



“Jonah and the Whale” by Carlo Antonio Tavella, 1700.



# **A Desperate Prayer From a Desperate Place**

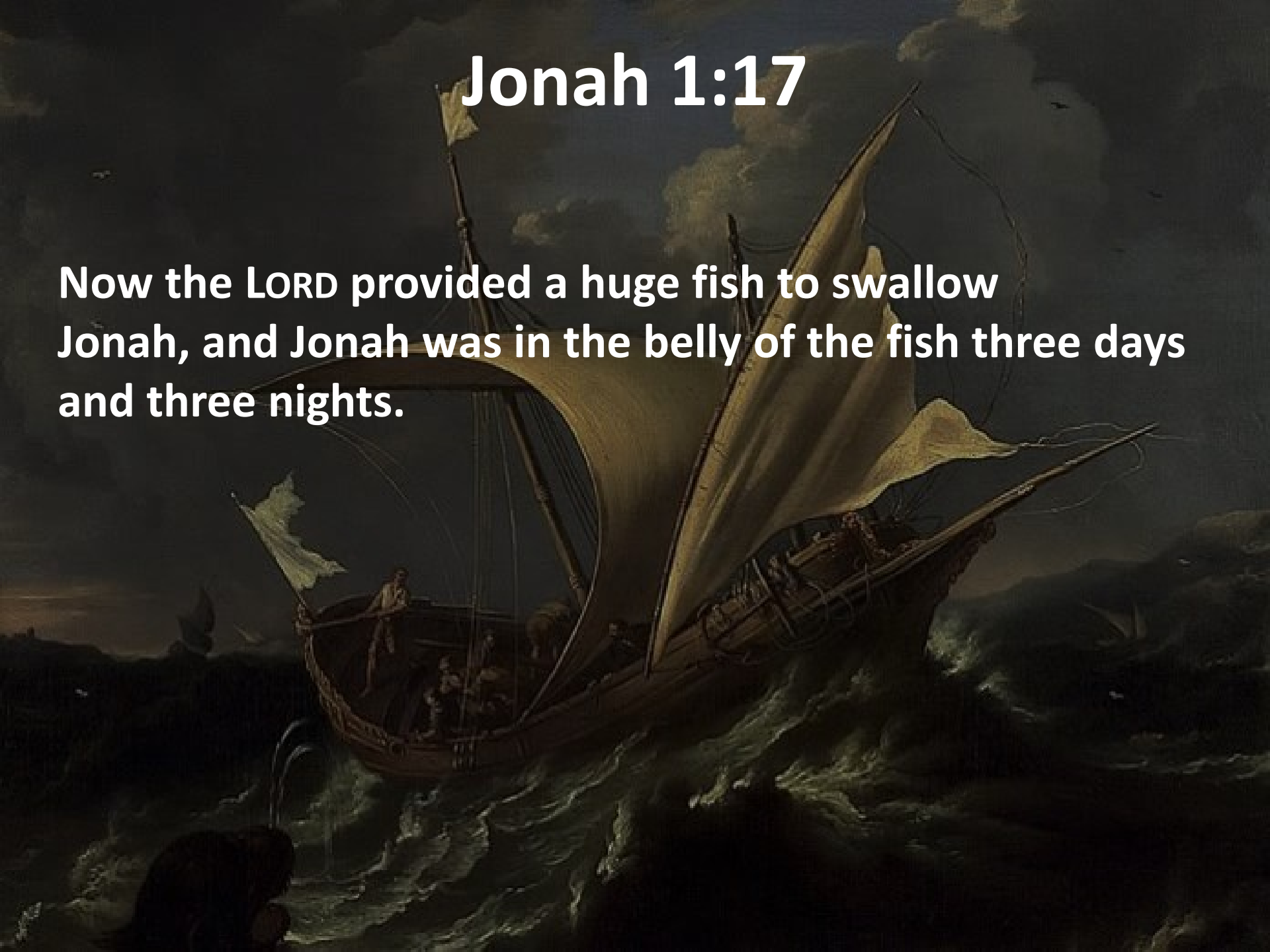
**Jonah 2**

**Keith Reed**

Associate Director of MinistryLift  
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

# Jonah 1:17

Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.



# Jonah 2:1-3

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. <sup>2</sup> He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,  
and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry.

<sup>3</sup> You hurled me into the depths,  
into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;  
all your waves and breakers  
swept over me.

# Jonah 2:4-6

**<sup>4</sup> I said, 'I have been banished  
from your sight;  
yet I will look again  
toward your holy temple.'**

**<sup>5</sup> The engulfing waters threatened me,  
the deep surrounded me;  
seaweed was wrapped around my head.**

**<sup>6</sup> To the roots of the mountains I sank down;  
the earth beneath barred me in forever.**

**But you, LORD my God,  
brought my life up from the pit.**

# Jonah 2:7-10

<sup>7</sup> “When my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered you, LORD,  
and my prayer rose to you,  
to your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup> “Those who cling to worthless idols  
turn away from God’s love for them.

<sup>9</sup> But I, with shouts of grateful praise,  
will sacrifice to you.

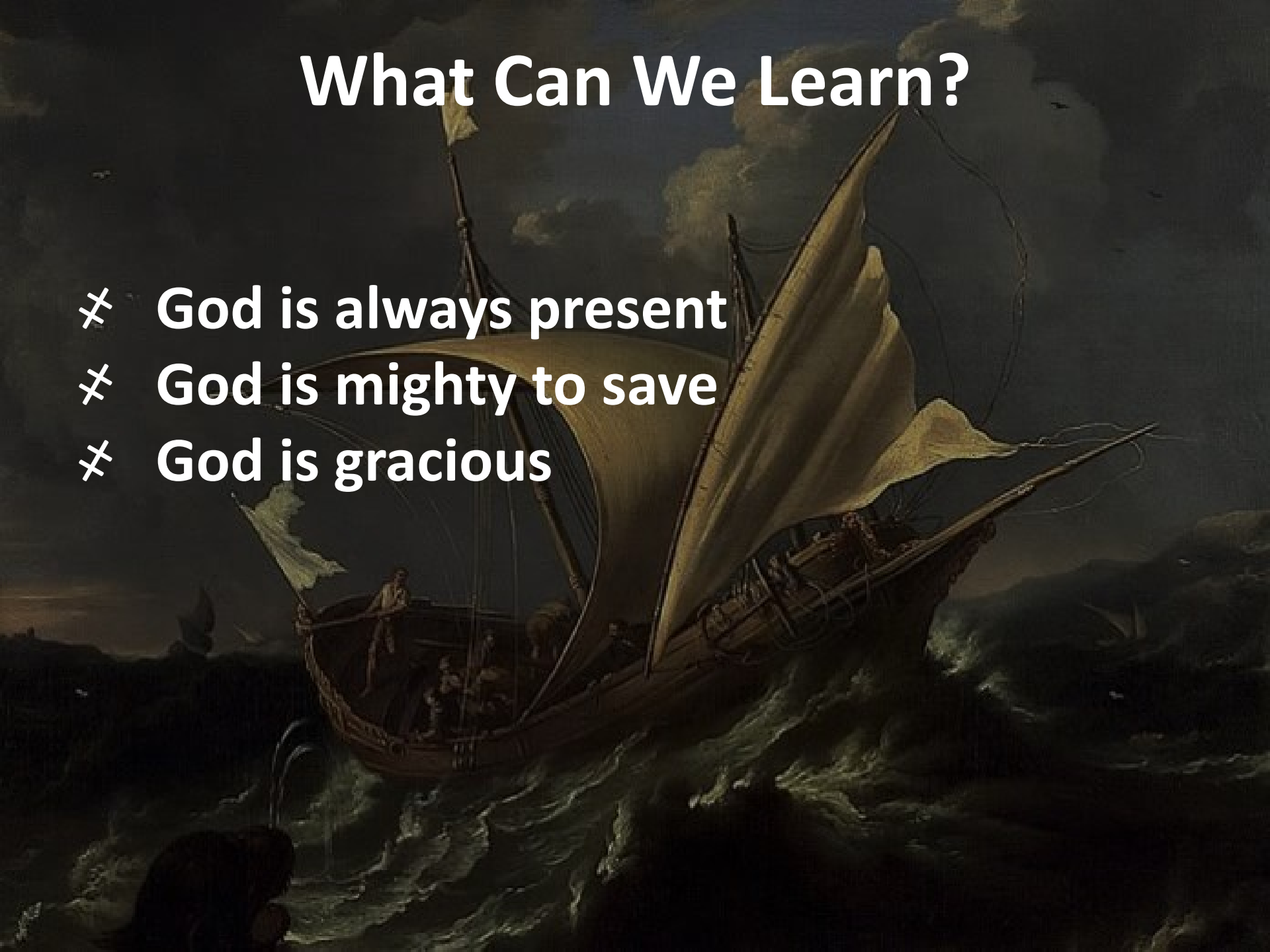
What I have vowed I will make good.

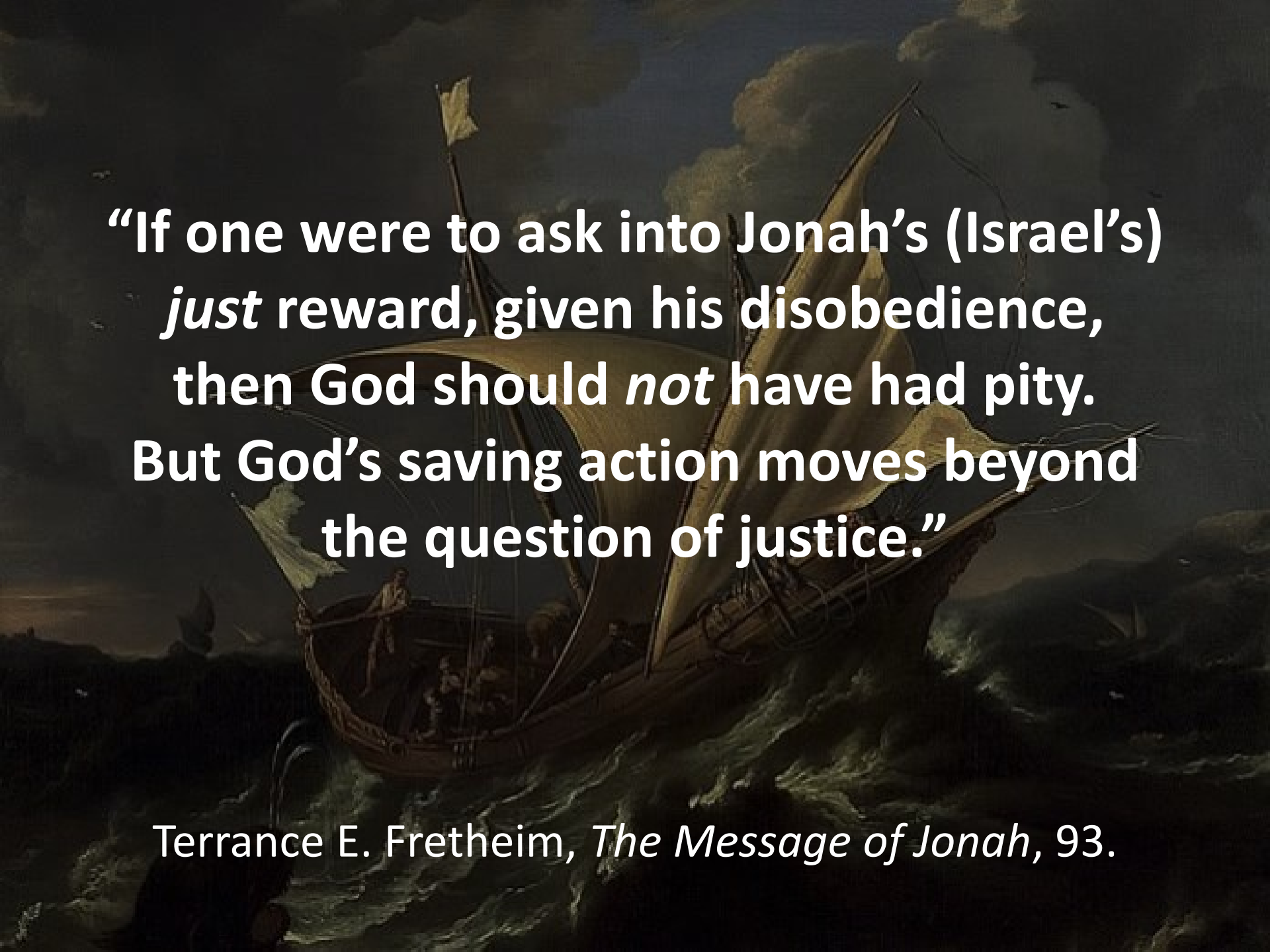
I will say, “Salvation comes from the LORD.”

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited  
Jonah onto dry land.

# What Can We Learn?

- ✘ God is always present
- ✘ God is mighty to save
- ✘ God is gracious



A dramatic painting of a wooden galleon with yellow sails on a stormy sea at night. The ship is tilted, and the sea is dark and turbulent. The sky is dark with some clouds. The overall mood is somber and intense.

**“If one were to ask into Jonah’s (Israel’s) *just* reward, given his disobedience, then God should *not* have had pity. But God’s saving action moves beyond the question of justice.”**

Terrance E. Fretheim, *The Message of Jonah*, 93.



**Prayer makes a difference**

