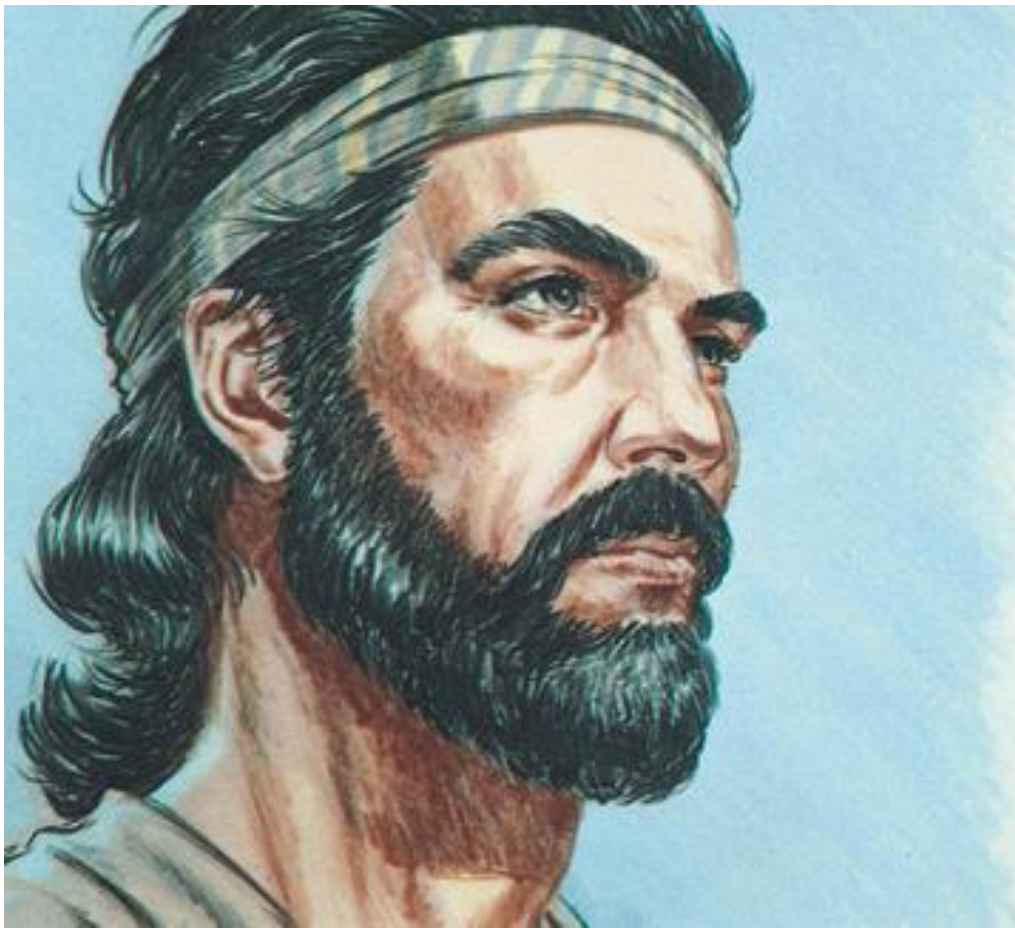


**THE GRACE OF GOD REVEALED TO**





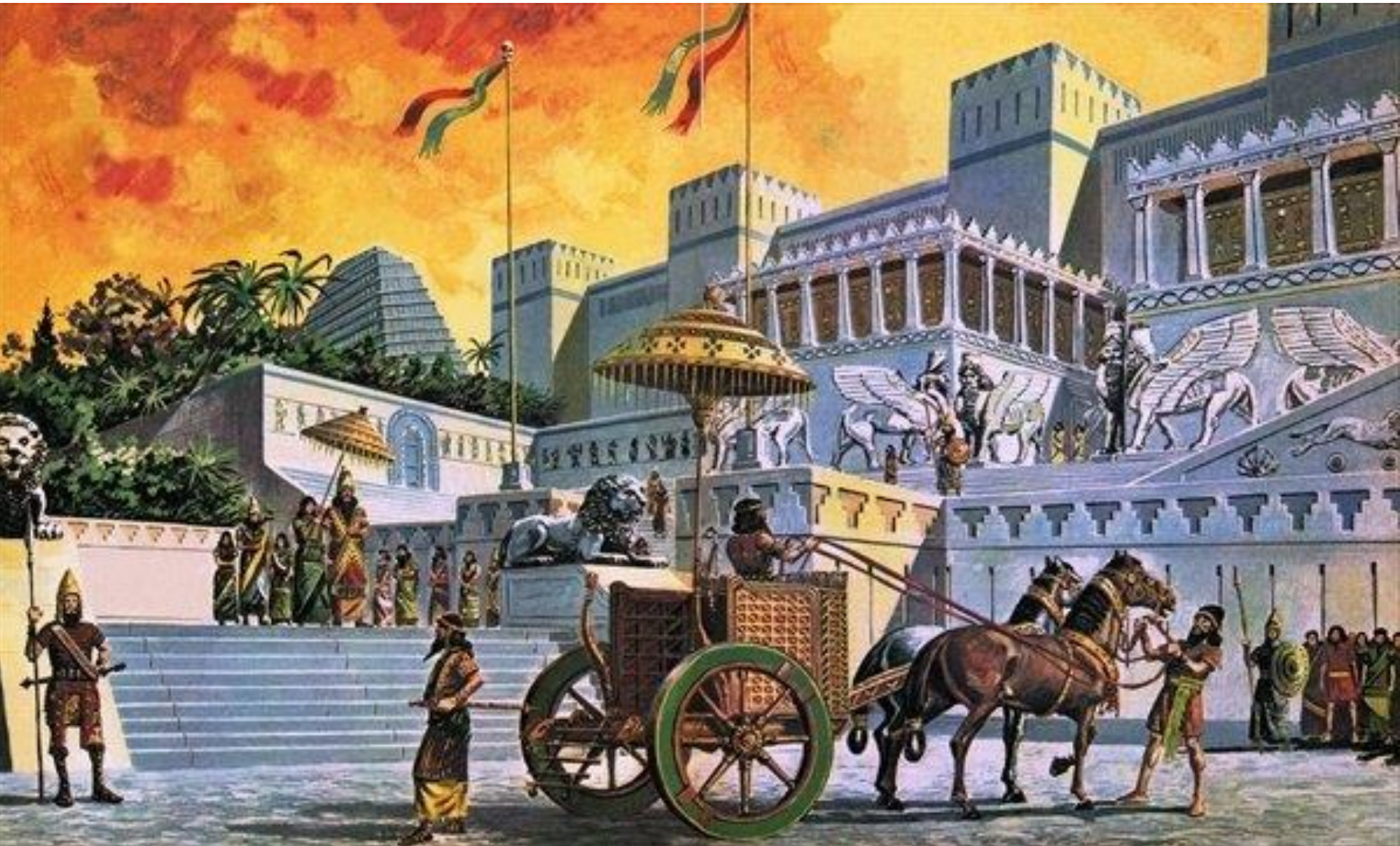
Jonah, son of Amittai,  
from **Gath-Hepher**,  
**Zebulun**, lived about  
800-750 B.C.

**(Joshua 19:10,13)**

He lived during Elisha's  
time, and had seen the  
fulfilment of his own  
prophecy restoring  
Israel's borders:

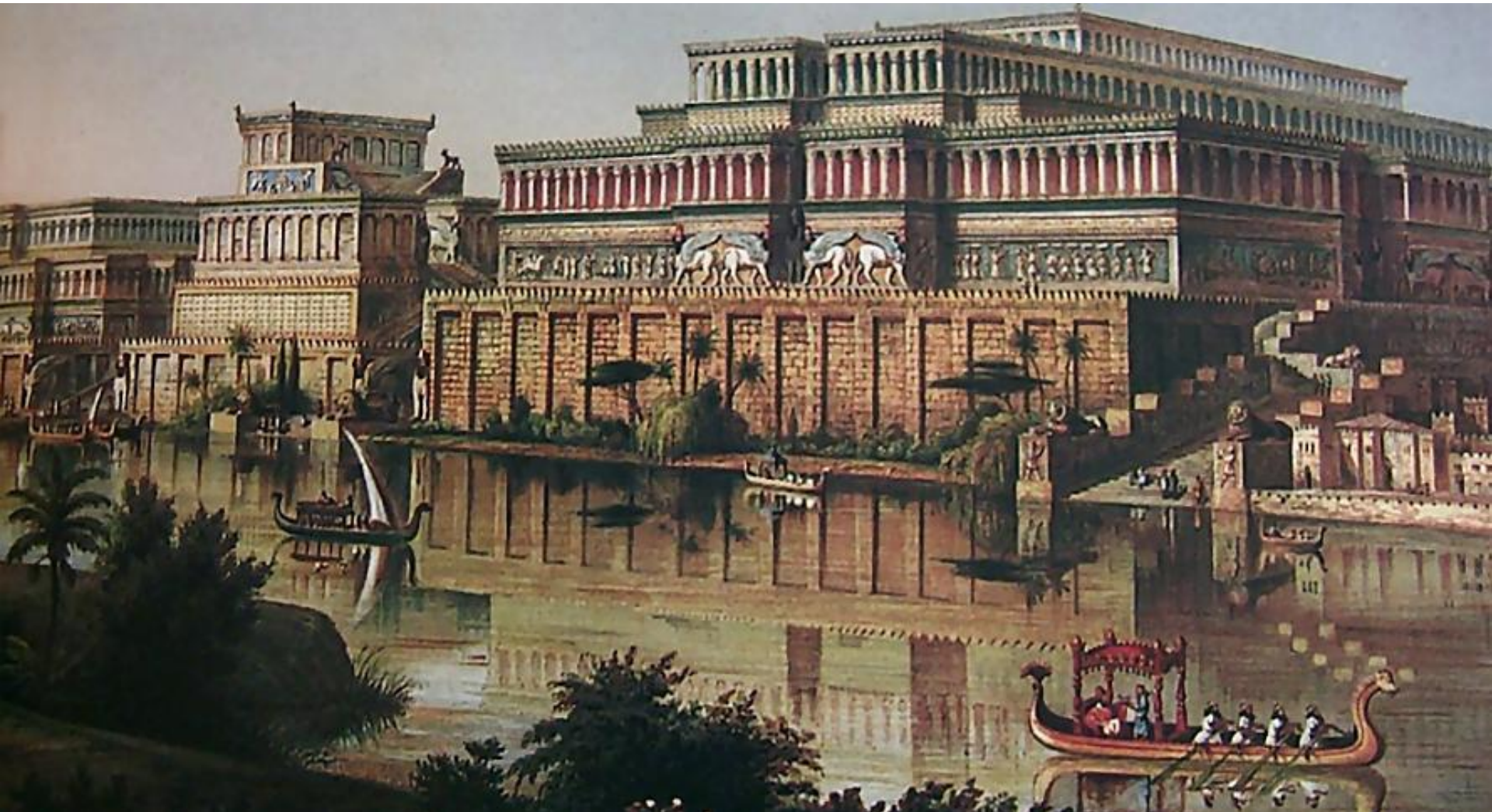
**“Jeroboam II** rebuilt Israel's coastline from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the message from the LORD God of Israel that he spoke through his servant **Jonah the prophet**, Amittai's son, who was from Gath-Hepher.” **(2 Kings 14:25)**

**NINEVEH** – was a major Assyrian city.

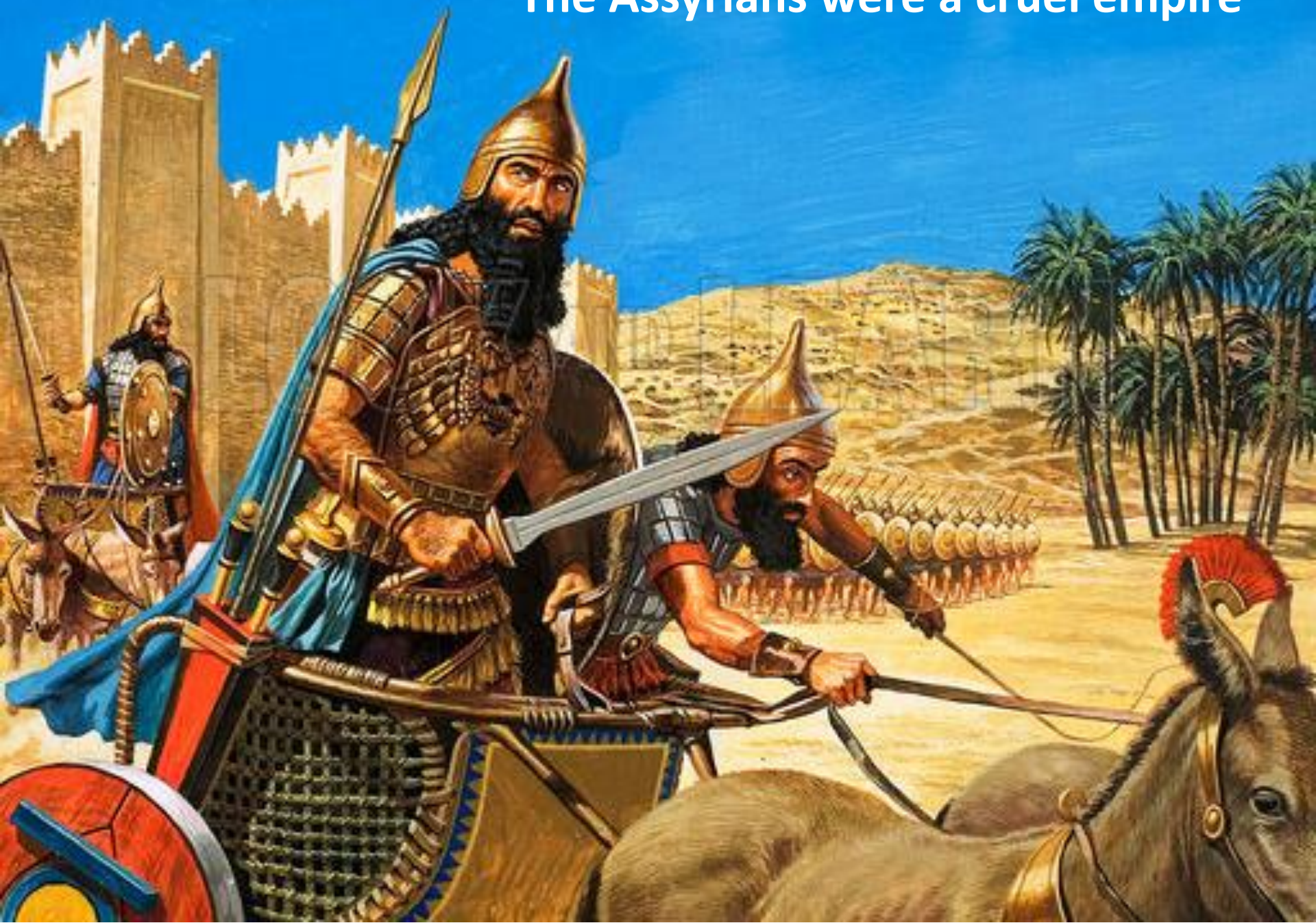


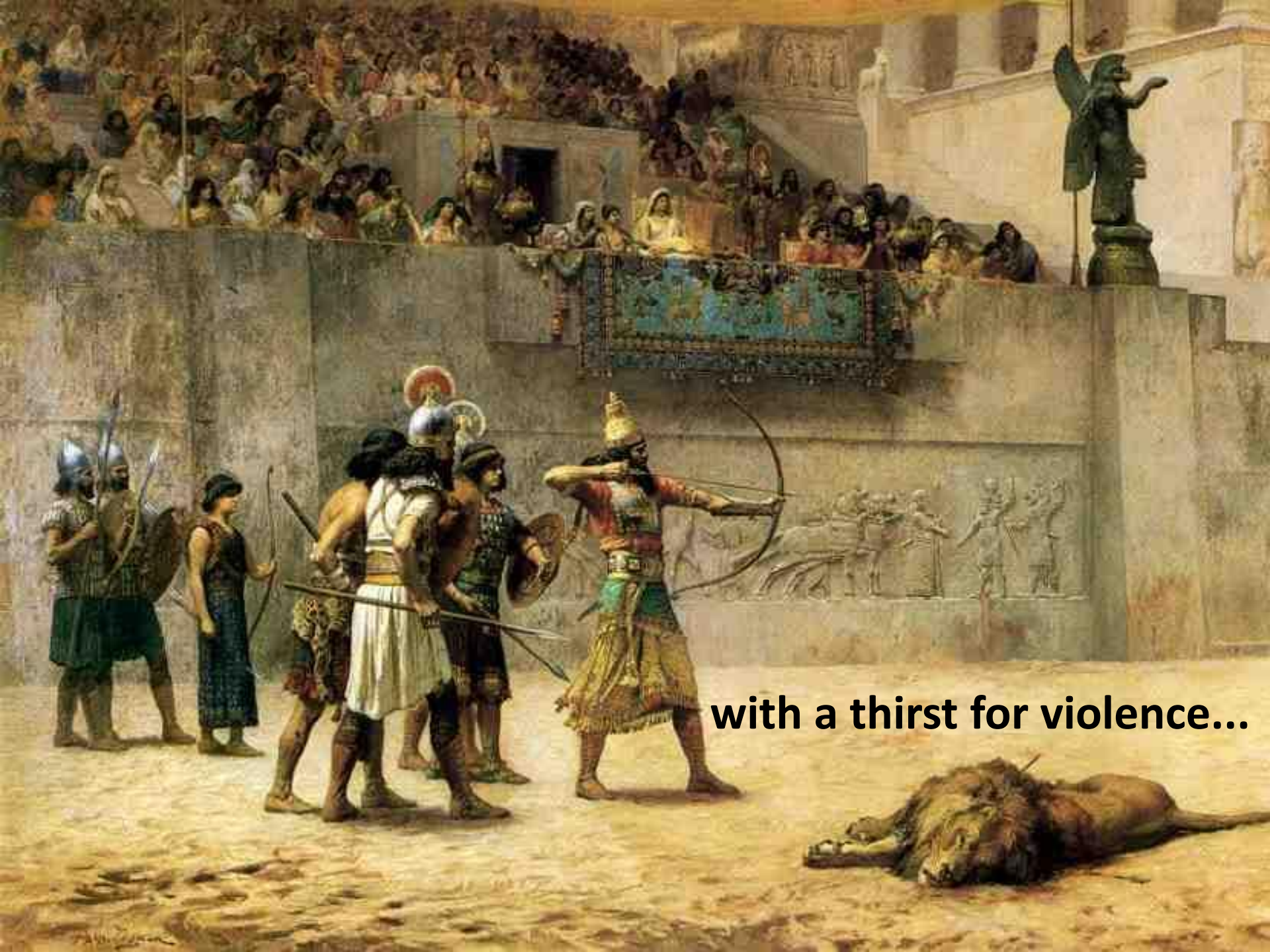
**NINEVEH** – was a major Assyrian city.

First built by Nimrod (Genesis 10:11-12),  
It took three days to walk all through it (3:3).



The Assyrians were a cruel empire





**with a thirst for violence...**

**NINEVEH** – today: majestic ancient ruins in Iraq



1:1-2





1:3

Tarshish

Nineveh

2500 miles

550 miles

Joppa



1:4-9

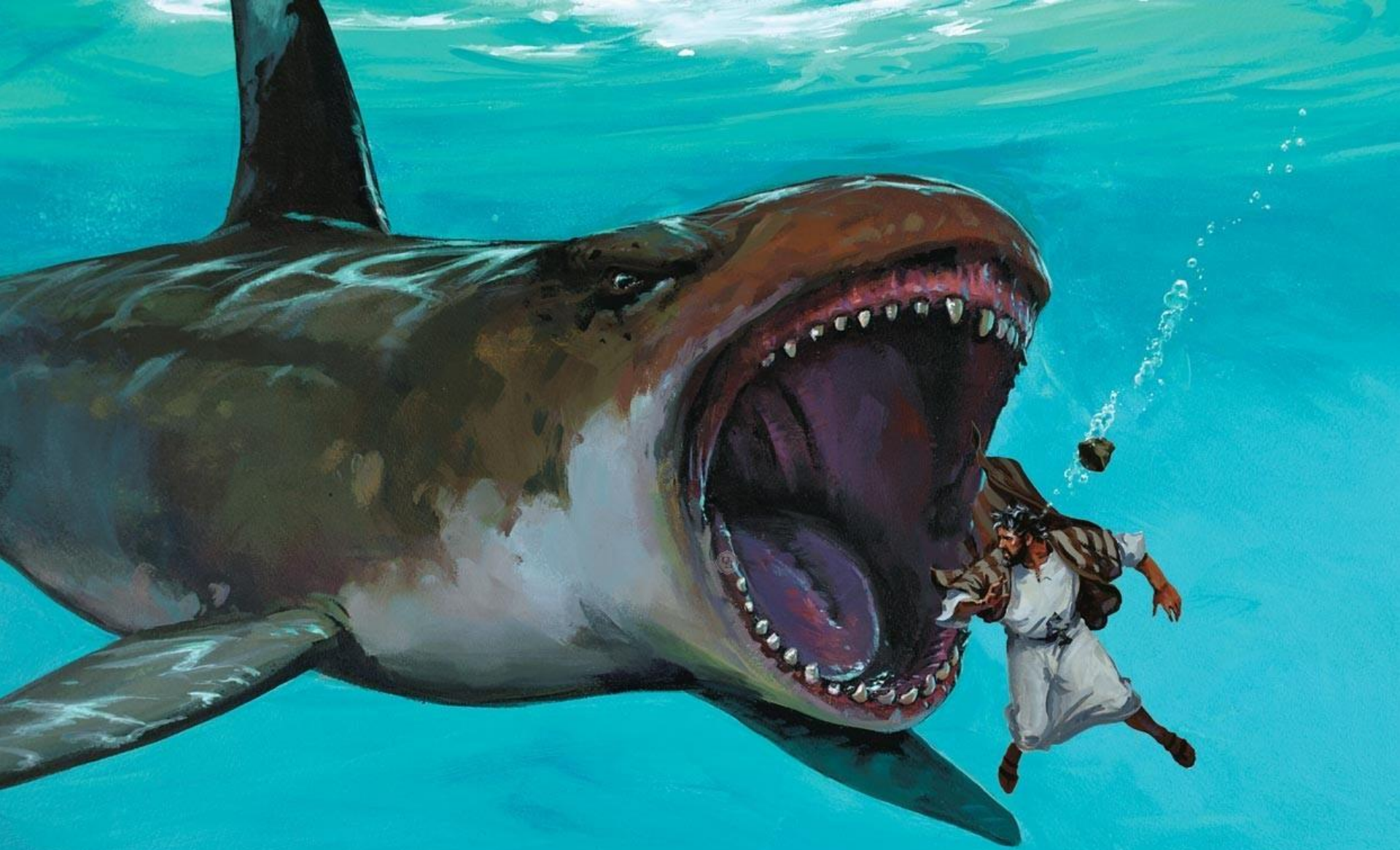




1:10-13



1:14-16



1:17

2:1-4



2:5-9



2:10







3:1-2

3:3



3:4



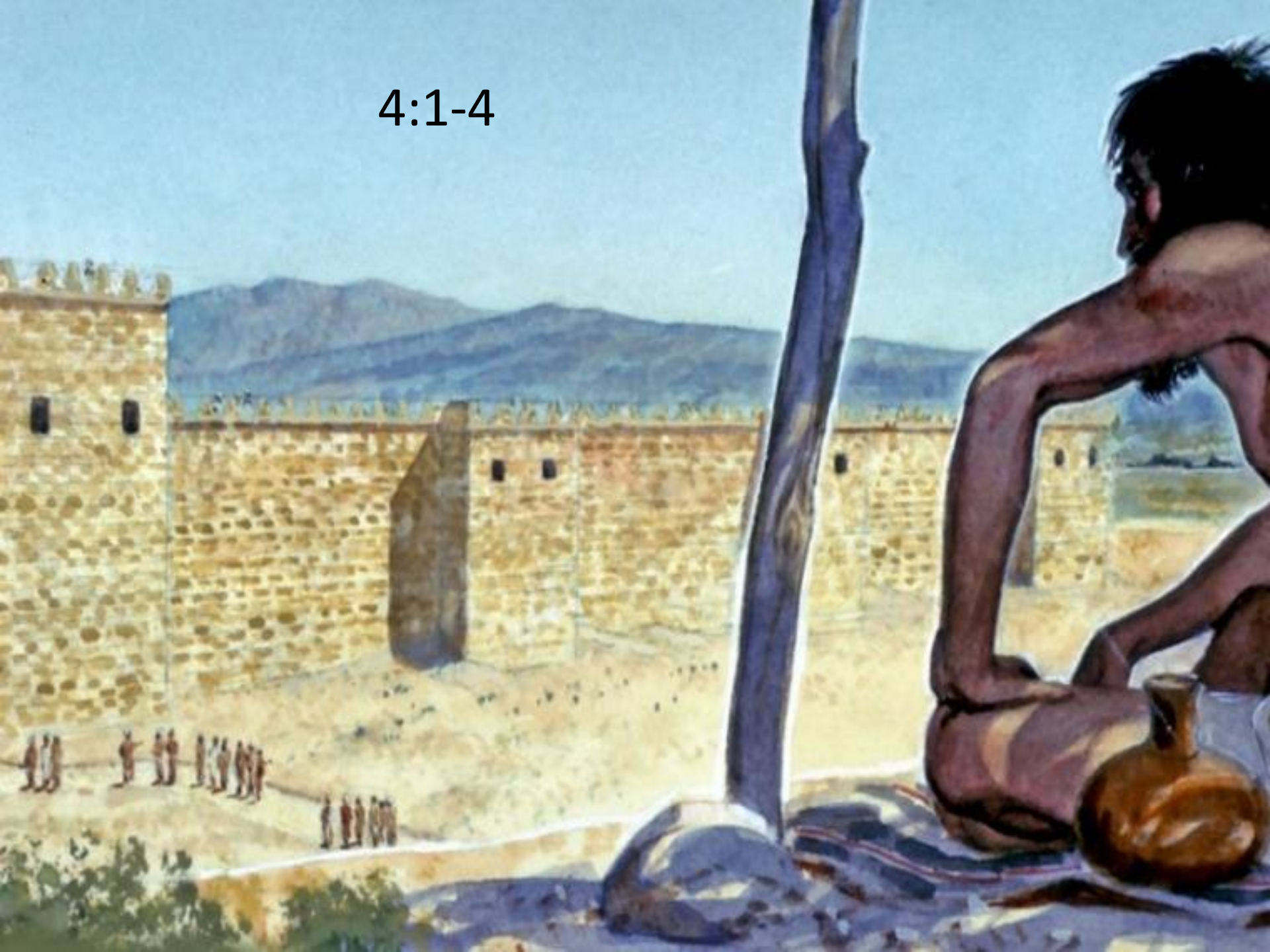


3:5-9

3:10



4:1-4



4:5-6



4:7-11

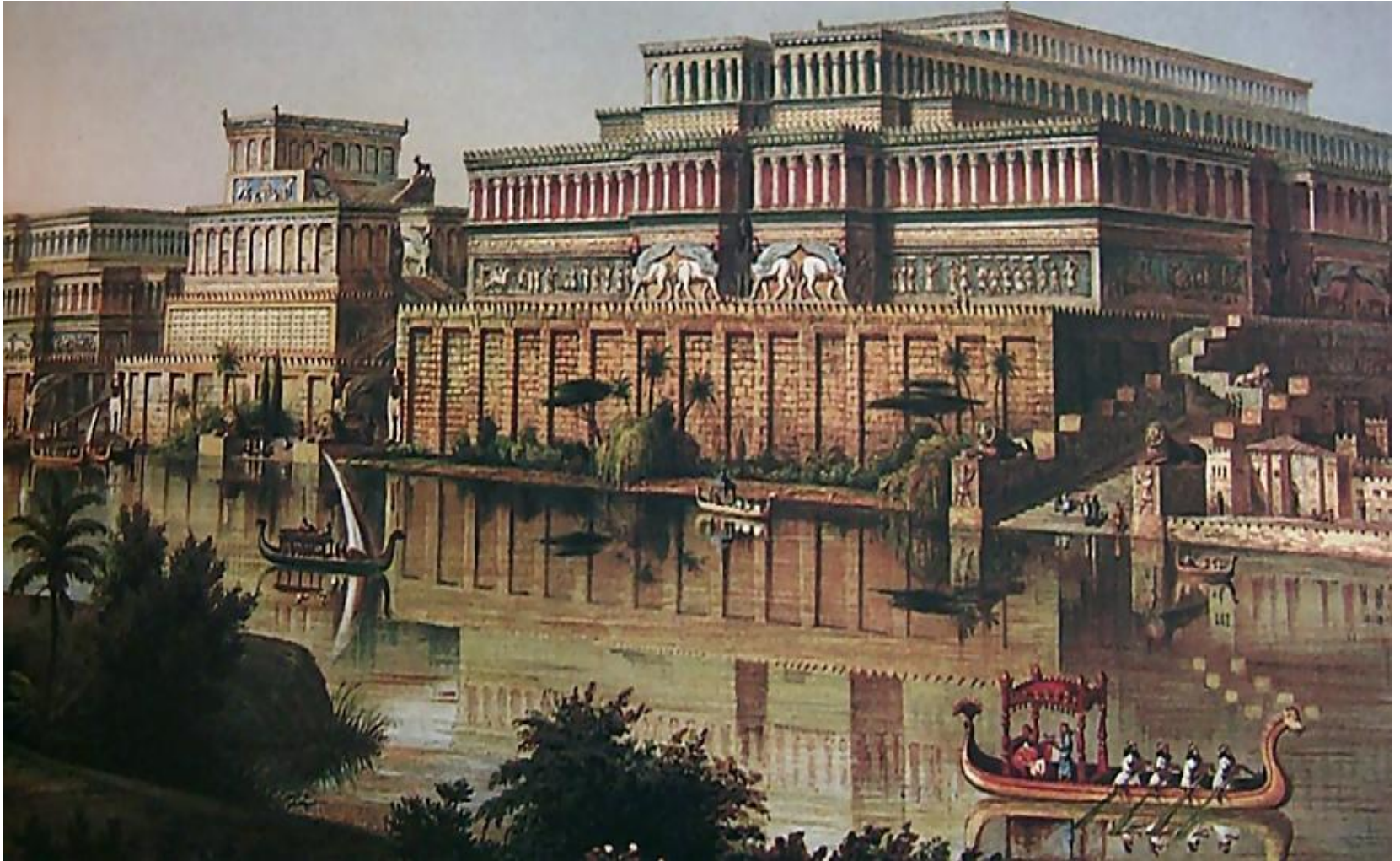




# What can WE LEARN from Jonah's story?



# 1. God Warns us and calls Everyone to Repent



# 1. God Warns us and calls Everyone to Repent

**1:2** “preach against Nineveh and its wickedness...”

**3:4** “40 more days and Nineveh will be overturned”

→ **3:5** “The Ninevites believed God...  
they declared a fast... put on sackcloth...”

→ **3:7-9** King: “Let everyone call urgently on God...  
Let them give up their evil ways... God may relent  
and with compassion turn from His fierce anger...”

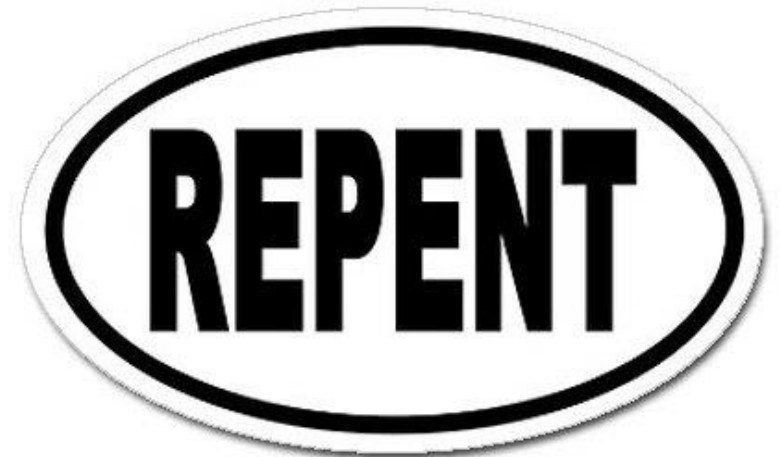
→ And God DID have compassion and forgave them

# 1. God Warns us and calls Everyone to Repent

// This same message is still true today!

“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people **everywhere to repent**. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

**Acts 17:30-31**



## 2. God calls His People to be his Messengers



## 2. God calls His People to be his Messengers

**1:2 & 3:2** “Arise, go to the great city of Nineveh...  
Proclaim my Judgment / my Message to them...”

God called Jonah to be his messenger...  
& After correcting him, God called him again!

// If you're a believer, God has also called you and  
me to be His messengers to the world!

→ “For God's gifts and calling never change...”

**Romans 11:29**

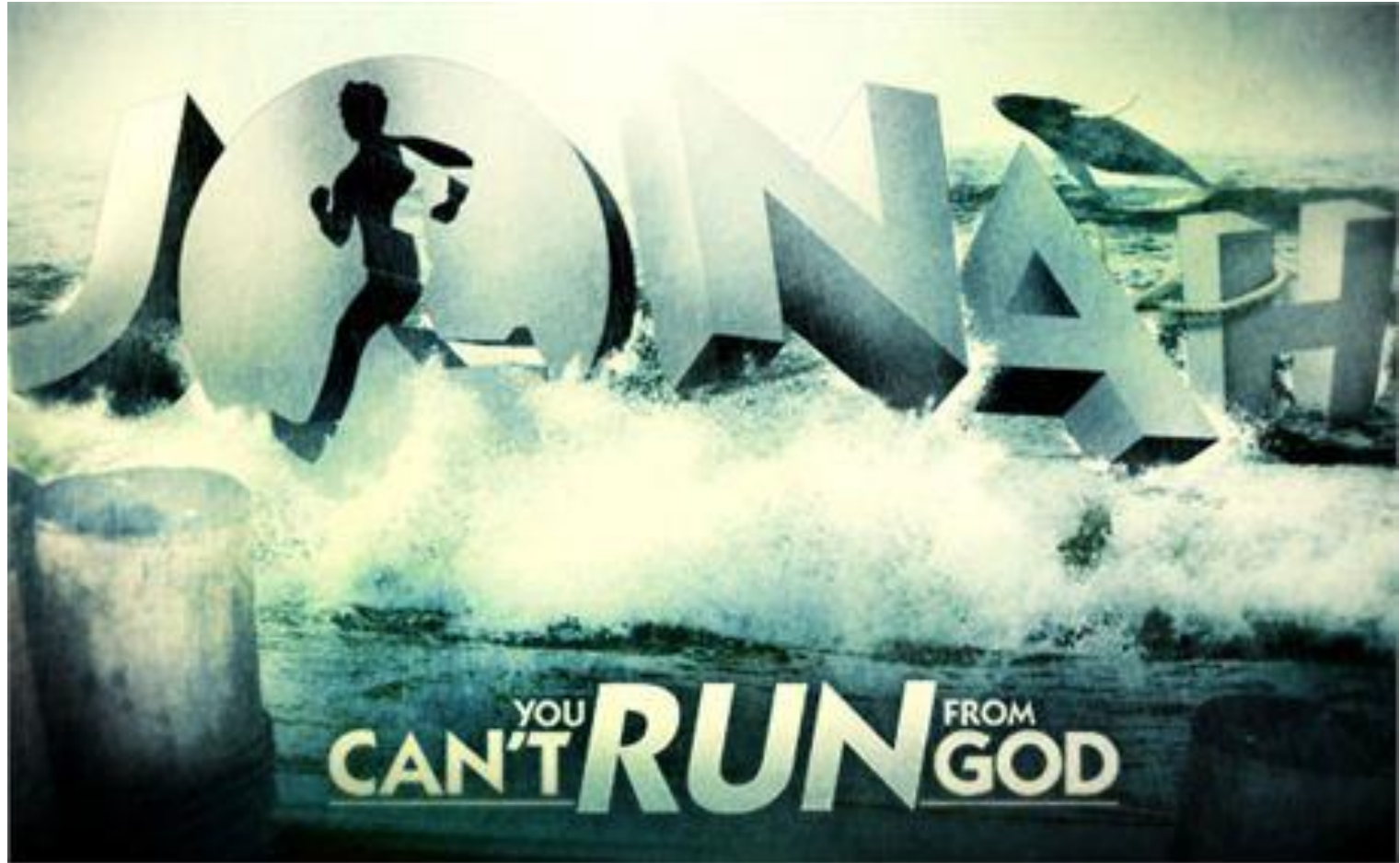
## 2. God calls His People to be his Messengers

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation...”

**Mark 16:15**



### 3. We can't Run Away or Hide from God!





### 3. We can't Run Away or Hide from God!

**1:9** Jonah said: “I worship the God of **Heaven** who made the **Sea** and the **Land...**”

→ Where on earth WAS he going to hide?!

→ Don't try to hide or run away from God either!



### 3. We can't Run Away or Hide from God!

“If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.  
If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,”  
even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

**Psalm 139:7-12**

## 4. God Prepares and Provides Everything



**1:4** “the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea...”

**1:17** “The Lord had prepared a great fish...”



# 4. God Prepares and Provides Everything



4:6 “The Lord God provided a vine...”

4:7 “God provided a worm...”



4:8 “God provided a scorching east wind...”

## 4. God Prepares and Provides Everything

→ God **prepared all things** to teach Jonah and to shape him to be His servant. // So also with me!

“We know that the whole of creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies... And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, and are called according to his purpose...”

**Romans 8:22-23,28**

## 5. Pray to the Lord and Cry Out to Him



## 5. Pray to the Lord and Cry Out to Him

**2:1** “In my distress I called to the Lord, and He answered me...”

**2:2** “From the depths of the grave I called for help and You listened to my cry...”

**2:7** “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered You, LORD, and my prayer rose to You, to your holy temple...”

➔ **2:9** “But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to You... Salvation comes from the Lord...”

## 6. God is in Control of All our Circumstances



When things look tough... & When they're looking up



## 6. God is in Control of All our Circumstances

**1:17** God made the fish swallow Jonah, and he was there three days and three nights.

**2:10** The Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

→ In **BOTH** circumstances, God was in control: In the unpleasant/difficult & the nice/enjoyable...

→ In **EVERYTHING** God had a Purpose.  
// The same is true with me today...

→ Will I trust Him? Or will I fight Him?

# 7. God Reveals Himself more and more



## 7. God Reveals Himself more and more

4:2 Jonah, from personal experience, came to know Jehovah as a “gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, and abounding in love...” = 4 things:

- a) **Gracious** – Gives Blessing that we Don't Deserve
- b) **Compassionate** – Shows us Undeserved Mercy
- c) **Slow to Anger** – Patient, not wanting any to die
- d) **Quick to Love** – Eager to Forgive and Embrace

→ Jonah also knew that God would treat others in this same way... And this upset him!

// God treats us today in this same manner...

// God is the same towards everyone today!

# 8. Be Merciful, not Judgemental of Others



## 8. Be Merciful, not Judgemental of Others

Jonah wanted God to be **MERCIFUL** towards himself... But to be **RIGHTEOUS** towards others...

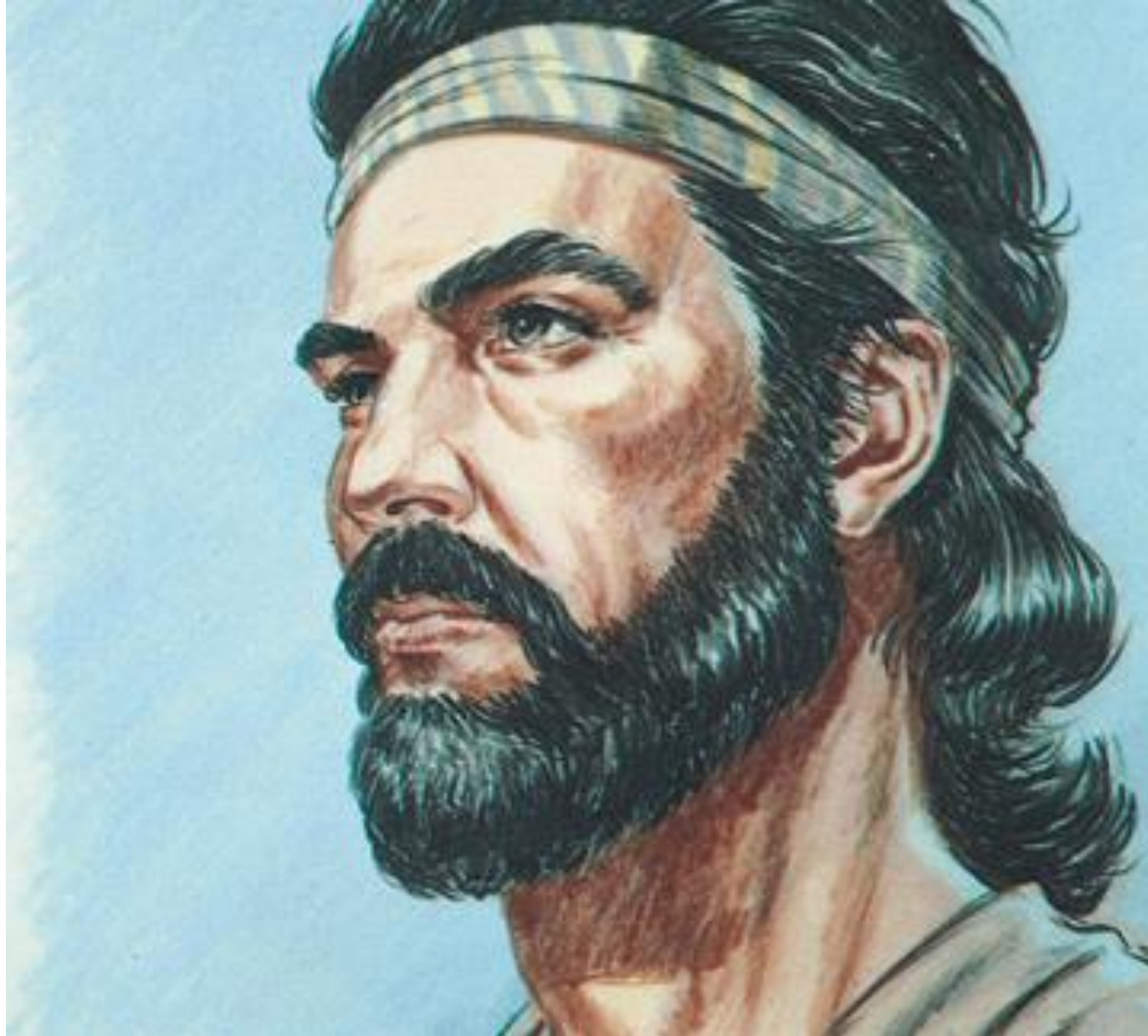
→ God wanted Jonah to learn to be merciful to the undeserving, just as God had been with him!

“You must make it your habit to speak and act like people who are going to be judged by the law of liberty. For the one who has shown no mercy will be judged without mercy.

Mercy triumphs over judgment...” **James 2:12-13**

// I too must I learn to **not be judgemental** towards others, but rejoice in **God’s mercy** towards them...

## 9. How did Jonah end?



## 9. How did Jonah end?

= We don't know!? – There is utter silence after the prophet's anger and God's compassionate reply...

// How will WE end our lives?

**(a)** Angry & demanding our rights?  
& Judgmental towards others?

***OR...***

**(b)** Thankful & Praising God for His Mercy & Grace?  
Encouraging others to come to God's Love too?

# Some Personal Questions for ALL of us Here:

- (1) Have I **Repented** and accepted God's salvation?
- (2) Am I a faithful and loving **Messenger** for God?
- (3) Am I trying to **Hide** and **Run Away** from God?
- (4) Do I accept & welcome **ALL** God's **Provisions**?
- (5) Am I **Praying** and **Crying** out for the Lord's help?
- (6) Do I trust that God is **In Control** of My Life?
- (7) Am I coming to **know God** better each day?
- (8) Am I **Merciful** or **Judgmental** towards others?
- (9) How will **My Life** end? – Bitter or Grateful?



**May WE ALL learn the lessons of**

