

Jonah

Jonah

A Whale of a Story

Jonah

A Whale of a Story
and a Whole Lot More!



Is Jonah worth our time?

Were Balaam, Jehoiada, Samson?

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/balaam.pdf>

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/jehoiada-kingly-priest-slides.pdf>

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/samson-slides.pdf>

Jonah is NOT in the Hall of Faith.

Unless he is in
“the prophets”
of Hebrews 11:32.

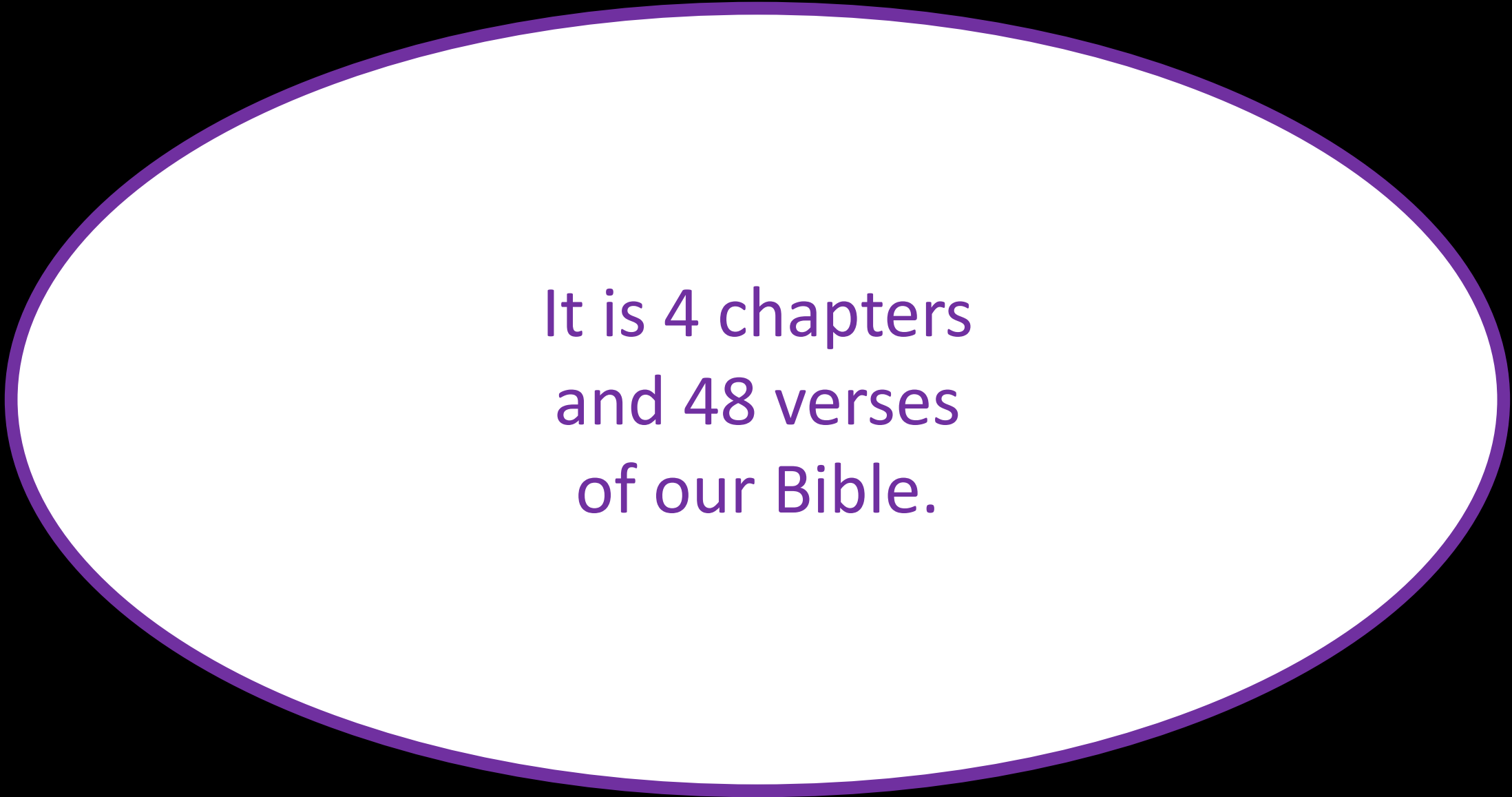
But Jonah has a book of the Bible
named after him, which the
other three did not.

But Jonah was used by Jesus as an
example for His own burial
and resurrection.

But Jonah was used by Jesus to
condemn His generation that
did not repent like Nineveh.

Skeptics love Jonah because
they make it a fable that
discredits the Bible.

Jonah is probably the most
ridiculed book in the Bible,
but we gladly believe it.



It is 4 chapters
and 48 verses
of our Bible.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

II Timothy 3:16-17

For whatsoever things were written aforetime
were written for our learning, that we through
patience and comfort of the scriptures might have
hope.

Romans 15:4

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Luke 4:4

Three Kinds of Slides

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written,
That man shall not live by bread alone, but by
every word of God.

Luke 4:4

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God's Word the Bible

Jonah, an early prophet, lived
no later than the reign of
Jeroboam II of Israel.

II Kings 14:25

=

Supporting Information

When God's word
tells you to do
something ...

Do It!

=

Lesson or Rule to Learn

Jonah, an early prophet, lived
no later than the reign of
Jeroboam II of Israel.

II Kings 14:25

(During the reign of Judah's
kings Amaziah and Uzziah.)

He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.


II Kings 14:25

Learn to find the book of Jonah.

Knowing the location of all 66
books is important for you.

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

Jonah 1:1



When God's word
tells you to do
something ...


Do It!

Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect
unto all thy commandments.

Psalms 119:6

If we disrespect God's commands
by not doing them, we will
be shamed by our folly.

Good men have laughed about
Jonah for 3000 years, because
God uniquely chastened him
and his book ends with
his terrible attitude.



God's way is always
win-win, so be glad
to do it with zeal.

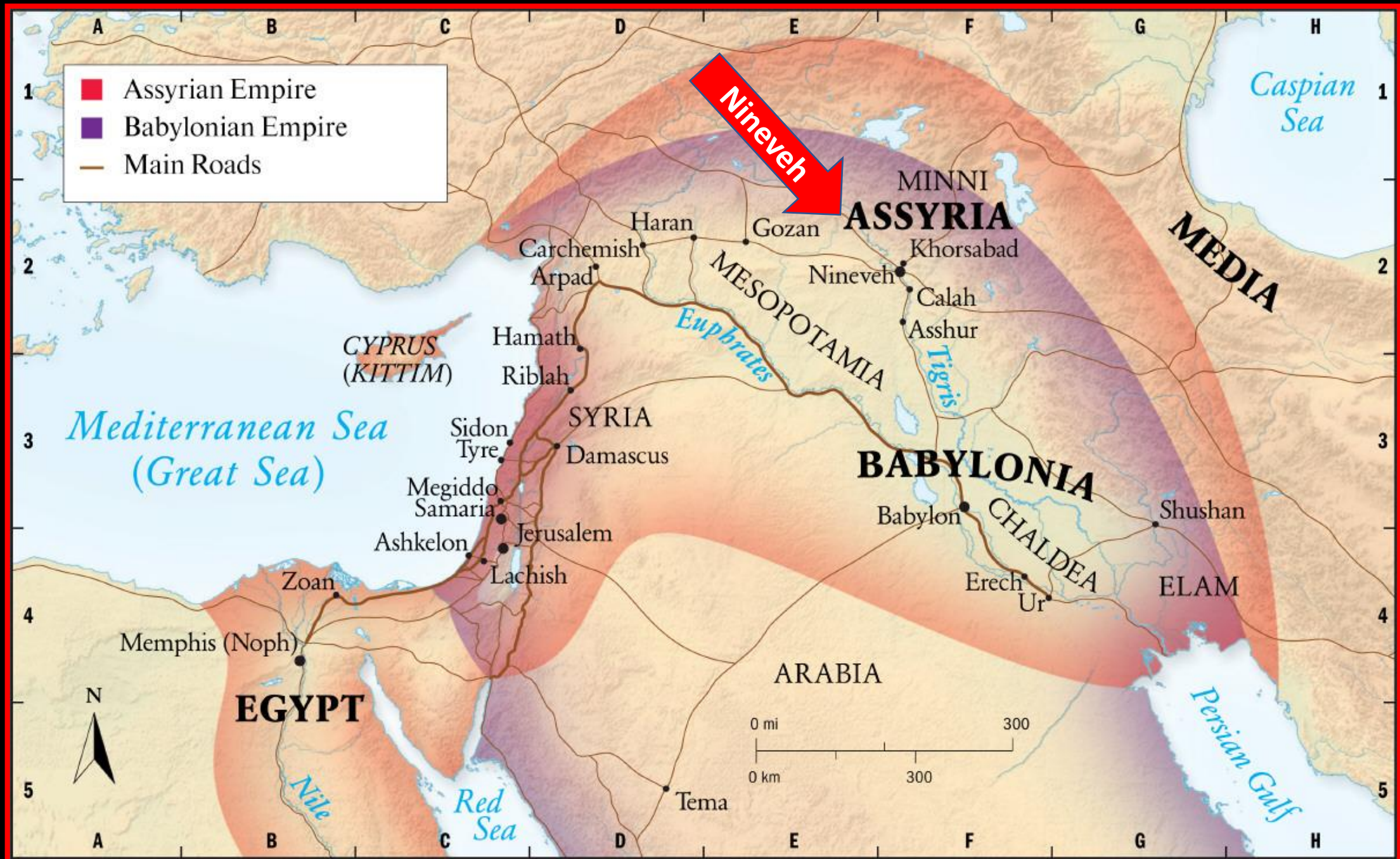
Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry
against it; for their wickedness is come up before
me.

Jonah 1:2

Nineveh?

No way!

They were God-hating
Assyrian pagans!



IRAQ



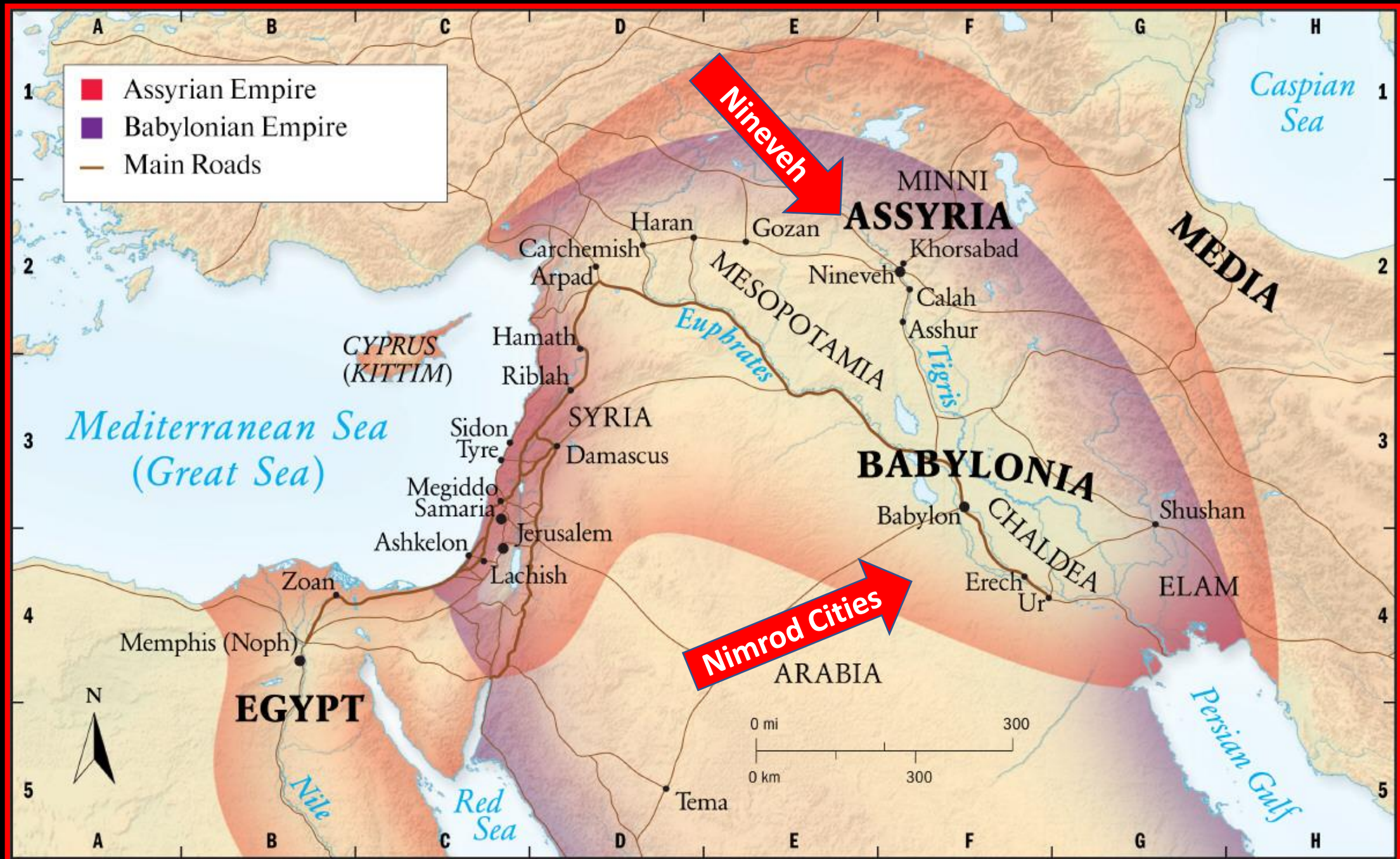
Nineveh was built by men
of Nimrod's time after
the Tower of Babel.

8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah....

Genesis 10:8-12



Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Jonah 1:2

Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

Jonah 3:3

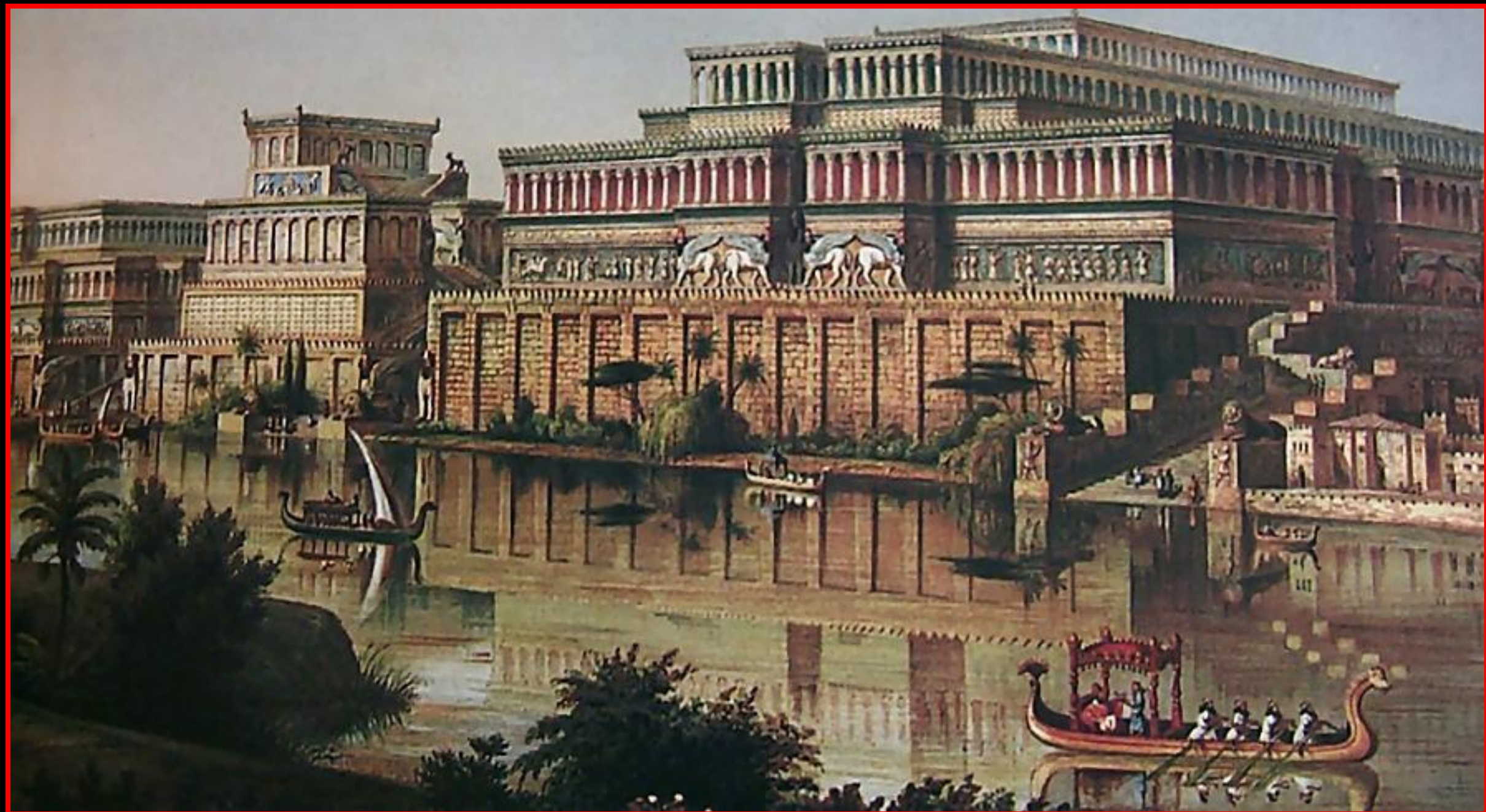
... Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than
sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern
between their right hand and their left hand....

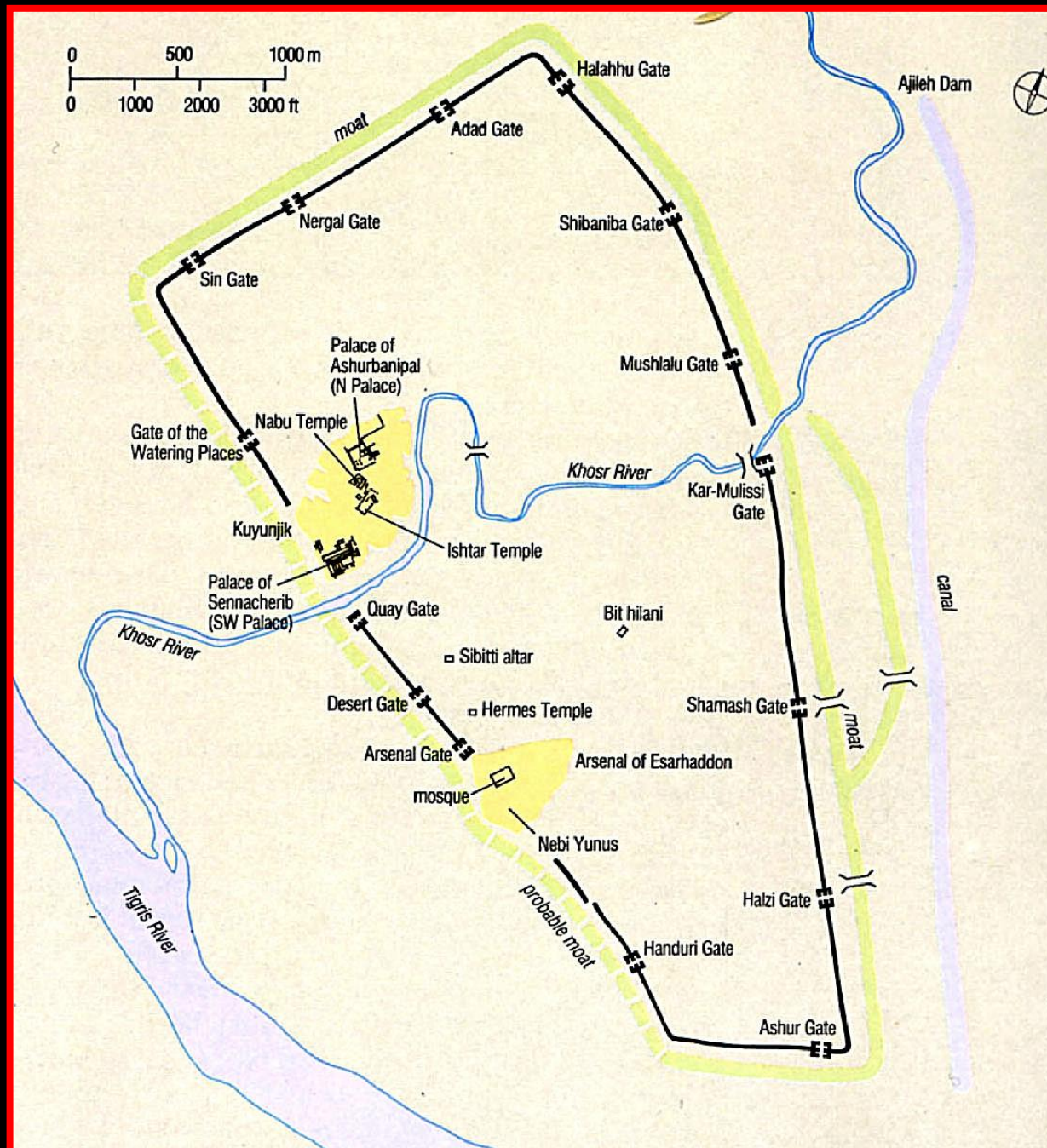
Jonah 4:11

Nineveh was a huge city
on the east side of the
great Tigris River.

It was one of the wonders of the
world and the greatest city
on earth for some time.

It was larger than Babylon,
and it predated Babylon
in world reputation.





Nineveh was so large,
60 miles around,
that it took 3 days
to walk around it.


A Few Facts about Nineveh

- It was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire.
- King Sennacherib lived there, the enemy of the Jews.
- It was 60 miles around, so 3 days to walk around it all.
- Its extrapolated population was around 1.6 million.
- The city wall was 100 ft. high with three chariot lanes.
- It had 1500 wall towers, each 200 ft. high, every 200 ft.
- It took 1.4 million men laboring eight years to build it.
- God later destroyed it and foretold its ruin in Nahum.
- Babylon then replaced it as the greatest city on earth.


Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry
against it; for their wickedness is come up before
me.

Jonah 1:2


God wanted Jonah to warn
Nineveh of destruction
if they did not repent.



God sees all the
earth's wickedness,
and He will judge it.

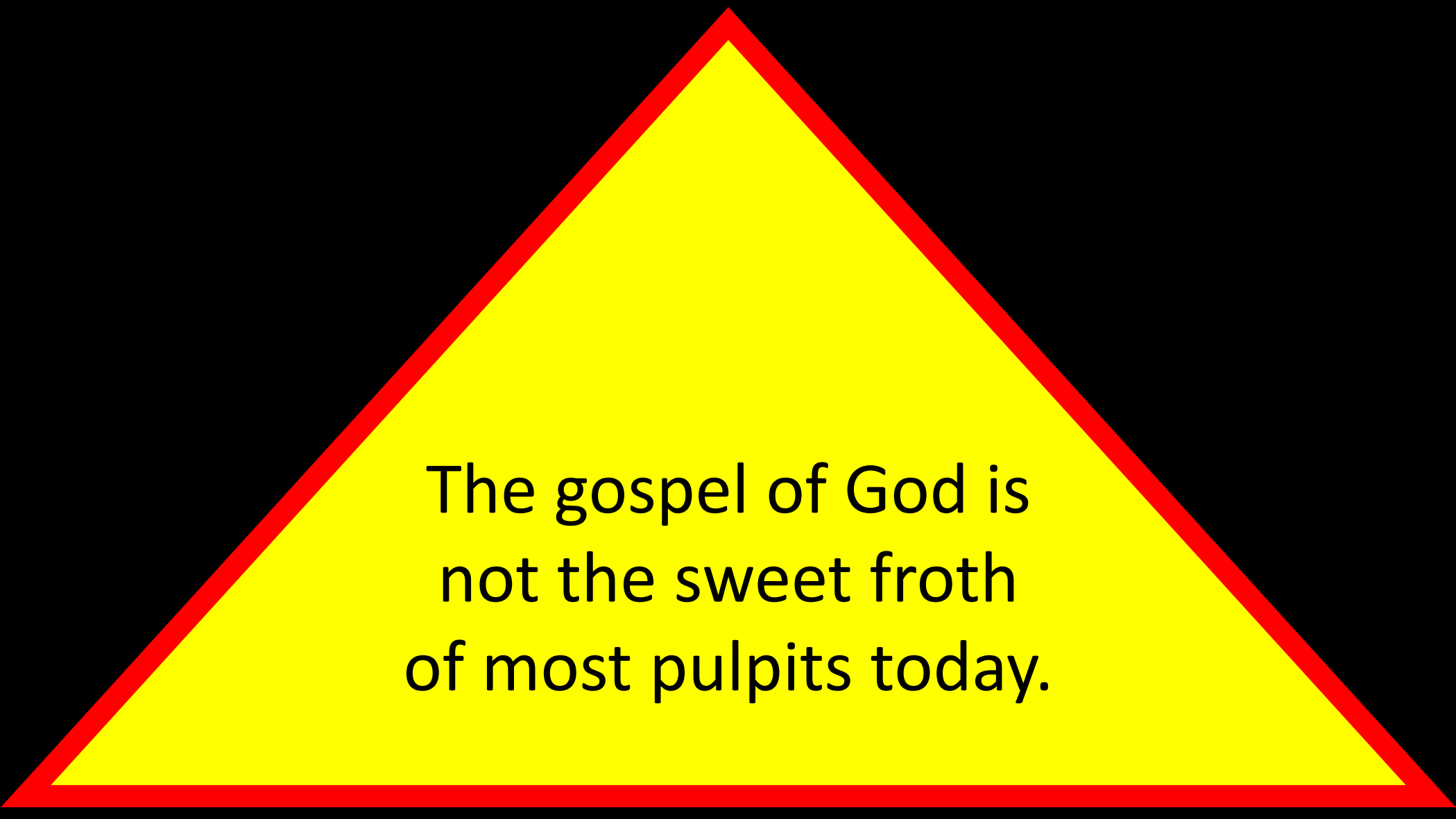


Size or prosperity of
a city or nation or
church does not
impress Him.



God used prophets
and apostles to
reprove men.

John 16:8-11




The gospel of God is
not the sweet froth
of most pulpits today.

But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah 1:3

Of course, Jonah was still a believer in Jehovah, as we will learn, but he would not obey his God's will for him.






You cannot flee God's
presence, only His
place of worship.

Why did Jonah do this?


He hated the Ninevites.
He was a true nationalist.
Politics beat God's will.
He had no love for souls.
He knew they'd repent.
He knew God would save.
Nineveh would survive.

He should have remembered the failed attempt of Adam and Eve to hide from God for their sin.





When you find a ship
while fleeing God,
know He sent it.



When you find a ship
while fleeing God,
do not get on it!

God chose rebels for the ministry,
even some of His best men.

(Ps 68:18; Ex 4:10-13; Jer 1:5; I Cor 9:16-18)

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even some of His best men.


(Ps 68:18; Ex 4:10-13; Jer 1:5; I Cor 9:16-18)

But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea,
and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that
the ship was like to be broken.

Jonah 1:4



This wind was so bad that it was about to break up the ship, so the sailors threw stuff overboard.



There are no chance
events, even weather.
God sent the wind!

Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Jonah 1:5


Crying to their gods did no good
at all, because praying to any but
Jehovah forsakes your own mercy!

If the cargo included food, you
can imagine the fish following
the sailing vessel attracting
even larger fish, maybe?

Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Jonah 1:5

Many say they find or have peace
when choosing against God's will.



Your peace when
sinning against God
is the devil's lie to you.

And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.


Jonah 1:7

Any surprise here?

God's word tells us that trials like
this are under God's control.

Proverbs 16:33

http://www.letgodbettrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/16_33.php




When you sin against
God, even chance
events chase you.



Remember the Rule:

**Be Sure Your Sin
Will Find You Out!**

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/be-sure-your-sin4.pdf>



Lack of trouble is not
God's approval, but
preparing worse pain.

(Gen 15:16; Ps 50:21-22; Rom 2:3-6)

http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/29_01.php

And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Jonah 1:12


Jonah was certainly honest and transparent with the mariners.

He did not fear death much; he
will wish for it several times.

He did not fear death due to his out-of-control spirit, and he would rather die than see Nineveh live.

But there was a better alternative
to being thrown overboard
in a storm.

REPENT!



Remember the Rule:
Repentance works better
than anything else!

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/repentance-factor.pdf>

So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

Jonah 1:15




The sea had raged to get the attention of the sailors, now it was Jonah floating in the sea, so the storm was not needed.

God had Jonah right where He wanted him, so the pagan sailors could sail on unabated, though with less cargo.

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:17



There are no chance
events, not even fish.
God sent this whale!

Jonah called it a great fish.

Who called it a whale?

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12:40

Does this bother you?

Scientific distinctions like fish
and marine mammals are
quite worthless here.

Oxford English Dictionary

Fish. l. 1. a. In popular language,
any animal living exclusively
in the water;...

Therefore, to intelligent,
thinking, reasonable people ...

Great Fish = Whale

Anyone fussing about words is
a scorner, God's name for a
person worse than a fool.

Isaiah 29:20-21

http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/26_12.php

Why do these “scientific” types
call a shark (fish) a whale shark?

Why do these “scientific” types
order their shrimp, or properly
crustaceans, from the fish
section of menus?

Taxonomy is a rather worthless
practice and science unless it is
your profession or serious hobby.

Does the following verse
bother you?

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son
of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1

Who was the Father of Jesus?

David
Abraham
God
Joseph
Adam

We believe it was a whale
because Jesus said it was
in our English Bible.

Are there whales big enough in
the Mediterranean to do it?

The fin whale or sperm whale?

First, the fin whale, the second largest whale on earth, and it does enter the Mediterranean.



CETACEANS of the Mediterranean and Black Seas

Balaenoptera physalus
Fin whale

Stenella coeruleoalba
Striped dolphin

Delphinus delphis
Common dolphin

Steno bredanensis
Rough-toothed dolphin

Meters
Feet

Physeter catodon
Sperm whale

Phocoena phocoena
Harbour porpoise

Grampus griseus
Risso's dolphin

Orcinus orca
Killer whale

Pseudorca crassidens
False killer whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata
Minke whale

Tursiops truncatus
Bottlenose dolphin

Ziphius cavirostris
Cuvier's beaked whale

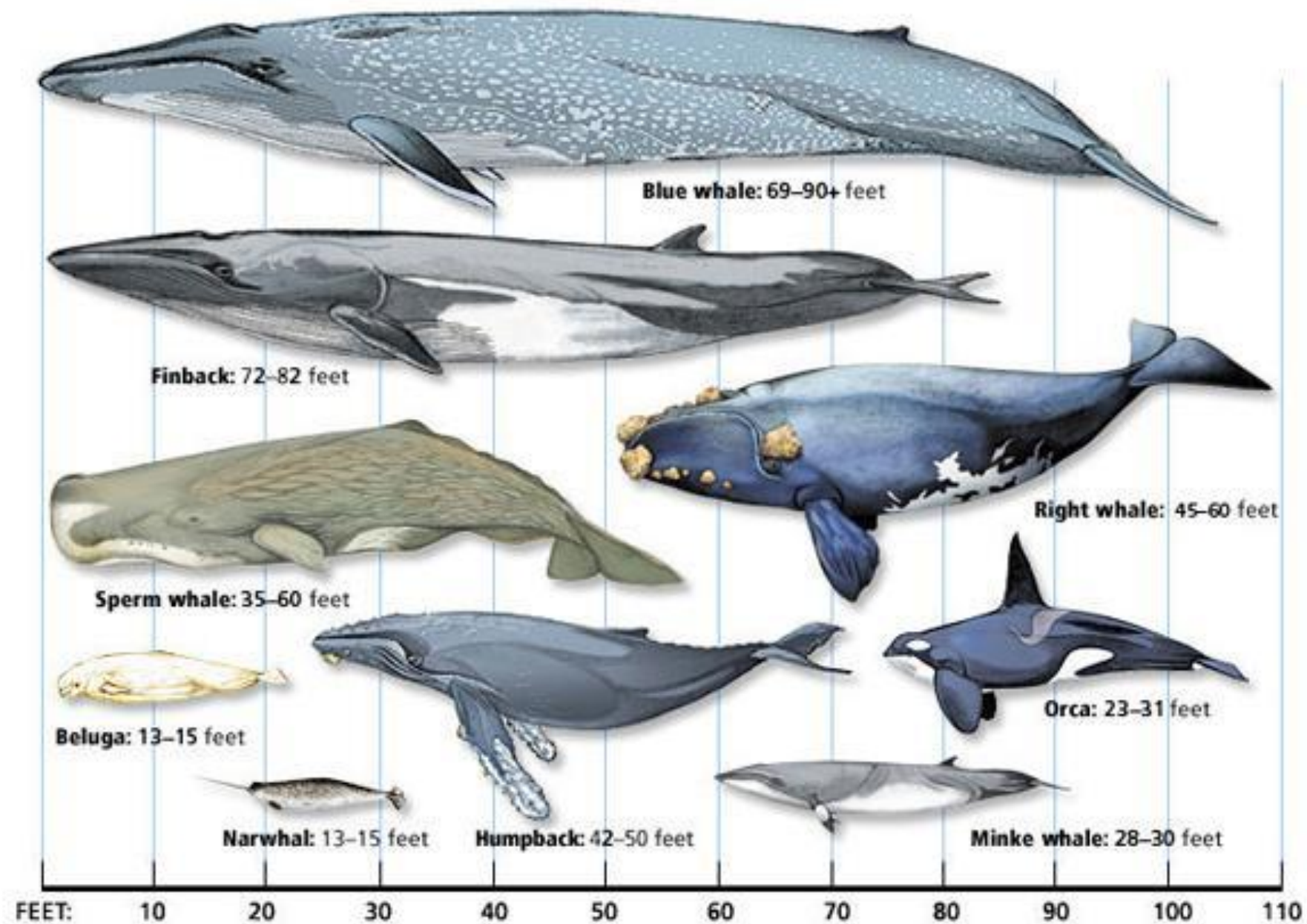
Globicephala melas
Long-finned pilot whale

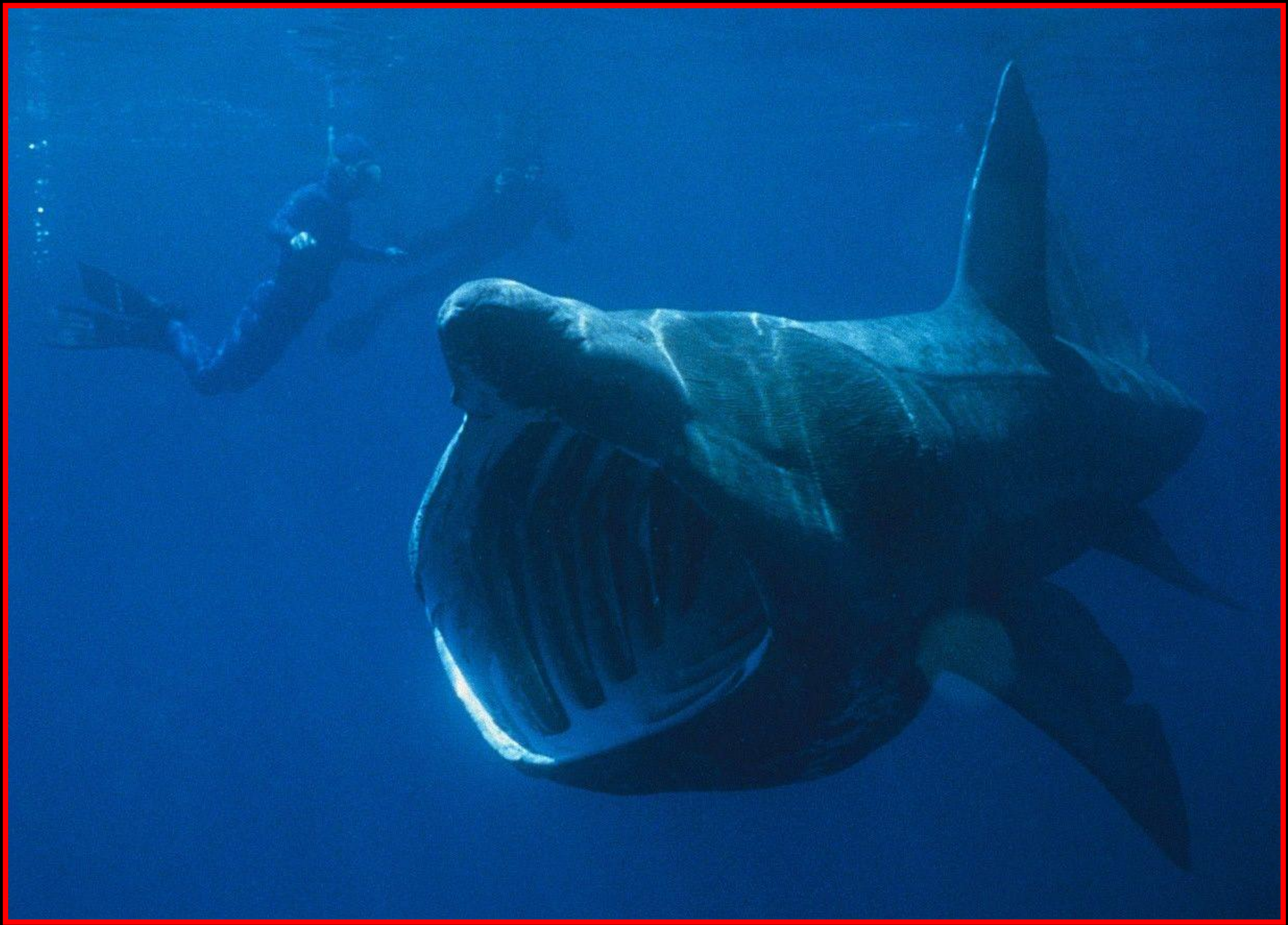


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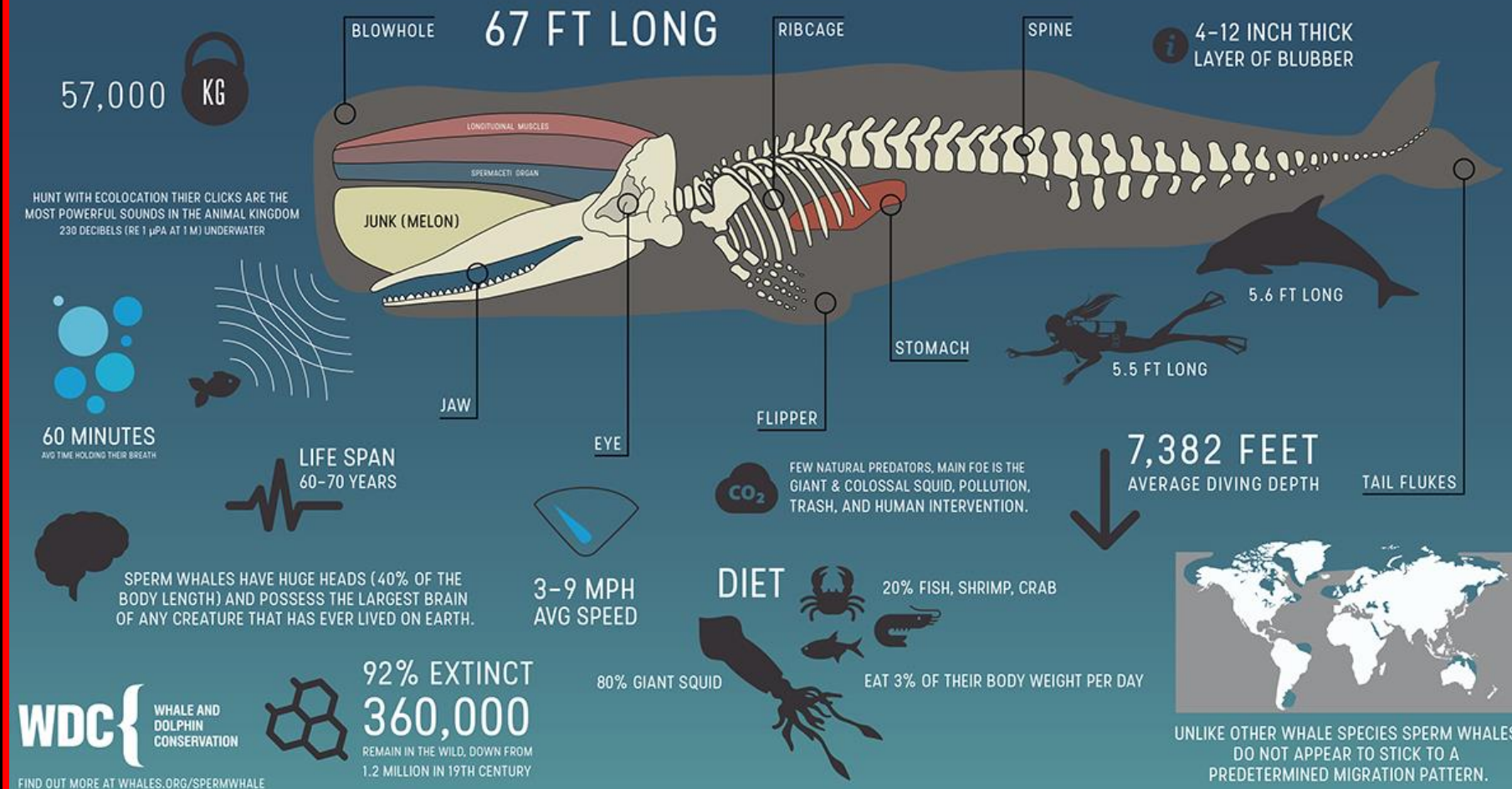


But the fin whale has a very small
esophagus that could not
ordinarily allow a man
to pass through it.

SPERM WHALE

• CACHALOT •

Physeter macrocephalus











The sperm whale has an esophagus that could easily swallow a man, a 20-inch diameter.

All the questions about fish or whale, size of stomach, size of esophagus, digestive acid, and such like are scornful.



The LORD prepared
the fish, so skeptical
questions are wrong.



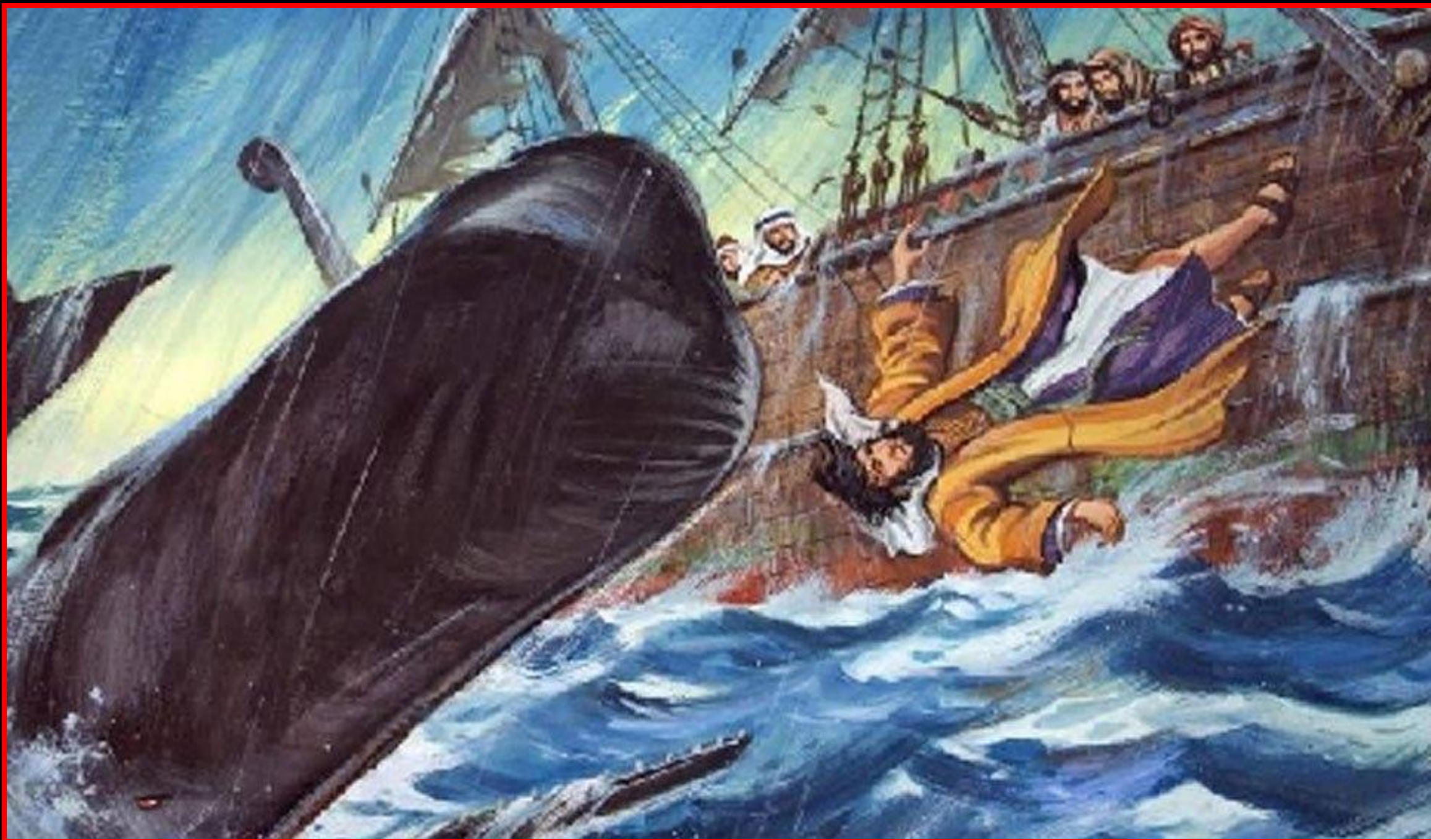
The LORD can work
with, without, below,
or above usual nature.

It could have been any kind of whale, even a unique one, that the LORD prepared for Jonah.

Did Daniel's diet make him healthy?
No, the poor diet proved a miracle!

Did spit-mud heal a blind man?
No, it proved a miracle!

What the whale
DID TO JONAH
is the key thing.








Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:17

Jonah was in the whales' belly
three days and three nights,
just like Jesus was in the
grave that long.

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12:40




God governs all
events for Himself,
even timing for Jesus.

God loves His Son and gave Him
an easy timing lesson from
the story of Jonah.

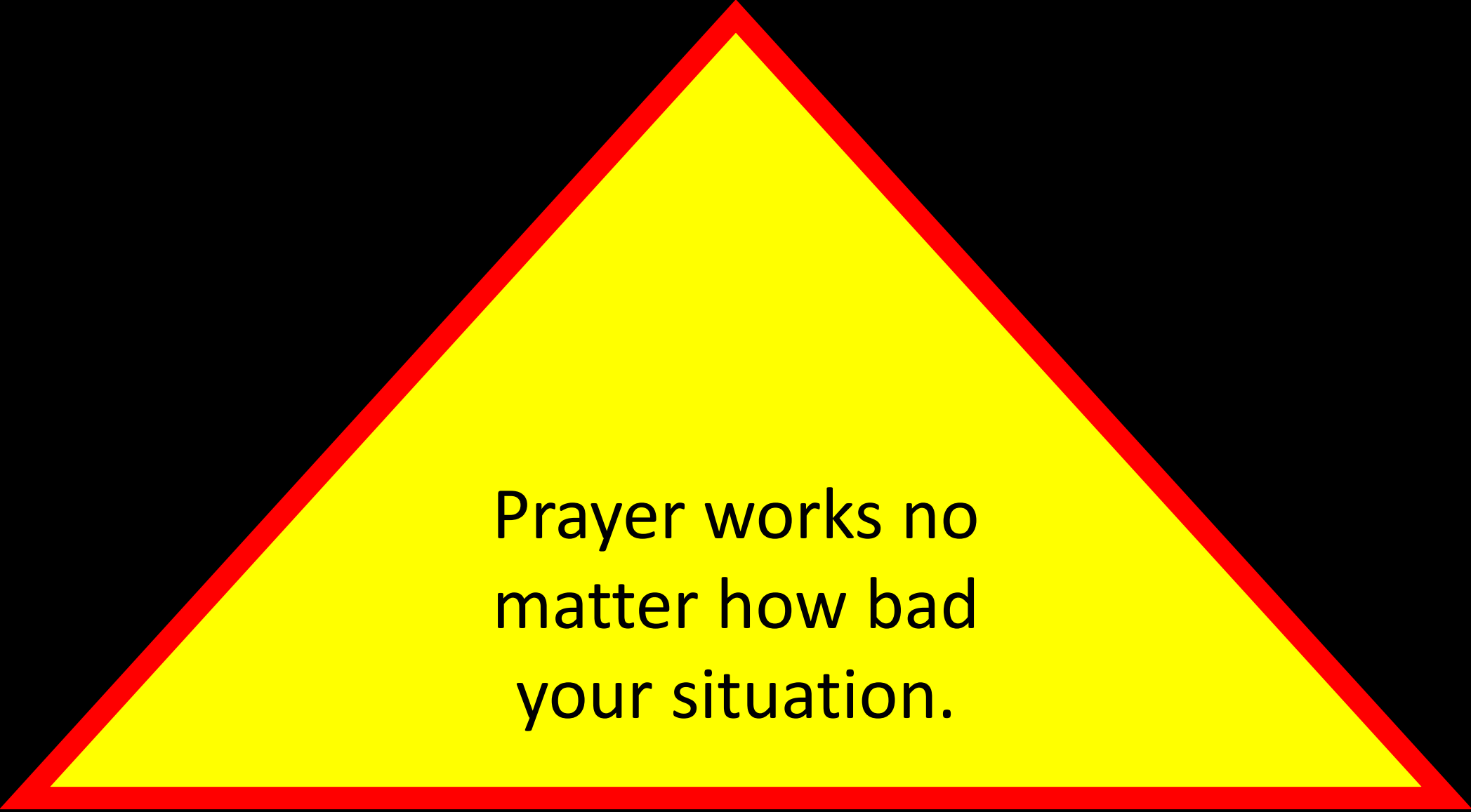
This was no coincidence, for there
are no such things with our God.

Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of
the fish's belly,

Jonah 2:1



When you are in
trouble, prayer is
the best thing to do.




Prayer works no
matter how bad
your situation.

One of the biggest problems with
even “good” movies is that
they never pray.

What we may mean by faith-based movies is that they pray when in trouble.

And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

Jonah 2:2




God will hear prayers
of repentant sinners,
even in a fish hell.

Jonah's prayer while in the fish's belly is found in Jonah chapter 2.

When my soul fainted within me I remembered
the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into
thine holy temple.

Jonah 2:7



When your heart is
overwhelmed, cry
unto God (Ps 61:2).

We need each other, and we must
help each other remember the
Lord to turn back to Him.

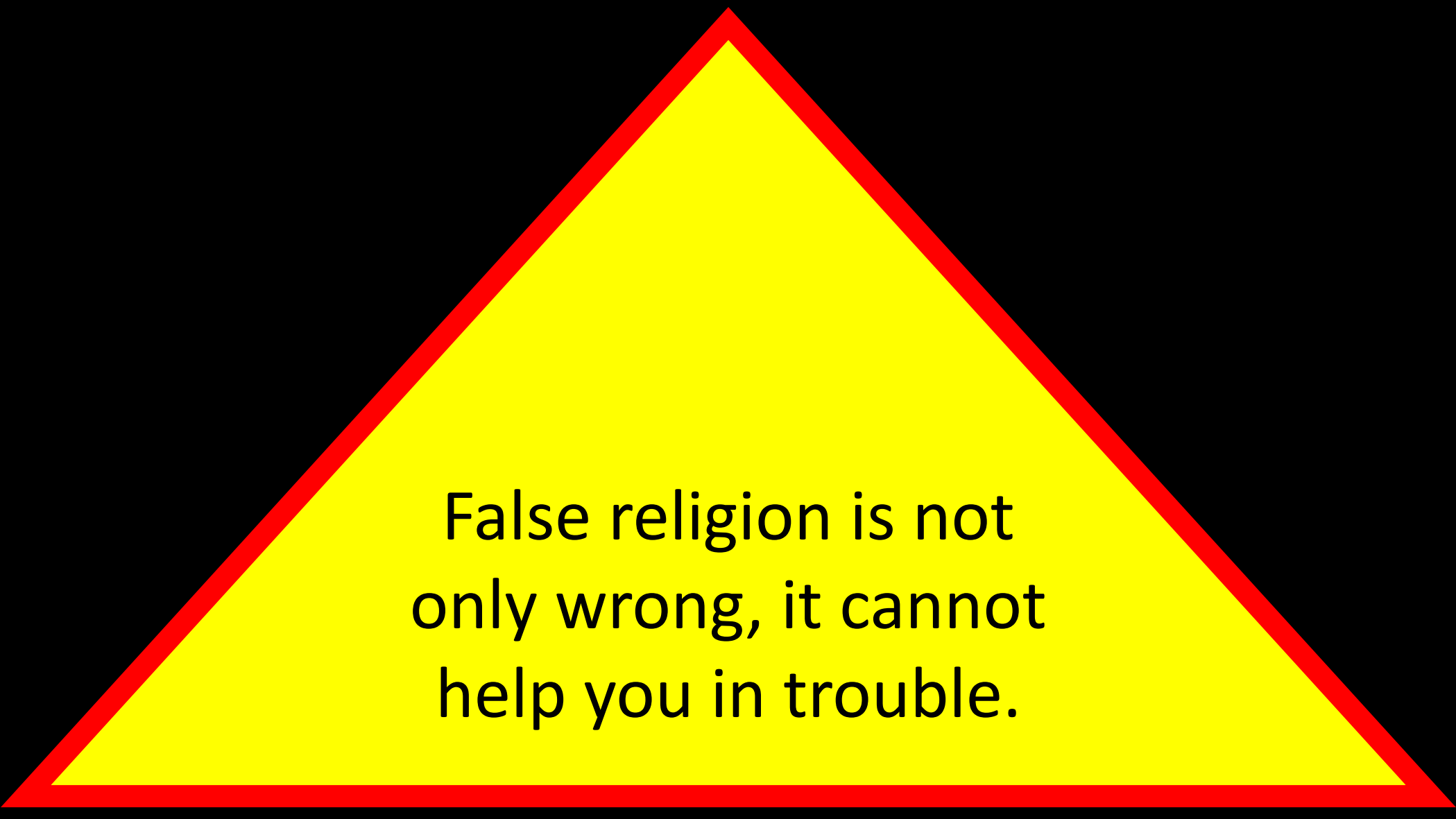
James 5:19-20

They that observe lying vanities forsake their own
mercy.

Jonah 2:8

This is a wonderful verse mocking
false religion as unable to help
when you are in trouble.

Will you call on Allah, Buddha,
Mary, Pope Frank, or Vishnu,
when you are in trouble?



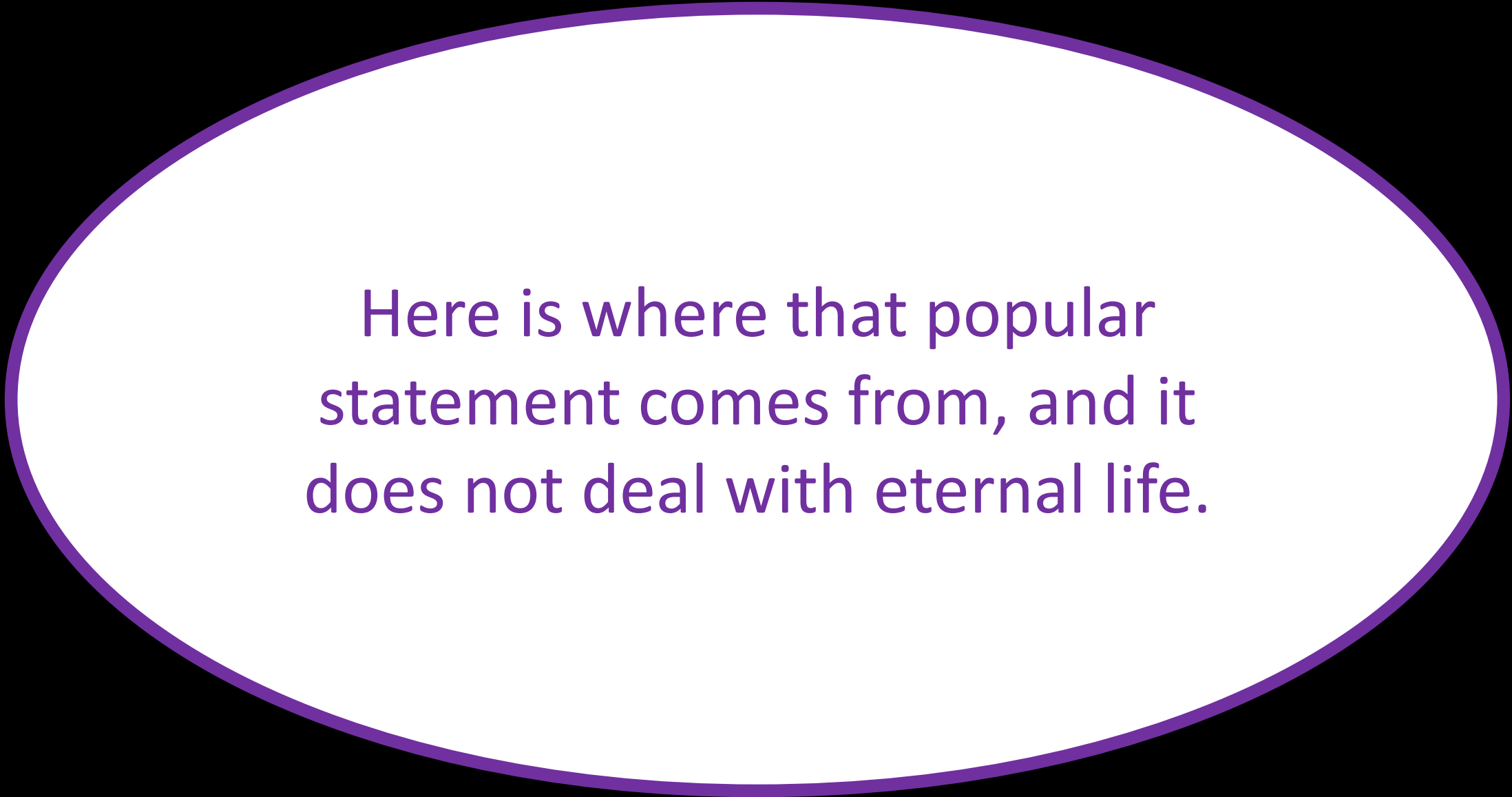
False religion is not
only wrong, it cannot
help you in trouble.

Remember the mariners calling
on their gods to no avail?

They forsook their own mercy
by praying to lying vanities.

But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of
thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed.
Salvation is of the LORD.

Jonah 2:9



Here is where that popular
statement comes from, and it
does not deal with eternal life.

Notice that even in the O.T.
thanksgiving was a sacrifice
to God as it is in the N.T.

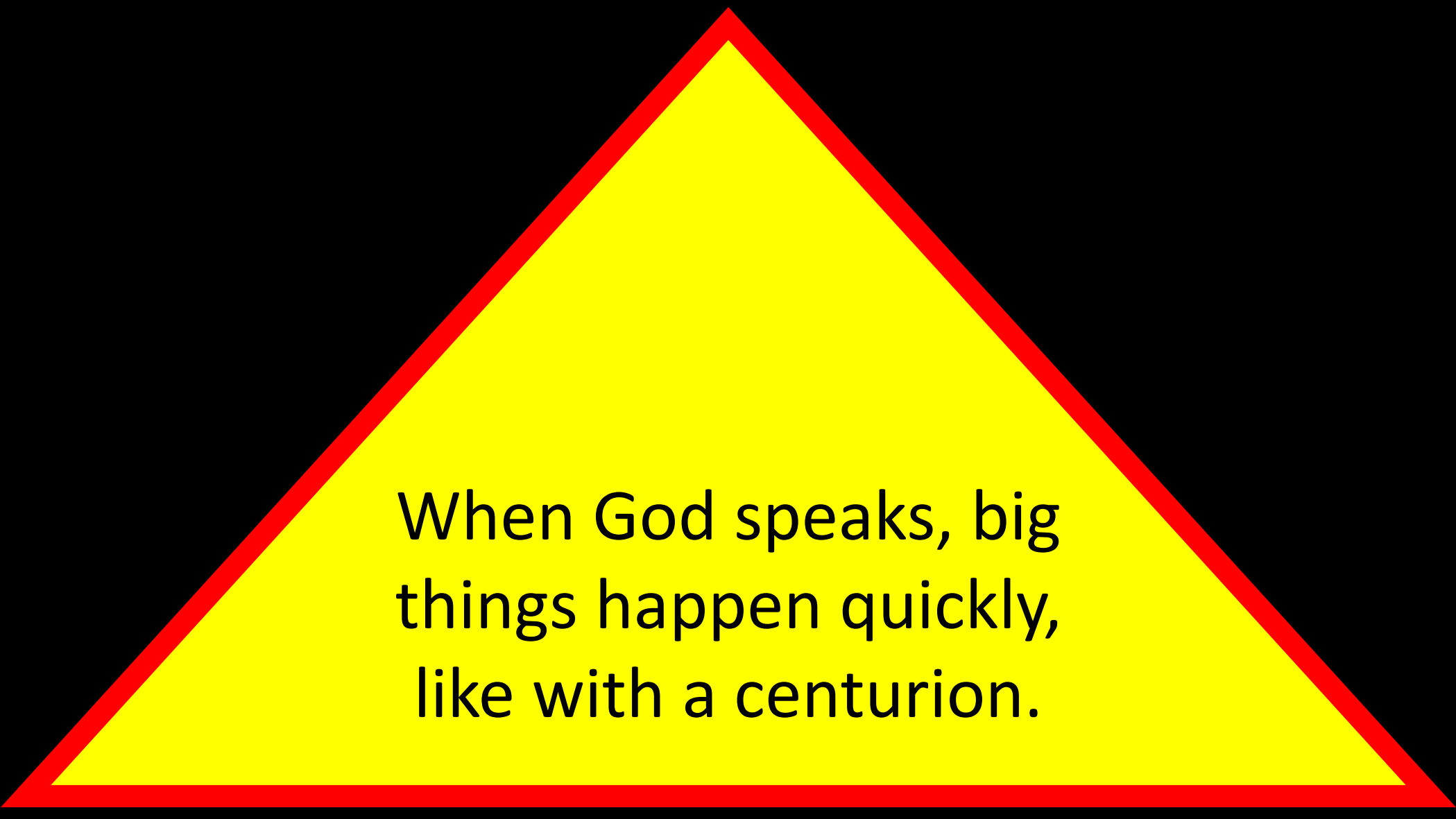
(Ps 69:30-31; 100:4; Heb 13:15)

There is a reminder here to pay
vows, for it is better not to vow
than to vow and not pay.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited
out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah 2:10




When God speaks, big
things happen quickly,
like with a centurion.





And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the
second time, saying,

Jonah 3:1



Our God is the God of
second chances, and
you can still be great.

You are not getting your second
chance tonight, it is more like
your millionth chance.

Use it!

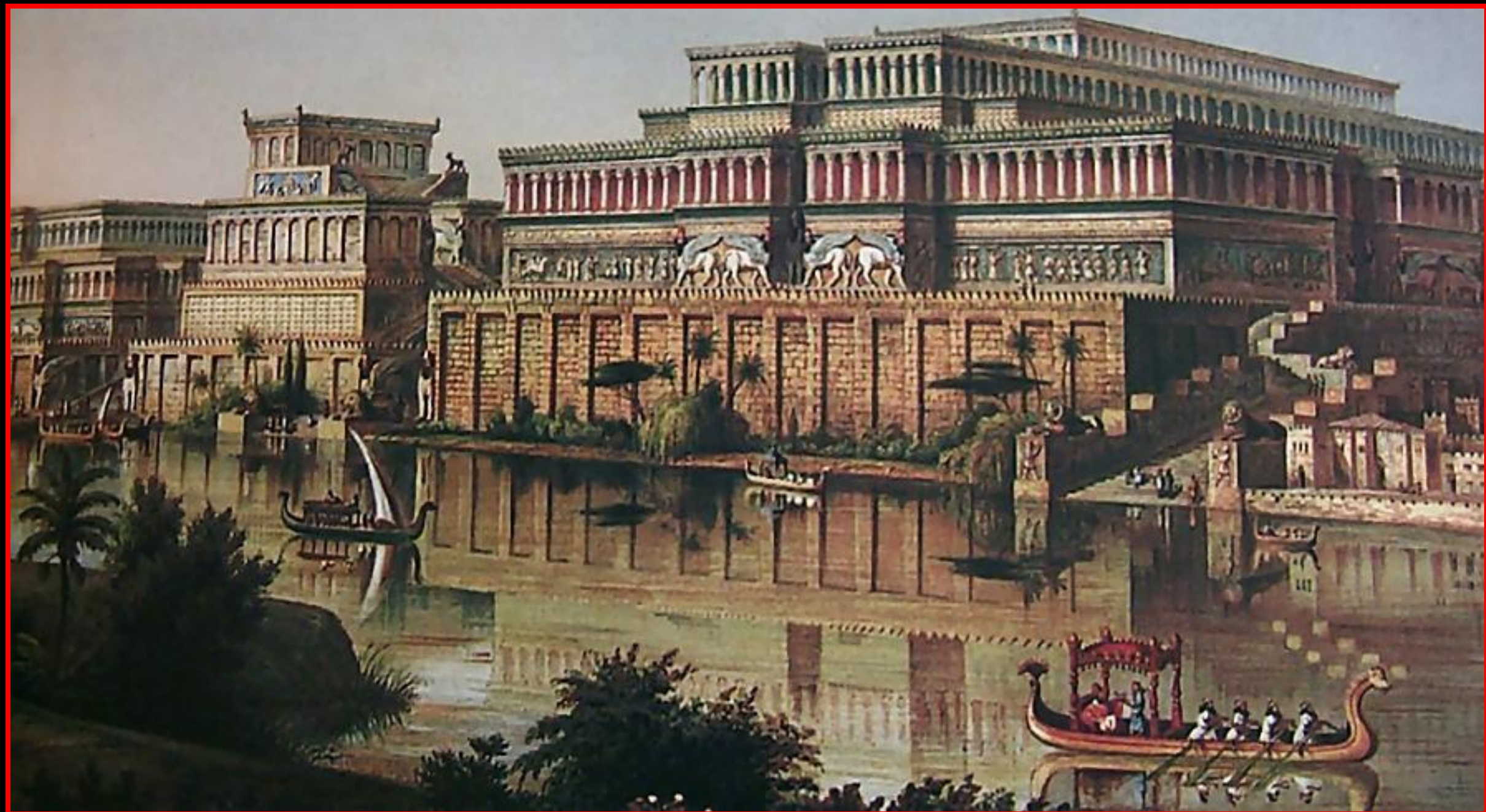
Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach
unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

Jonah 3:2

So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

Jonah 3:3

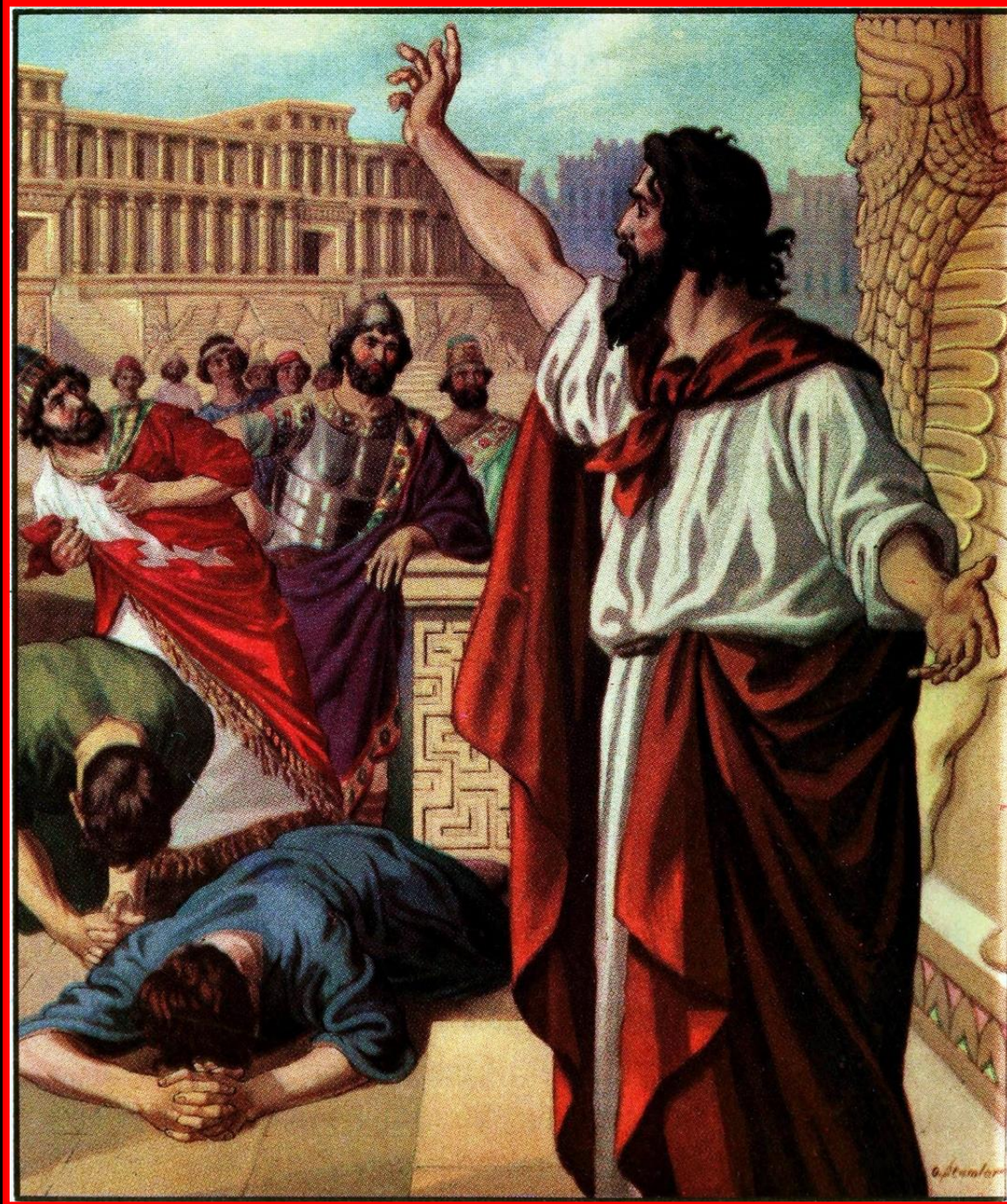




And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

Jonah 3:4








God's prophets and apostles
were to reprove the world,
and they did just that.

Jonah preached that God would
destroy Nineveh unless they
repented of their many sins.



The message may not
be good or wanted,
but preach the word.

This kind of preaching, once called
hellfire and brimstone, is nearly
gone from all pulpits.

The sin by preachers today is not fleeing to Tarshish, but giving their hearers what they want rather than preaching sound doctrine.


<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/exposition/perilous-times/sermon.php>

So the people of Nineveh believed God, and
proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the
greatest of them even to the least of them.

Jonah 3:5







Anyone can repent at
anytime, if they will
by God's grace.

The pagan Assyrians believed the
warning of the God of Israel,
the LORD Jehovah?

Yes!

The pagan Assyrians believed the
warning by a hated enemy Jew
without his heart in it?

Yes!

God created this wonderful
example of pagans converting by
the preaching of an angry prophet
to condemn Jesus' generation.

We need not presume they were
regenerated or converted, for
there was no lasting fruit.

There is no Bible evidence God
had more affection for them
than He did any other city
of pagan idolaters.

This temporary repentance was no different than Ahab's, which did not last; he was profane a few years later when God killed him.

28 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

29 Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

I Kings 21:28-29

God mocked Ahab before killing him in battle and had dogs lick up his blood in his chariot.

Nineveh was destroyed and
overthrown about 160 years
later as Nahum foretold it.

We do not worry about the salvation of Nebuchadnezzar, this king here, Ahasuerus or Darius, imported Assyrians, Ahab, or even king Saul.

Are you saying ...

God had no special love for Nineveh?
They were not God's elect or saved?
He did it for Jesus to condemn Jews?

Yes!

And He did it for hundreds and
thousands or millions and billions
of lesser reasons known to Him.


Deuteronomy 29:29

For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

Jonah 3:6



This is the best kind of revival, one
that comes from the top down
including the entire nation.



The best revival starts
at the top, like with a
king, father, or pastor.

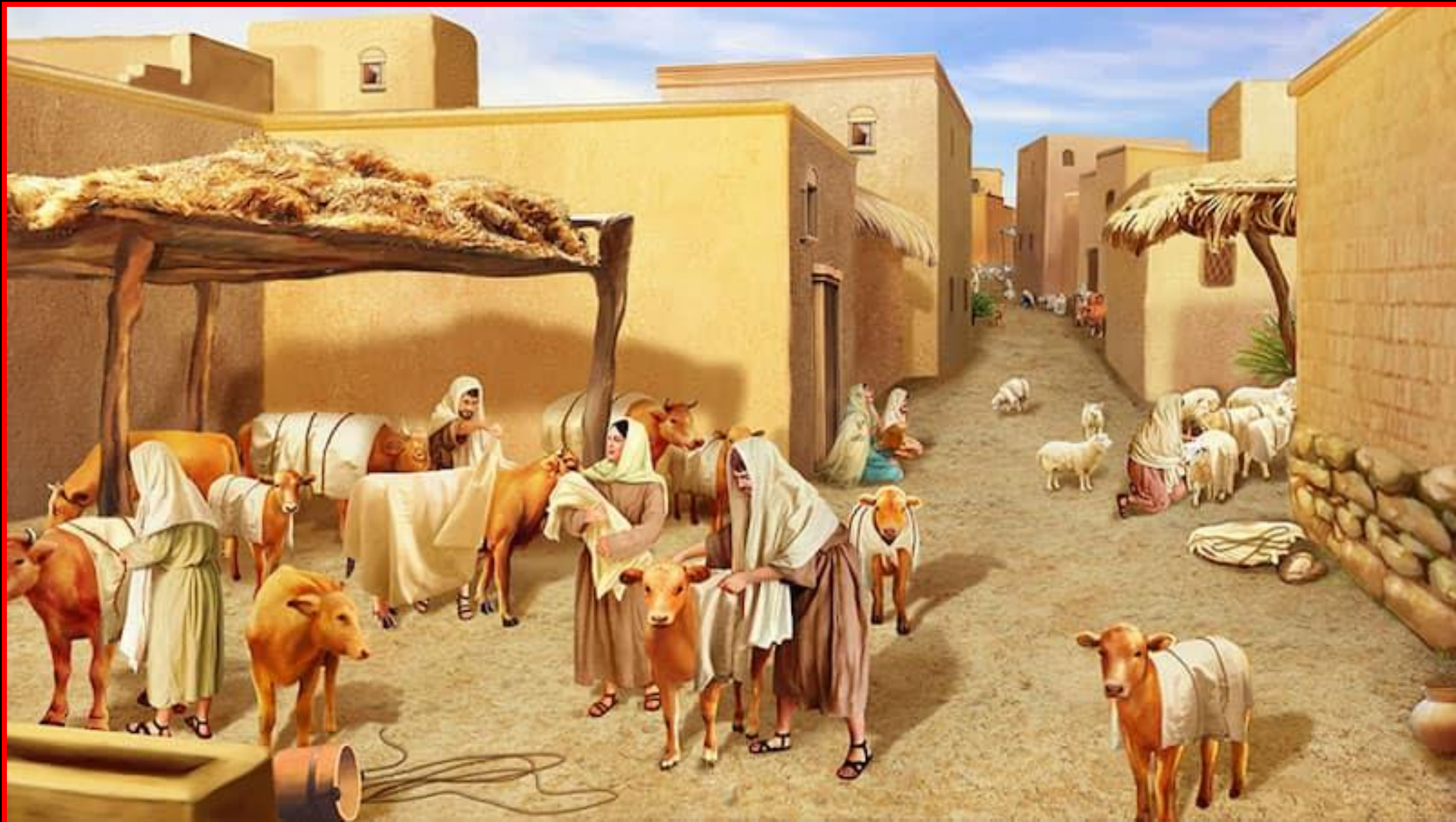
It is sad President Bush did not lead America to do this after 9/11 attacks in 2001.

And he caused it to be proclaimed and published
through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his
nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd
nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor
drink water:

Jonah 3:7

But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth,
and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn
every one from his evil way, and from the violence
that is in their hands.


Jonah 3:8



Repentance is much more than
words, it requires turning
from evil ways.

Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn
away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

Jonah 3:9




You do not need God
offering mercy for you
to repent ... just do it!

Hezekiah did not get an offer of mercy from God through Isaiah, he was told death was certain and imminent.

David did not get an offer of
mercy from God by Nathan,
but he begged God anyway
and got Solomon.

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 3:10



God sees good works
like repentance, and
He will respond.

Note that God saw their works,
for true repentance is far
more than words.

This is a definite purpose of Jonah:

To show how God can be merciful
to any that will repent.

This should rejoice your heart that
pagans would respond with such
zeal to hard preaching and that
God would show them mercy.

The great use of this event
was Jesus condemning His
generation for willful
rebellion against
the Son of God.

The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

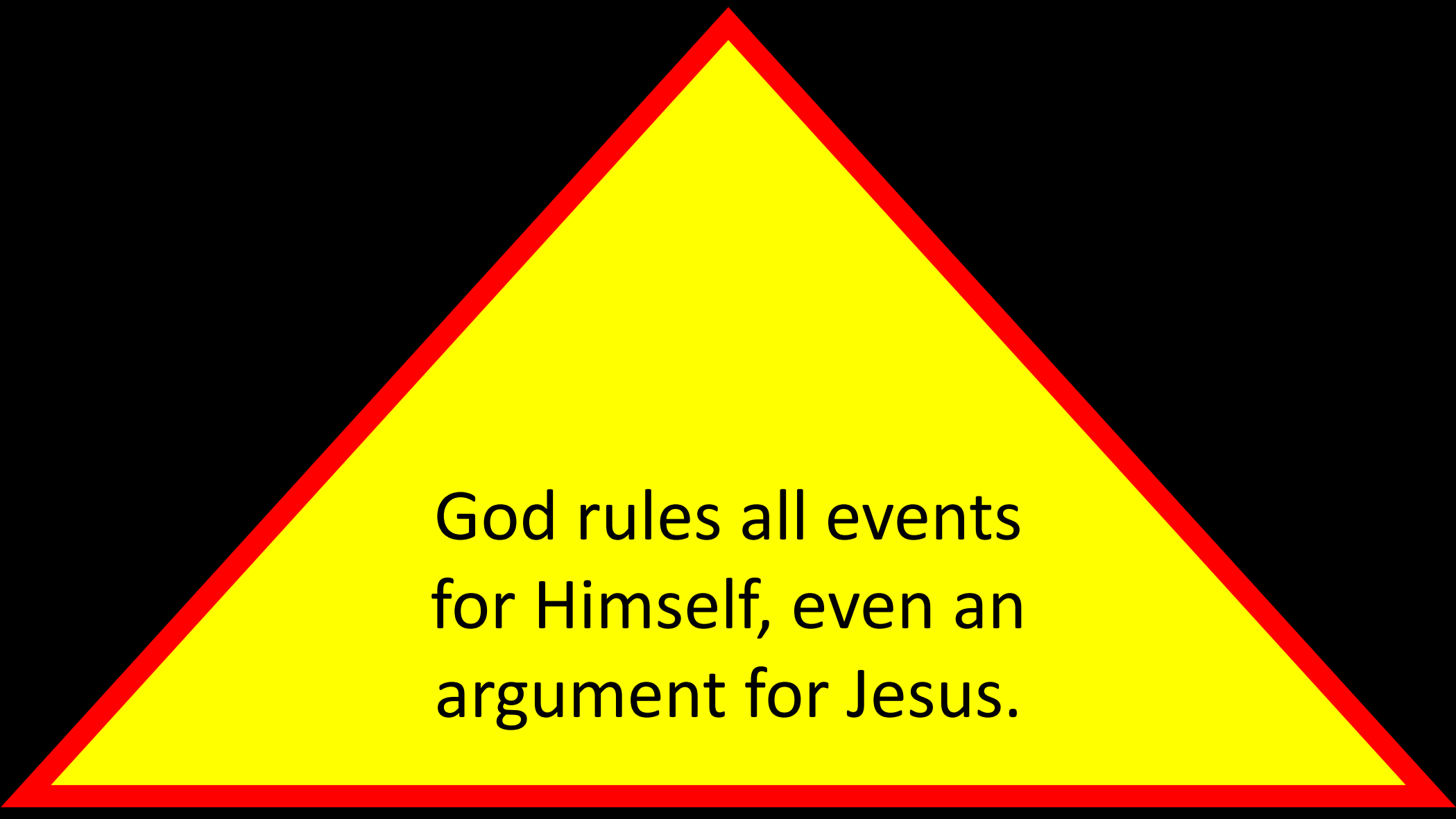
Matthew 12:41

There is no evidence God had any
special love for the Ninevites,
for he compared them
to cattle shortly.

He sent them no further prophets
or spiritual assistance or mercy
of any kind, if we trust
the Bible record.

Nineveh Repented for Jesus to Use Later

- Jonah did not preach any gospel, only repentance for wickedness.
- Jonah did not preach any positive changes to be more like Israel.
- Jonah did not preach any pilgrimage to God Jehovah in Jerusalem.
- Jonah did not build an altar and offer any sacrifices to Jehovah.
- Jonah did not instruct them about any sacrifices or feast days.
- Ahab repented and was shown mercy, yet still profane and judged.
- Immigrants of II Kings 17 escaped from lions by corrupt honor of God.
- Israel repented to take Canaan but it was too late so trouble came.
- Esau repented with tears but it was too late so he lost the birthright.
- God burned up Sodom, so Jesus used that city opposite of Nineveh.
- Capernaum did not repent, but Jesus used them opposite Nineveh.
- Jesus used two facts of Jonah – burial time & repentance (Matt 12:38-41).



God rules all events
for Himself, even an
argument for Jesus.

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

Jonah 4:1

What kind of a preacher was he?

Why would he be angry for his
hearers repenting and being
saved from death?

You are about to learn why Jonah
had not wanted to go to Nineveh
in the first place.

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

Jonah 4:2


Jonah had fled to Tarshish
because he knew God was
merciful and would not
destroy Nineveh.

That God is merciful and will save
repentant sinners is a fabulous
reason to preach.

What a bad attitude about mercy!

He was opposite Moses and Paul.

Only Jonah could find fault with
God being ... gracious ... merciful
... slow to anger ... great kindness
... and changing from judgment!



God can use bad men
in the ministry and
bring about good.

Judas Iscariot preached and did miracles with good results like the other apostles so that none suspected him.

Paul once explained that men
preaching to harm him was okay
as long as Christ was preached!

16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely,
supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether
in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I
therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Philippians 1:15-18

Back to suicidal Jonah!

Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

Jonah 4:3


It is hard for us to grasp that this prophet could be so negative about repentance and mercy.

Can you think of any other judges
or prophets that were suicidal?

Samson
Elijah

Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?

Jonah 4:4



Let God question all
you do like Jonah:

Doest thou well to be angry?

You will forget to ask this question
when you are angry, so let your
spouse or friends ask you with
your promise to hear them.

The Lord has another lesson
for Jonah, since the whale
had not fully taught him.

So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

Jonah 4:5



He must have believed that his
appeal to God about his hurt
feelings would change God.

He wanted to watch the fireworks.

He wanted to roast marshmallows.

But wisdom says waiting for God
to do something He has said He
will not do is foolishly rebellious.

Let us not judge Jonah too harshly.

Jesus had to deal with two of His favorite apostles in this matter.

54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.

Luke 9:54-56

David also had to deal with such a spirit in three nephews that were among his most faithful servants.


39 And I am this day weak, though anointed king;
and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for
me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil
according to his wickedness.

II Samuel 3:39

And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

Jonah 4:6

Should we resort to taxonomy
here to see what kind
of gourd it was?




God prepares events
and things in your life.
Look for the lesson.

But God prepared a worm when the morning rose
the next day, and it smote the gourd that it
withered.

Jonah 4:6

Should we resort to taxonomy
here to see what kind
of worm it was?



God prepares events
and things in your life.
Look for the lesson.

And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

Jonah 4:8


Have we read these
words before ... that
he wanted to die?

Was Jonah brave or strong
for not fearing death?

He was a very weak man.

(Proverbs 16:32)


How did the vehement
east wind occur,
bringing terrible heat?



God's wisdom is great,
so expect creative and
convicting lessons.

And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.

Jonah 4:9



Let God question all
you do like Jonah:

Doest thou well to be angry?

You will forget to ask this question
when you are angry, so let your
spouse or friends ask you with
your promise to hear them.

Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

Jonah 4:10

But God had made and blessed
Nineveh's 1.6 million souls for
1500 years ... and Jonah had done
nothing for a weed for one day?

And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city,
wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons
that cannot discern between their right hand and
their left hand; and also much cattle?

Jonah 4:11


Jonah!

Is it right for you to have pity on a
weed but deny me pity on
this great city?

Pharisees exist in all generations.
Older brothers also exist.

Water sheep ... but do not heal.
Despise any converted harlots.
Despise recovered prodigal.

God valued Nineveh for many
repenting souls, not just for
120k unrepentant infants,
thus the listing of cattle.



The love of souls is
a great measure of
God's grace in you.

Jesus wept over the city of
Jerusalem that was guilty of
far worse sins than Nineveh and
would crucify Him unmercifully!

41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Jonah 4:11

Jesus forgave the men that
crucified Him while He was in
death throes on the cross!

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Luke 23:34

The deacon Stephen had the same loving spirit for enemies as they stoned him to death.

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice,
Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he
had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:60

A Few Concluding Thoughts

- What is your Nineveh, resisting God? ... Repent! ... Go!
- He has perfect knowledge of your life and every sin.
- God has a whale prepared for you unless you repent.
- Doest thou well to be angry? Do you rule your spirit?
- Do details get you worked up while cold toward souls?
- No matter your situation, God hears repentant prayer.
- True repentance is more than merely mentioning sin.
- Ministers must preach the word, even if unpopular.
- Is your love for souls – like Jonah or Paul? ... Repent!

There is a Jonah inside each
one of us with his two faults:

1. He chose his way, not God's way.
2. He did not truly love other souls.

A Summary of the Lessons (1)

- When God's word tells you to do something ... do it!
- God's way is always win-win, so be glad to do it with zeal.
- God sees all the earth's wickedness, and He will judge it.
- Size or prosperity of a city, nation, church does not impress Him.
- God used prophets and apostles to reprove the world.
- The gospel of God is not the sweet froth of most pulpits today.
- You cannot flee God's presence, only His place of worship.
- When you find a ship while fleeing God, know He sent it.
- When you find a ship while fleeing God, do not get on it.
- There are no chance events, even weather. God sent the storm.

A Summary of the Lessons (2)

- Your peace when sinning against God is the devil's lie to you.
- When you sin against God, even chance events are against you.
- Remember the rule – *Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out.*
- Lack of trouble is not God's approval, but preparing worse pain.
- Remember the rule – *Repentance Works Better than Anything Else.*
- There are no chance events, not even fish. God sent this whale.
- The LORD prepared the fish, so skeptical questions are wrong.
- The LORD can work with, without, below, or above usual nature.
- God governs all events for Himself, even timing for Jesus Christ.
- When you are in trouble, prayer is the best thing to do.

A Summary of the Lessons (3)

- Prayer works no matter how bad your situation.
- God will hear prayers of repentant sinners, even in a fish hell.
- When your heart is overwhelmed, cry unto God (Psalm 61:2).
- False religion is not only wrong, it cannot help you in trouble.
- When God speaks, big things happen quickly, like the centurion.
- Our God is the God of second chances, and you can still be great.
- The message may not be good or wanted, but preach the word.
- Anyone can repent at anytime, if they will by God's grace.
- The best revival starts at the top, like with a king, father, pastor.
- You do not need God offering mercy for you to repent ... just do it.

A Summary of the Lessons (4)

- God sees good work like repentance, and He will respond.
- God rules all events for Himself, even an argument for Jesus.
- God can use bad men in the ministry and bring about good.
- Let God question you like Jonah – *Doest thou well to be angry?*
- God prepares events and things in your life – look for the lesson.
- God's wisdom is great, so expect creative and convicting lessons.
- The love of souls is a great measure of God's grace in you.
- The LORD Jehovah reigns – in all things both large and small.

God confirms in Jonah that what
we think are chance events are
His providential dealings to
bless or chasten us.

A Summary of Providence

- He found a ship when he went to Joppa in disobedience.
- But the LORD sent a great wind into the sea to cause a storm.
- The mariners cast lots for the culprit and it fell upon Jonah.
- The storm ceased when Jonah had been cast where needed.
- Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah.
- The LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah on land.
- So the people of Nineveh believed God and proclaimed a fast.
- And the LORD God prepared a gourd that it might be a shadow.
- But God prepared a worm in the morning of the next day.
- God prepared a vehement east wind so that he nearly fainted.



The LORD reigns!
In things large and small!

For Further Study

Gleanings from Jonah (Word doc; 2012) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/gleanings-from-jonah.pdf>.

Proverbs 16:33 ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/16_33.php.

Love of a Soul ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/love-of-a-soul.pdf>.

Nahum (Overthrow of Nineveh) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/exposition/nahum/sermon.php>.

Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/be-sure-your-sin4.pdf>.

Perilous Times of the Last Days ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/exposition/perilous-times/sermon.php>.

The 'R' Factor (Repentance) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/repentance-factor.pdf>.

Sons of Zeruiah ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/sons-of-zeruiah.pdf>.

www.LetGodBeTrue.com