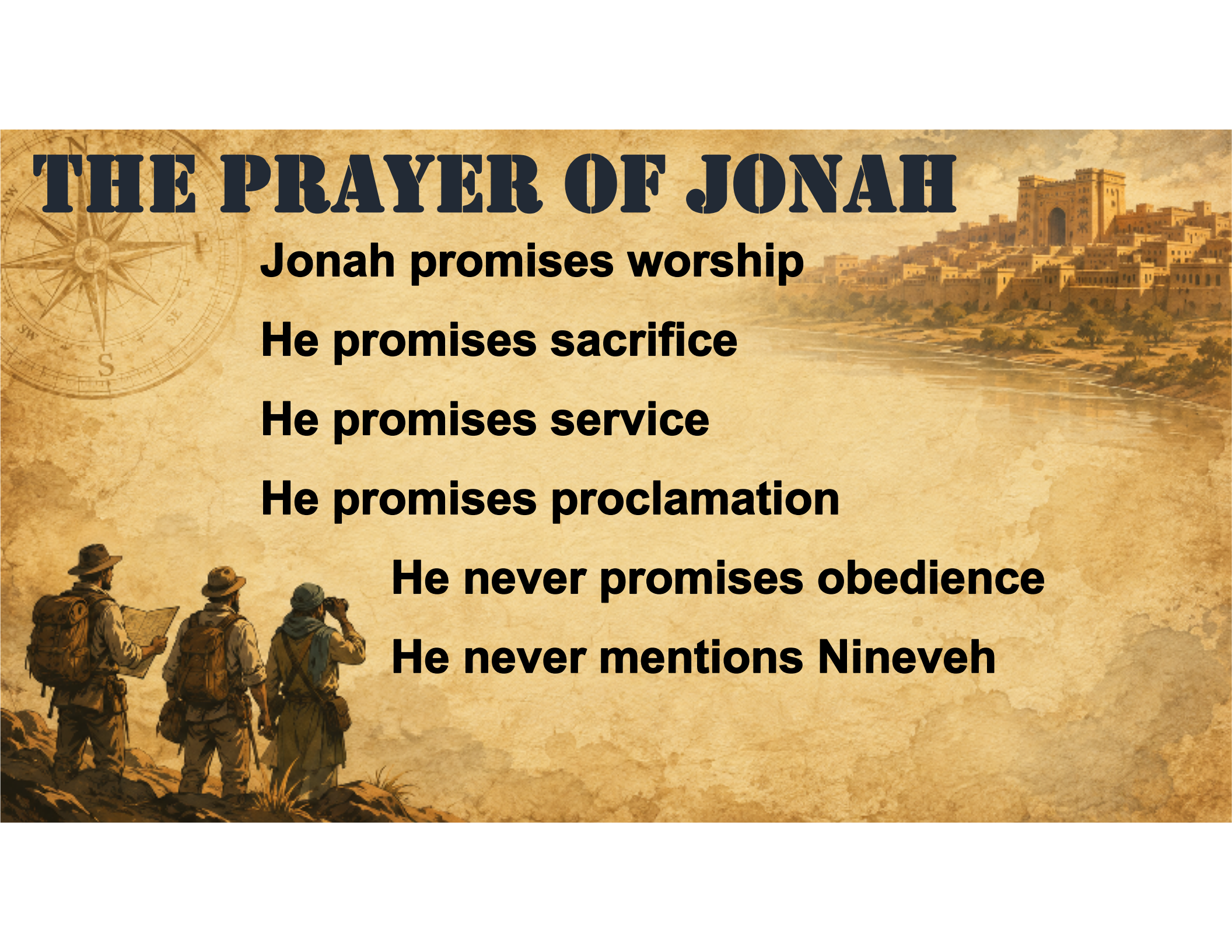
THE PRAYER OF JONAH

Jonah's prayer is sincere
but it's incomplete

He wants salvation without submission

But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you. What I have
vowed I will make good. I will say,
“Salvation comes from the Lord.”

Jonah 2:9



THE PRAYER OF JONAH

Jonah promises worship

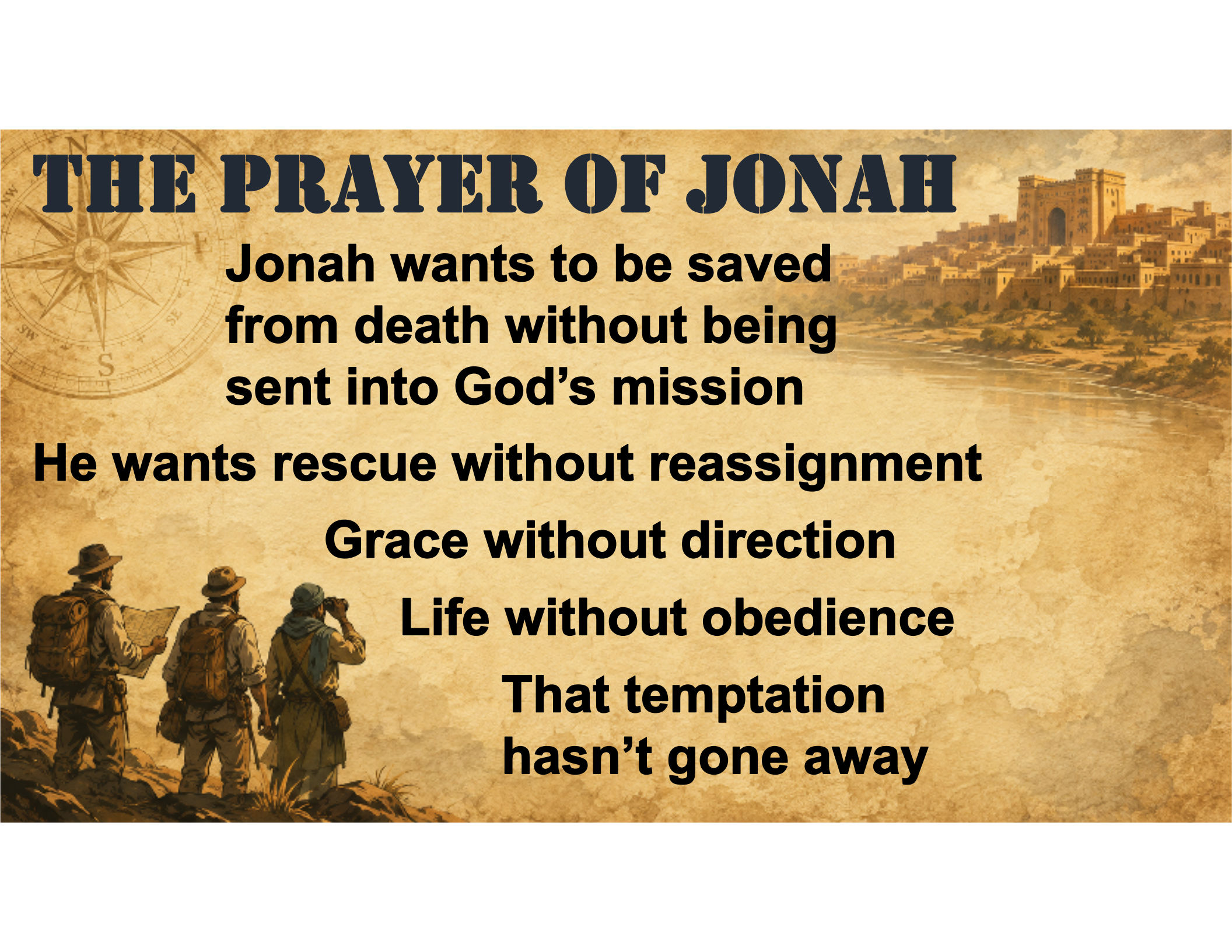
He promises sacrifice

He promises service

He promises proclamation

He never promises obedience

He never mentions Nineveh



THE PRAYER OF JONAH

**Jonah wants to be saved
from death without being
sent into God's mission**

He wants rescue without reassignment

Grace without direction

Life without obedience

**That temptation
hasn't gone away**



INCOMPLETE PRAYER

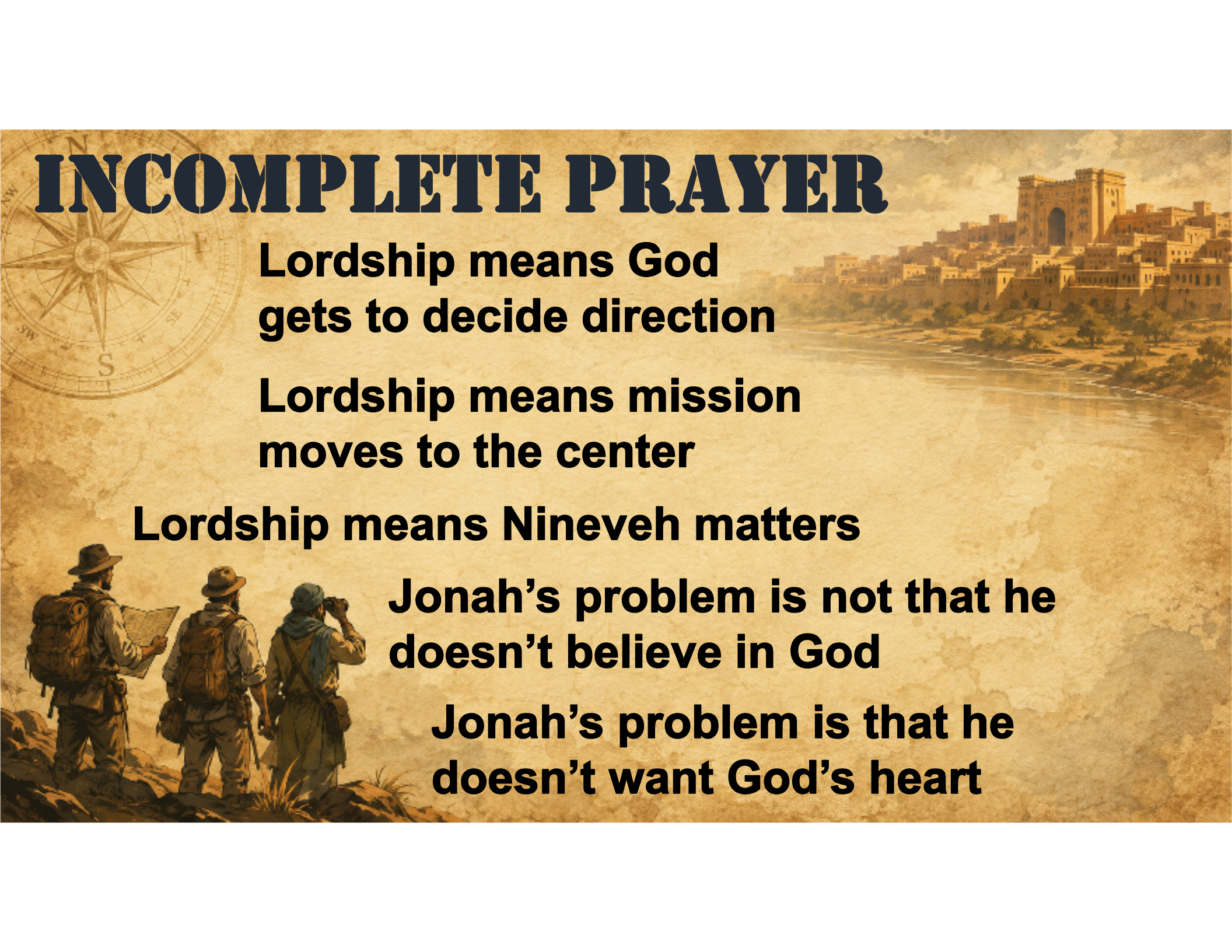
**Many people are more
than willing to receive
Jesus as Savior**

We Love Forgiveness

We Love Grace

We Love Rescue Stories

We resist Lordship



INCOMPLETE PRAYER

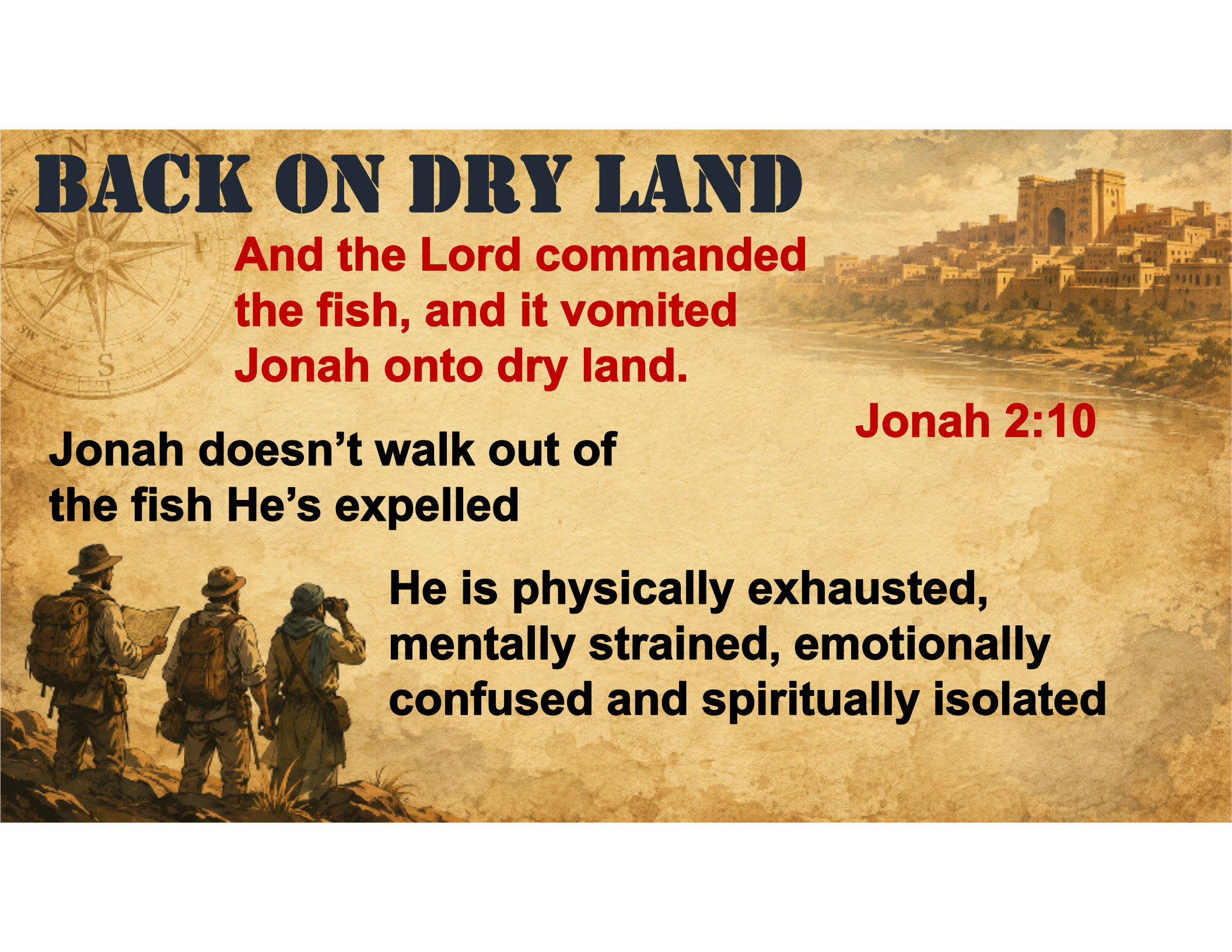
**Lordship means God
gets to decide direction**

**Lordship means mission
moves to the center**

Lordship means Nineveh matters

**Jonah's problem is not that he
doesn't believe in God**

**Jonah's problem is that he
doesn't want God's heart**



BACK ON DRY LAND

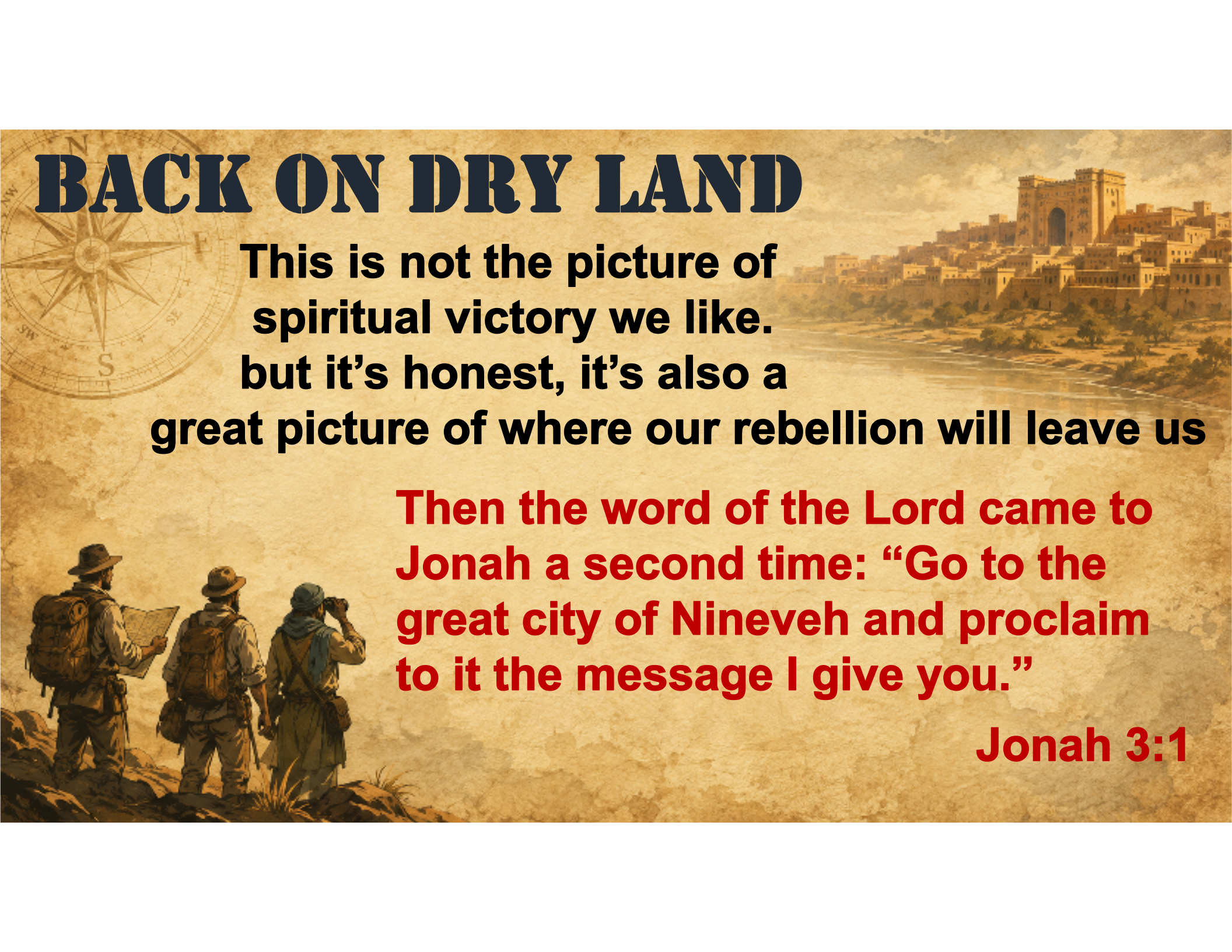
**And the Lord commanded
the fish, and it vomited
Jonah onto dry land.**

Jonah 2:10

**Jonah doesn't walk out of
the fish He's expelled**

**He is physically exhausted,
mentally strained, emotionally
confused and spiritually isolated**



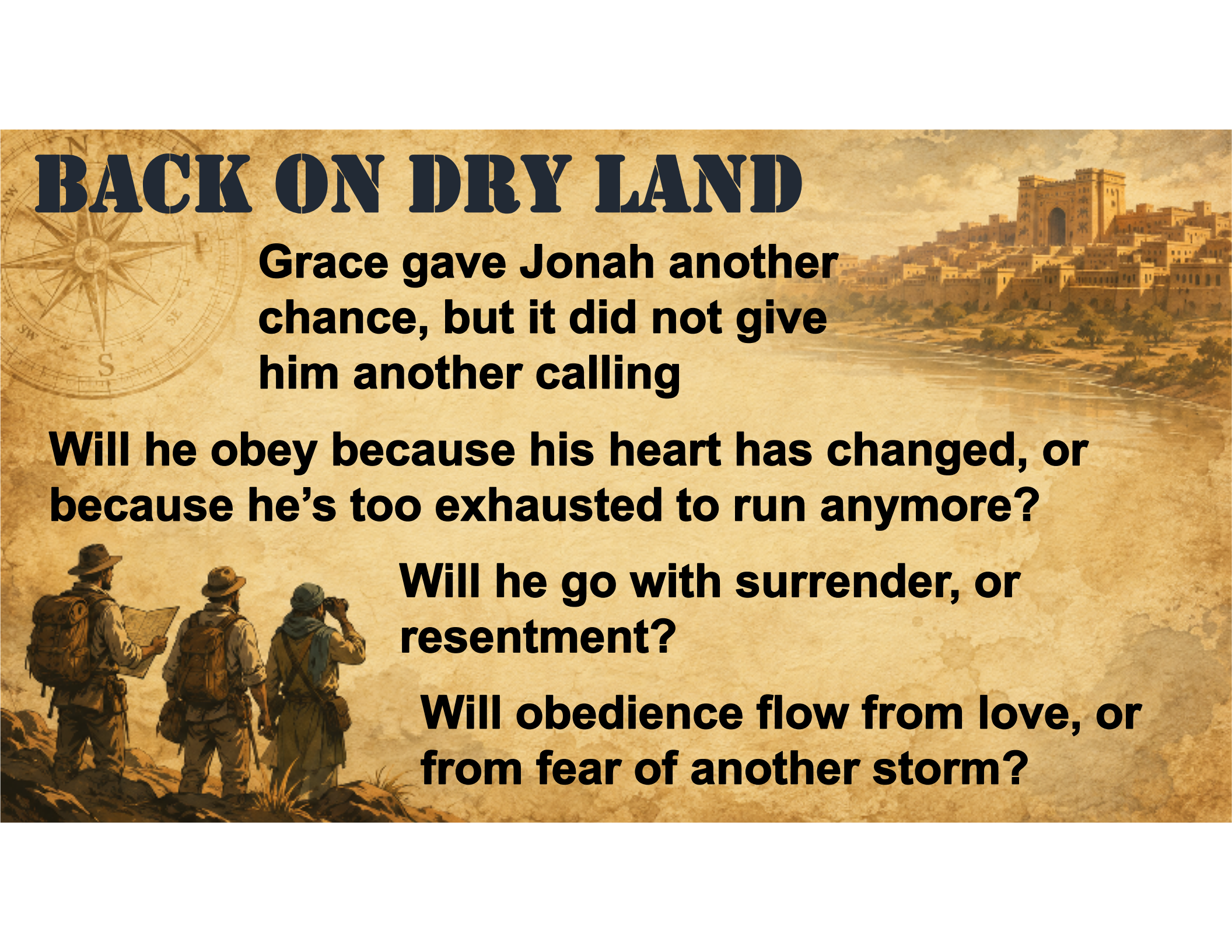
The background is a sepia-toned illustration. In the upper left, a large compass rose is visible. In the lower left, three men in desert attire are standing on a rocky outcrop, looking towards the right. One man is holding a map, another is looking through binoculars. In the distance, a large, walled city with a prominent tower is situated on a hill, overlooking a body of water.

BACK ON DRY LAND

**This is not the picture of
spiritual victory we like.
but it's honest, it's also a
great picture of where our rebellion will leave us**

**Then the word of the Lord came to
Jonah a second time: "Go to the
great city of Nineveh and proclaim
to it the message I give you."**

Jonah 3:1



BACK ON DRY LAND

Grace gave Jonah another chance, but it did not give him another calling

Will he obey because his heart has changed, or because he's too exhausted to run anymore?

Will he go with surrender, or resentment?

Will obedience flow from love, or from fear of another storm?



How would you respond?