



Part 1

Hope

and

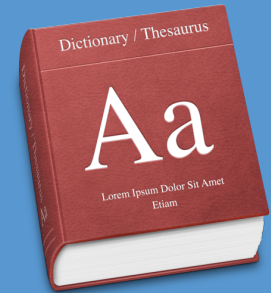
Idolatry

Jonah

HOPE that leads to lasting CHANGE.

-Colossians 1:5-6

Hope *noun*

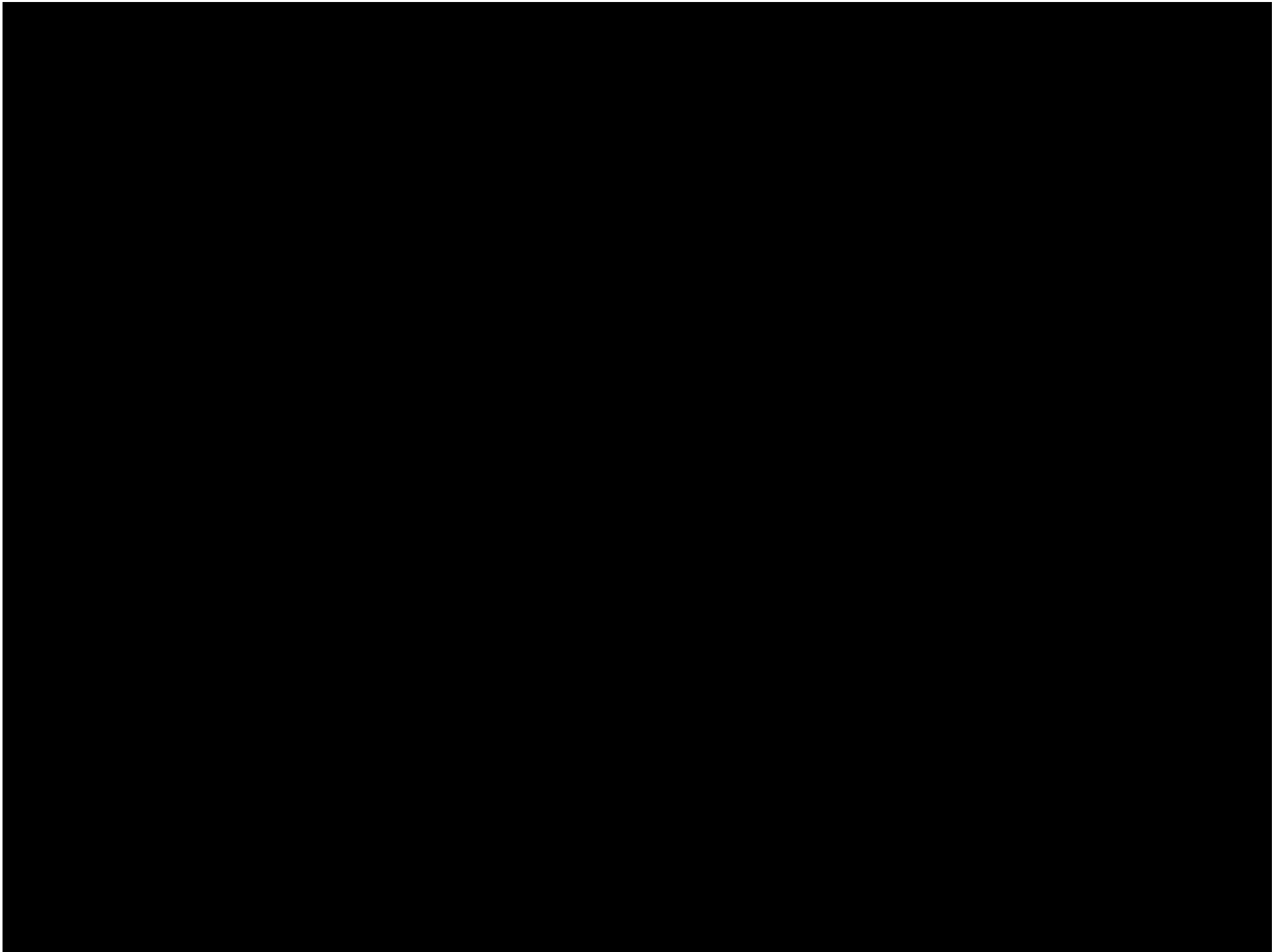


1. a **feeling** that something desirable is likely to happen
2. a **chance** that something desirable will happen or be possible
3. something that somebody **desires** to have or do or **desires** to happen or be true
4. **somebody** or **something** that seems likely to bring success or relief

Hope *verb*



1. to expect and wish
2. to be optimistic
3. to intend with some possibility of fulfillment





*Two things we need to know about
idolatry & hope*

*1 - An idol is **anything** that
replaces God as our Hope*

*2 - A idol is **anything** that is so
essential to your life that, if you
lost it, life would not feel like it was
worth living. Idols rob us of HOPE.*

*Two things we need to know about
idolatry & hope*

*Anything can be
an idol, and
everything has
been an idol.*



COUNTERFEIT
GODS

.....
The Empty Promises of
Money, Sex, and Power, and
the Only Hope that Matters
.....

TIMOTHY KELLER

Author of *The Reason for God* and *The Prodigal God*

Exodus 20:2 - 5

“² I am the LORD your God . . . ³ You shall have no other gods before me.”

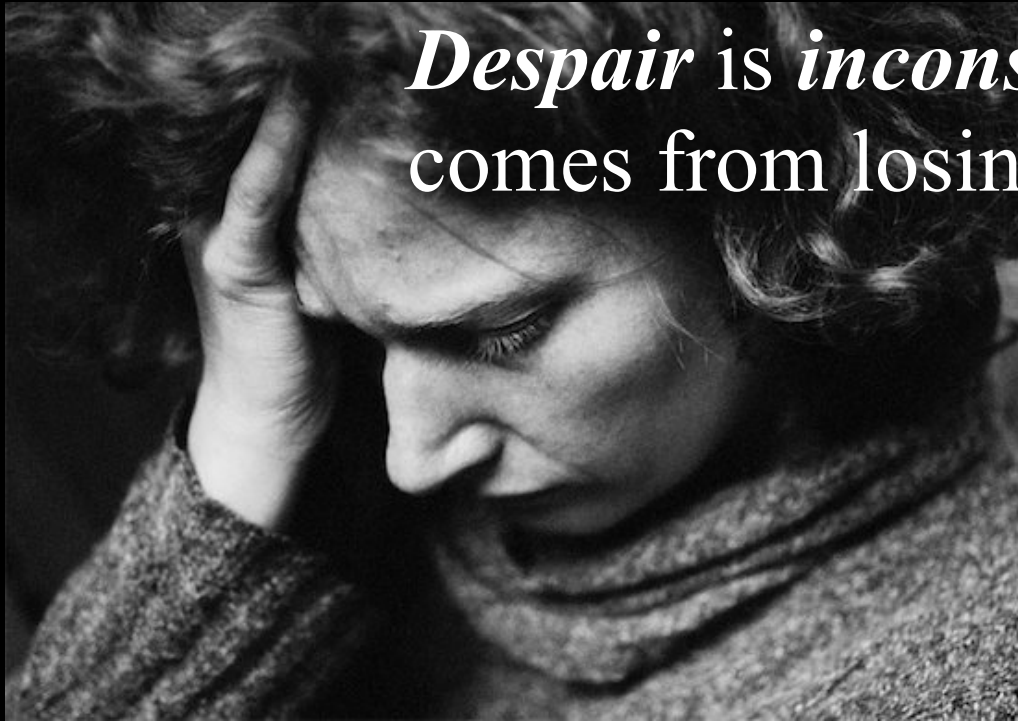
“⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of *anything* in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them . . .”



Anything can be
an idol, and
everything has
been an idol.



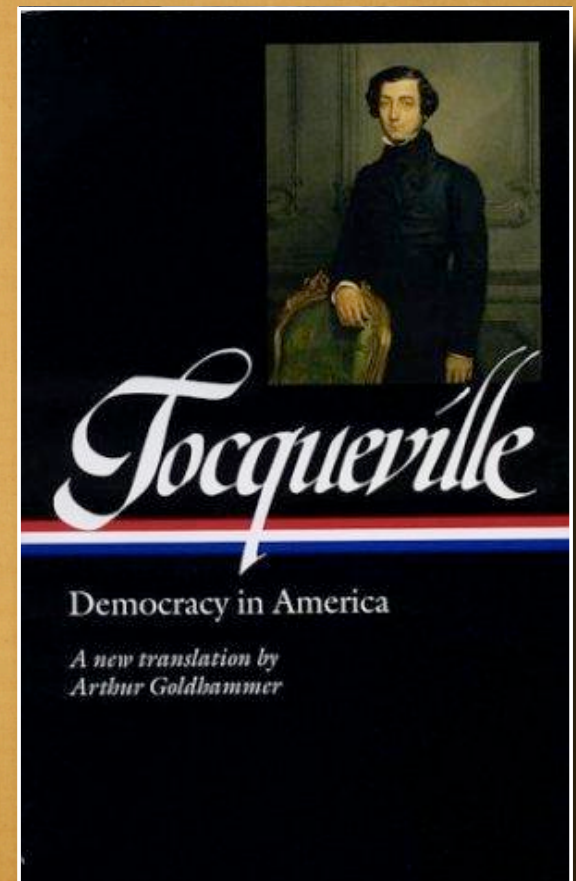
Despair is inconsolable because it comes from losing an *ultimate thing*.



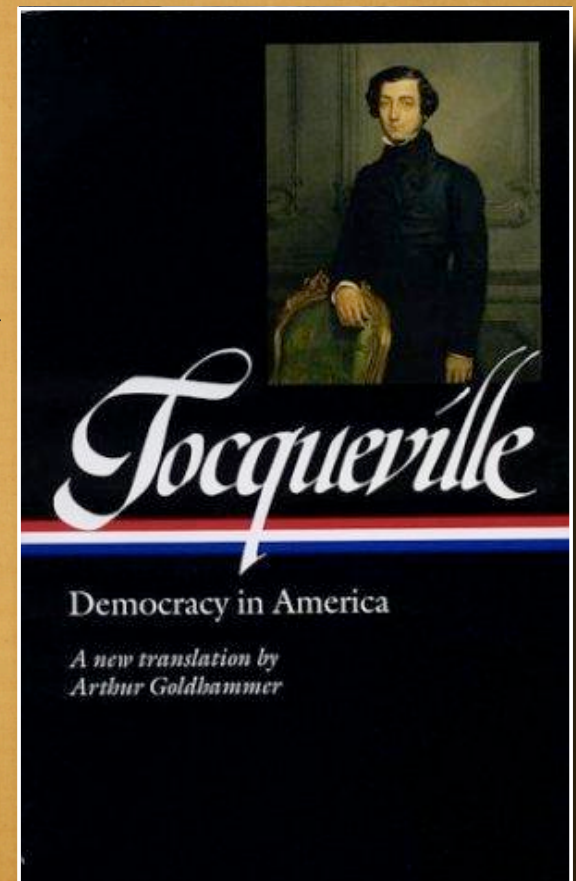
Sorrow is pain for which there are sources of consolation. It comes from losing one good thing among other good things.



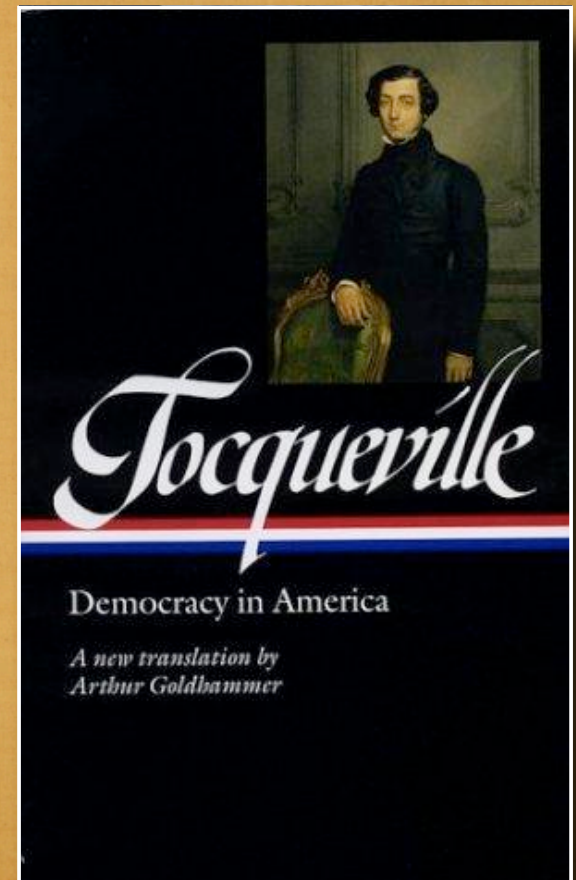
“It has often been remarked that industrials and merchants have an immoderate taste for material pleasures, and for this commerce and industry have been blamed. Here, I believe, the effect has been mistaken for the cause.



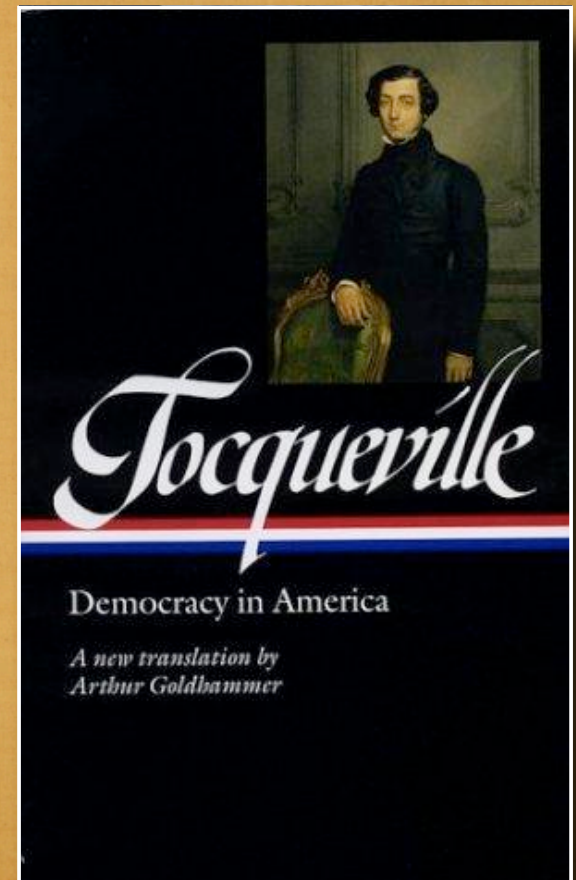
It is not commerce and industry that prompt in men a taste for material pleasures but rather the *taste for material pleasures* that leads men into industrial and commercial careers, where they hope to *satisfy themselves more completely and rapidly.*



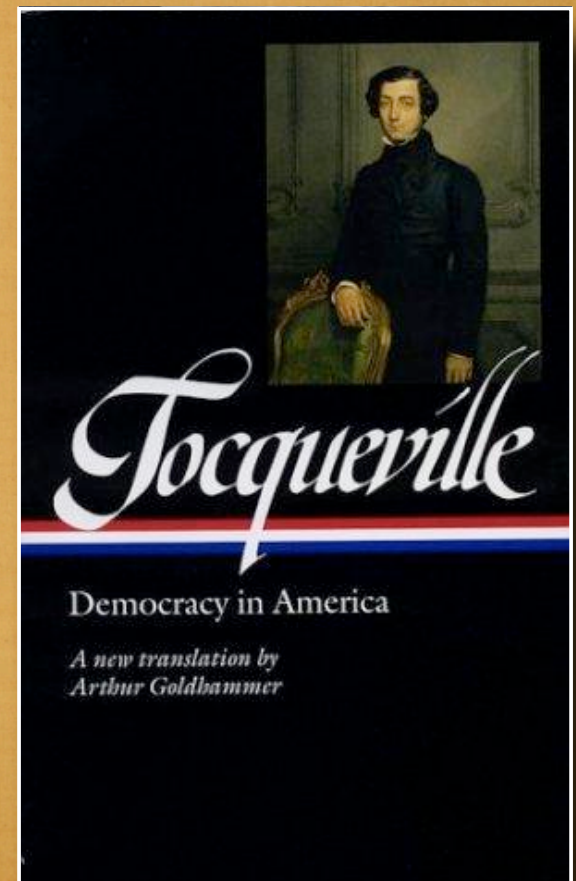
If commerce and industry increase the desire for well-being, that is because any passion is fortified as one becomes more *preoccupied* with it and is increased by *all the efforts that one devotes to assuaging it.*

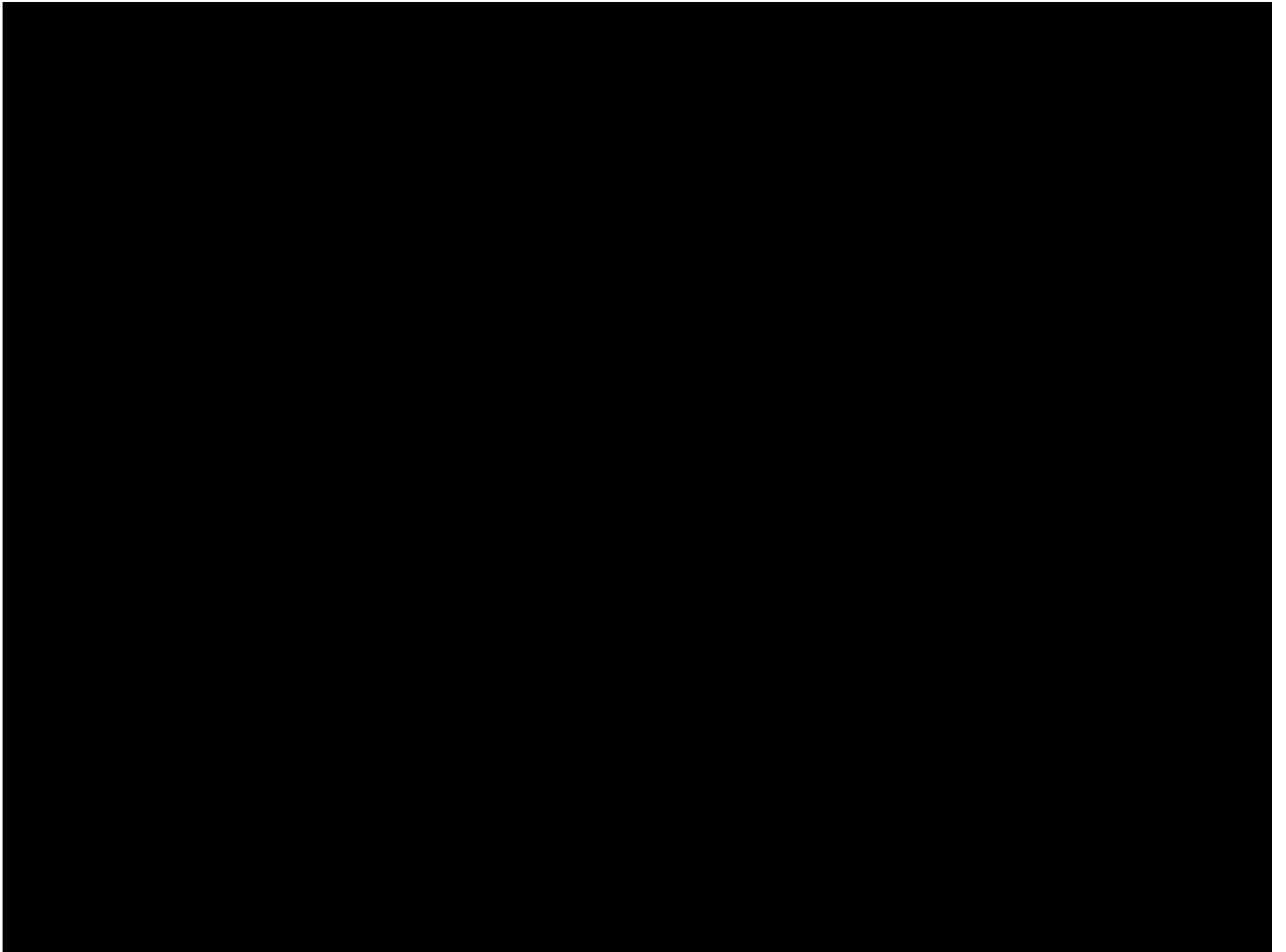


Anything that causes
love or worldly goods to
predominate in the
human heart develops
industry and commerce.



Equality is one such cause. It encourages commerce, not directly by giving men a taste for trade but indirectly by fortifying and generalizing the *love of well-being* in their souls.”

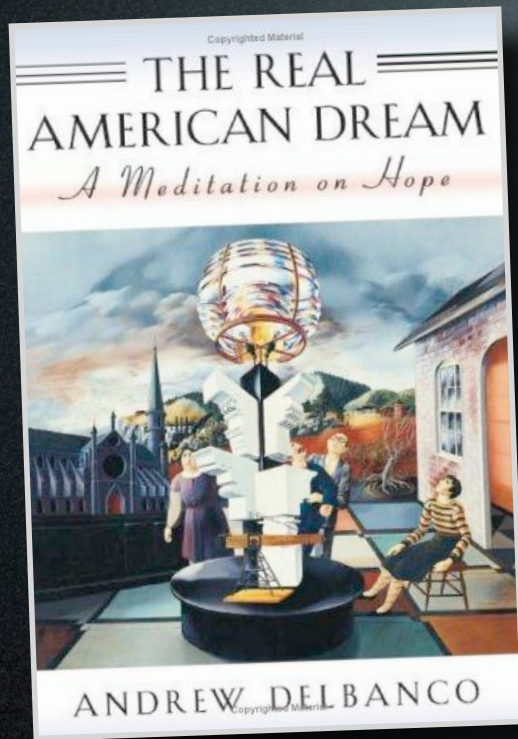




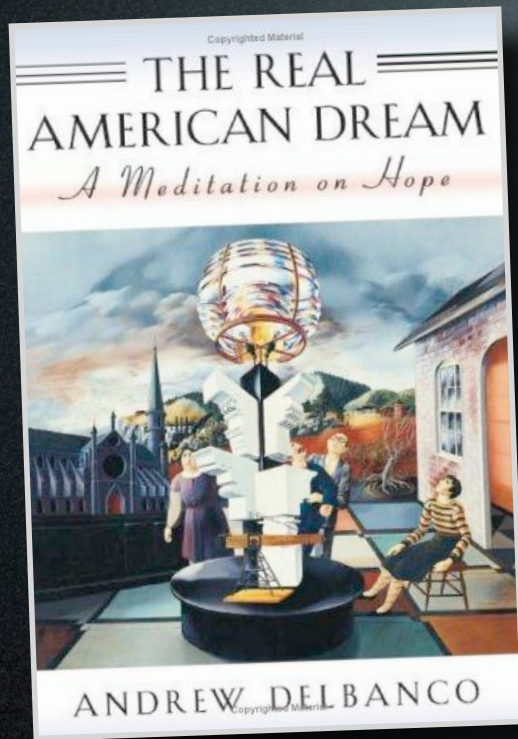


Anything can be
an idol, and
everything has
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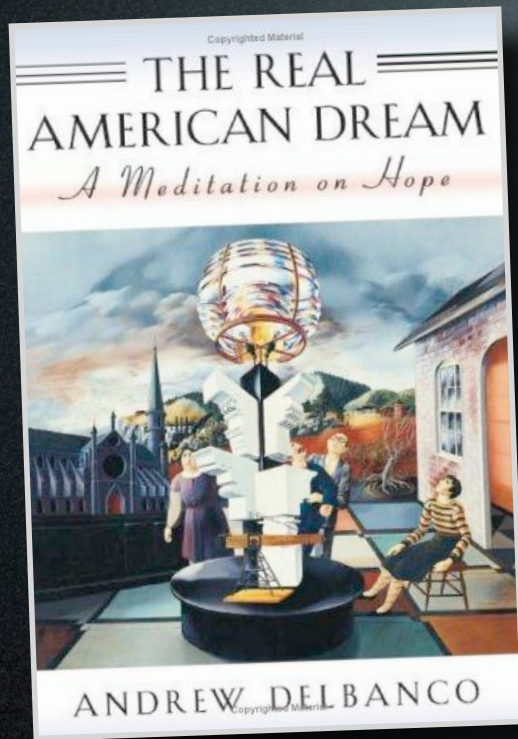




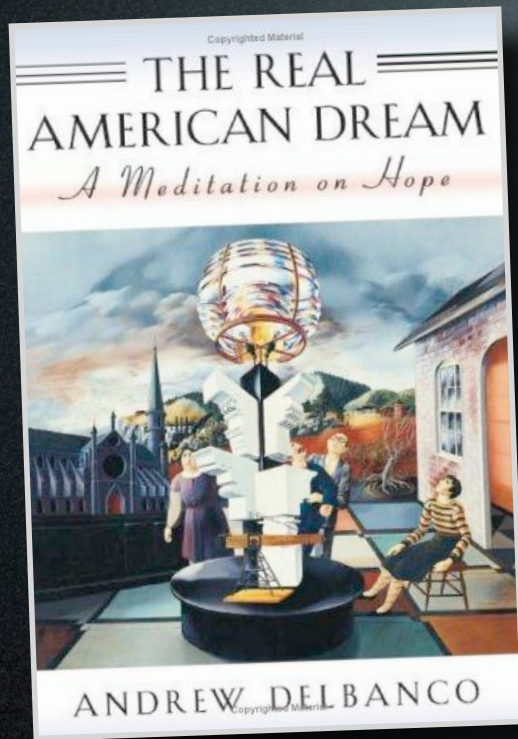
“At the heart of every culture is its main ‘Hope,’ the thing that tells its members what life is all about.”



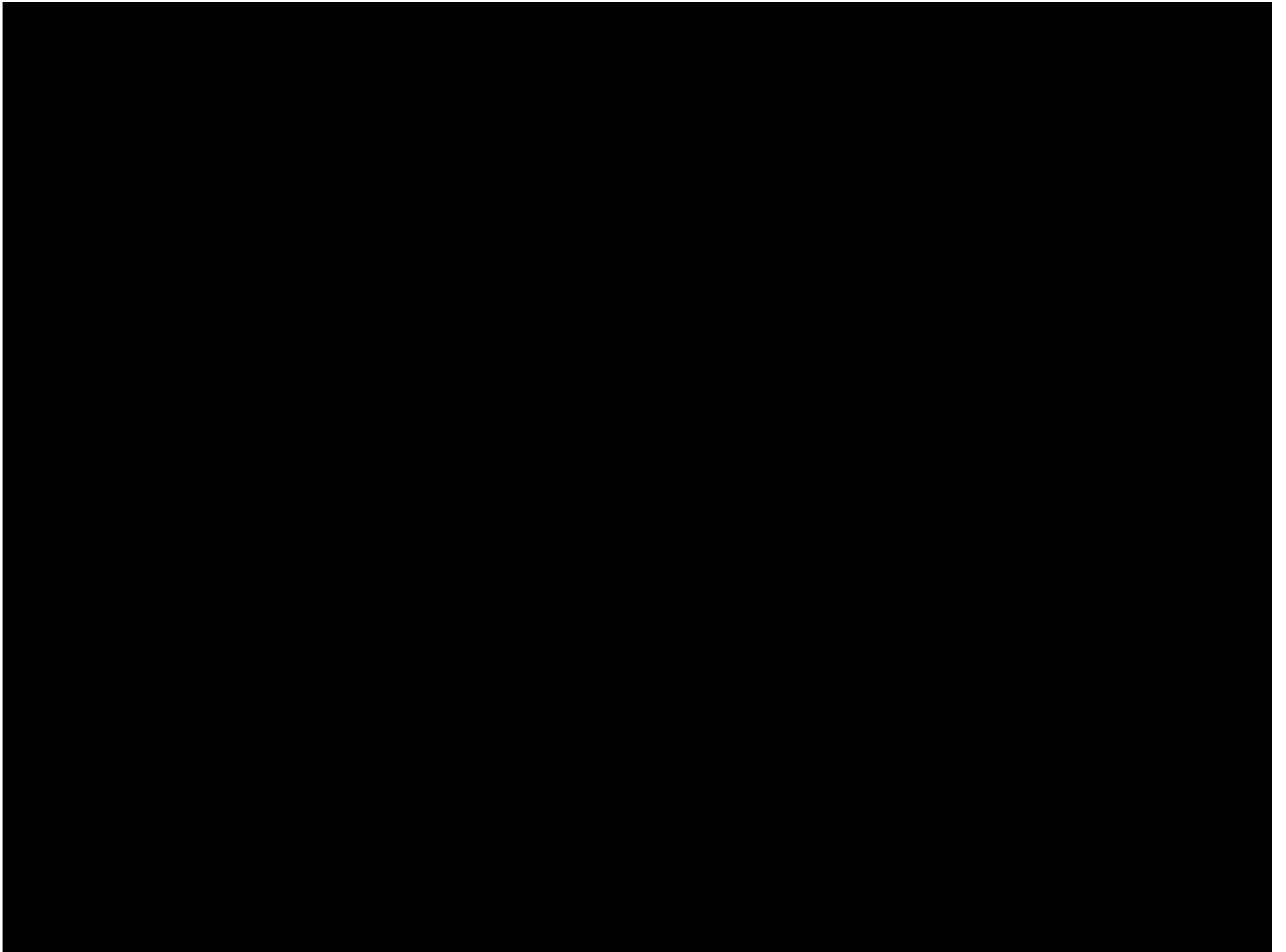
“... hope was chiefly expressed through a Christian story that gave meaning to suffering and pleasure alike and promised deliverance from death.”

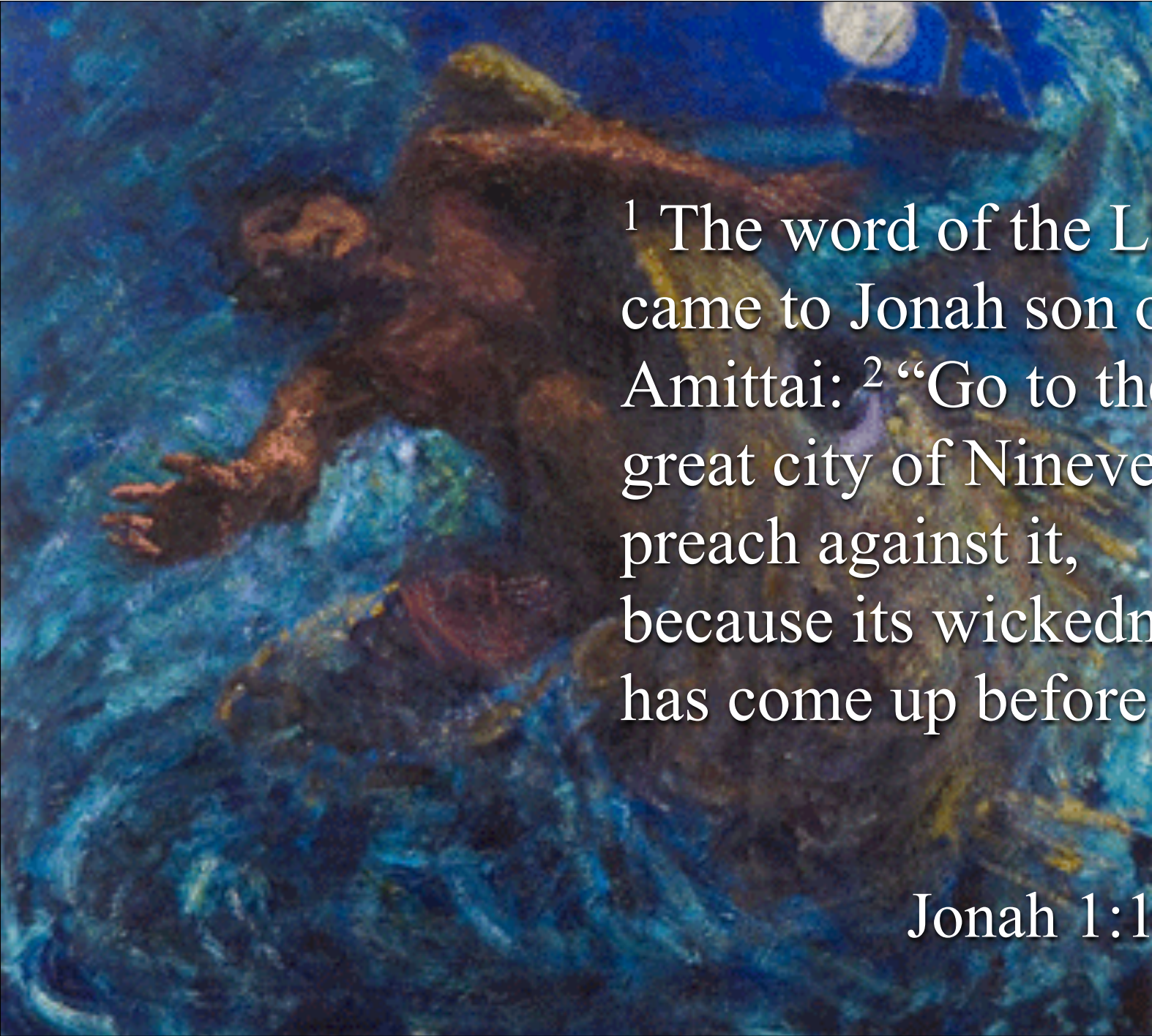


“...the Enlightenment removed a personal God . . . and substituted . . . the idea of a deified nation.”



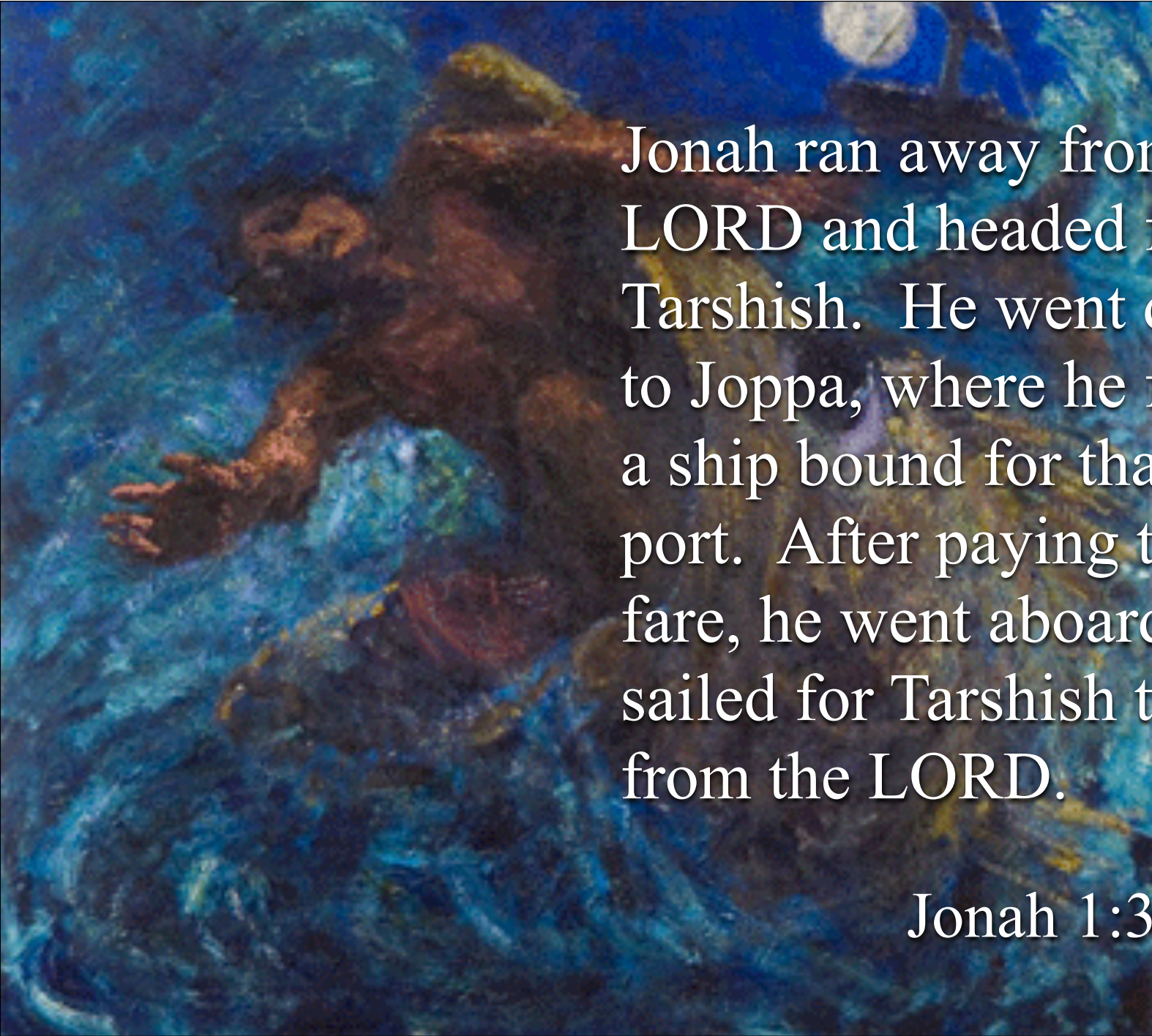
The individual self and the freedom to be whatever you want free from restraints imposed by the community is the new “Hope” of our culture.



A painting depicting a man, likely Jonah, in a dark, turbulent sea. The man is shown from the waist up, wearing a dark, textured garment. He has a somber expression and is looking towards the viewer. The sea is rendered in deep blues and greens with visible brushstrokes, suggesting a storm. In the background, a dark, rocky structure, possibly a ship's hull, is partially visible. The overall mood is dramatic and somber.

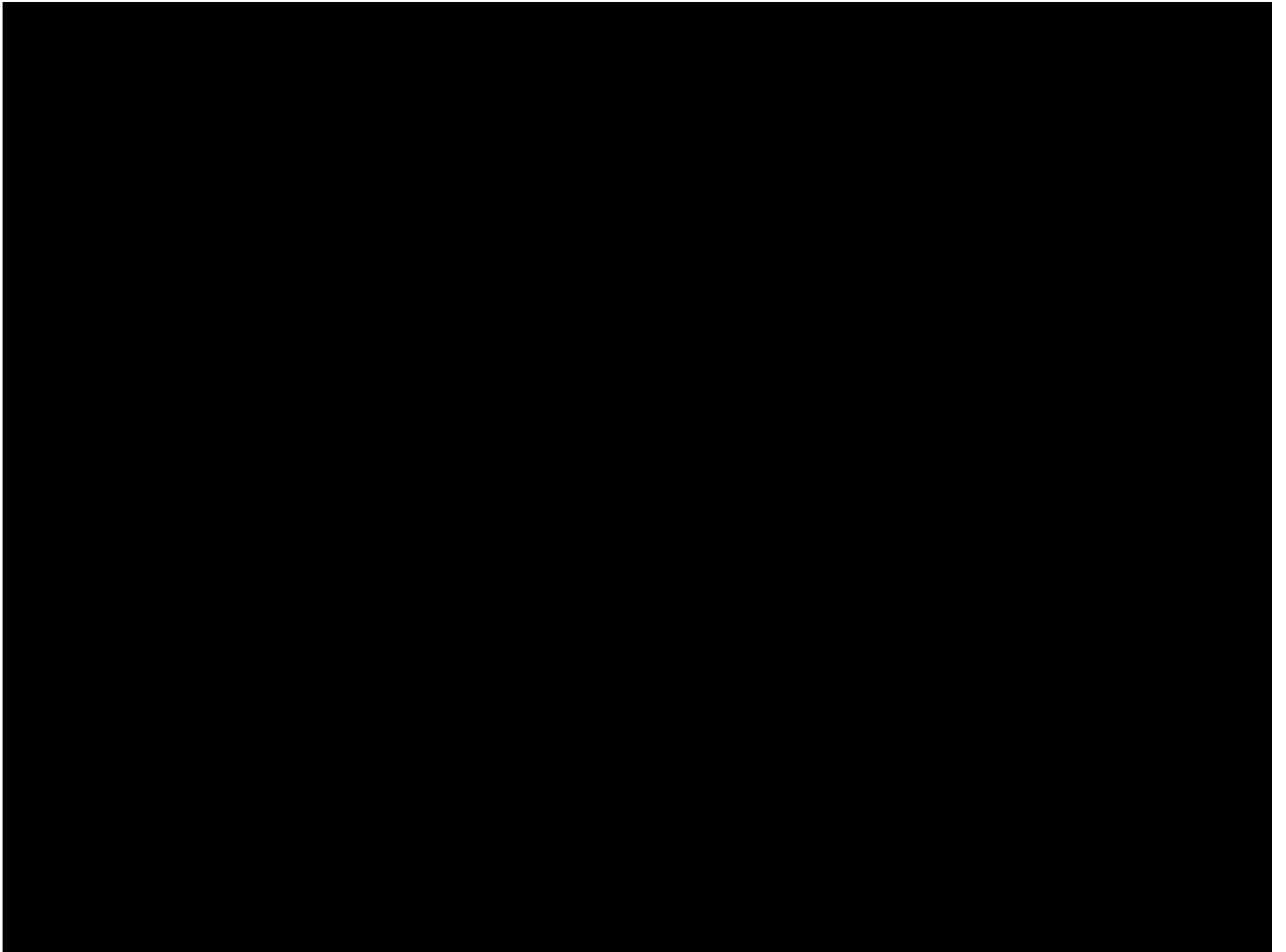
¹ The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

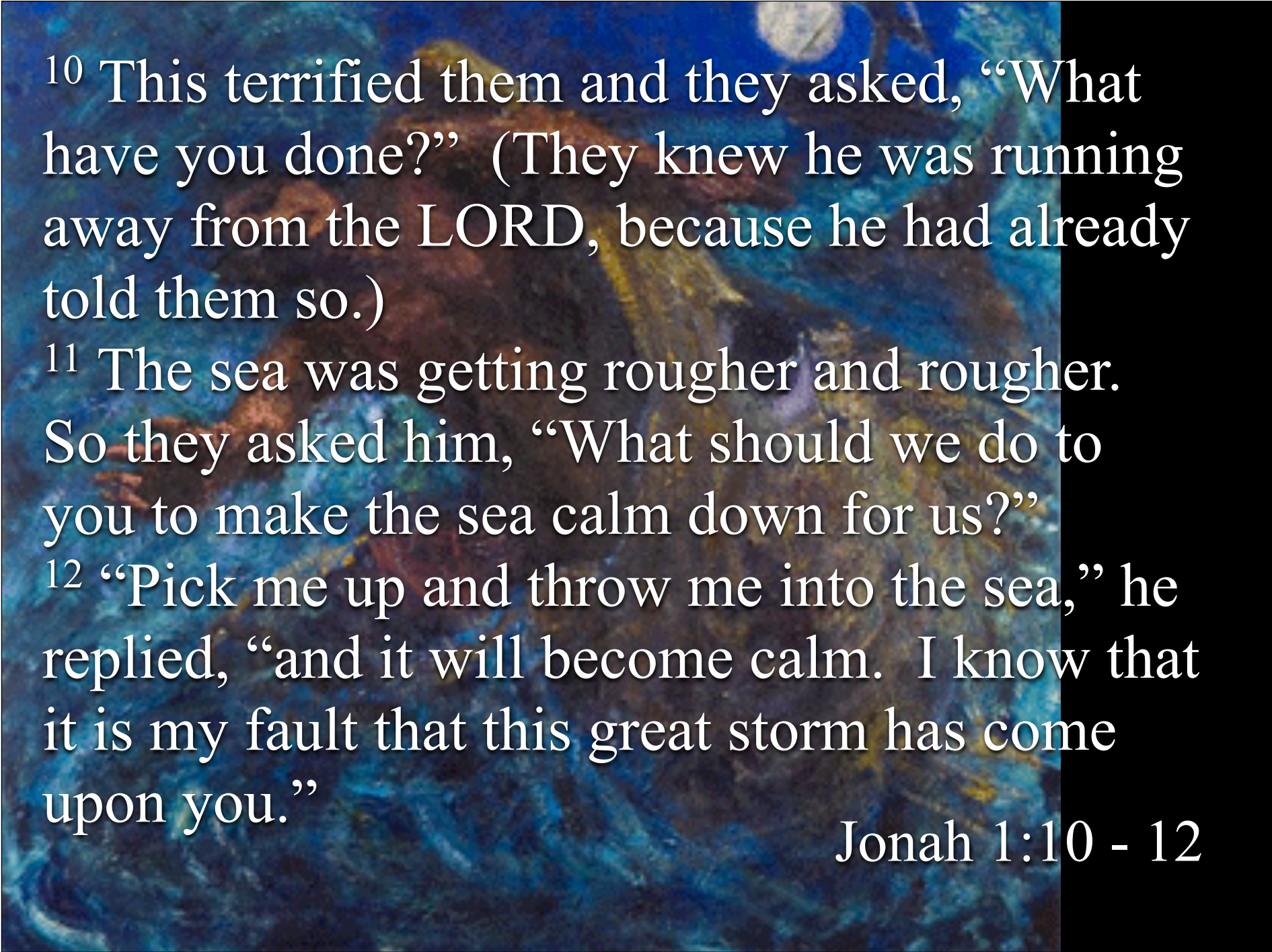
Jonah 1:1 & 2

A painting depicting a man, likely Jonah, in a turbulent, dark blue sea. The man is shown from the waist up, leaning back with his arms outstretched, appearing to be struggling against the waves. The sea is rendered with swirling, textured brushstrokes in various shades of blue and green, creating a sense of movement and danger. The background is dark and moody, with a small, bright light source visible in the upper right corner, possibly the moon or a distant light. The overall composition is dramatic and emphasizes the man's isolation and the power of the elements.

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



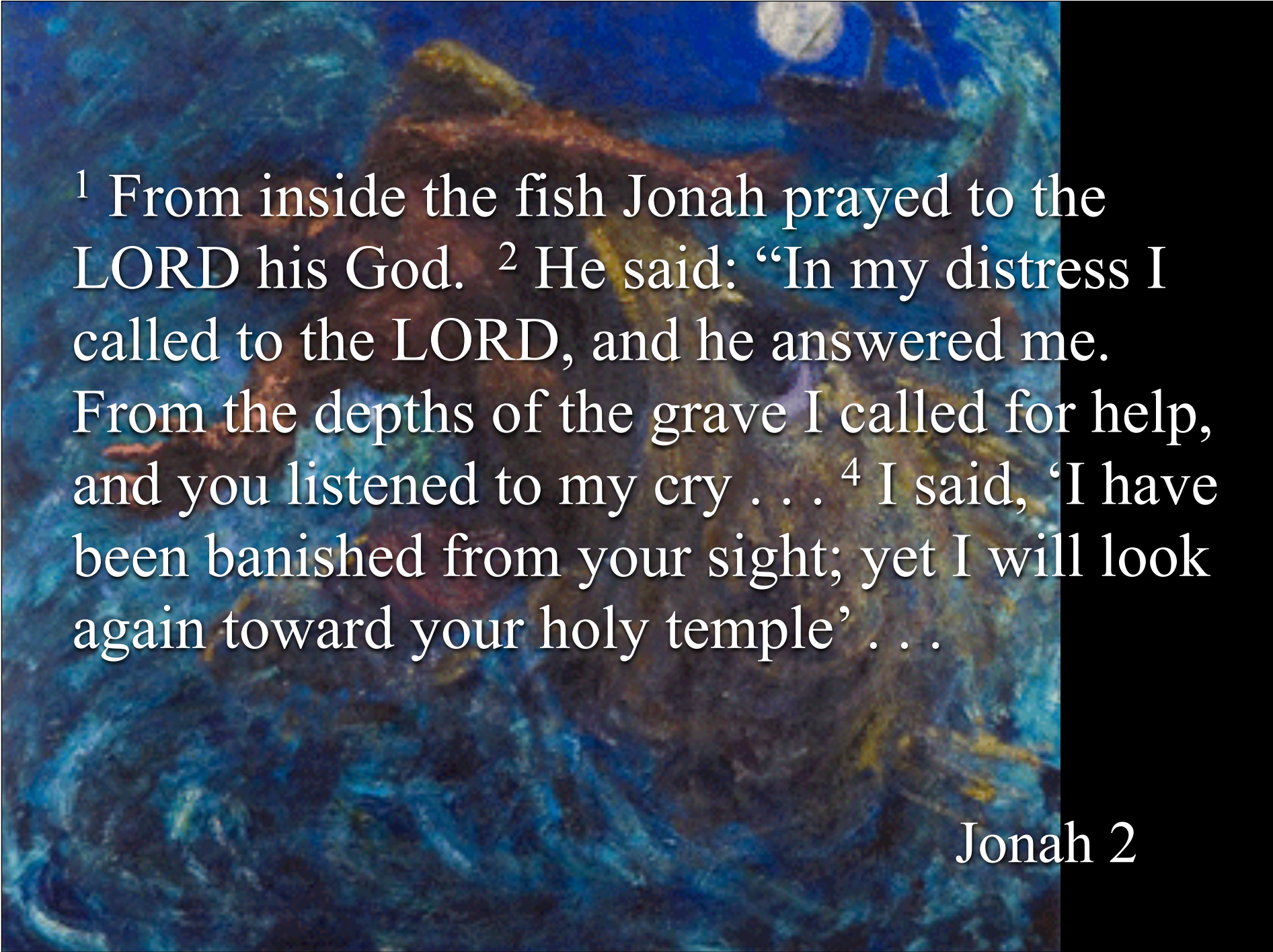


¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”


¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

Jonah 1:10 - 12

A painting of a stormy sea with a ship's mast visible in the distance. The sea is dark blue and black with white foam from the waves. The sky is dark blue with a full moon. The overall mood is dramatic and somber.

¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry . . . ⁴ I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple’ . . .

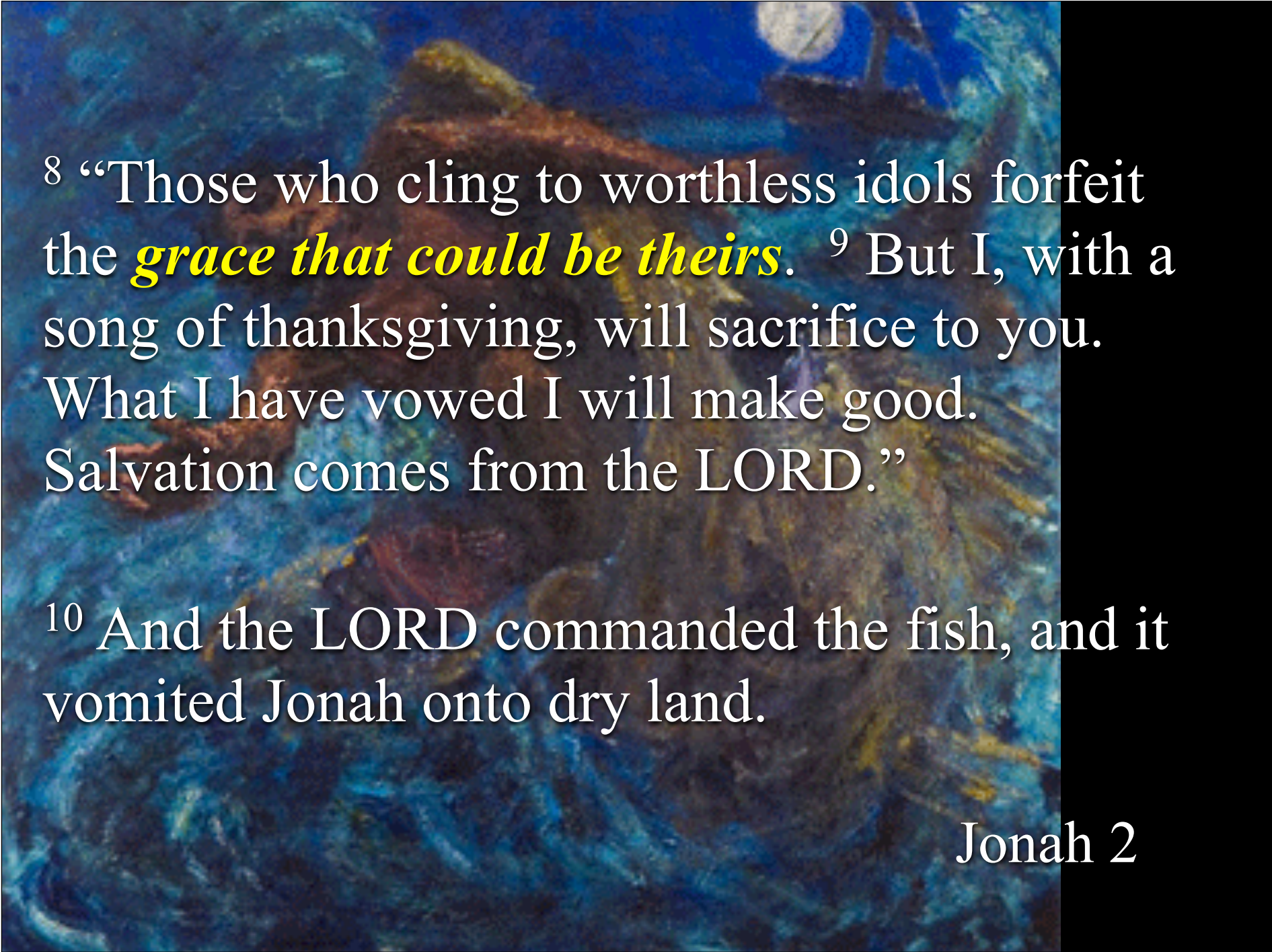
Jonah 2



⁸ “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. ⁹ But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD.”

¹⁰ And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

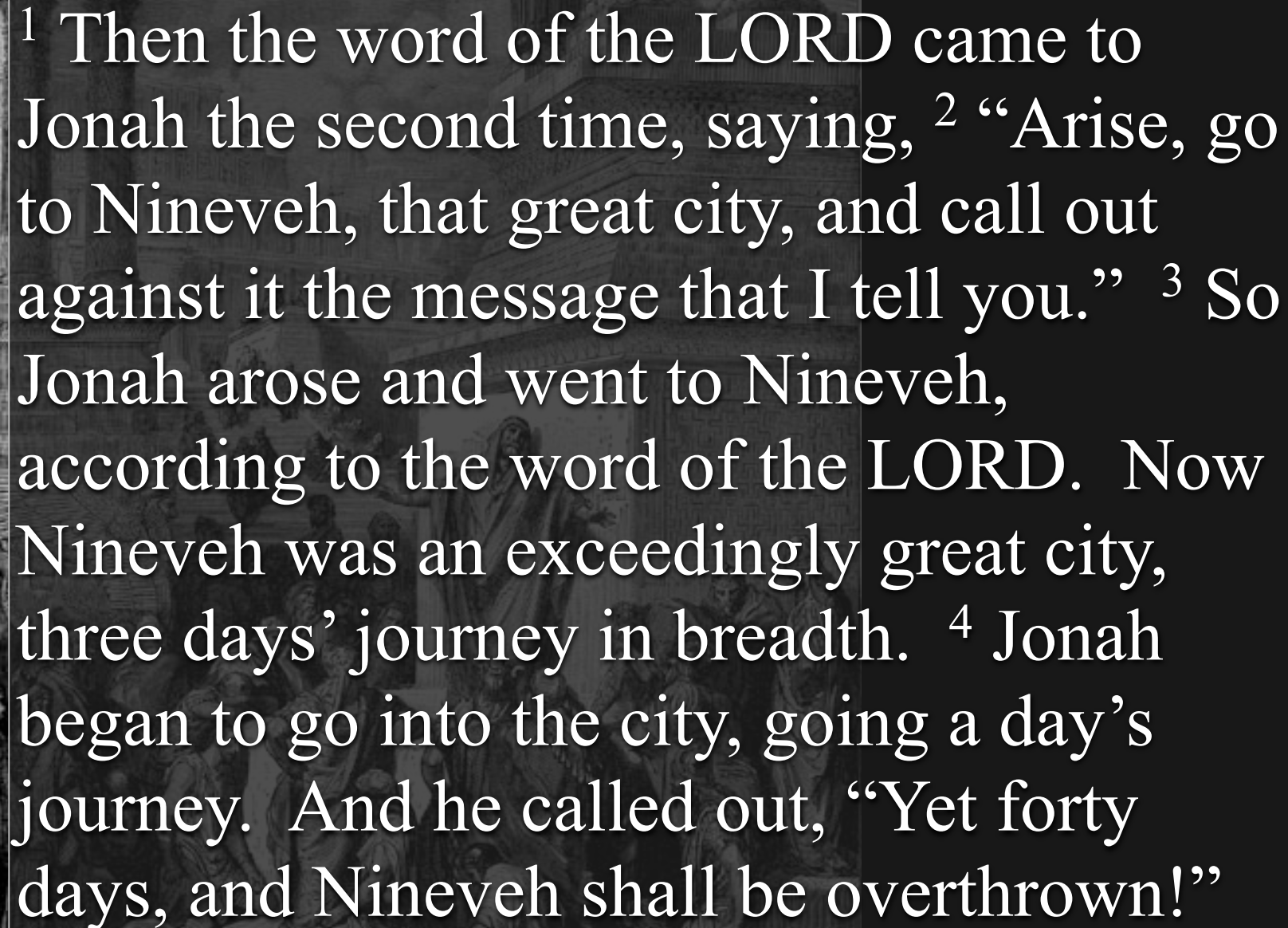
Jonah 2

A painting of a stormy sea with a ship's mast and a full moon. The scene is dark and turbulent, with swirling blue and brown waves. A ship's mast is visible in the upper right, and a full moon hangs in the sky. The overall mood is dramatic and intense.

⁸ “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the *grace that could be theirs*. ⁹ But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD.”

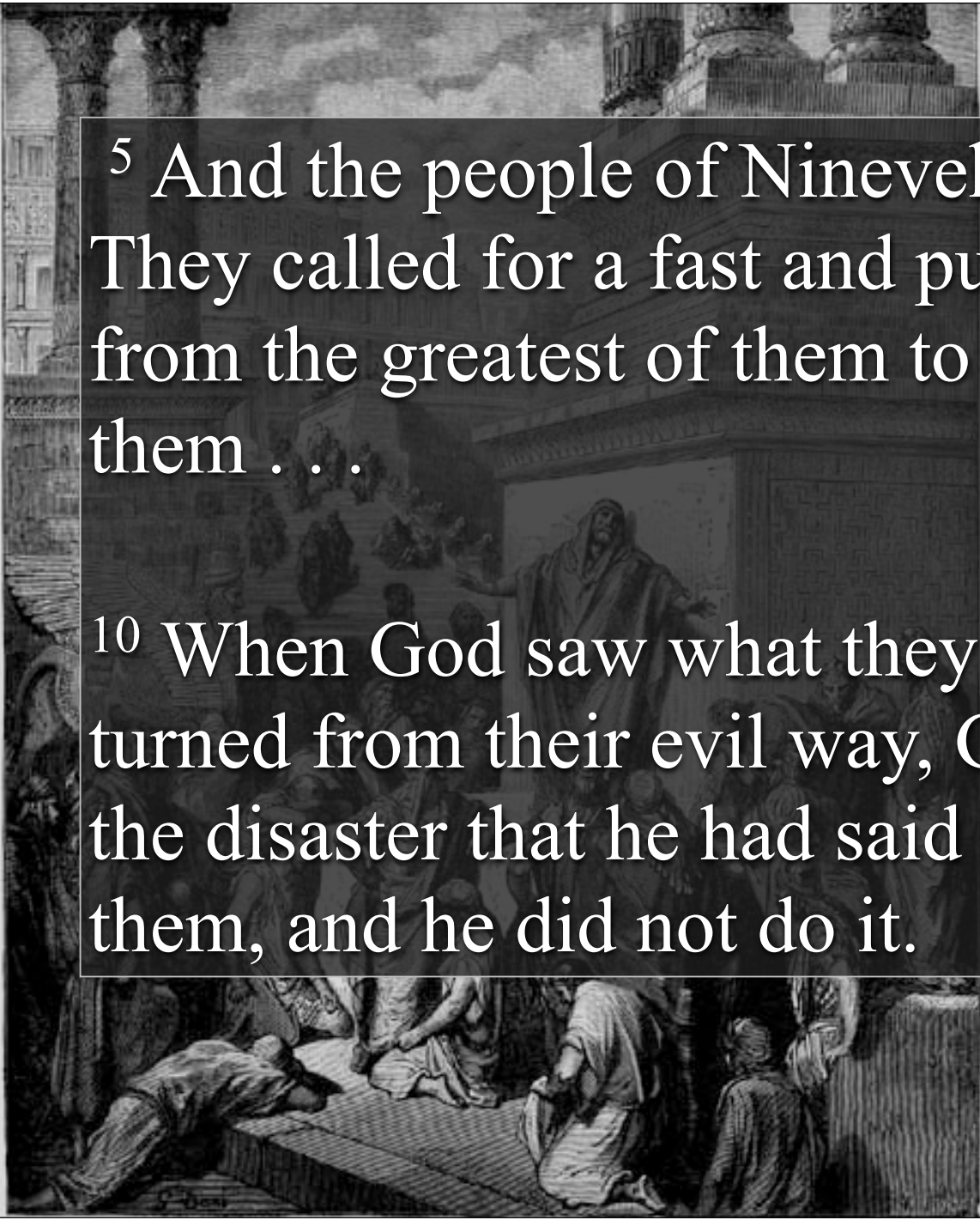
¹⁰ And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 2



¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

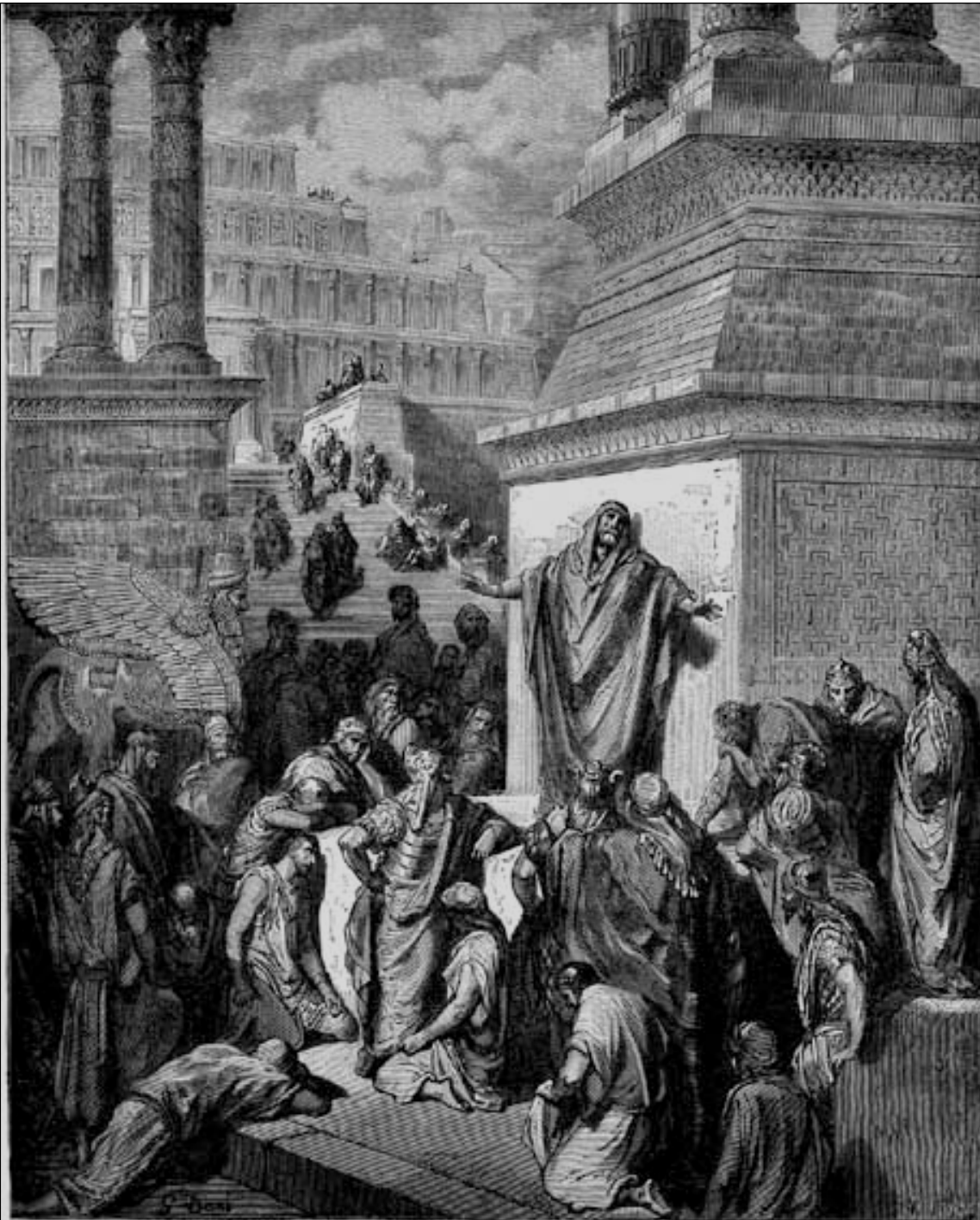
Jonah 3



⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them . . .

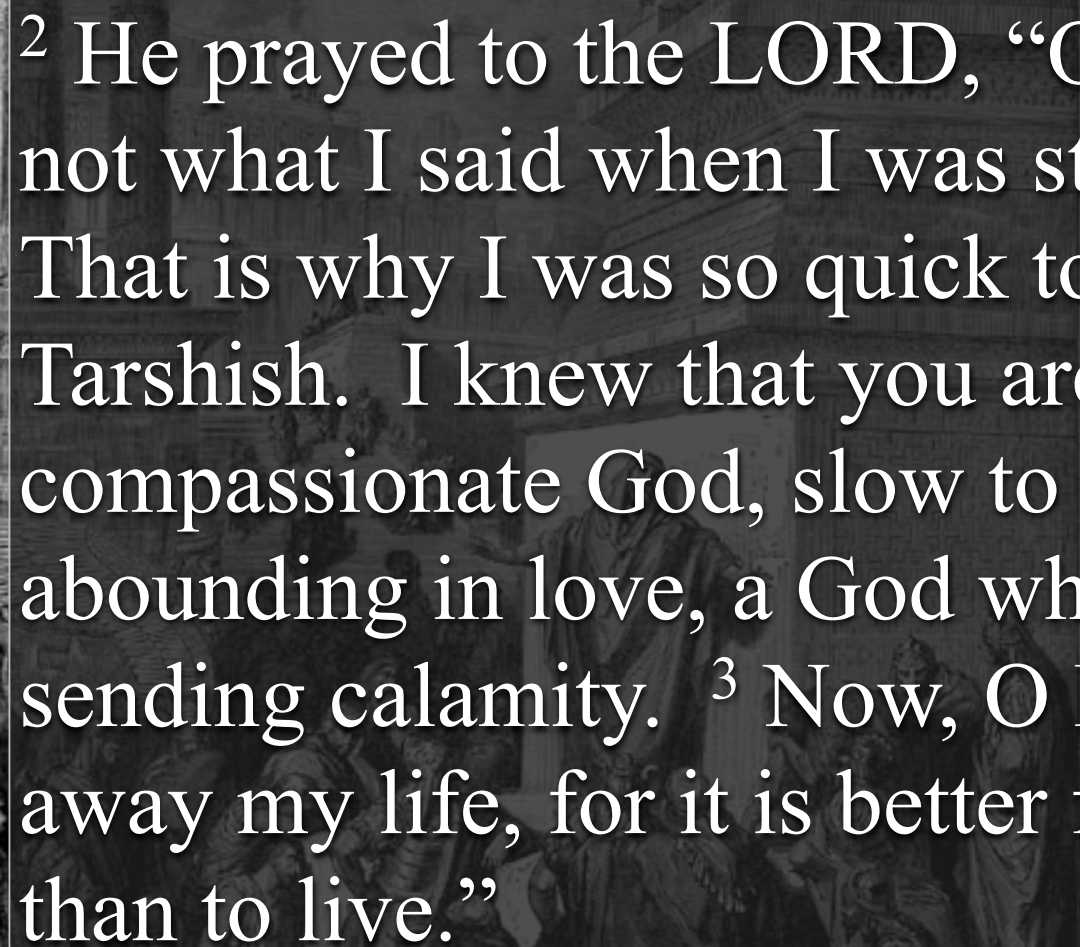
¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Jonah 3



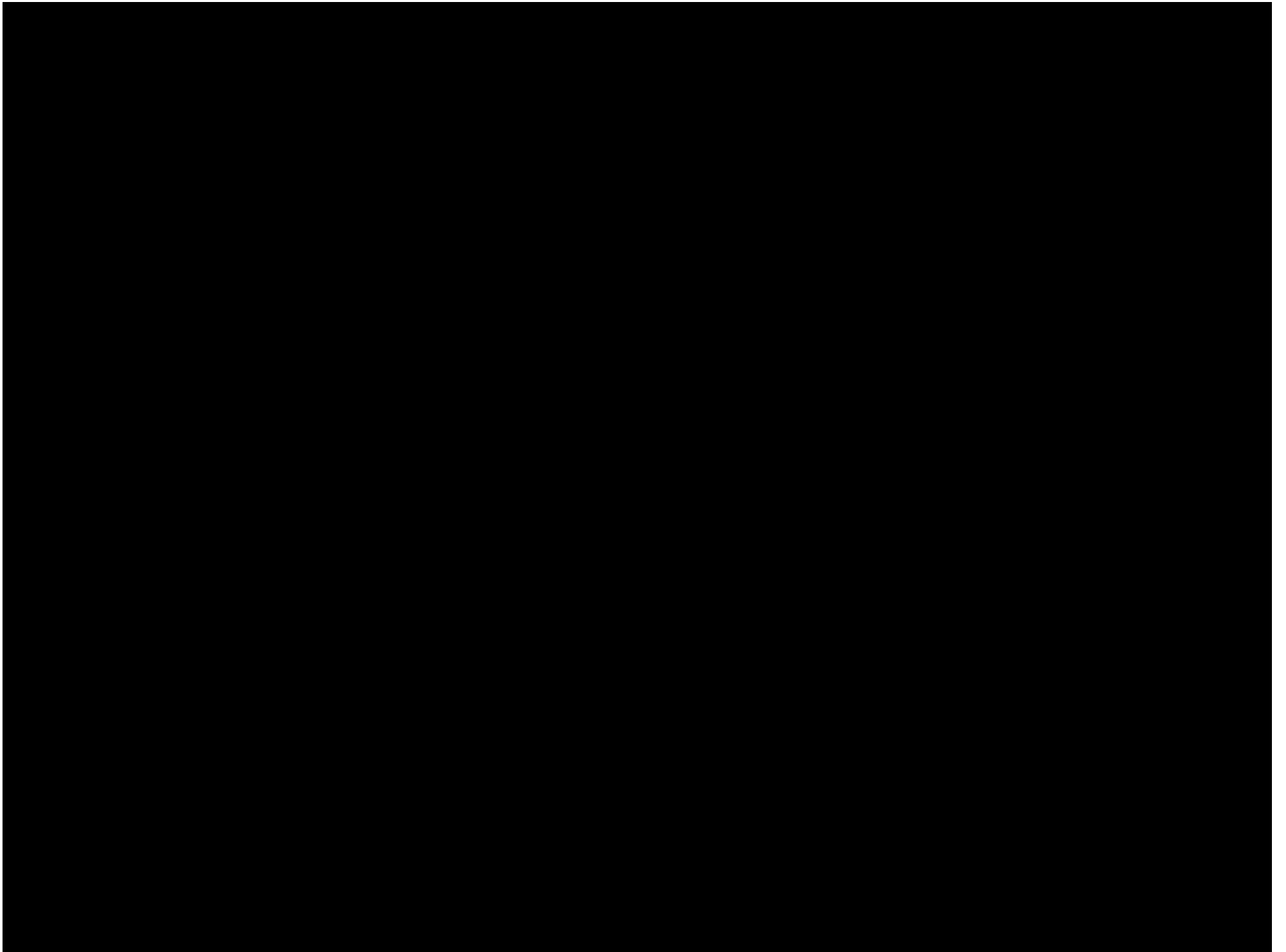
But it
displeased
Jonah
exceedingly,
and he was
angry.

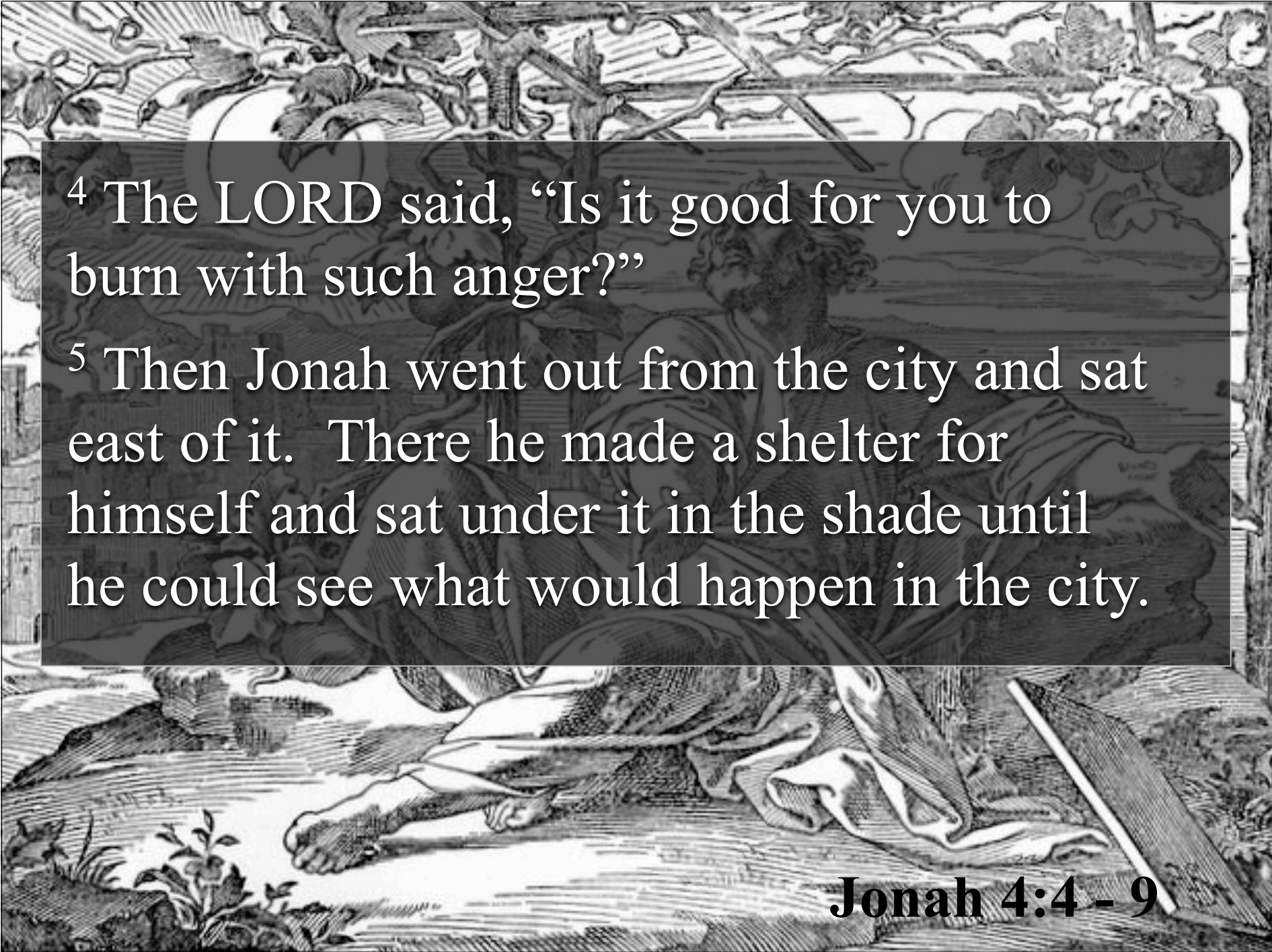
Jonah 4:1



² He prayed to the LORD, “O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee 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. ³ Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

Jonah 4:1






⁴ The LORD said, “Is it good for you to burn with such anger?”

⁵ Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.

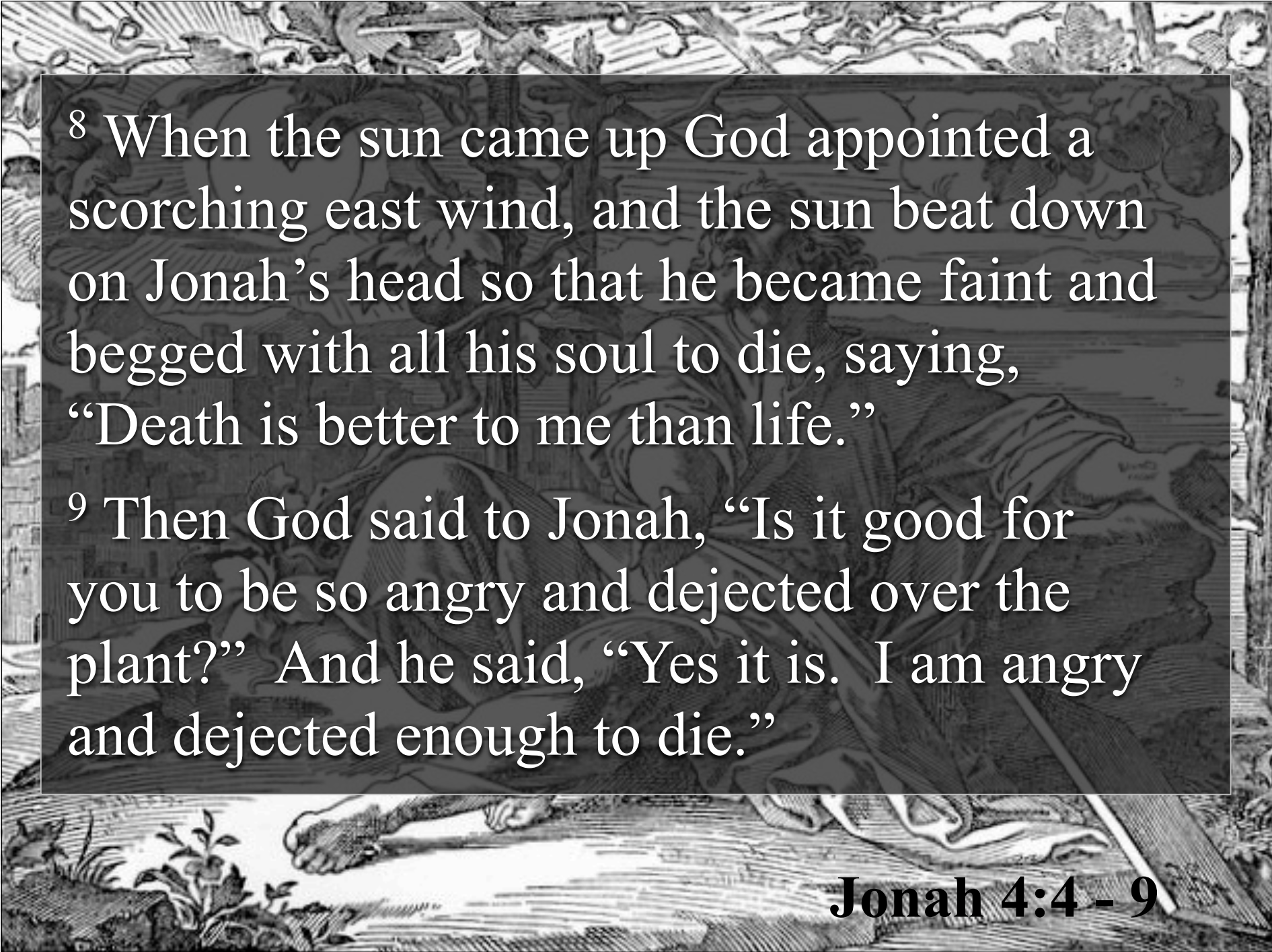
Jonah 4:4 - 9



⁶ So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

⁷ But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered.

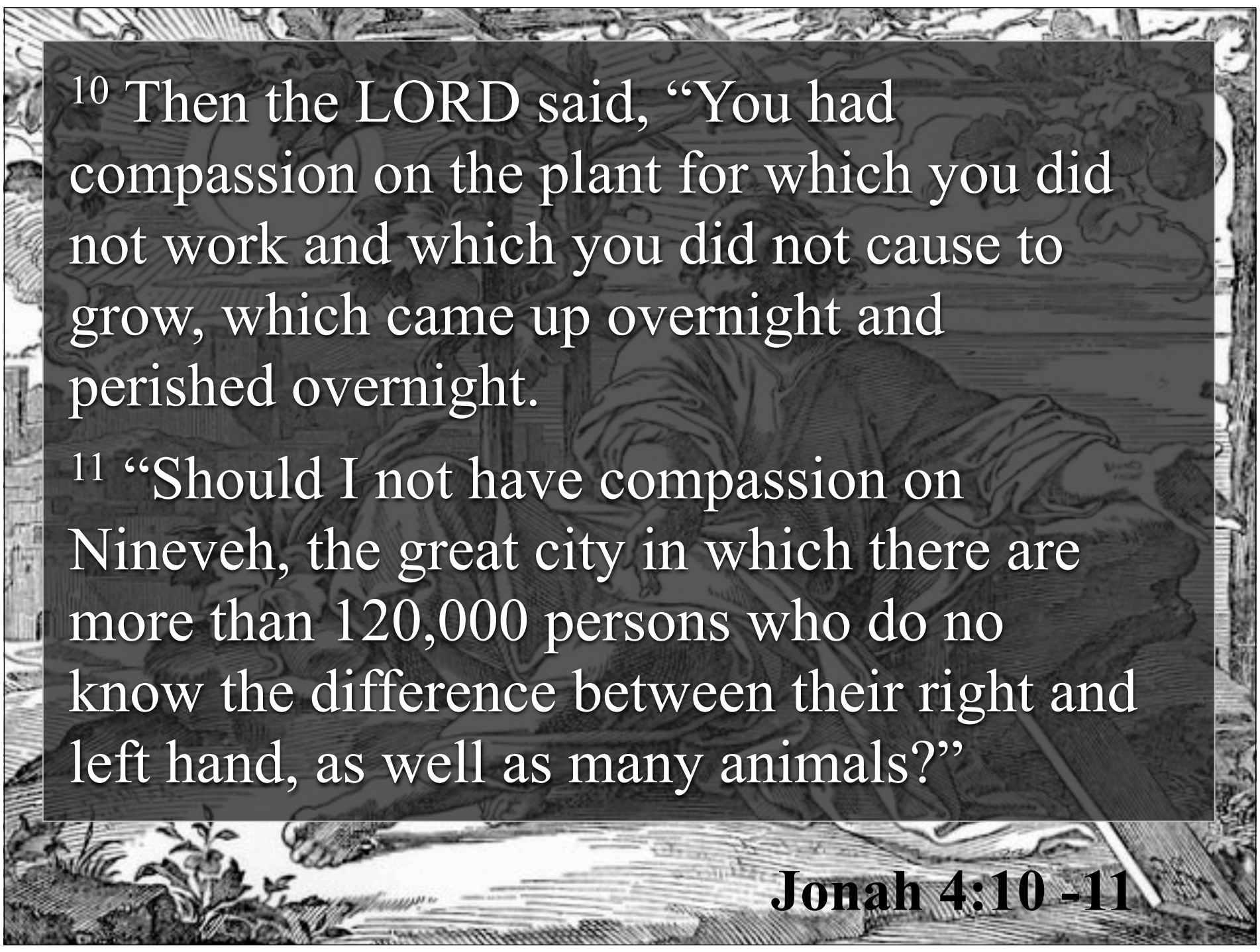
Jonah 4:4 - 9



⁸ When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "Is it good for you to be so angry and dejected over the plant?" And he said, "Yes it is. I am angry and dejected enough to die."

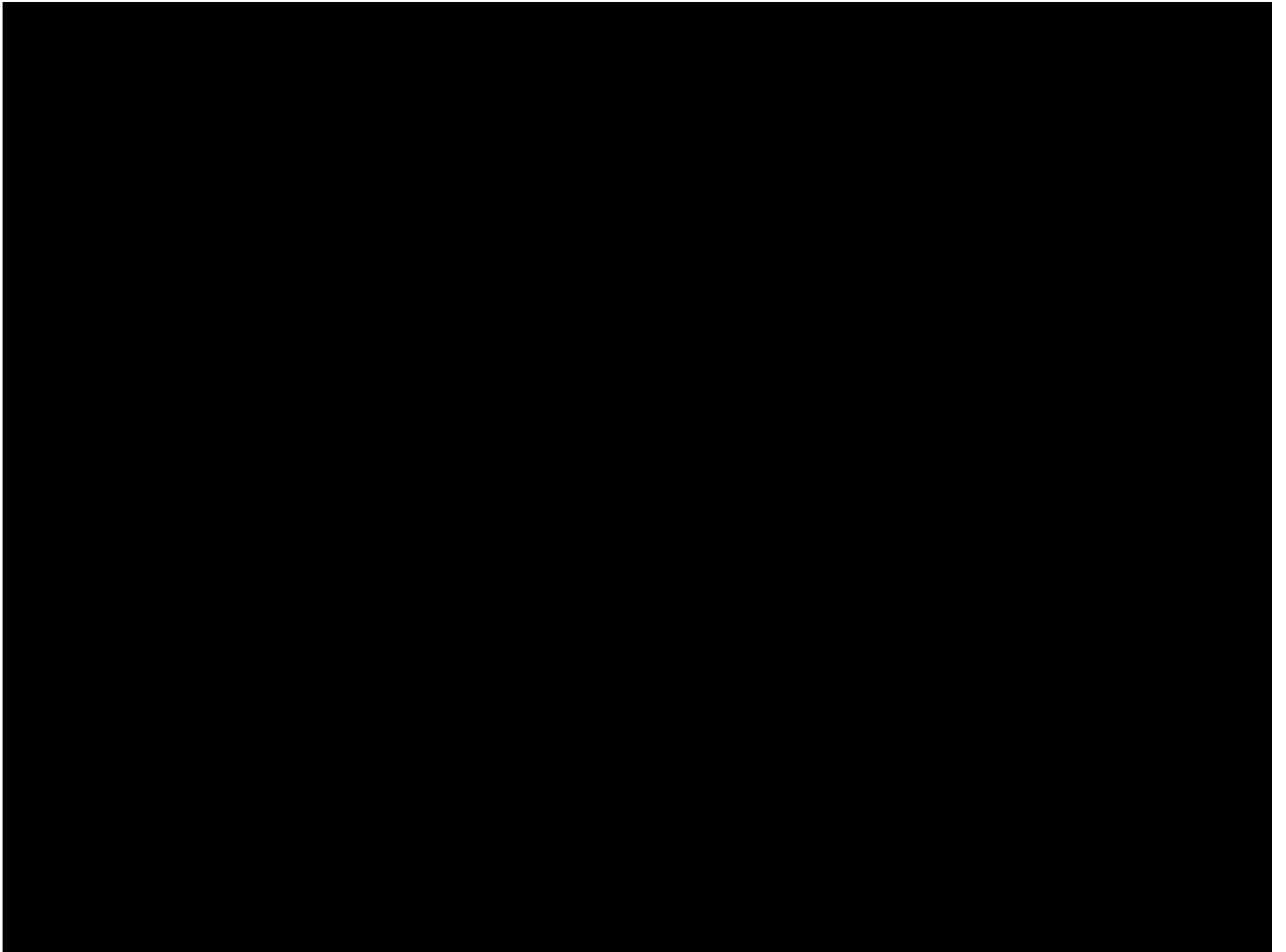
Jonah 4:4 - 9



¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

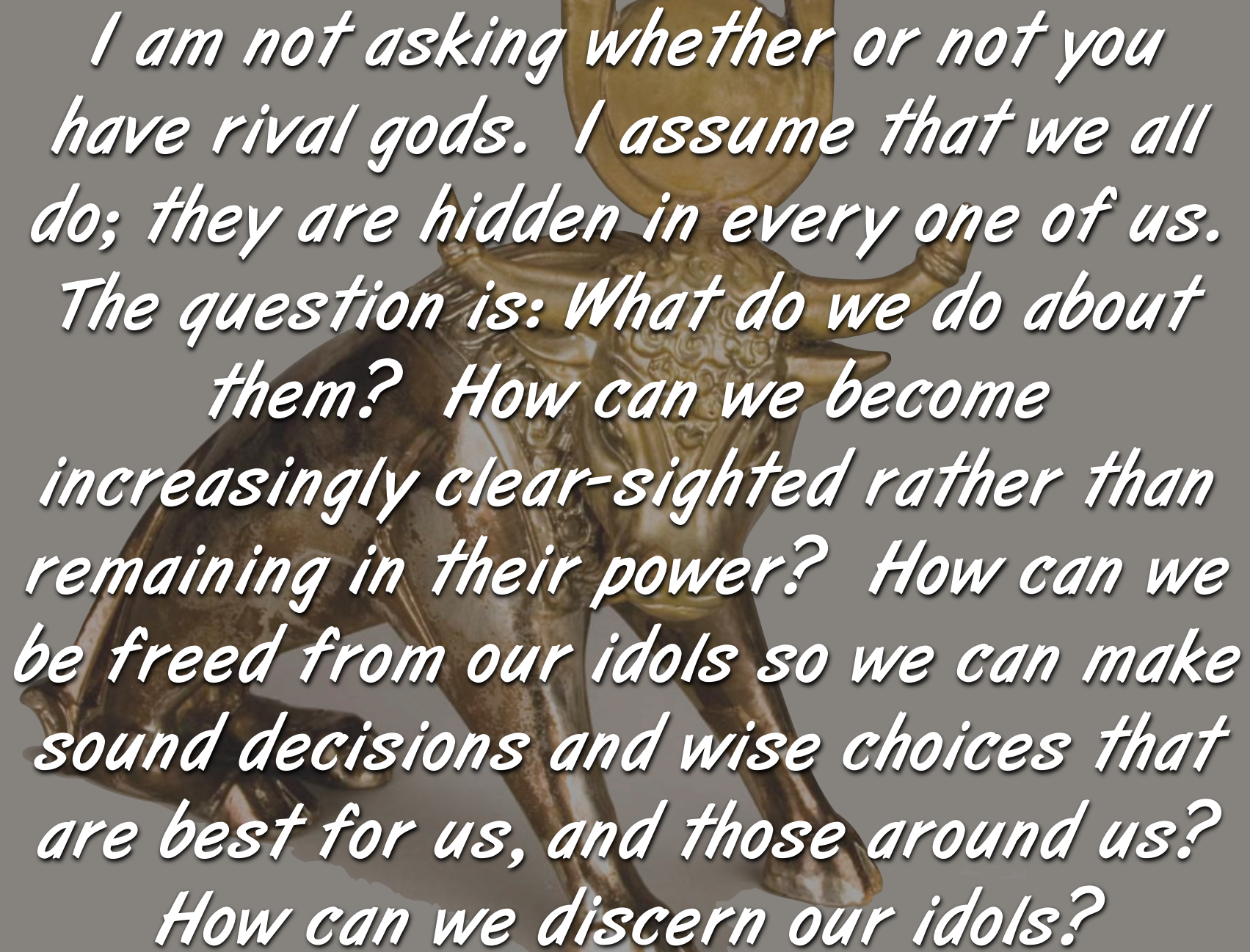
¹¹ “Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”

Jonah 4:10 -11





*Anything can be an idol, and
everything has been an idol.*



I am not asking whether or not you have rival gods. I assume that we all do; they are hidden in every one of us. The question is: What do we do about them? How can we become increasingly clear-sighted rather than remaining in their power? How can we be freed from our idols so we can make sound decisions and wise choices that are best for us, and those around us? How can we discern our idols?

Look at your IMAGINATION

*Look at how you SPEND YOUR
MONEY*

*Look at your real, daily FUNCTIONAL
SALVATION*

*Look at your most
UNCONTROLLABLE EMOTIONS*



¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, *set your hearts on things above*, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² *Set your minds on things above*, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and *your life* is now *hidden with Christ* in God. ⁴ When *Christ, who is your life*, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, *which is idolatry*.

Colossians 3:1 – 5

