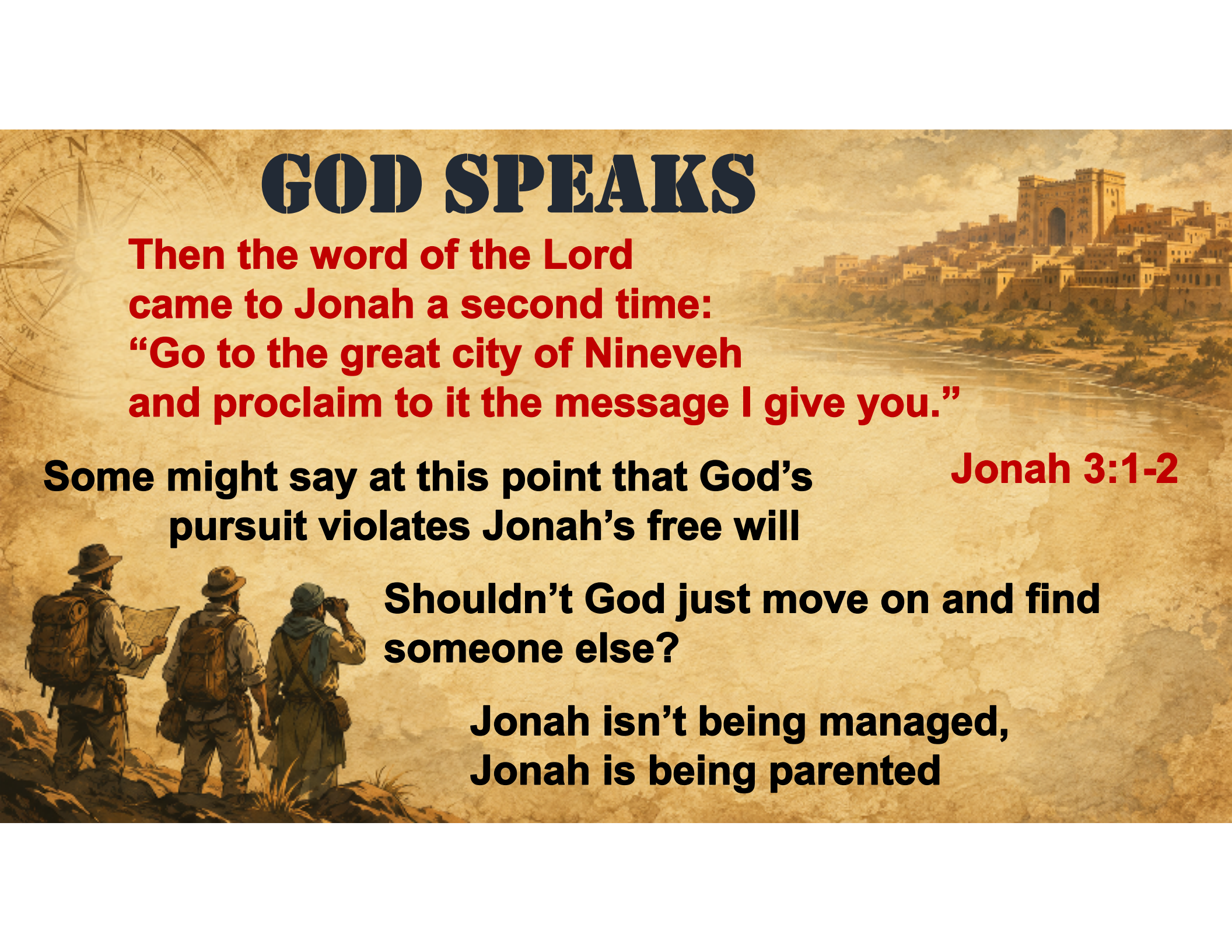


# FINDING NINEVEH





# GOD SPEAKS

**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.”**

**Some might say at this point that God’s  
pursuit violates Jonah’s free will**

**Jonah 3:1-2**

**Shouldn’t God just move on and find  
someone else?**

**Jonah isn’t being managed,  
Jonah is being parented**

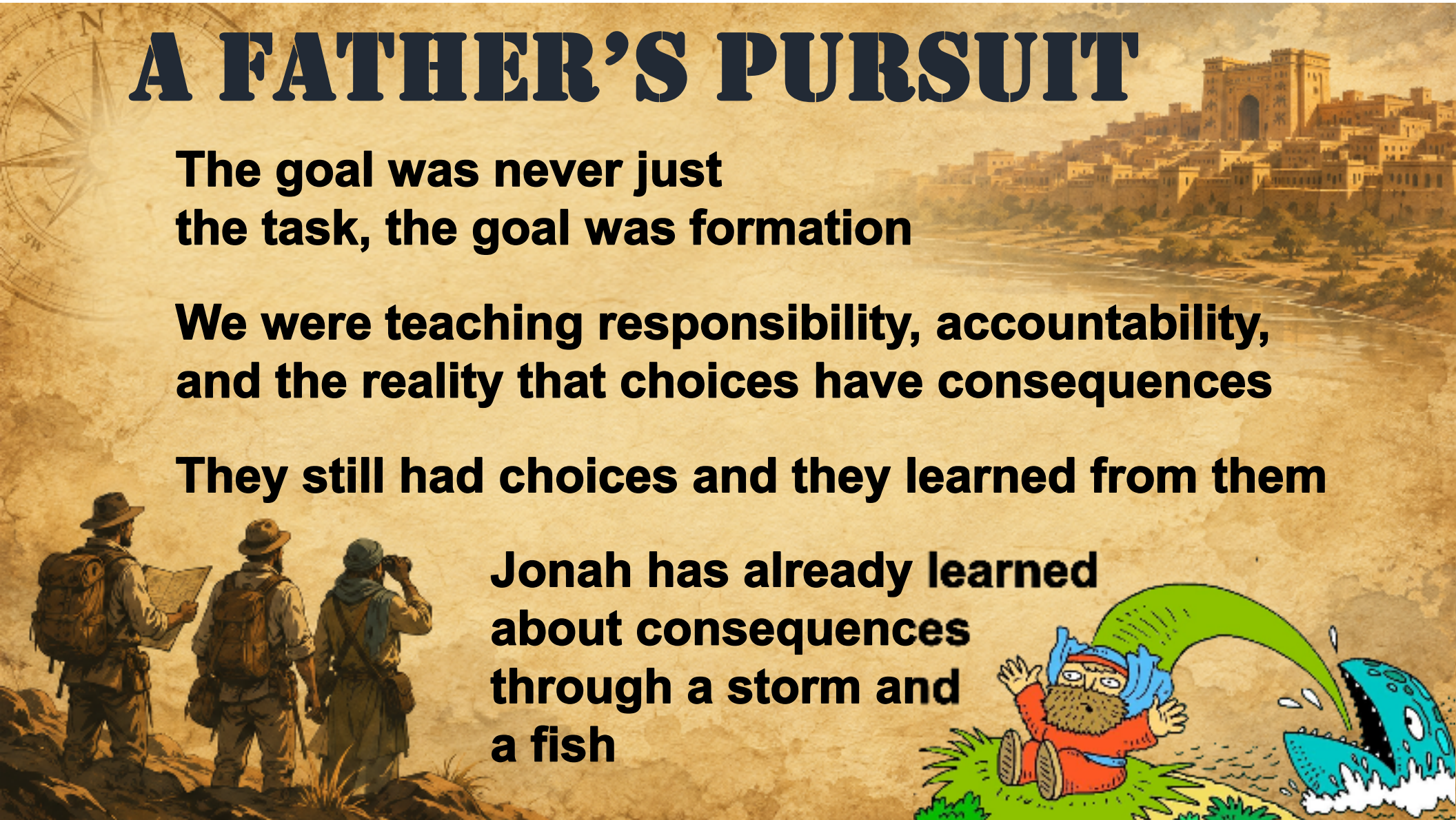
# A FATHER'S PURSUIT

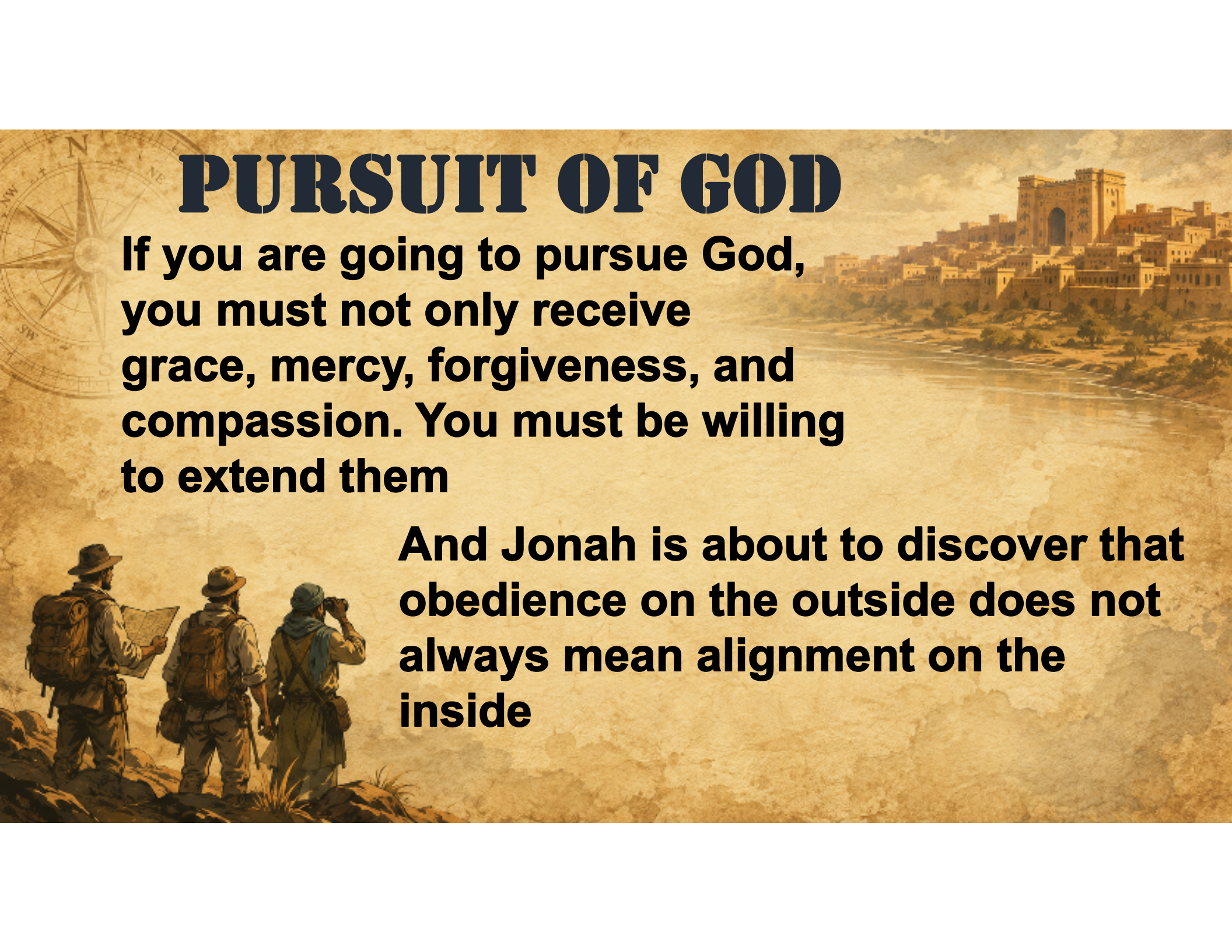
**The goal was never just the task, the goal was formation**

**We were teaching responsibility, accountability, and the reality that choices have consequences**

**They still had choices and they learned from them**

**Jonah has already learned about consequences through a storm and a fish**



The background of the slide features a sepia-toned illustration. In the upper left, a large compass rose is partially visible. In the lower left, three men in historical or exploratory attire stand on a rocky cliff, looking out over a vast landscape. One man holds a map, another looks through binoculars, and the third stands between them. In the distance, across a body of water, a large, walled city or fortress sits on a hill. The overall style is that of a vintage travel poster or historical map.

# **PURSUIT OF GOD**

**If you are going to pursue God,  
you must not only receive  
grace, mercy, forgiveness, and  
compassion. You must be willing  
to extend them**

**And Jonah is about to discover that  
obedience on the outside does not  
always mean alignment on the  
inside**

# RELUCTANT OBEDIENCE

Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, **“Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”**

**Jonah 3:3-4**

**No mention of repentance**

**No call to turn to God**

**No hope offered**

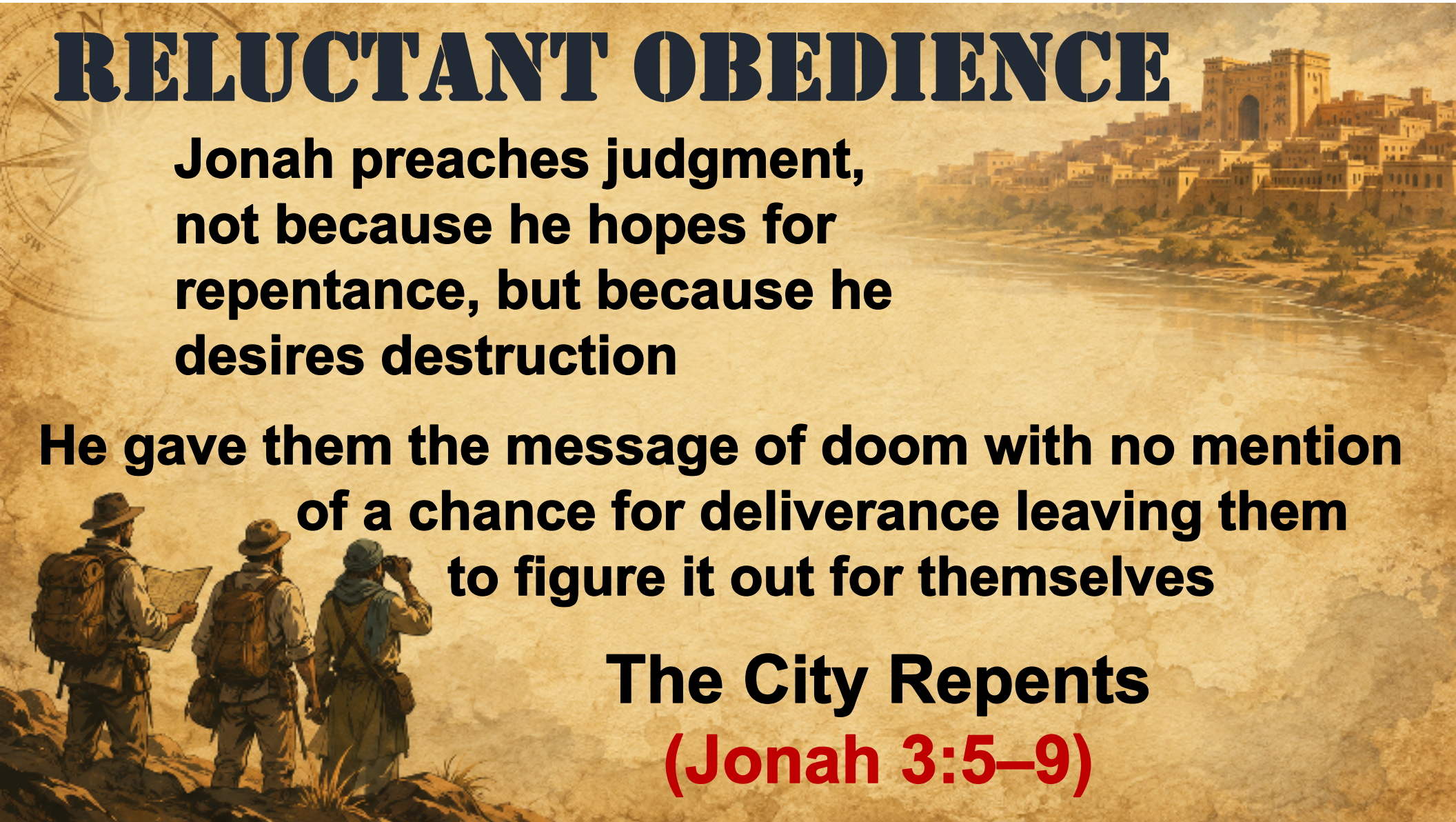


# RELUCTANT OBEDIENCE

**Jonah preaches judgment,  
not because he hopes for  
repentance, but because he  
desires destruction**

**He gave them the message of doom with no mention  
of a chance for deliverance leaving them  
to figure it out for themselves**

**The City Repents  
(Jonah 3:5–9)**



# **REPENTANCE**

**The people of Nineveh  
believe God**

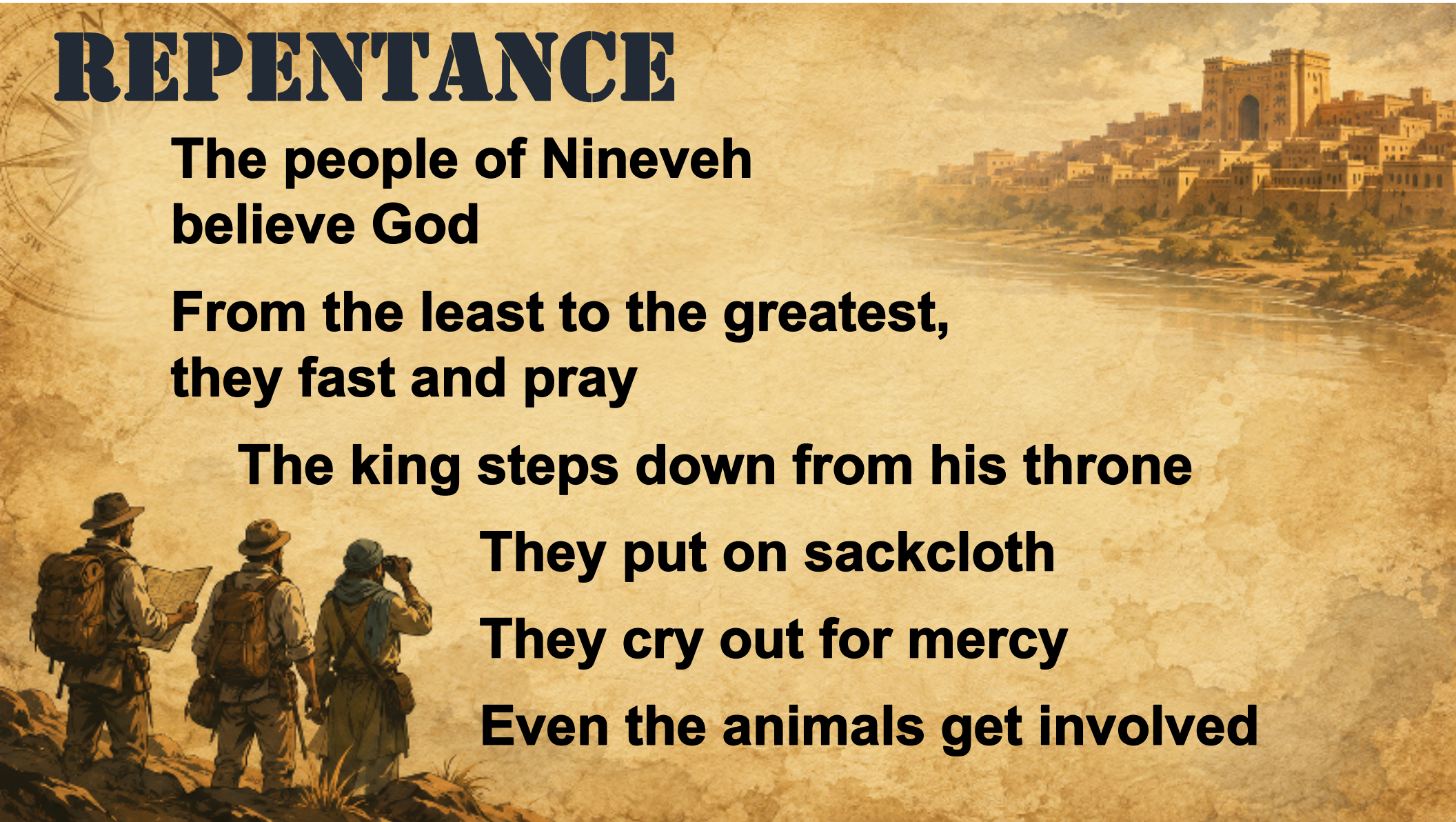
**From the least to the greatest,  
they fast and pray**

**The king steps down from his throne**

**They put on sackcloth**

**They cry out for mercy**

**Even the animals get involved**



# GRACE AND MERCY

**When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.**

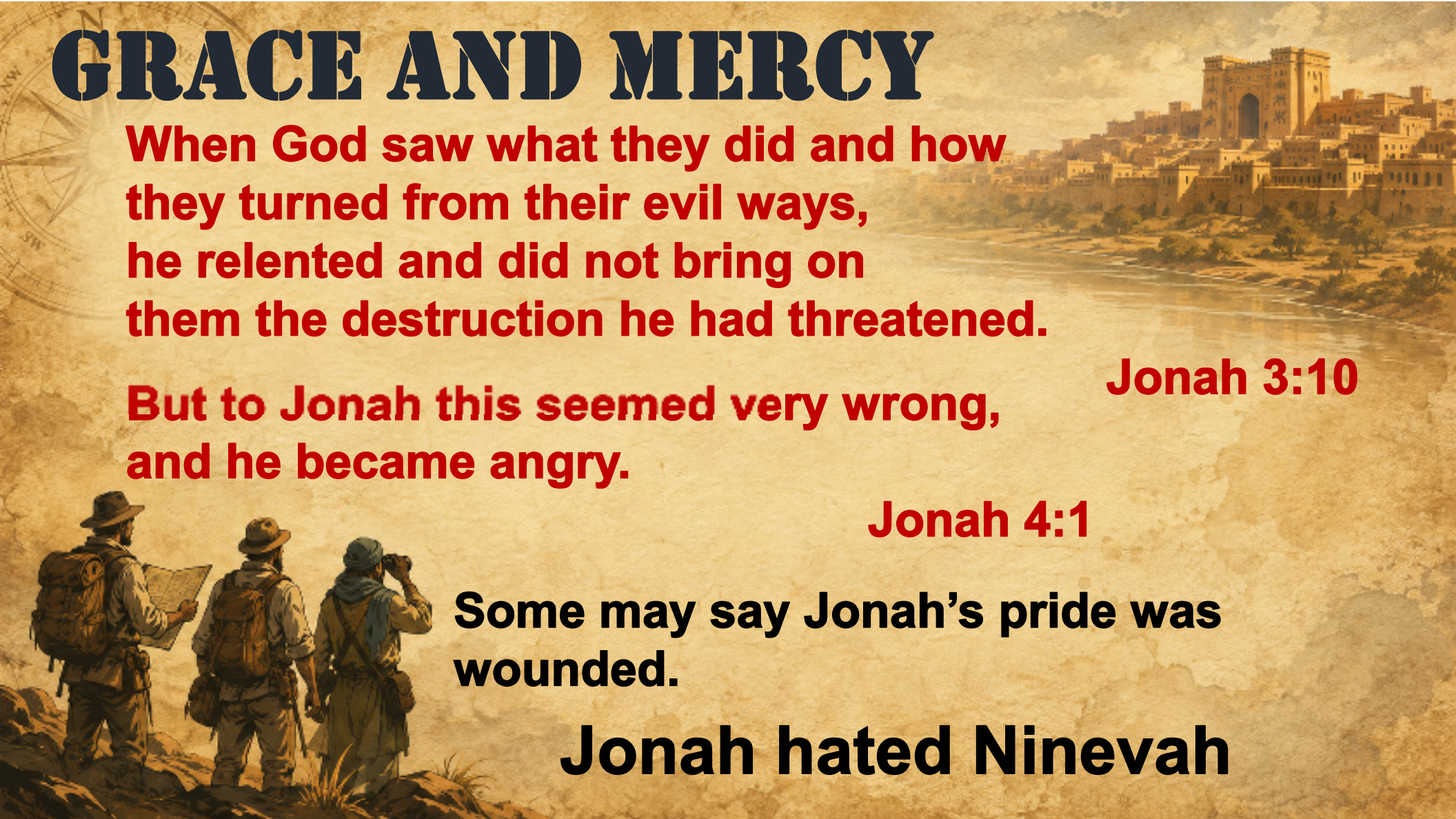
**Jonah 3:10**

**But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.**

**Jonah 4:1**

**Some may say Jonah's pride was wounded.**

**Jonah hated Ninevah**



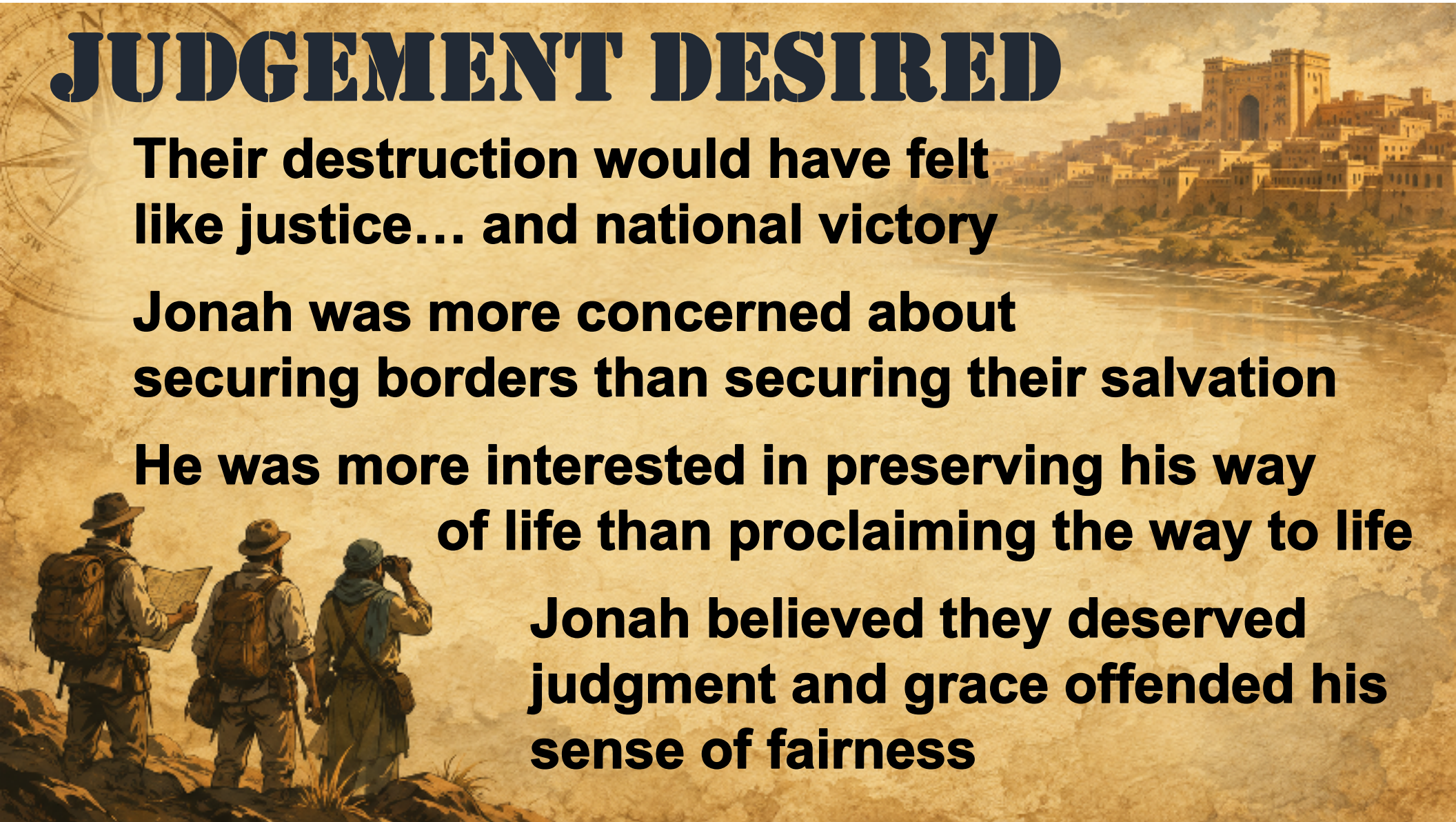
# **JUDGEMENT DESIRED**

**Their destruction would have felt like justice... and national victory**

**Jonah was more concerned about securing borders than securing their salvation**

**He was more interested in preserving his way of life than proclaiming the way to life**

**Jonah believed they deserved judgment and grace offended his sense of fairness**



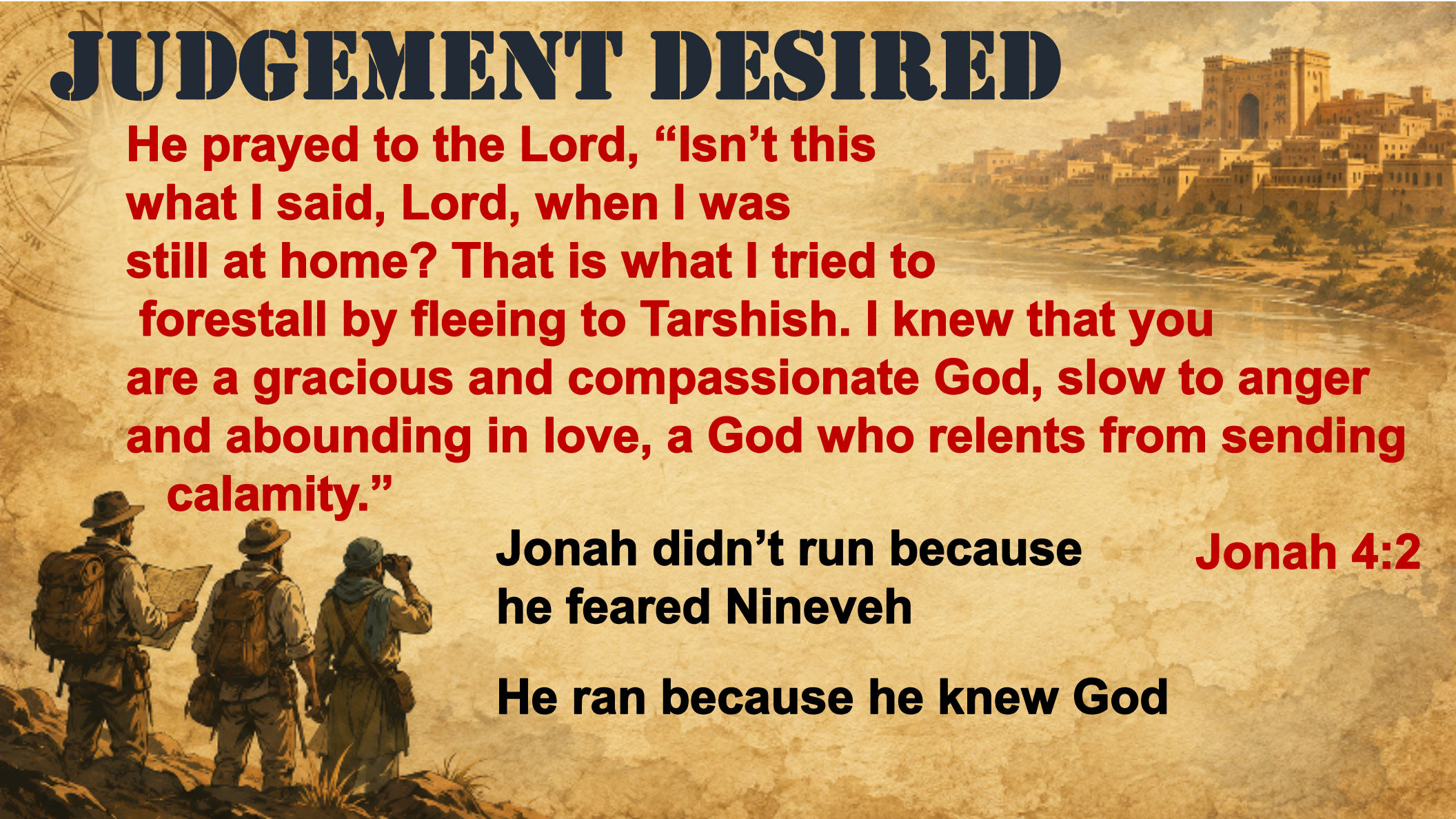
# JUDGEMENT DESIRED

He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing 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.”

Jonah didn’t run because  
he feared Nineveh

**Jonah 4:2**

He ran because he knew God



# GRACE DANGER ZONE

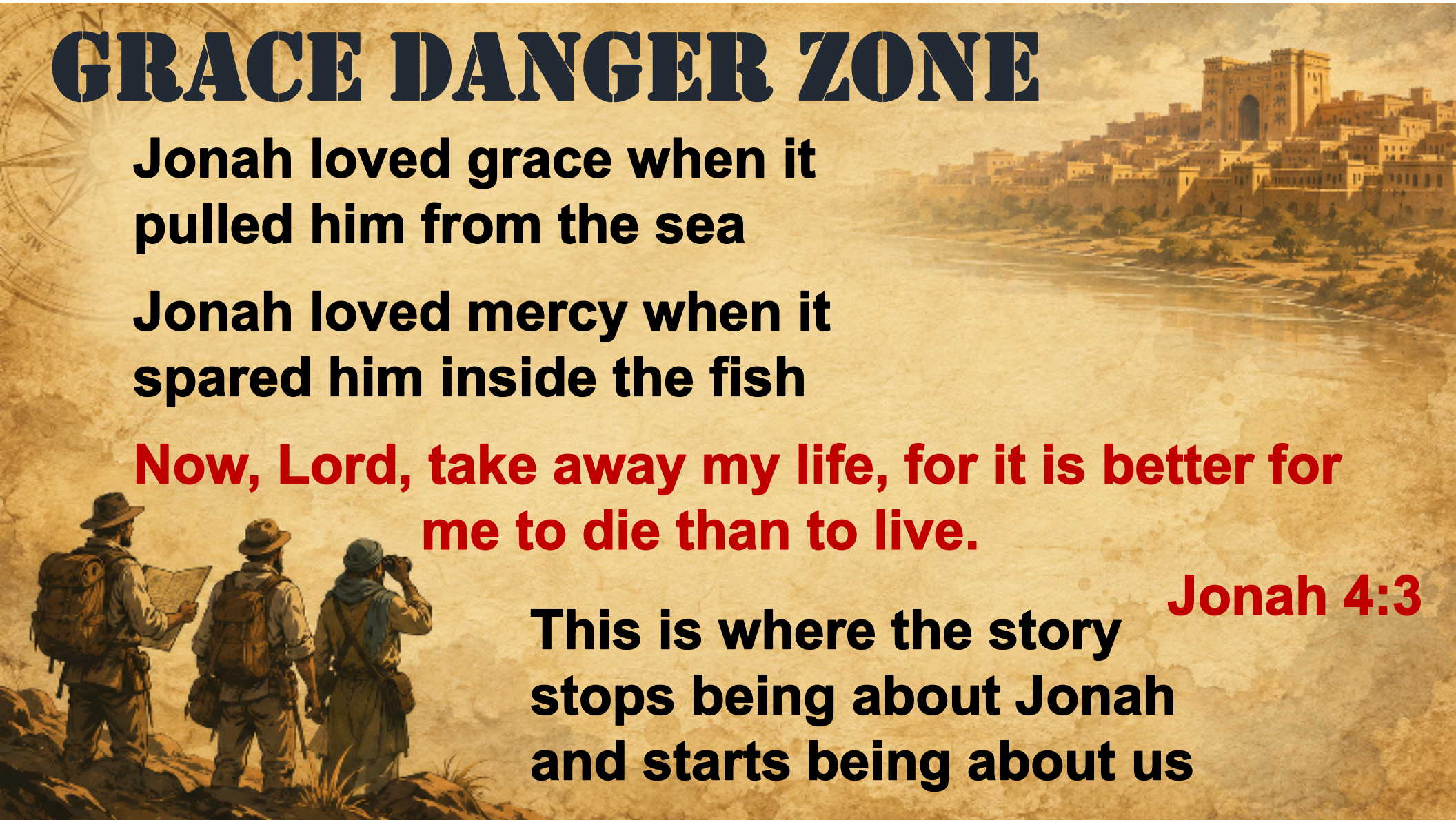
**Jonah loved grace when it  
pulled him from the sea**

**Jonah loved mercy when it  
spared him inside the fish**

**Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for  
me to die than to live.**

**Jonah 4:3**

**This is where the story  
stops being about Jonah  
and starts being about us**



# GRACE DANGER ZONE

**The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

**2 Peter 3:9**

**Until “ANYONE” includes people we resent**

**We celebrate that God is a Savior until He saves somebody, we don't think deserves it**



# **JUDGEMENT DESIRED**

**Luke 15 reminds us that God's heart is for lost sheep, lost coins, and lost sons**

**Matthew 28 sends us to all nations**

**Romans 1:16 declares the gospel is for Jew and Gentile alike**

**God has always cared about Nineveh**

**The problem isn't God's mercy**

**The problem is the messenger's heart**



# HARD QUESTION

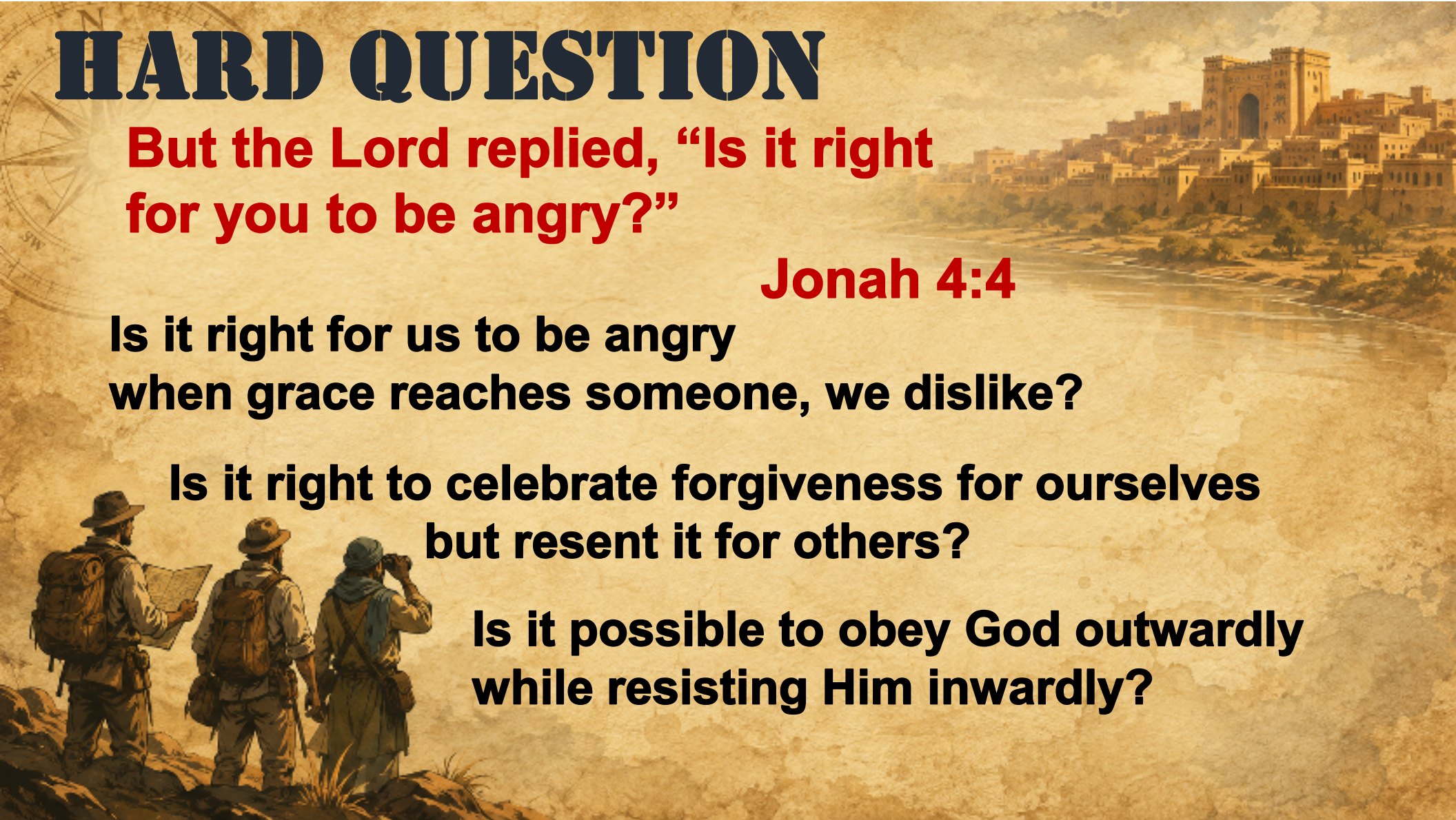
**But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”**

**Jonah 4:4**

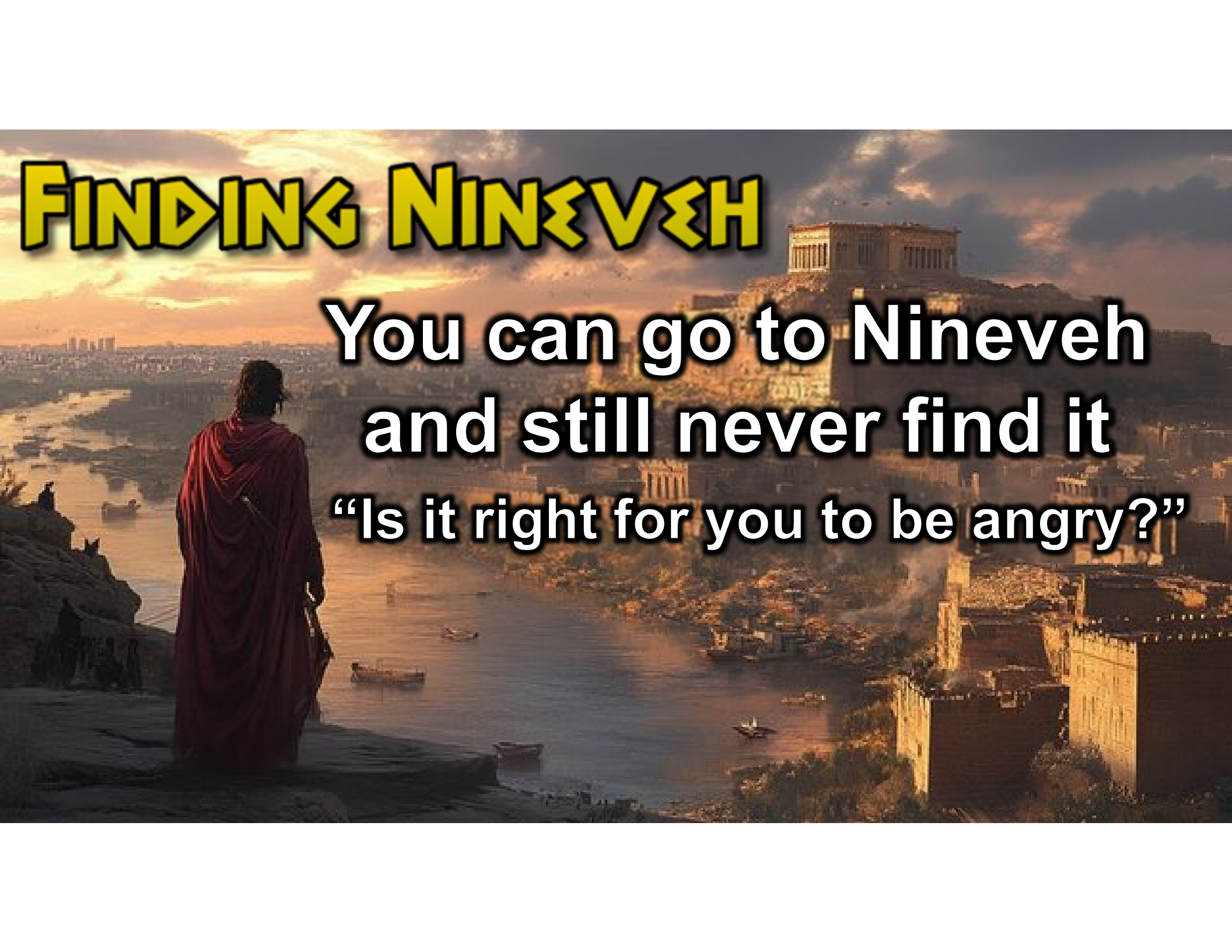
**Is it right for us to be angry  
when grace reaches someone, we dislike?**

**Is it right to celebrate forgiveness for ourselves  
but resent it for others?**

**Is it possible to obey God outwardly  
while resisting Him inwardly?**



# FINDING NINEVEH

A person wearing a red robe stands on a rocky outcrop, looking out over a vast, ancient city. The city is built on a hillside, with a large, prominent temple or palace complex at the top. The city is surrounded by a river, and several boats are visible on the water. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is one of a lost civilization and a sense of longing.

**You can go to Nineveh  
and still never find it  
“Is it right for you to be angry?”**