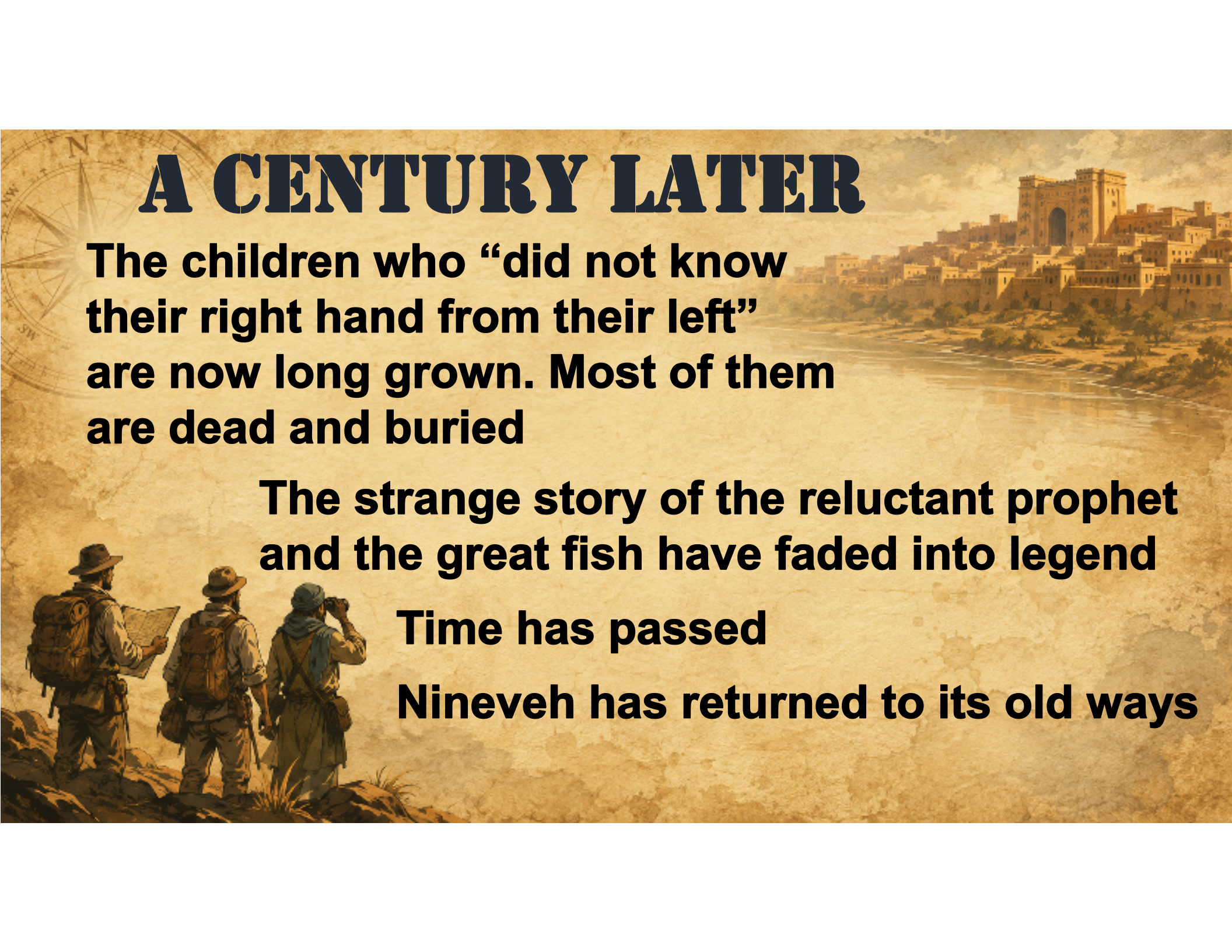


FINDING NINEVEH



The background is a sepia-toned illustration. In the upper right, a large, ancient city with a prominent tower sits atop a hill. A river or body of water flows in the middle ground. In the lower left, three explorers in hats and backpacks stand on a rocky outcrop, looking towards the city. One holds a map, another uses binoculars. A faint compass rose is visible in the upper left corner.

A CENTURY LATER

**The children who “did not know
their right hand from their left”
are now long grown. Most of them
are dead and buried**

**The strange story of the reluctant prophet
and the great fish have faded into legend**

Time has passed

Nineveh has returned to its old ways

NAHUM

663–612 BC

You Can't Get Away with Sin Forever

...hot event. A century before Nahum, Jeru...
...capital city—Nineveh, Assyria's cap...
...soon forgot, and another peo...
...slow to anger, but tota...
...readiness of God

1 The burden against
the book of the vision
against the city of blood.

God's wrath on the
God is jealous
avenges
The Lord
The Lord
His
And H

3 The

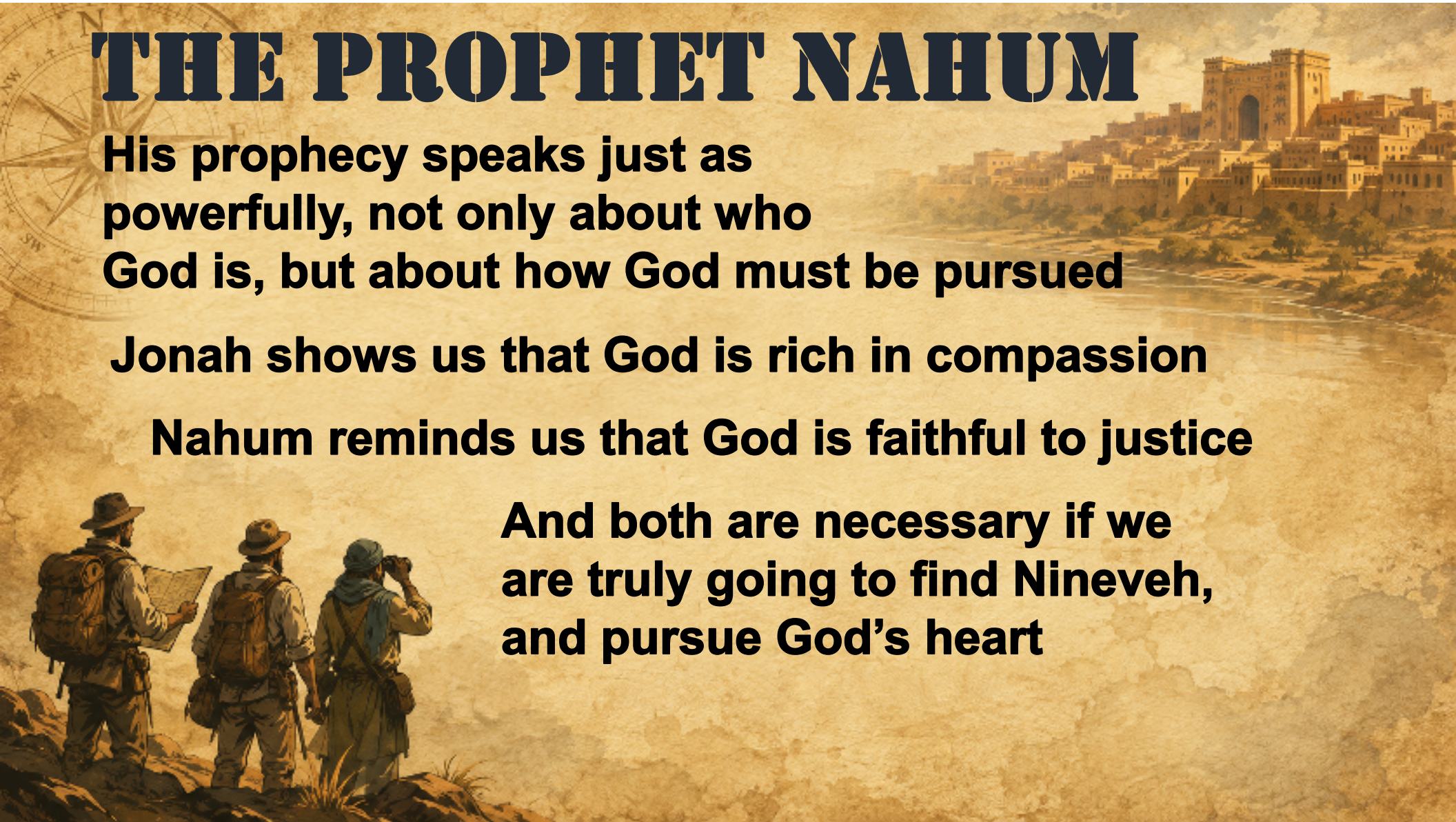
THE PROPHET NAHUM

His prophecy speaks just as powerfully, not only about who God is, but about how God must be pursued

Jonah shows us that God is rich in compassion

Nahum reminds us that God is faithful to justice

And both are necessary if we are truly going to find Nineveh, and pursue God's heart



THE MESSAGE TO NINEVEH

**A prophecy concerning Nineveh.
The book of the vision of Nahum
the Elkoshite.**

Nineveh is no longer repentant

Nahum 1:1

It is Violent, Brutal, Arrogant, and Oppressive

**Known throughout the ancient world
for cruelty and bloodshed**



THE MESSAGE TO NINEVEH

**This is not repentance
forgotten by accident**

**God's patience should never be
mistaken for God's permission**

God Warned God Waited

God Showed Mercy

**But mercy rejected does
not remain mercy forever**



THE MESSAGE TO NINEVEH

“The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.”

Nahum 1:3

When God defines Himself in Nahum, He displays His anger not over a plant, but toward a people (Nahum 1:2)

He demonstrates His power (Nahum 1:4-6)

He also declares His mercy (Nahum 1:7)



THE MESSAGE TO NINEVEH

God is not indifferent to evil

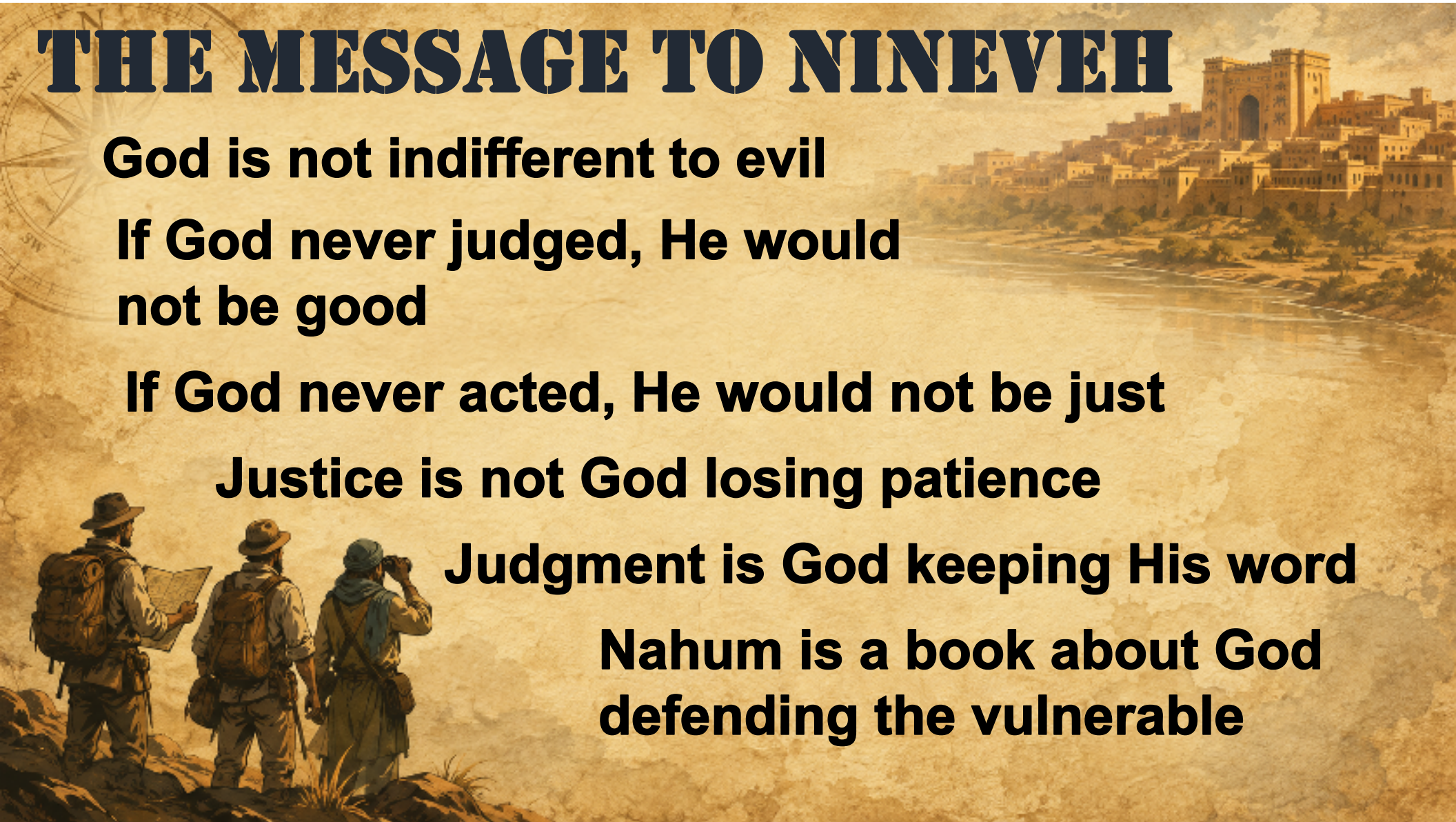
**If God never judged, He would
not be good**

If God never acted, He would not be just

Justice is not God losing patience

Judgment is God keeping His word

**Nahum is a book about God
defending the vulnerable**



MERCY FOUND BUT NOT FORMED

As we read Nahum, there is a deep irony we need to notice

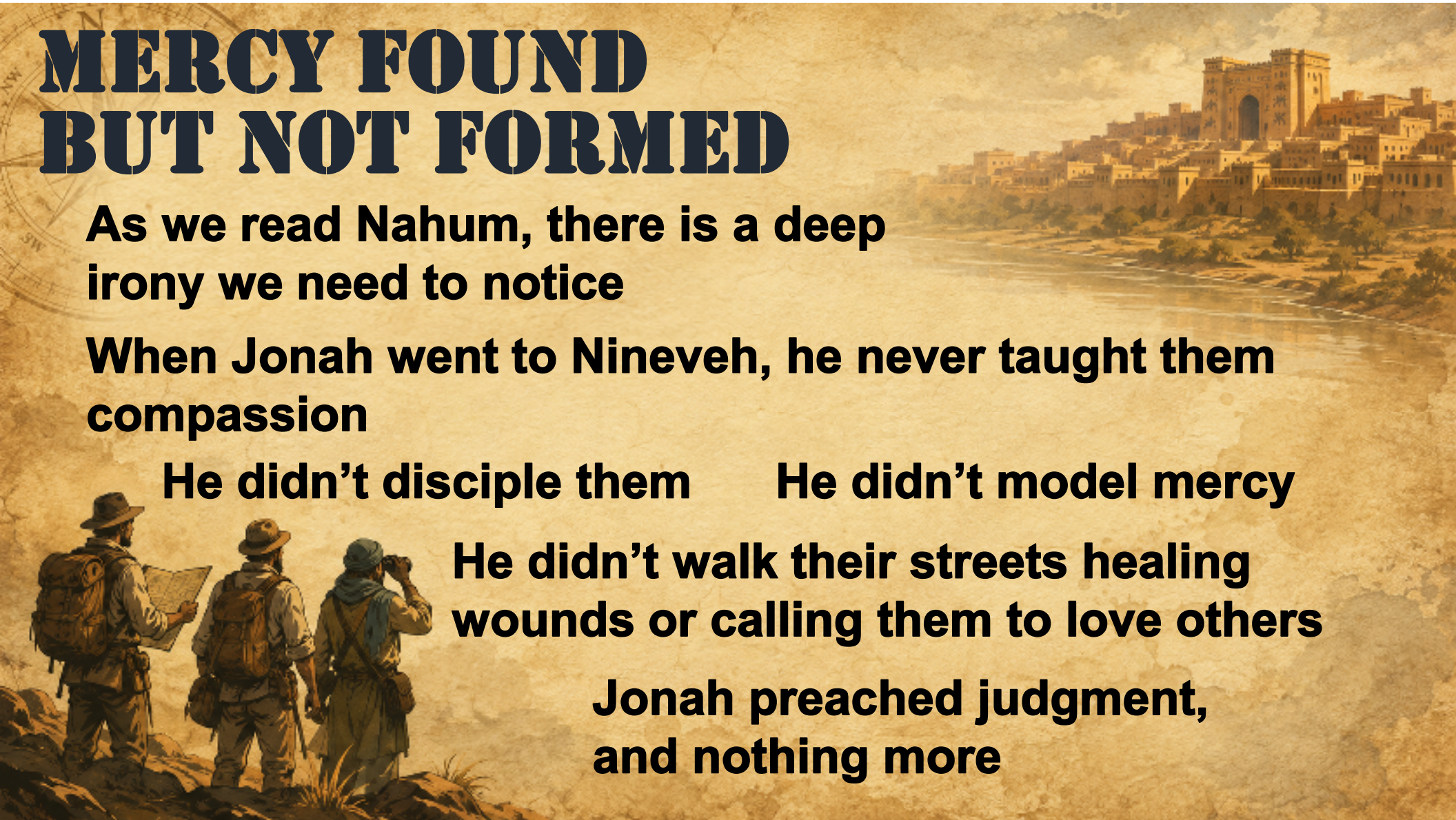
When Jonah went to Nineveh, he never taught them compassion

He didn't disciple them

He didn't model mercy

He didn't walk their streets healing wounds or calling them to love others

Jonah preached judgment, and nothing more



MERCY FOUND BUT NOT FORMED

**The people of Nineveh found
mercy anyway**

They humbled themselves

They fasted and prayed

**They turned from
violence, at least
for a time**

**But mercy that is received and
never rooted eventually withers**



MERCY FOUND BUT NOT FORMED

Sometimes mercy doesn't take root because we treat grace like an event instead of a formation

We remember the moment we accepted, but we never let that mercy teach us how to treat others

We sing about grace but we're harsh with people who struggle differently than we do



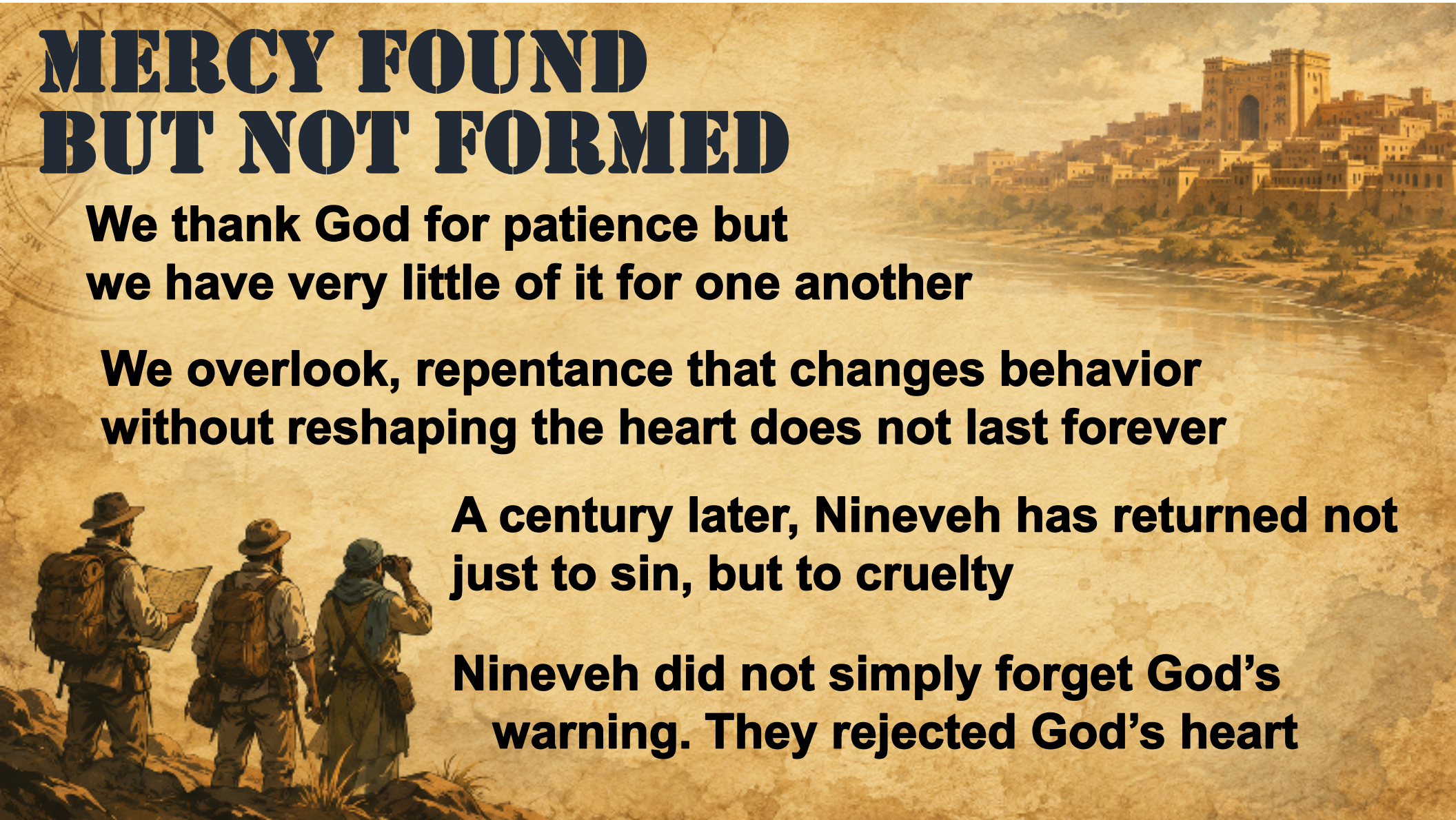
MERCY FOUND BUT NOT FORMED

**We thank God for patience but
we have very little of it for one another**

**We overlook, repentance that changes behavior
without reshaping the heart does not last forever**

**A century later, Nineveh has returned not
just to sin, but to cruelty**

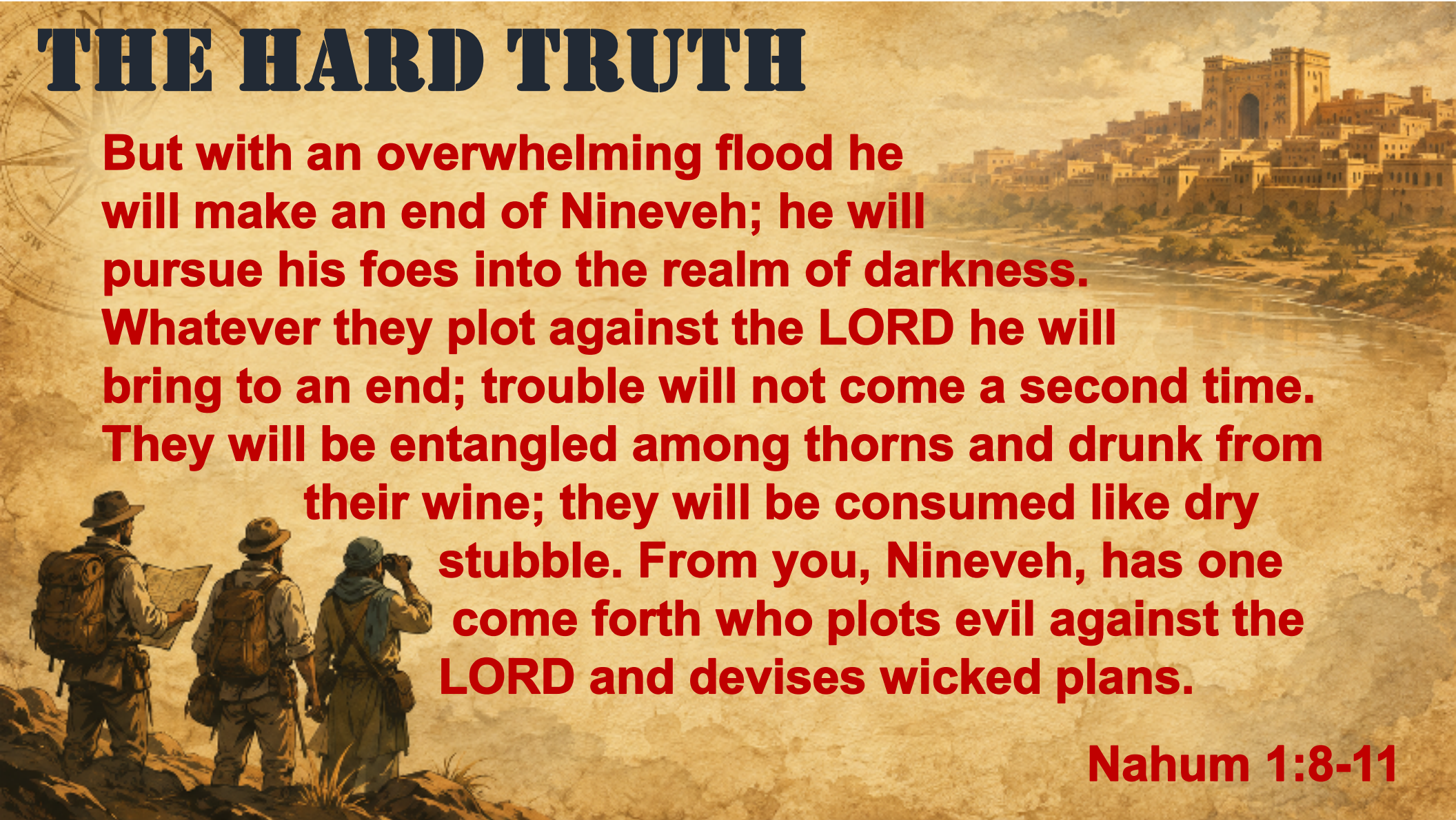
**Nineveh did not simply forget God's
warning. They rejected God's heart**



THE HARD TRUTH

But with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness. Whatever they plot against the LORD he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time. They will be entangled among thorns and drunk from their wine; they will be consumed like dry stubble. From you, Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the LORD and devises wicked plans.

Nahum 1:8-11



THE HARD TRUTH

**There is a moment when refusal
hardens into rebellion**

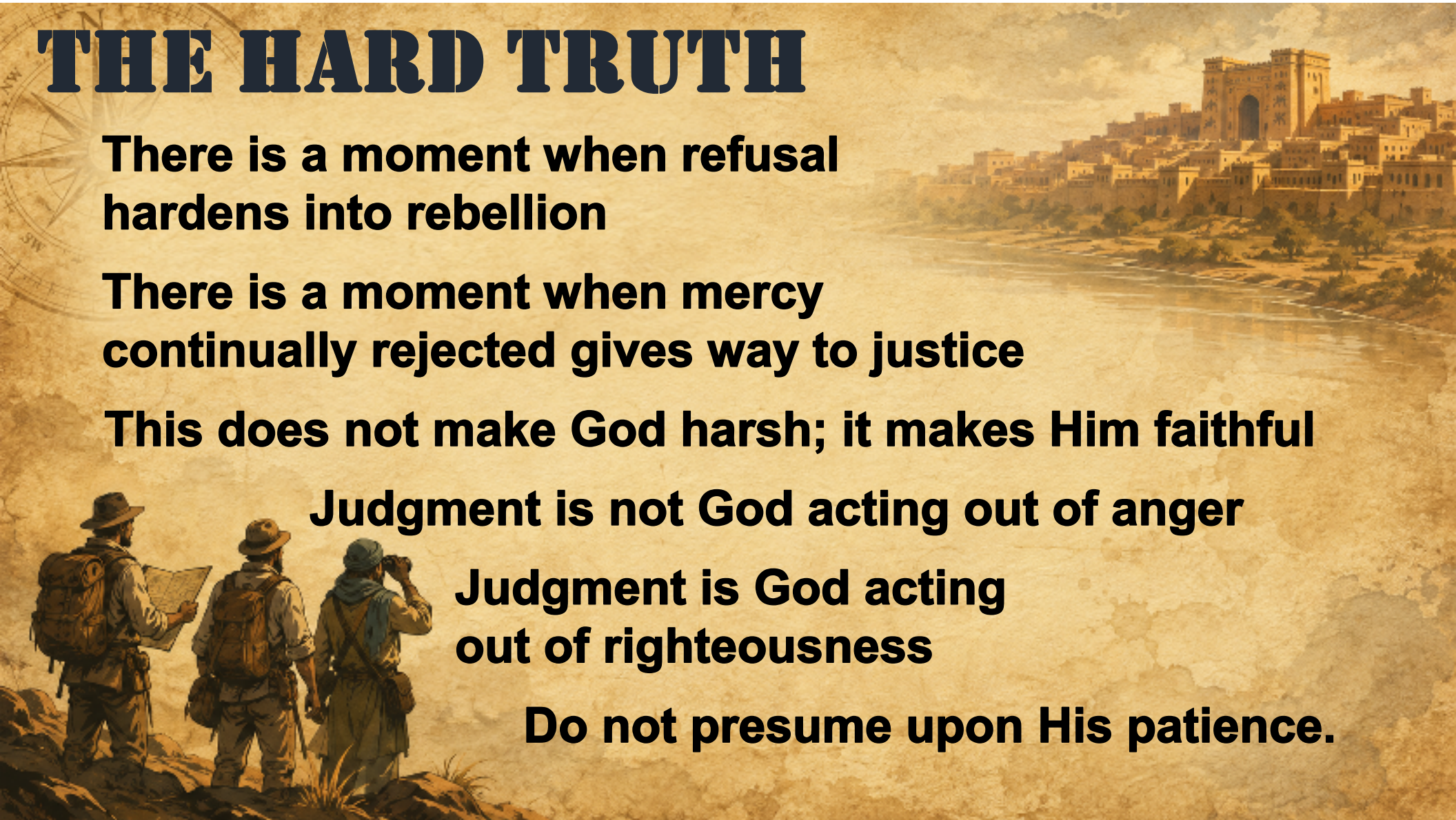
**There is a moment when mercy
continually rejected gives way to justice**

This does not make God harsh; it makes Him faithful

Judgment is not God acting out of anger

**Judgment is God acting
out of righteousness**

Do not presume upon His patience.



FINDING NINEVEH TODAY

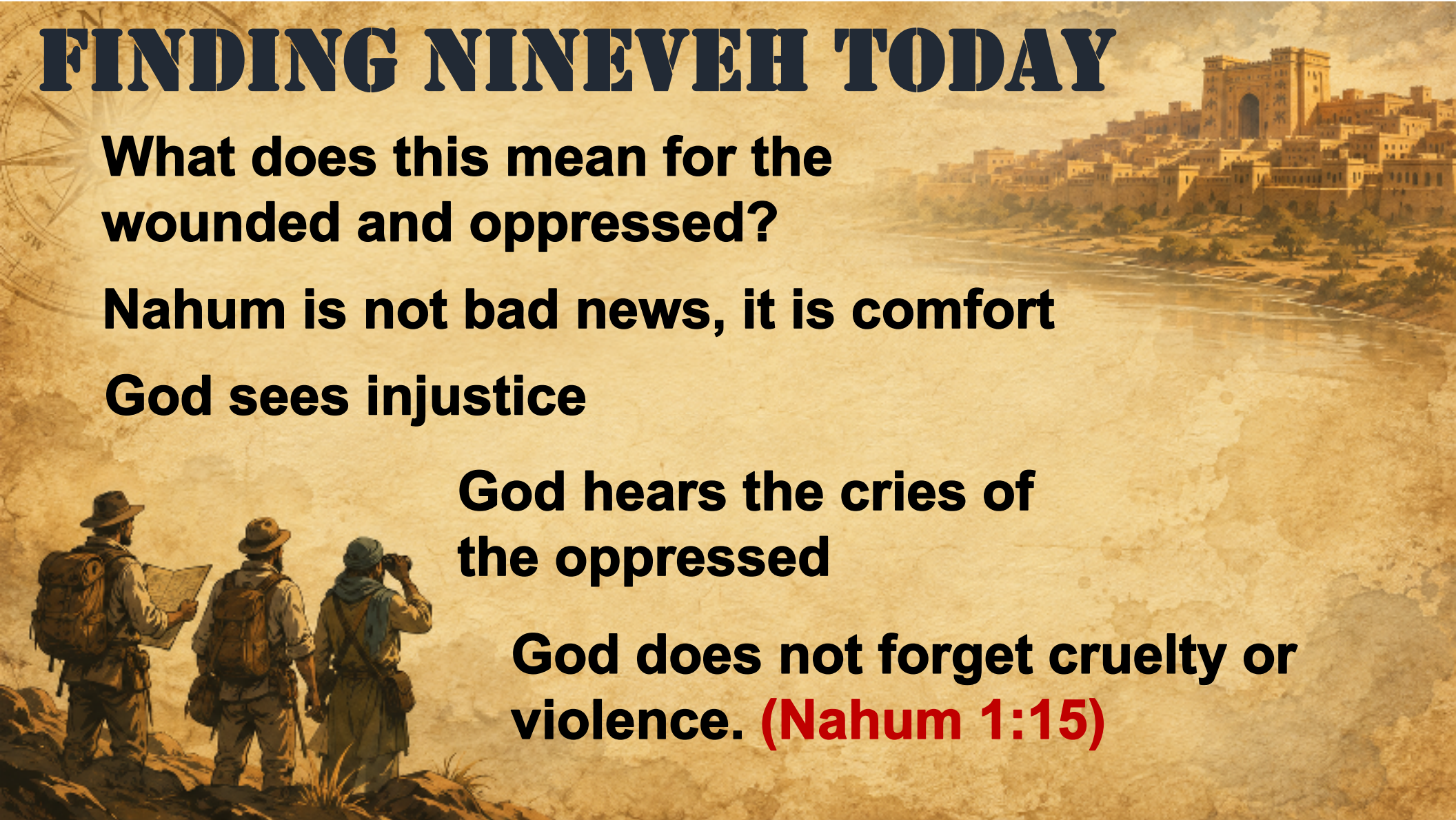
What does this mean for the wounded and oppressed?

Nahum is not bad news, it is comfort

God sees injustice

God hears the cries of the oppressed

God does not forget cruelty or violence. (Nahum 1:15)



FINDING NINEVEH TODAY

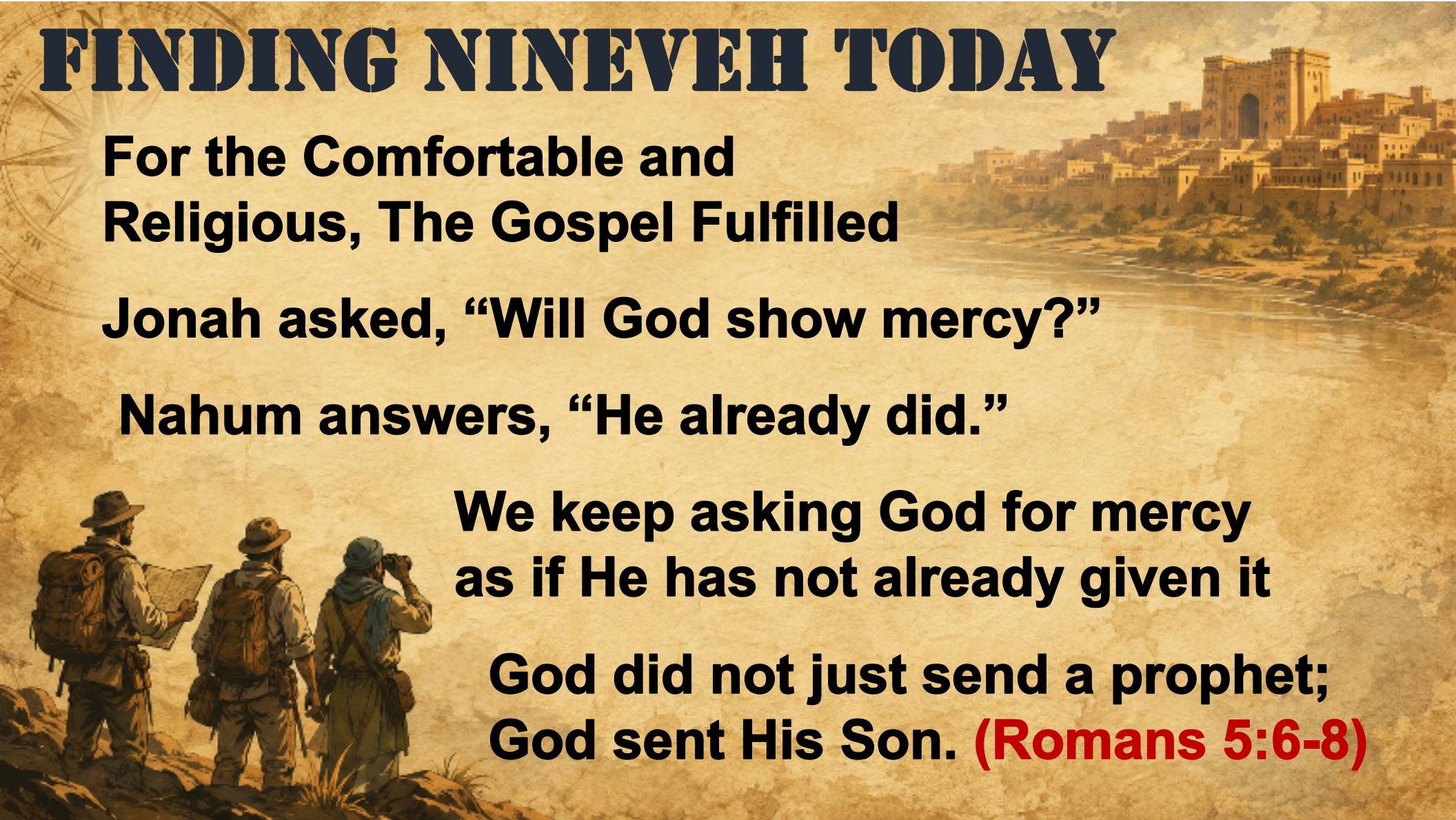
**For the Comfortable and
Religious, The Gospel Fulfilled**

Jonah asked, “Will God show mercy?”

Nahum answers, “He already did.”

**We keep asking God for mercy
as if He has not already given it**

**God did not just send a prophet;
God sent His Son. (Romans 5:6-8)**



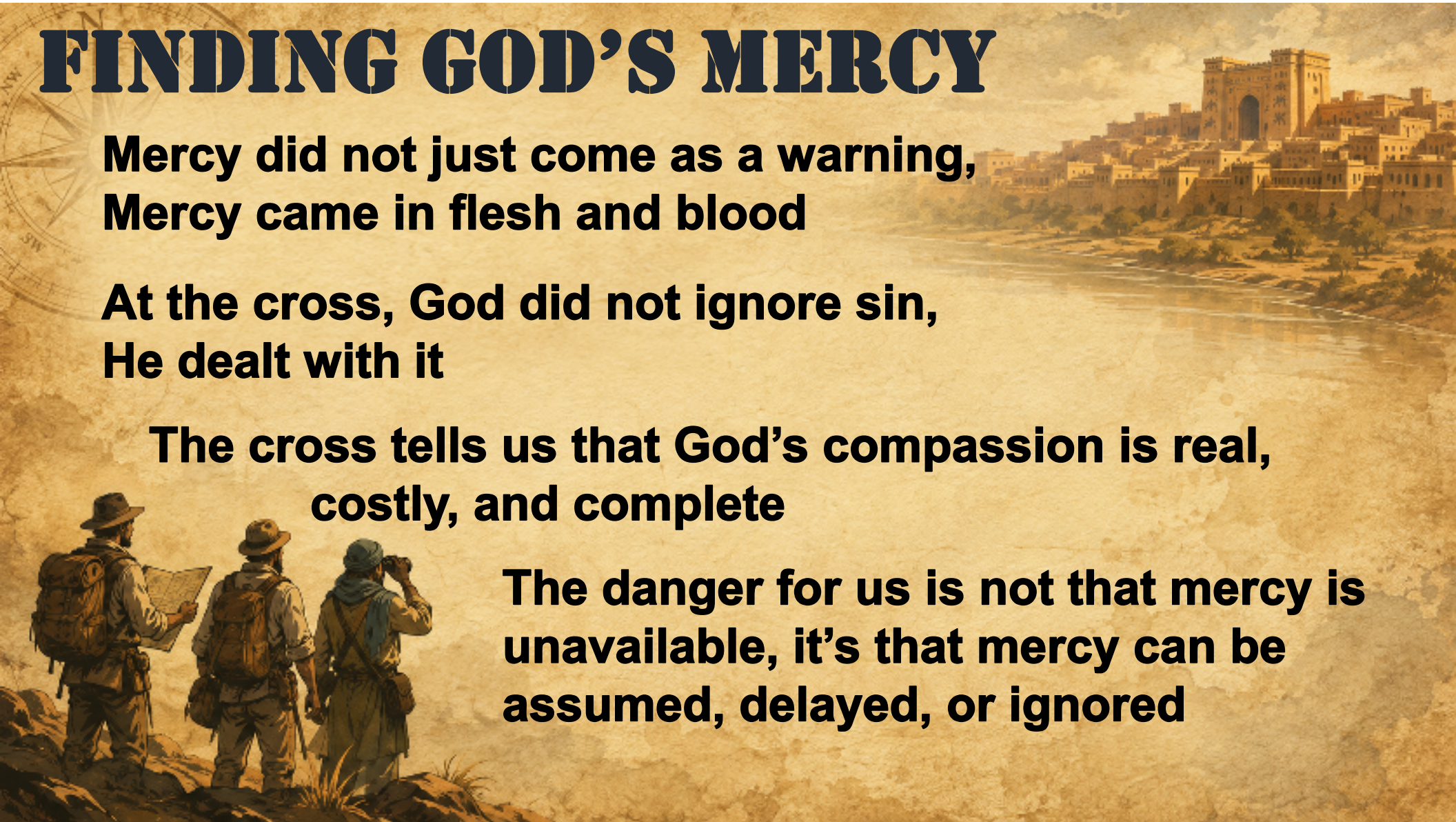
FINDING GOD'S MERCY

**Mercy did not just come as a warning,
Mercy came in flesh and blood**

**At the cross, God did not ignore sin,
He dealt with it**

**The cross tells us that God's compassion is real,
costly, and complete**

**The danger for us is not that mercy is
unavailable, it's that mercy can be
assumed, delayed, or ignored**



FINDING NINEVEH

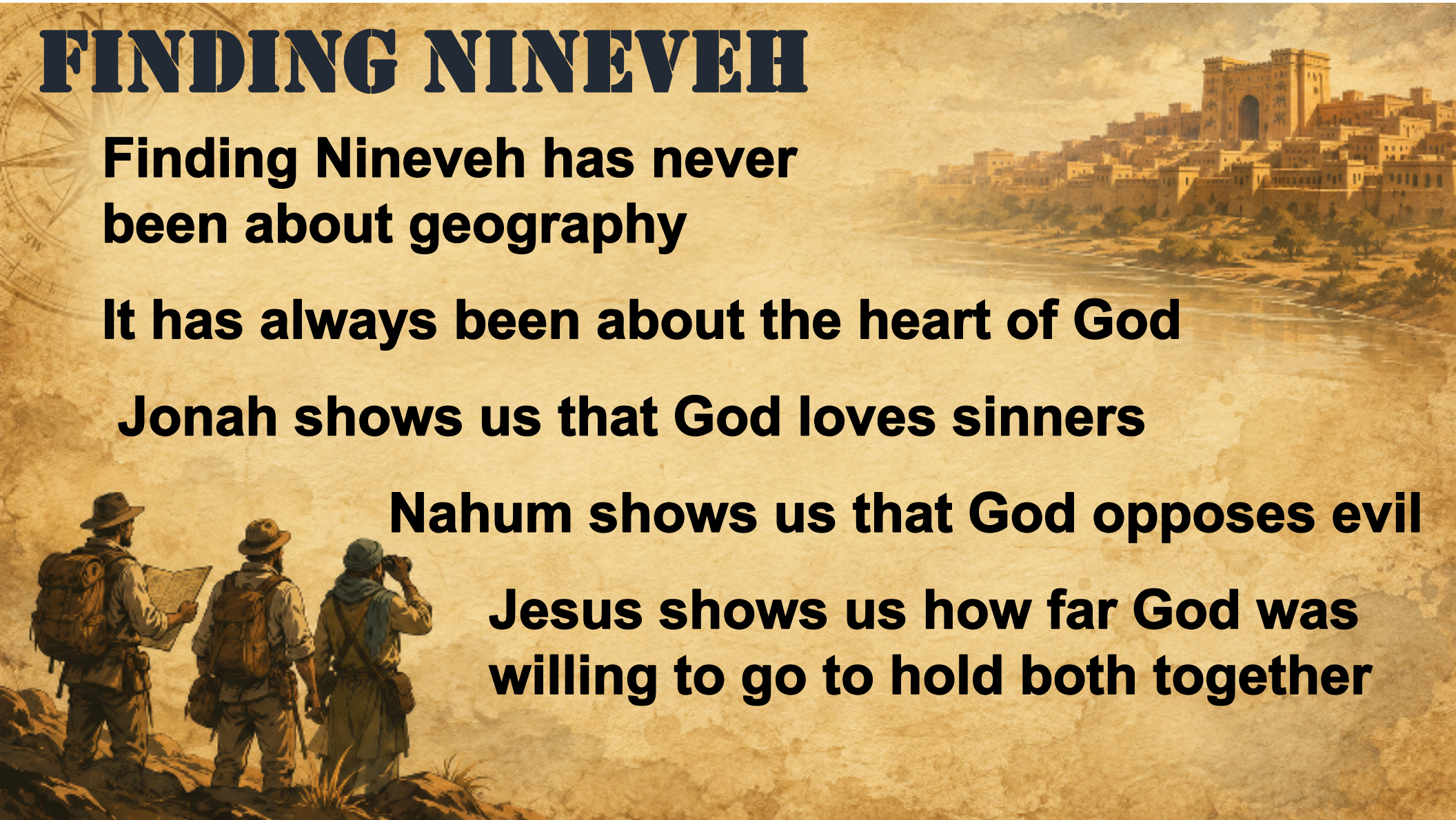
**Finding Nineveh has never
been about geography**

It has always been about the heart of God

Jonah shows us that God loves sinners

Nahum shows us that God opposes evil

**Jesus shows us how far God was
willing to go to hold both together**



FINDING NINEVEH

