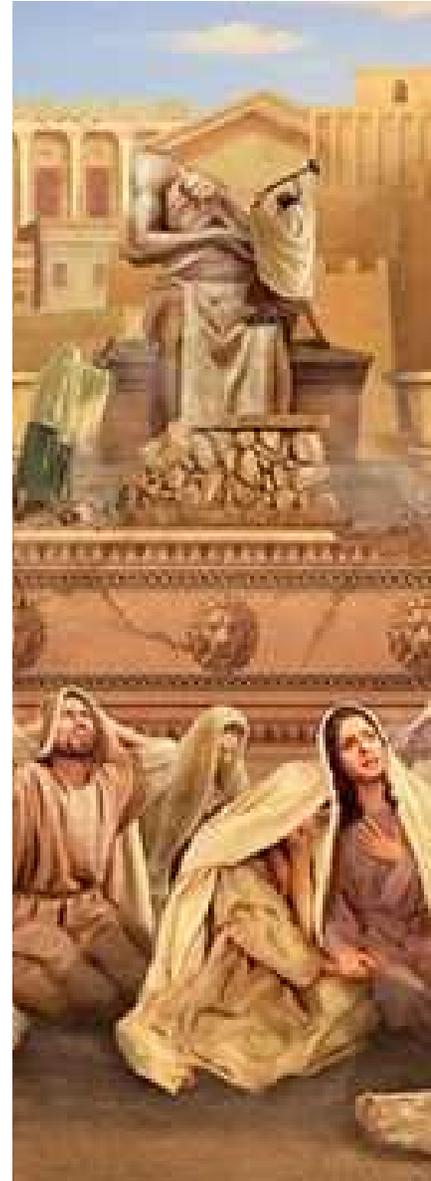




The Wonder of Repentance

Jonah 3:1-10



Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- During this time, God provided Prophets to lead the nation
- **1st Samuel 8:4-5 NIV** 4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. 5 They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- **1st Samuel 8:6-7 NIV** 6 But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- **1st Samuel 8:19-20 NIV** 19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. 20 Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- **1st Samuel 9:2 NIV** 2 Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else.

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- **1st Samuel 13:13-14 NIV** 13 “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”

Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- **1st Samuel 16:6-7 NIV** 6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.” 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- **1st Samuel 16:10-13 NIV** 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” 11 So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- **1st Samuel 16:10-13 NIV** 12 So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.” 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- So, God selects David to be His king – Why?
 - Because David will not make any mistakes?
 - Because David will always do what God desires?
 - Because David understand the need for repentance when his acts are sinful and will trust God when those times come

Israel had been in the Promised Land for more than 250 years before they asked for a king

- The story of Jonah continues
 - Jonah now understands his great need for grace and mercy
 - **Jonah 2:10 NIV** And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.
 - Now what?

Jonah 3:1-10 NIV

- 1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” 3 Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. 4 Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

Jonah 3:1-10 NIV

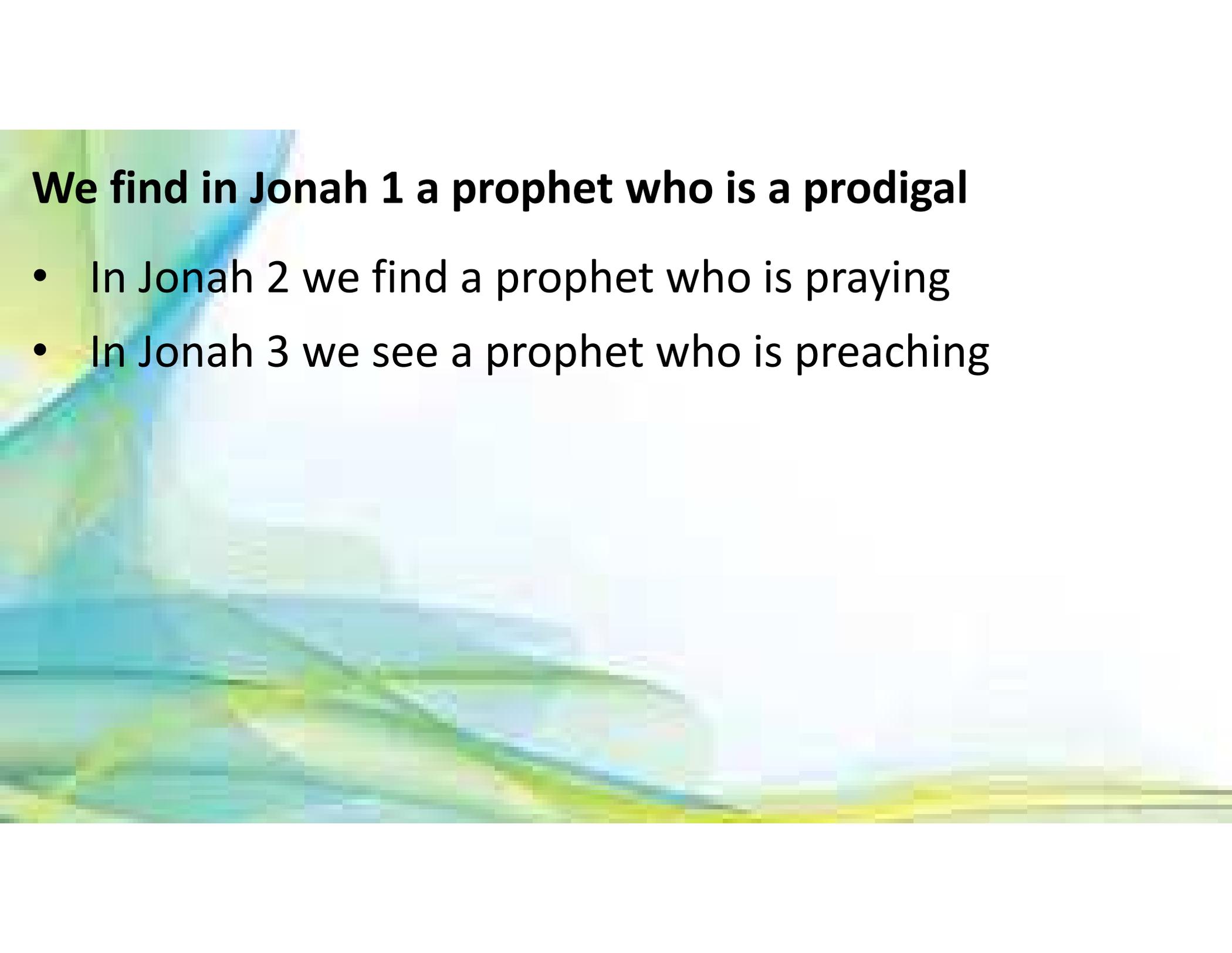
- 5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. 6 When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

Jonah 3:1-10 NIV

- 7 This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

Jonah 3:1-10 NIV

- 10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.



We find in Jonah 1 a prophet who is a prodigal

- In Jonah 2 we find a prophet who is praying
- In Jonah 3 we see a prophet who is preaching

More detail

- Our minds are screaming for more details to answer, “Why did Nineveh repent from a few words spoken by an Israelite prophet?”
- Knowing Jonah’s heart, I don’t think he expanded on the words God gave him

More detail

- There were just 5 words – “Forty days more Nineveh destroyed.”
- There is no indication Jonah told them to repent
- Maybe there was a famine, total eclipse, Jonah looked like he had come out of a fish after 3 days

More detail

- God does not give us more detail because it is not the main point
- It's like he has cleared away all the rubble so we can see the main thing of a picture clearly
- Imagine how easy it is to find Waldo if everything that distracts our eyes is taken away
- The picture is showing God responding to repentant hearts with grace and mercy

God renews His call upon the heart of His prodigal prophet

- The nation of Israel did not enter the promise land when God instructed them to the first time
- They rejected His call upon them and chose to trust their eyes and ears rather than God's promises
- **Numbers 14:4 NIV** And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

God renews His call upon the heart of His prodigal prophet

- When hearing the discipline, they would be under for 40 years, they decided it best to go in
- **Numbers 14:39-40 NIV** 39 When Moses reported this to all the Israelites, they mourned bitterly. 40 Early the next morning they set out for the highest point in the hill country, saying, “Now we are ready to go up to the land the Lord promised. Surely we have sinned!”

God renews His call upon the heart of His prodigal prophet

- This is not repentance but presumption
- Presumption - behavior perceived as arrogant, disrespectful, and transgressing the limits of what is permitted or appropriate

God renews His call upon the heart of His prodigal prophet

- Jonah did not do this **verse 1-2**, “Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”
- Not your message Jonah, but My message to them
- Jonah waited for the call of the Lord to be verified

God renews His call upon the heart of His prodigal prophet

- **Jonah 2:9 NIV** “What I have vowed I will make good.”
 - Jonah vowed to be a prophet of the living God
 - When God said go, Jonah will go
 - What God says to say, Jonah will say

God renews His call upon the heart of His prodigal prophet

- God gave Jonah a second chance to be obedient to Him
 - He gave Moses a second chance
 - David, Peter, John Mark
- And He will do it for every repentant heart as well

God has prepared in advanced the spiritual soil of Nineveh to receive His life-giving word

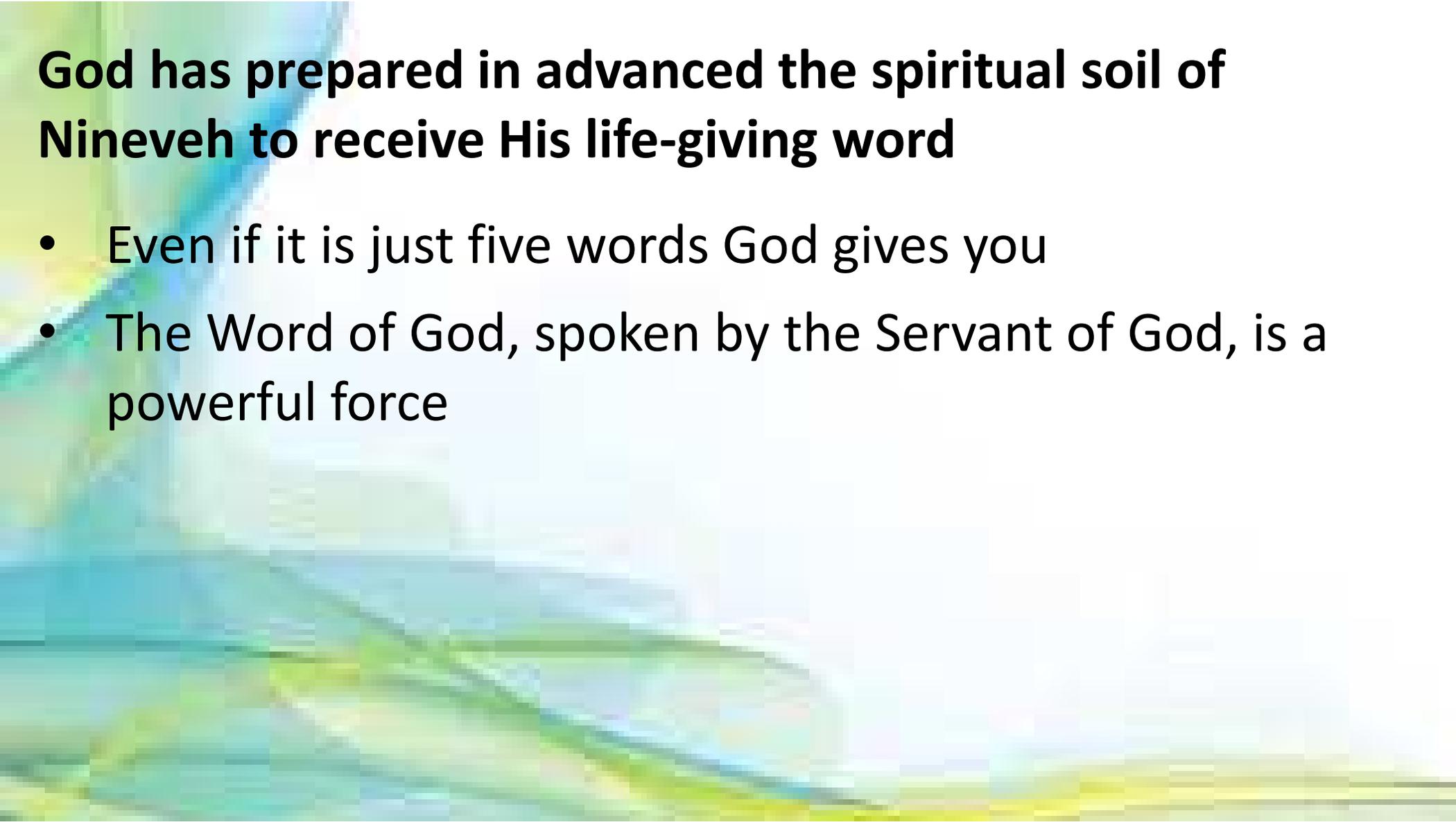
- **John 6:44 NIV**, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them”
 - **John 1:1 NIV**, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
 - So, no one comes to the Word of God unless they are drawn by God

God has prepared in advanced the spiritual soil of Nineveh to receive His life-giving word

- **Hebrews 4:12-13 NIV**, “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

God has prepared in advanced the spiritual soil of Nineveh to receive His life-giving word

- **Hebrews 4:12-13 AMP**, “For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

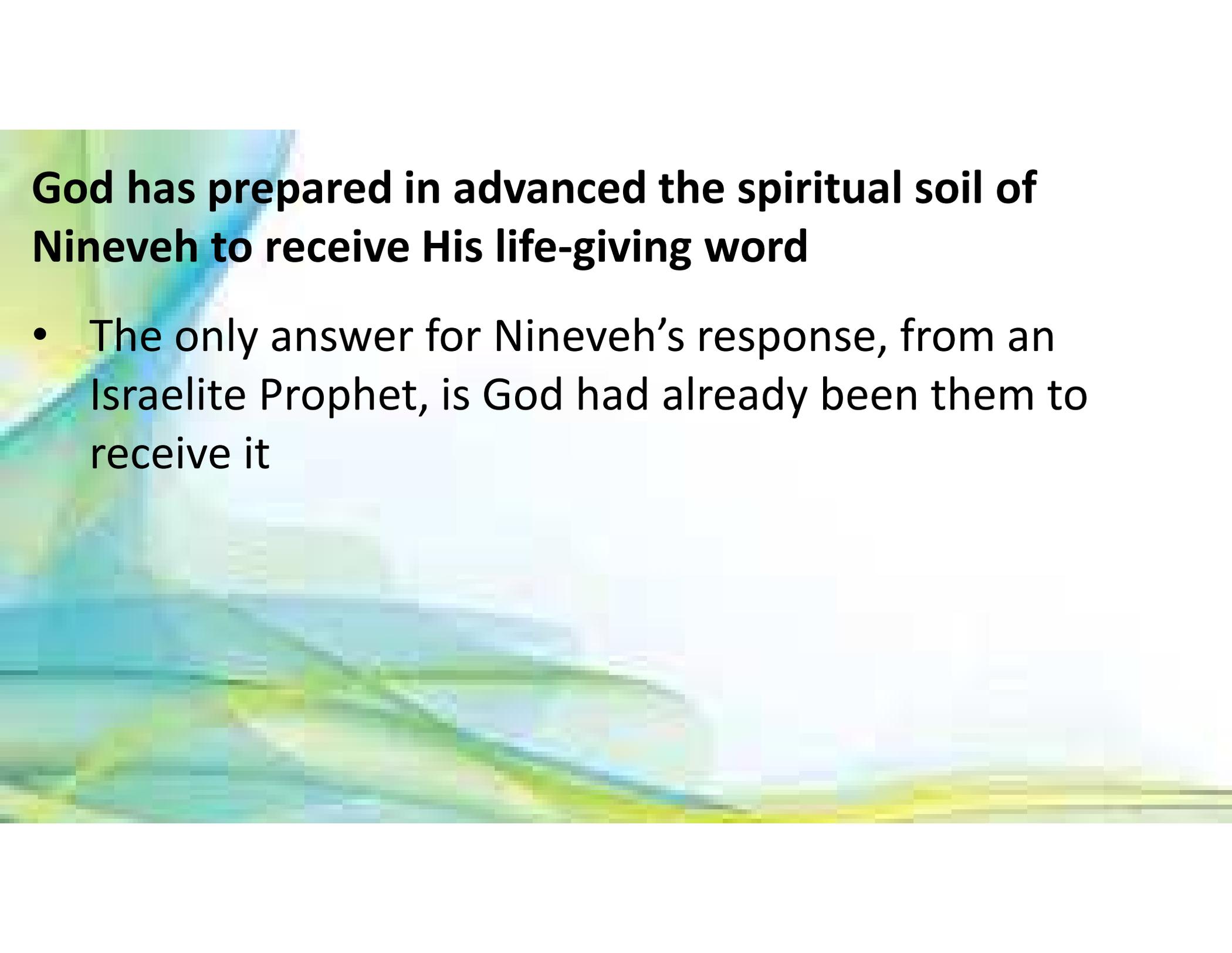


God has prepared in advanced the spiritual soil of Nineveh to receive His life-giving word

- Even if it is just five words God gives you
- The Word of God, spoken by the Servant of God, is a powerful force

God has prepared in advanced the spiritual soil of Nineveh to receive His life-giving word

- **Matthew 10:17-20 NIV** 17 Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. 18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20 for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.



God has prepared in advanced the spiritual soil of Nineveh to receive His life-giving word

- The only answer for Nineveh's response, from an Israelite Prophet, is God had already been them to receive it

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- **Vs. 5**, “The Ninevites believed God.”, One of the most amazing sentences in all scripture
- Jonah’s words cut against the grain in their society
- You are accountable to God for the life you have been living
- You are not OK with God

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- **Vs. 8-9**, “But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- How did they know what God would require?
 - None of their other gods would respond like this
- They somehow knew the God is Israel is compassionate, overflowing in grace and mercy

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- The whole city showed signs of repentance, even the king
- The covering of animals was probably those that were used in sacrificing to other gods
- We are so repentant even we repent of using our animals like this, they are now dedicated to You

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- Repentance begins when we come off the throne of our lives
- Even the king came off his throne, set aside his rights and royalty then humbled himself before God
- There is a change in our hearts that produces the fruit of righteousness (repentance)

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- We identify our evil ways and violence before God
- Men who were infamous for their cruelty now are humbled
- We turn from our previous way of thinking and responding and say “Yes” to God

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- **Vs. 10** When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.
- It wasn't what they did that cause God to respond with grace and mercy
- “that they had turned away from their evil lives”

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- What happened in their heart became evident in their lives
- God responded with grace and mercy to these cruel, Gentile people
- Will He not do this for you are well?

God does not look at the actions but the heart in responding to repentance

- The prodigal needed to return to his father and seek forgiveness
- The father was looking for him
- The father restored this dirty, sinful man to the position of sonship
- We have a ring and robe waiting for us as well

Song, “What the world needs now is love, sweet love.”

- Chorus

What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love
No not just for some, but for everyone

- The only answer to this cold and heartless world is repentance toward God leading to grace and mercy
- Then and only then will He bring “love, sweet love” into our lives



The Wonder of Repentance

Jonah 3:1-10

