A quill pen with a white shaft and a dark, pointed nib lies horizontally across a piece of aged, yellowed parchment paper. The paper has a textured, fibrous appearance and some darker spots. The quill's feathers are dark and fan out to the right.

THE MAJOR
MESSAGE

OF THE MINOR
PROPHETS

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Jonah: Reluctant Missionary

MAJOR
STUFF

FROM THE

minor prophets

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Jonah

Reluctant Missionary

"A Big Fish Story"

Author & Background

- ✦ Jonah was a prophet from Nazareth for the Northern Kingdom to the Assyrian capital of Nineveh around 760 BC. **Jonah's name means "dove."**
- ✦ The book describes God's will and plan to offer salvation to everyone. God intended for his people/nation to be a **blessing to all the nations.**
- ✦ God used the Assyrians to bring judgment upon the Jews but he also previously sought to save them.

The image features a stylized illustration of a whale breaching the ocean surface. The whale is depicted in shades of blue and teal, with its head and back visible above the water. The name 'JONAH' is written across the whale's back in large, glowing, yellow and white letters. The background is a dark blue gradient, suggesting the deep ocean.

JONAH

A Whale of a Fish Story

Key Verses

Jonah 2:8-9 *“Those who regard as worthless idols forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice to you with the voice of thanksgiving; I will say what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”* **Jonah 4:2b** *“For I know that you are a **gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, One who relents from doing harm.**”* **Matthew 12:39-41** *“An evil and adulterous generation seek after a sign, and no sign will be given them except the sign of Jonah. For Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah, indeed one greater than Jonah is here!”*



Tarshish

Mediterranean Sea

Joppa

Nineveh

Israel

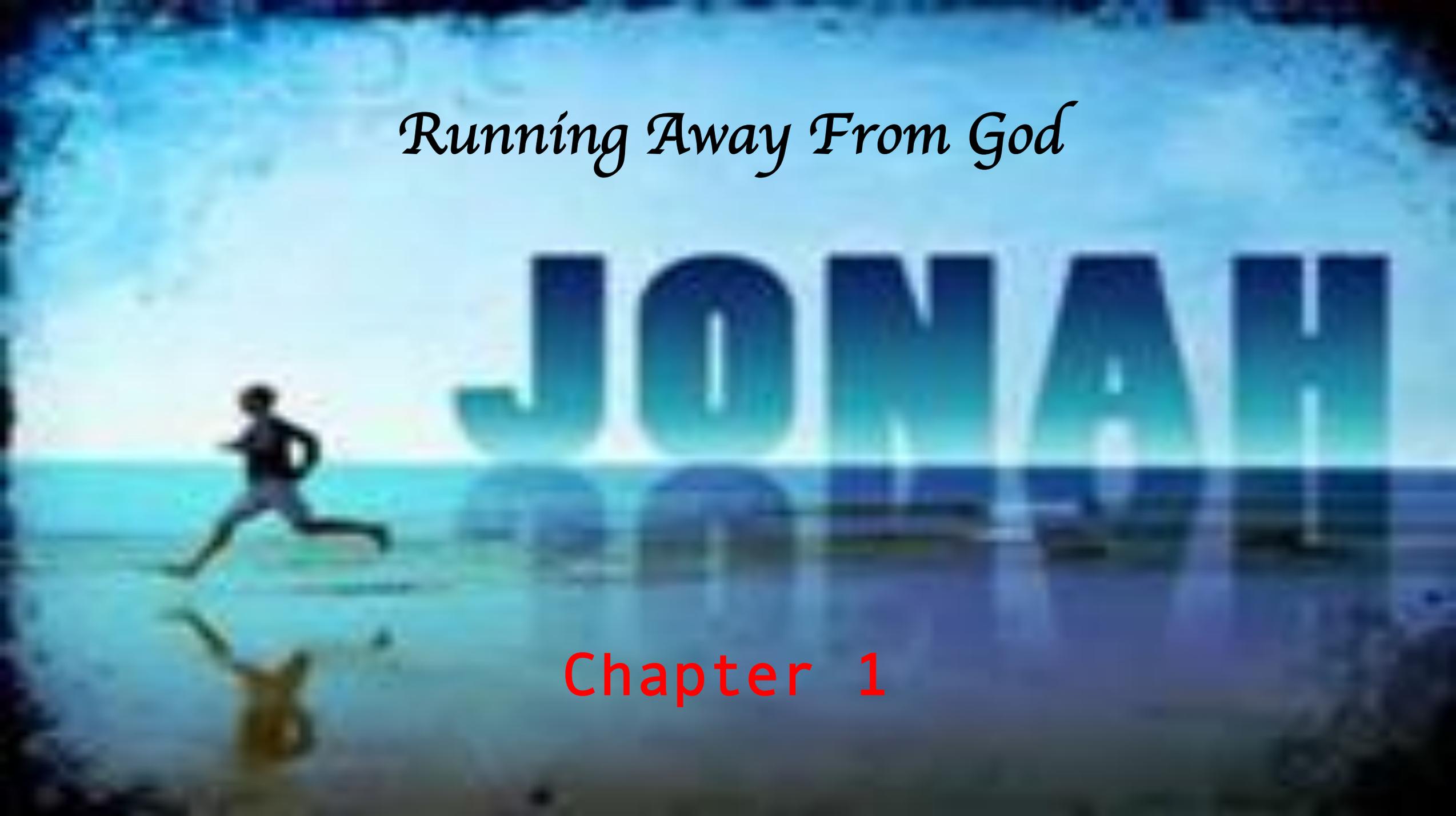
Egypt

Jonah Outline

- ✦ **Jonah 1:1-17 Refusing God's Will – Rebellion – Running Away from God**
- ✦ **Jonah 2:1-10 Returning to God's Will – Repentance – Running Towards God**
- ✦ **Jonah 3:1-10 Reporting God's Will – Rewards – Running With God**
- ✦ **Jonah 4:1-11 Resenting God's Will – Regret – Running Ahead of God**

Running Away From God

JONAH

A person is running away from the viewer on a beach at sunset. The person is in silhouette, running towards the right. The background is a bright orange and yellow sky over the ocean. The word 'JONAH' is written in large, blue, 3D-style letters across the middle of the image. The letters are slightly blurred, suggesting motion or a shallow depth of field. The overall mood is one of escape or fleeing.

Chapter 1

Reluctant Prophet

(Vs. 2) *“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”* God called Jonah to be a missionary but Jonah refused God – he hated Nineveh because they were brutal barbarians.

(Vs. 3) *“But 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 went in the opposite direction – Tarshish , Storm – Literally in Hebrew: *“Blowing and going”*

iam JONAH

A man in a light-colored shirt and shorts stands on a beach, looking down at a piece of driftwood. The scene is reflected in the wet sand. Large, dark red text 'iam JONAH' is overlaid across the middle of the image. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The entire image has a textured, aged paper appearance with some decorative flourishes in the bottom right corner.

Remorse or Repent

(Vs. 4) Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. God opposed Jonah refusing his will.

(Vs. 5) "...But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and flew into a deep sleep." Jonah – Belly of ship asleep, depressed, running away

(Vs. 12) "Pick me up and throw me into the sea and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." Take responsibility ultimately (Judas vs. Peter) but not suicide!

Running Towards From God

JONAH

Chapter 2

Rebellion

*God opposes Rebellion, Rebels can never get away
– “Can run but cannot hide!”*

(Vs. 16-17) “At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him. But the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.”

Repentance Defined

- 1. (Sorrow)*
- 2. (Seek)*
- 3. (Suffer)*
- 4. (Speak)*
- 5. (Submit)*
- 6. (Surrender)*
- 7. (Spiritual)*
- 8. (Sacrifice)*
- 9. (Sing)*
- 10. (Swear)*



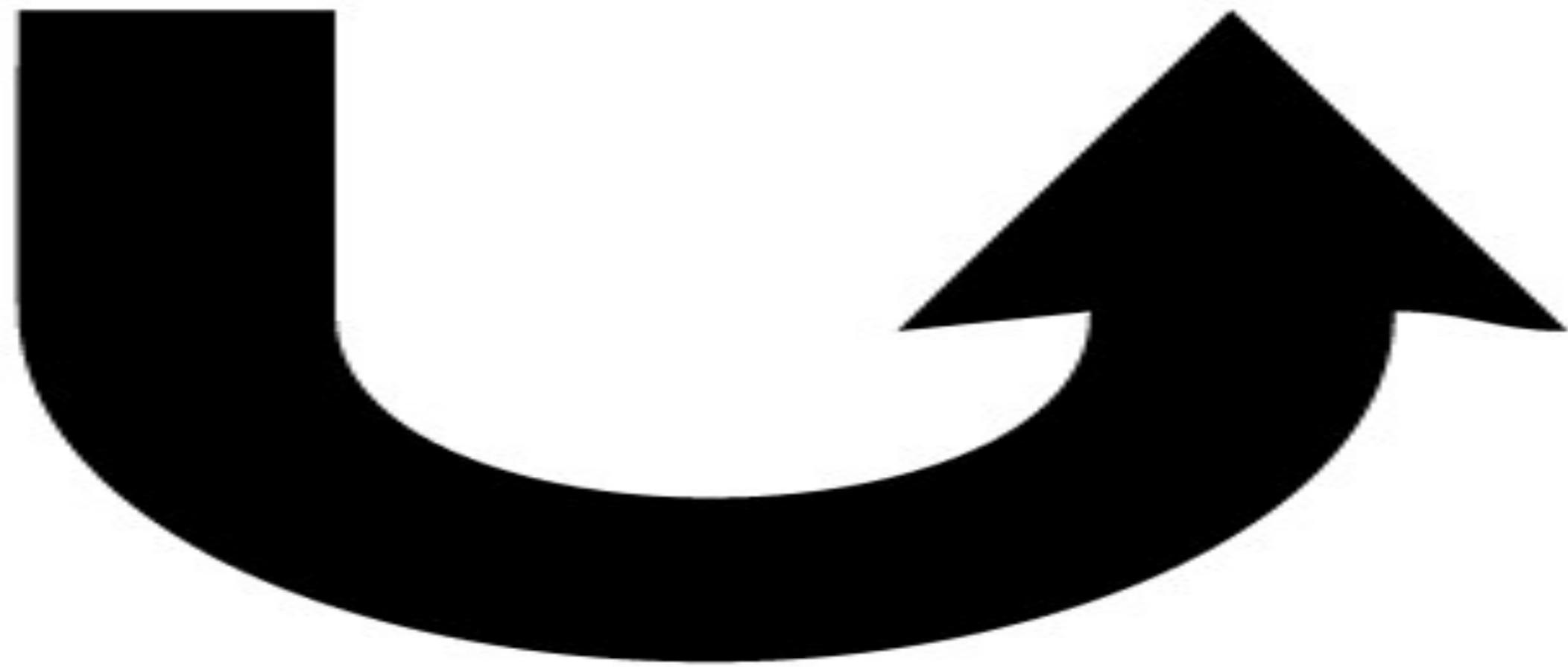


Repentance

(Vs. 2a) "In my distress (Sorrow), I called to the Lord (Seek) and he answered me." Jonah finally prayed! Had been advised to pray earlier. (Vs. 6)

(Vs. 2b) "From the depths of the grave (Suffer) I called for help (Speak) and you listened to my cry."

(Vs. 3) "You hurled me into the deep...I have been banished from your sight" (Submit)



REPENT

Repentance

(Vs. 6) "You brought my life from the pit."

(Surrender)

(Vs. 7) "I remembered the Lord and my prayer rose to your holy temple." (Spiritual)

(Vs. 8) "Cling to worthless idols; forfeit the grace."

(Sacrifice)

(Vs. 9a) "Song of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you."

(Sing)

(Vs. 9b) "I will make good my vow." (Swear)



Prayers of Repentance

✦ **Prayers of Repentance** – Psalms 32, Psalms 51, Luke 15, 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

✦ God is forgiving, loving, seeking, saving, rescuing his creation

✦ **Repentance** – defined as a change of mind, to turn away or reversal course, to do an about face

✦ God is compassionate and caring

Running With From God

JONAH

Chapter 3

Rewards

(Vs. 3) *“Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord, and went to Nineveh.”* Jonah obeyed and preached to Nineveh, Great city, 3 days wide

(Vs. 5) *“The Ninvevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.”* King, people & animals – fasted, sackcloth



GOD GIVES SECOND CHANCES

the story of
JONAH

God's Compassion

*(Vs. 7-9) "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything: do not let them eat or drink. But let **man and beast** be covered in sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. **Who knows?** God may yet relent and have compassion turn from his fierce anger so we will not perish." **God's compassionate – God's will is awesome***

God's Forgiveness

✦ (Vs. 10) *"When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened."*

✦ **Point: Rewards** – God's will blesses, restores, revives

Running Ahead From God

JONAH

Chapter 4

Jonah's Regret

- ✦ (Vs. 1) *“Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry.”* Jonah resents God forgiving the Ninevites
- ✦ (Vs. 2b) *“...I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”*
- ✦ (vs. 3) *“Now O lord, take away my life for it is better for me to die than to live.”* Jonah hated Ninevah – He was prejudice, bitter, hateful, unforgiving. Jonah is an impulsive person.
- ✦ (Vs. 4) *“But the Lord replied, Do you have any right to be angry?”* Accept God's will!

Wood/Vine, Worm, Wind/Sun

*(Vs. 6) "Then the Lord God **provided** a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine." (Vs. 7) "But at dawn the next day God **provided** a worm, which chewed the vine so it withered." (Vs. 8) "When the sun rose, God **provided** a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, 'I am angry enough to die.'"*

An underwater scene with sunlight filtering through the water, creating a bright, shimmering effect. The water is a deep blue color, and the sun is visible at the top center, casting rays of light downwards. The overall atmosphere is serene and bright.

Jonah

*Whales, Worms &
Whining*

Universal Love

(Vs. 10-11) "You have been concerned about this vine yet you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?" God displays his universal love for all creation. God is **concerned, cares, and compassionate.**

IONIAH

ACCEPT THE CALL