

Belly Rumbblings

Setting

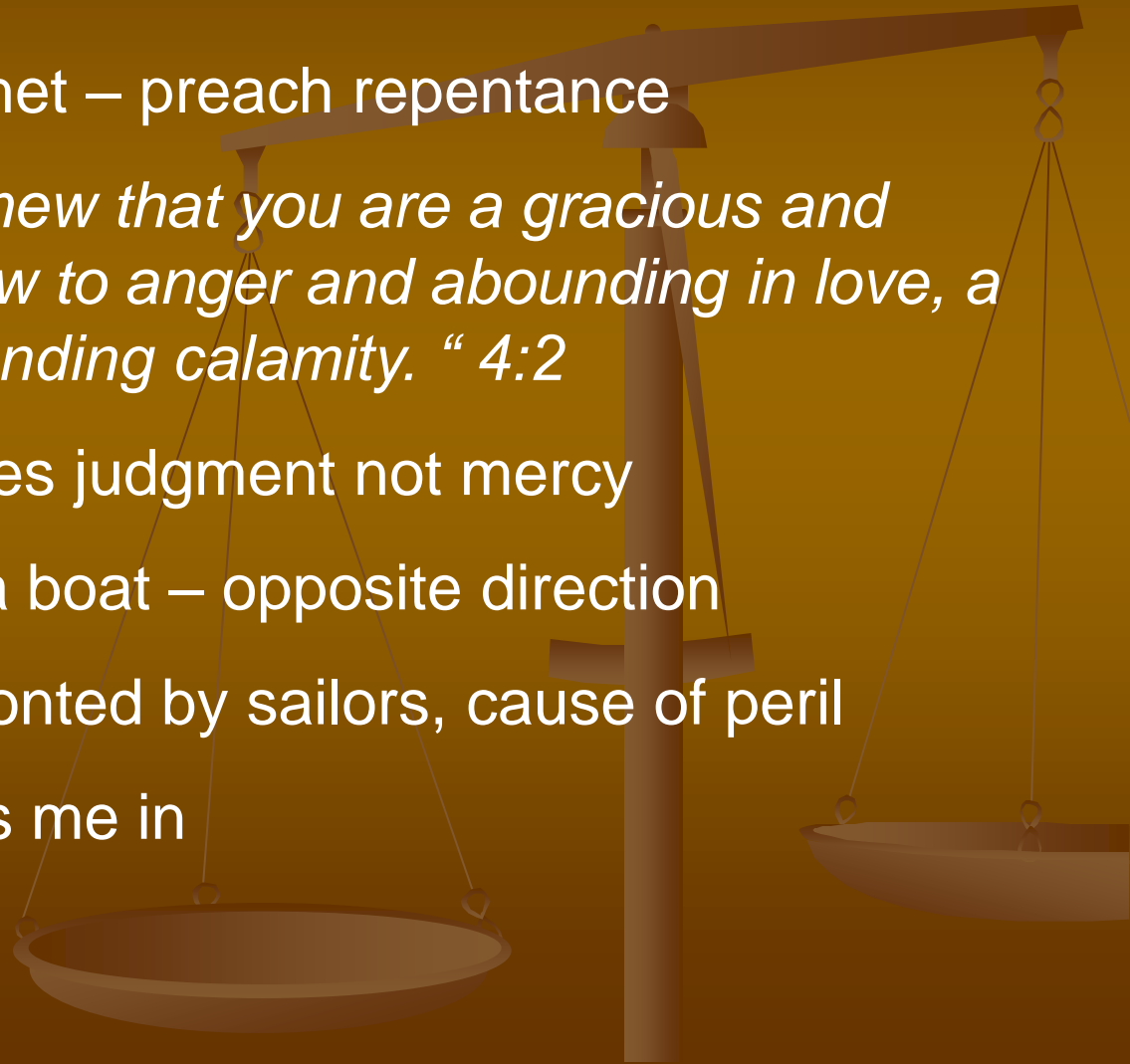
- 8th Century Historical
- Prophet to Northern Tribes – 2 Kings 14-17
- Nineveh actual place – Assyrian Nation
- Enemies of God's people
- Violent – worthy of destruction and death
- Story confirmed by Jesus – Matthew 12, Luke 11



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So Far:

- Word of Lord to prophet – preach repentance
- Prophet knows – *“I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.” 4:2*
- Jonah a bigot – desires judgment not mercy
- runs to coast, grabs a boat – opposite direction
- massive storm, confronted by sailors, cause of peril
- tough solutions – toss me in



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Big Event

-” But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. “ 1:17

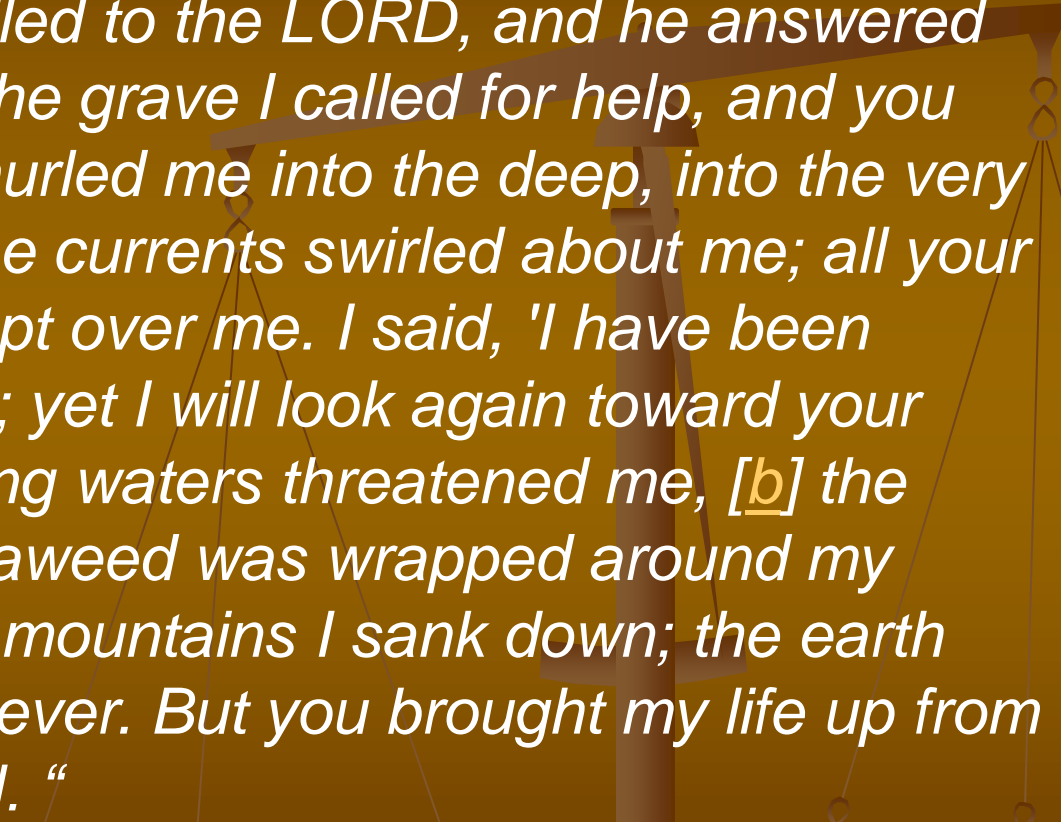
Big Objections:

- Story is Huge – mission, storm, mystical, fish, response
- Prayer written as a Psalm – not an original
- Problem of the fish
 - Jesus – Matthew 12:39ff, Luke 11:29ff

* True account – miracle that God did

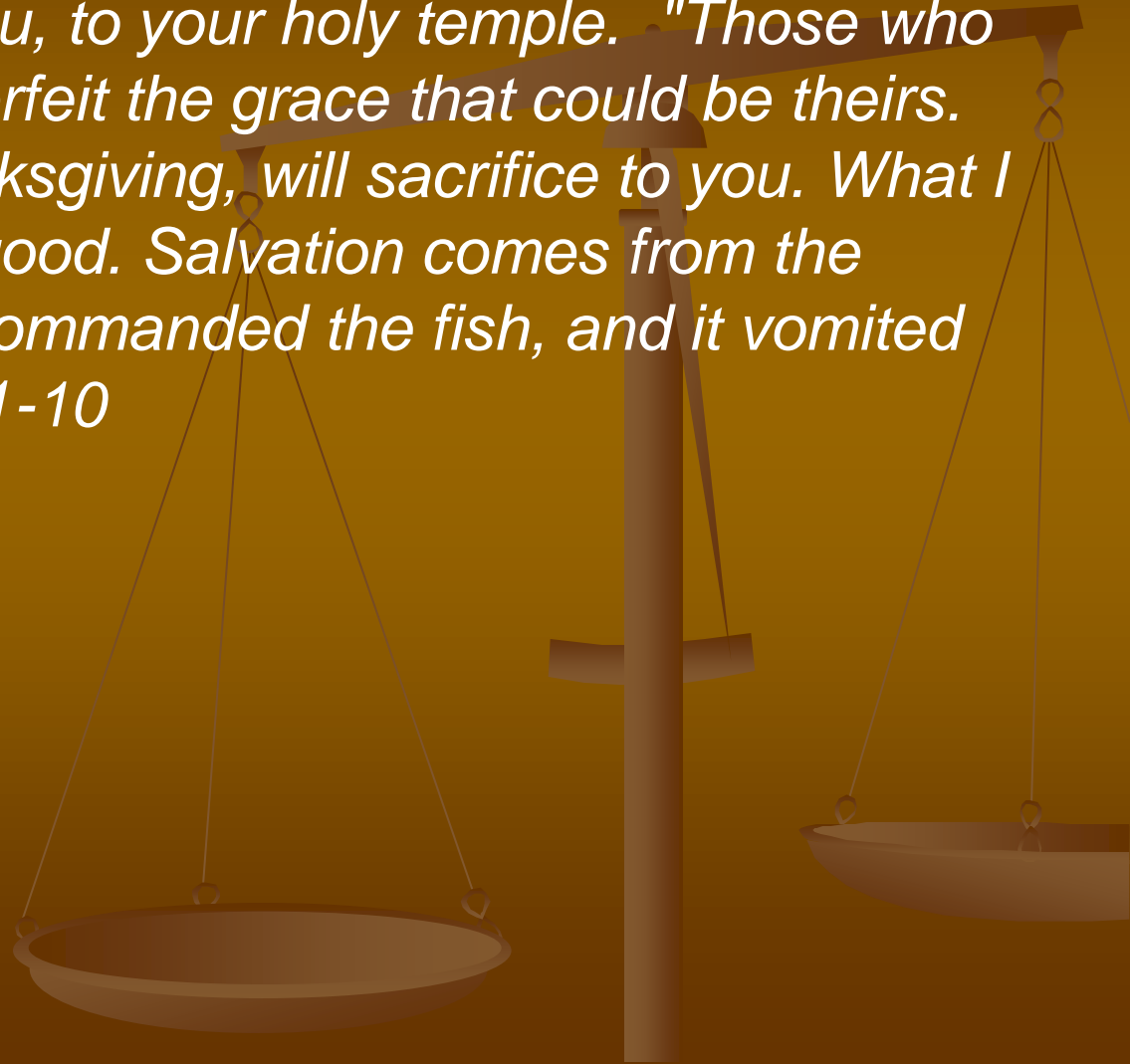
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“From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’ The engulfing waters threatened me, [b] the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God. “

A faint, semi-transparent image of a balance scale is visible in the background. The scale is positioned vertically, with a central pillar and two pans hanging from a horizontal beam. The pans are empty and appear to be in a state of equilibrium. The background is a solid, dark brown color.

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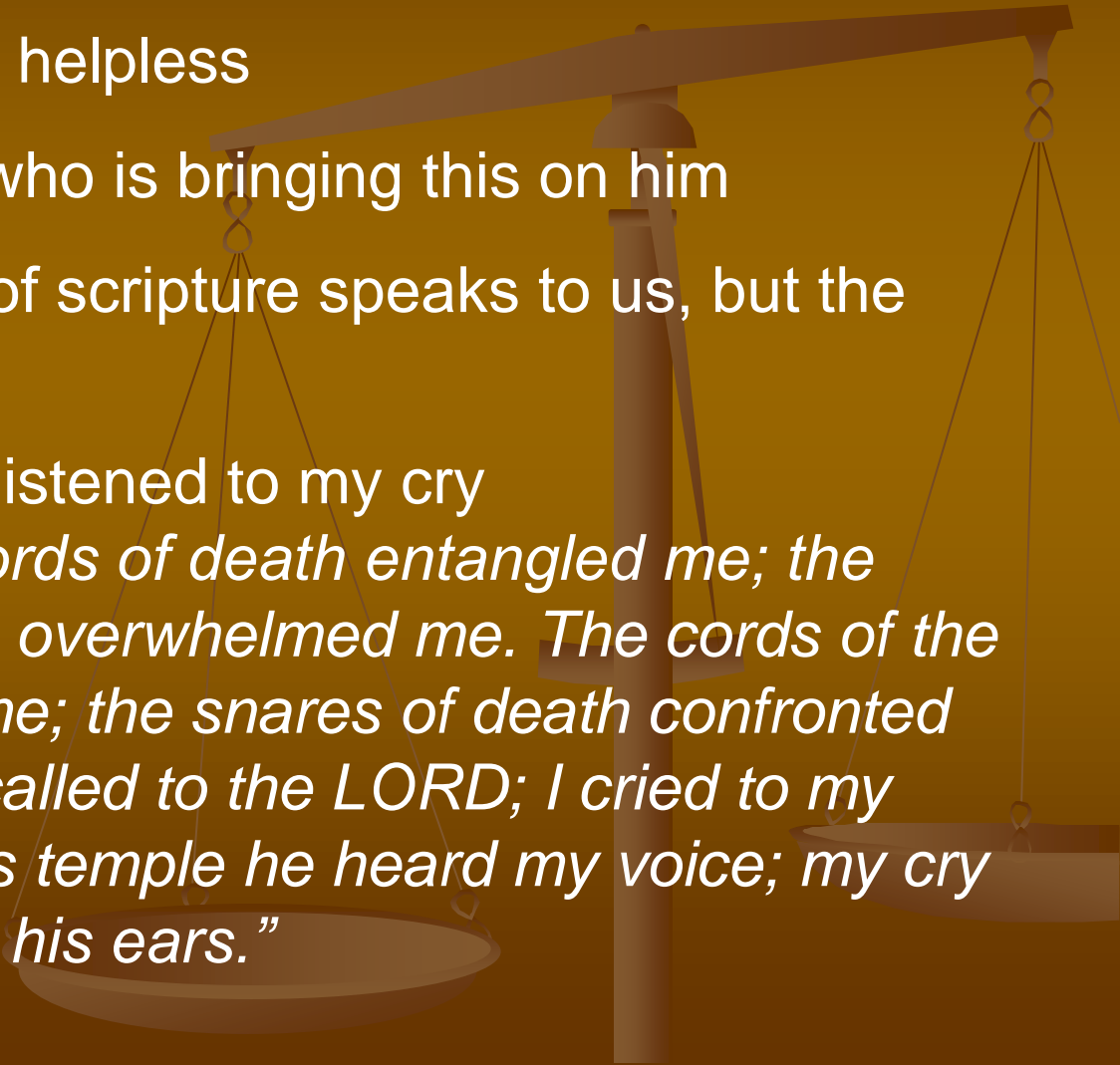
"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land." 2:1-10



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1. Cries of Distress

- sinking in the water – helpless
- recognizes his guilt, who is bringing this on him
- -Athanasius – “Most of scripture speaks to us, but the Psalms speak for us”
- called for help – you listened to my cry
- Psalm 18:4-6 *“The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.”*



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- Psalm 31:22 *"In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!" Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help."*

a) what got Jonah here

- rebellion, refusal, wrong heart, running

b) what is Jonah's situation

- helpless, distress, guilty, under judgment

c) what does Jonah do

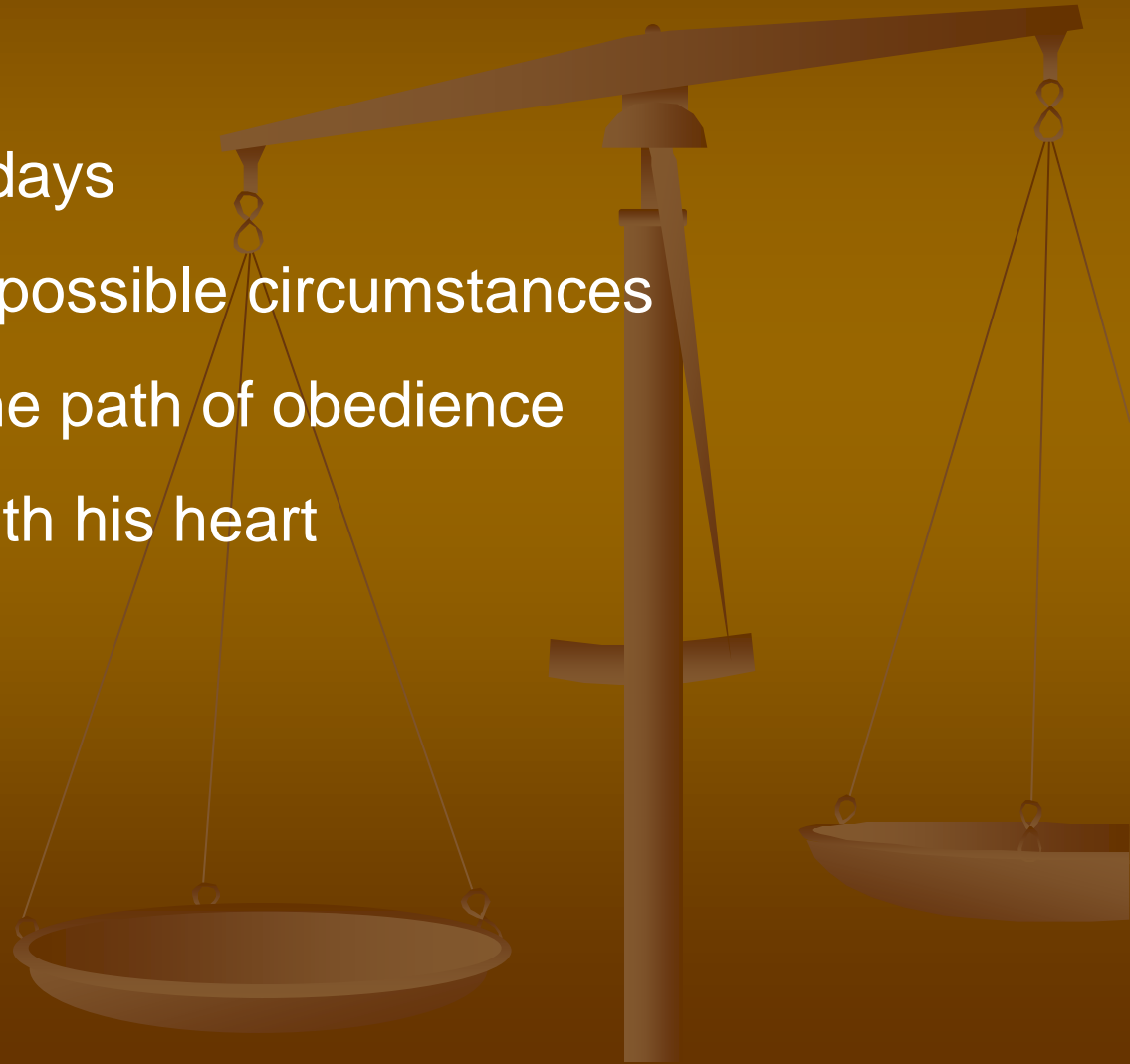
- cry out, recall what He knows about God

- realizes the place of deliverance and help

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d) what does God do

- sends the fish
- stews him for 3 days
- restores from impossible circumstances
- puts Jonah on the path of obedience
- is not finished with his heart



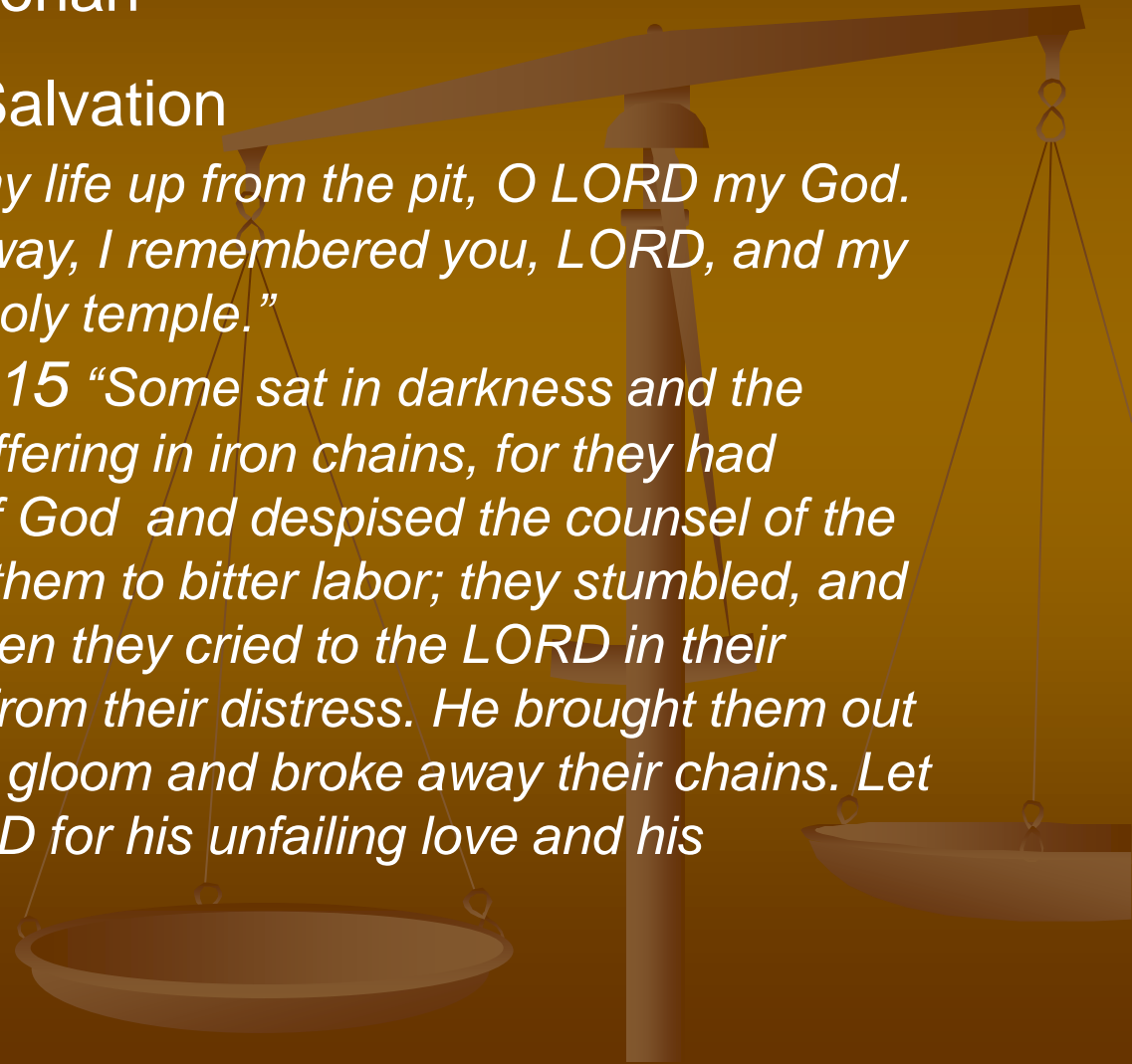
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2. Key Recognition By Jonah

a) the Source of any Salvation

- *“But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God. When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.”*

- *Psalms 107:10-15 “Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High. So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men”*



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b) thanksgiving & obedience

- *“But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD.”*

- Psalm 50:14-15 *“Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”*

- God will do the impossible

- there can only be one response from me

Note – so far – regret, remorse – not repentance

- progression in God’s dealing with Jonah

- not finished with him – but obedience & thanksgiving

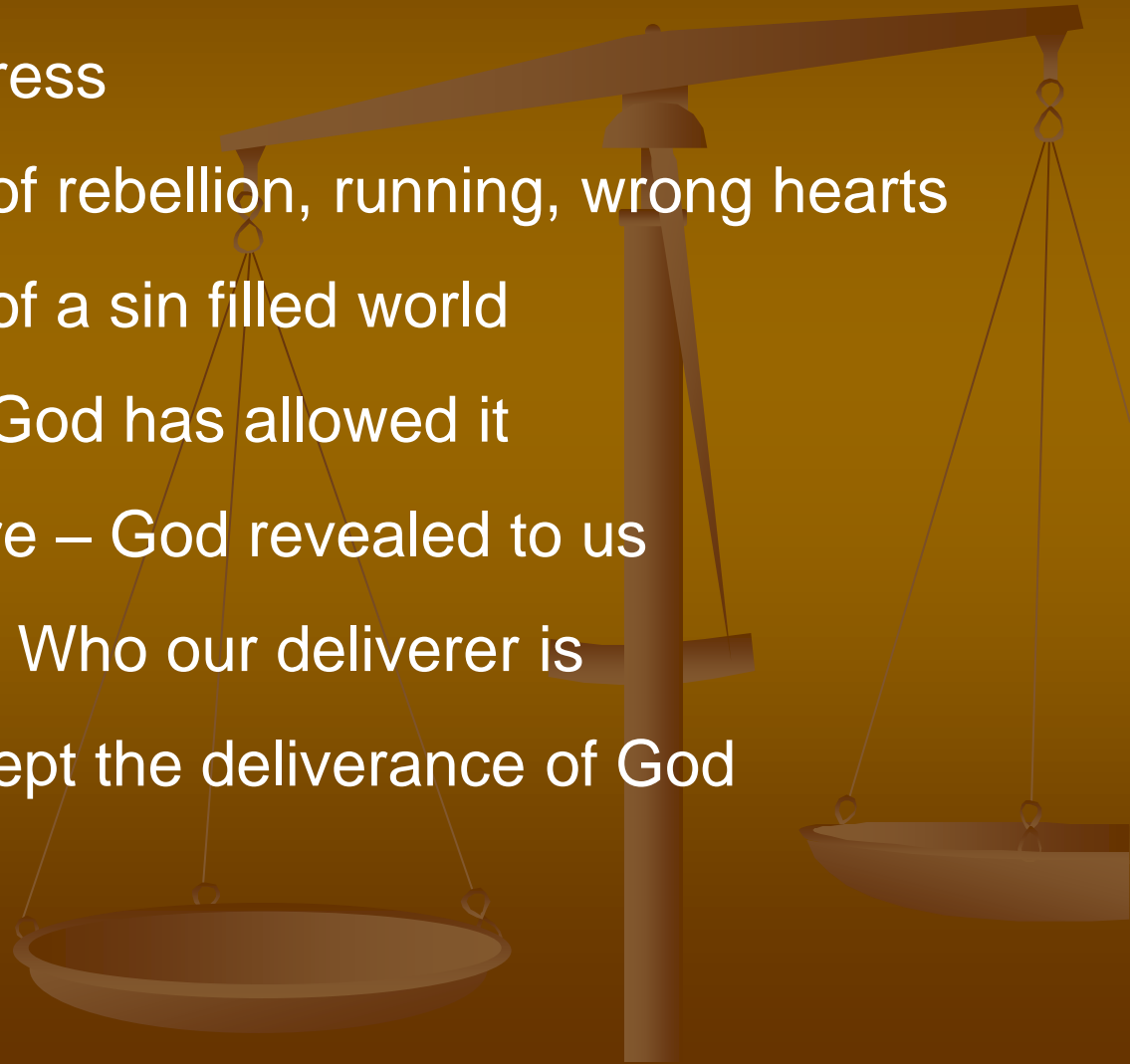
bring arrival on land

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So What

1. We Have Cries of Distress

- sometimes because of rebellion, running, wrong hearts
- sometimes because of a sin filled world
- sometimes because God has allowed it
- *Need to know scripture – God revealed to us
- *Need to understand – Who our deliverer is
- *Need to cry out – accept the deliverance of God



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2. We Need to Practice

- thanksgiving for what God has done
- obedience because of who God is
- willing response to what God reveals

3. God is Merciful and Works In His Time

- respond before landing on the beach
- allow heart change to take time
- recognize the only source of help – accept his path

