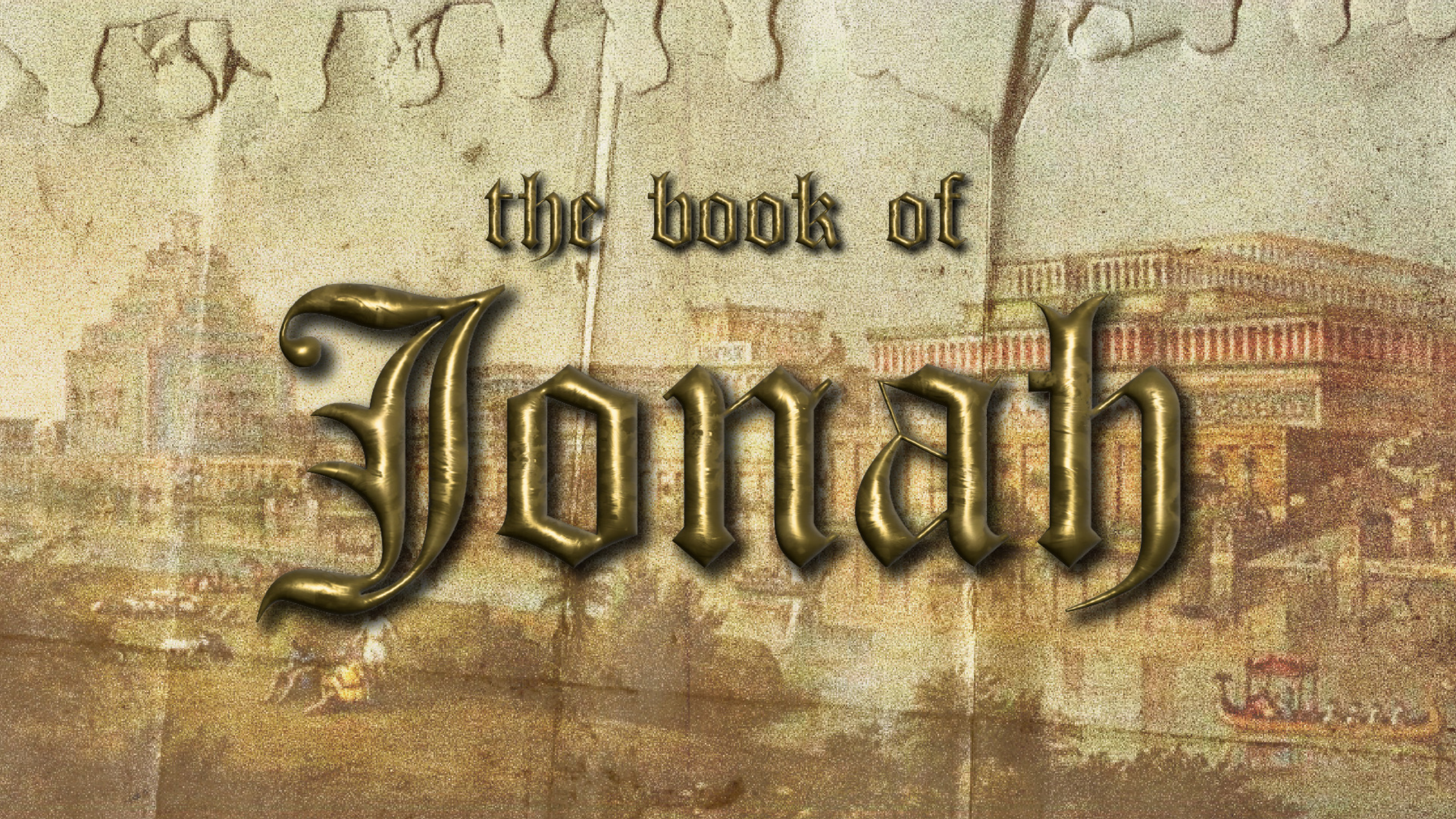


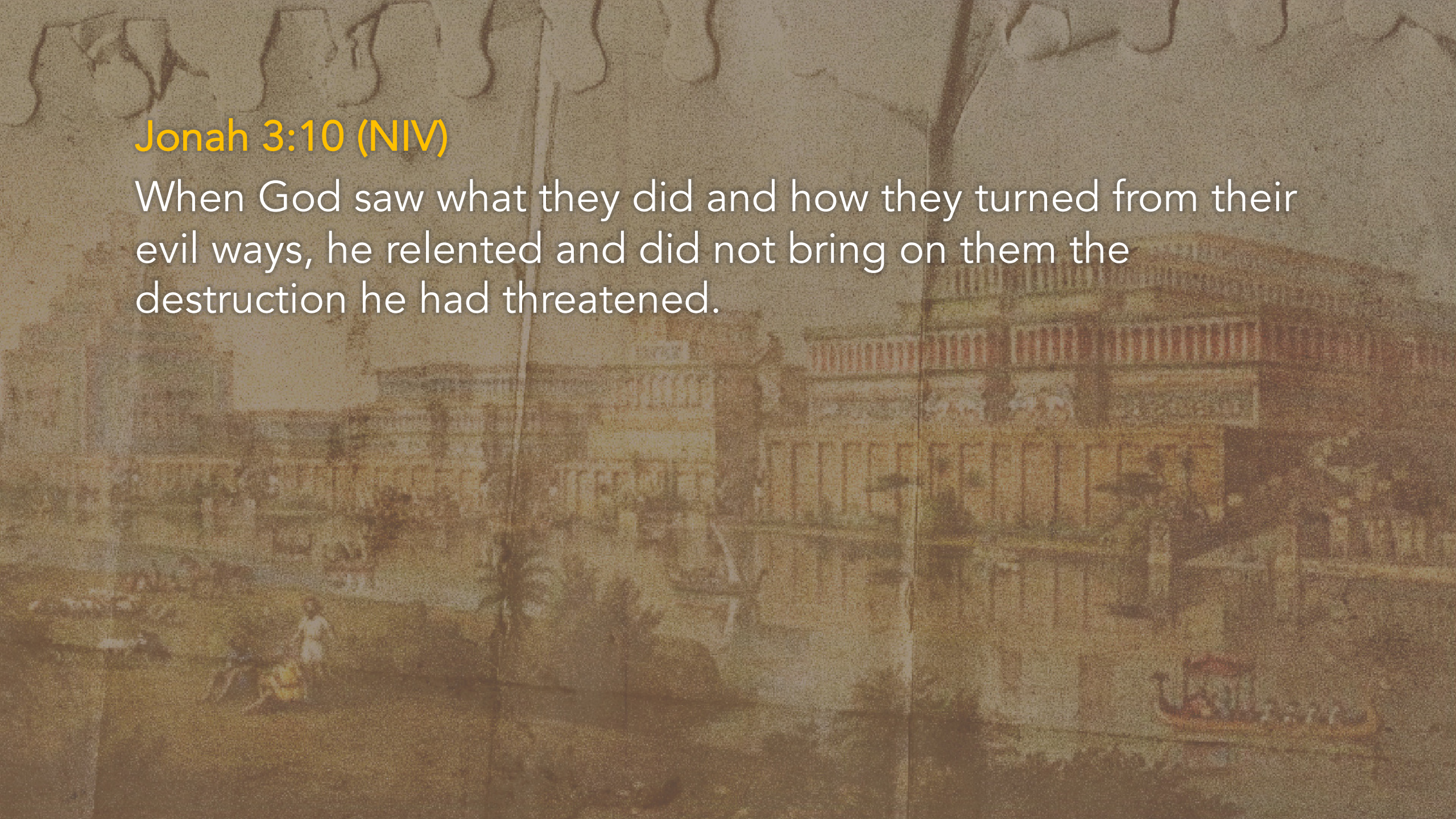
the book of

Jonah



Jonah 3:10 (NIV)

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.



Jonah 4:1–11 (NIV)

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.
²He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Jonah 4:1–11 (NIV)

⁵Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When 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, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

Jonah 4:1–11 (NIV)

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

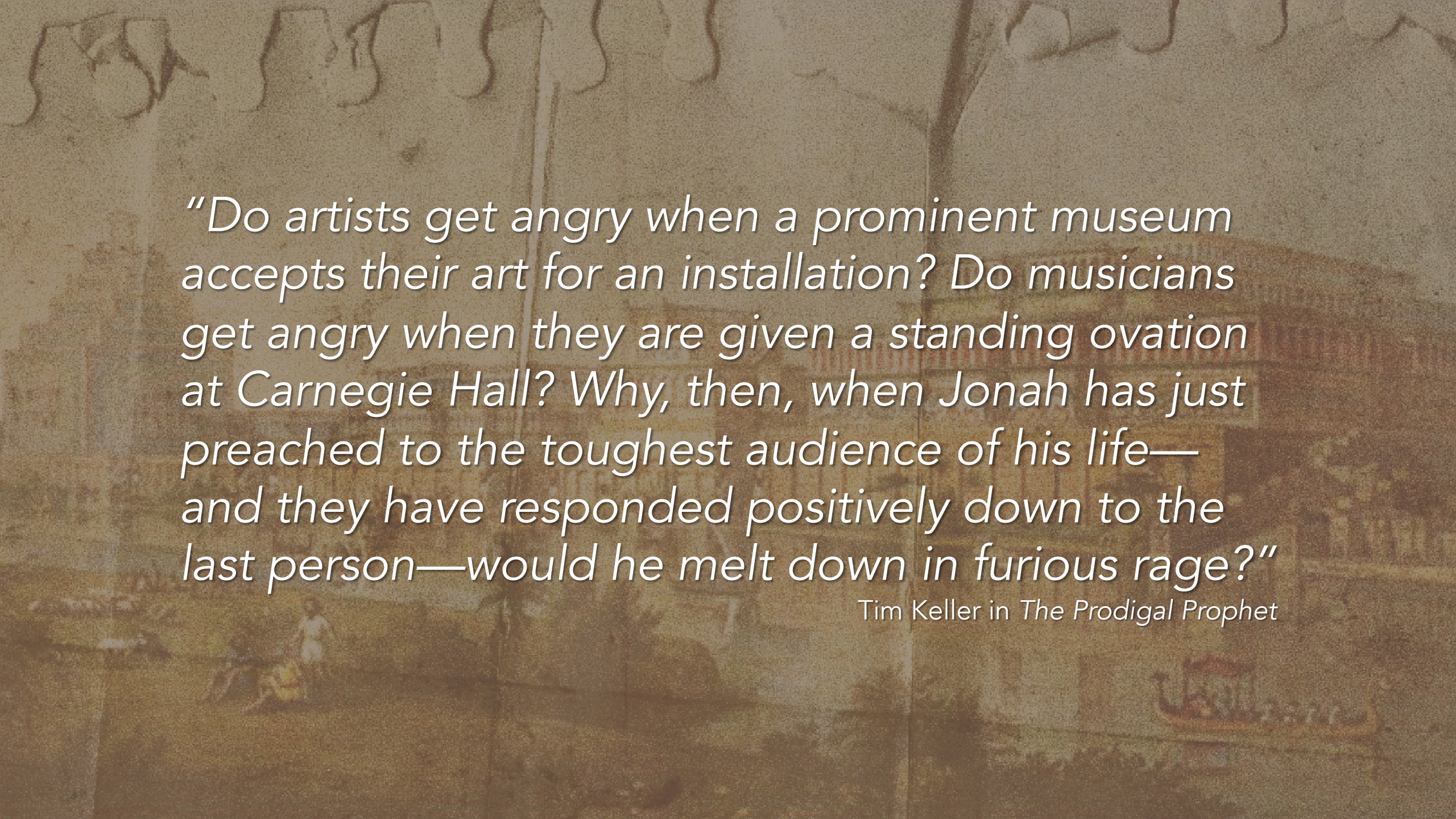
“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

¹⁰But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

The background is a faded, sepia-toned illustration of a city street scene. It shows multi-story buildings with windows and balconies. In the foreground, there are figures, possibly people walking or a boat on a street. The overall tone is historical and somewhat somber.

Running against God

...a Heart Issue



“Do artists get angry when a prominent museum accepts their art for an installation? Do musicians get angry when they are given a standing ovation at Carnegie Hall? Why, then, when Jonah has just preached to the toughest audience of his life—and they have responded positively down to the last person—would he melt down in furious rage?”

*Tim Keller in *The Prodigal Prophet**

A sepia-toned illustration of a coastal town. In the foreground, a large, multi-story building with a prominent balcony and a striped awning stands on a hillside. Below the building, a small boat is visible on the water. In the background, a larger town is built on a hillside, with a church spire visible. The scene is framed by a decorative border at the top. The text "Why would Jonah melt down in furious rage?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Why would Jonah melt down in
furious rage?

The background is a textured, brownish-gold image of an ancient stone wall. On the right side, there is a relief carving of a city with a prominent building and a boat in the water below it. The overall tone is historical and somber.

1

Jonah's racial and reputational interests are at stake.

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.

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong... (3:10-4:1)

The background of the slide is a faded, sepia-toned image of an ancient Egyptian temple interior. It features large columns with hieroglyphs and a high ceiling with decorative elements. The overall tone is historical and textured.

2

Jonah's character is not aligned with God's.

*He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. 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)*

A faded, sepia-toned illustration of a city with a large building and a boat on a river.

3

Jonah's priorities are misplaced.

But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh..." (4:10–11)

A sepia-toned illustration of a coastal town. In the foreground, a small boat with several figures is on the water. The middle ground shows a large, multi-story building with a balcony and a striped awning. The background features a hillside with more buildings and a large, dark, rounded structure, possibly a dome or a large barrel. The overall scene is a detailed depiction of a historical or biblical setting.

What can we learn from Jonah's
meltdown?



1

Who do you really worship?

"It is better for me to die than to live"

"It would be better for me to die than to live." (4:3, 8)

2

The question to ask is not "Where can God use me the most," but "Where can God change me the most."

Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant ...


But at dawn the next day God provided a worm...

When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind... (4:6-8)

Jonah's Anger at the LORD's Compassion

4 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.^j ² He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. **I knew^k that you are a gracious^l and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love,^m a God who relentsⁿ from sending calamity.^o** ³ Now, LORD, take away my life,^p for it is better for me to die^q than to live."^r

⁴ But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"^s

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided^t a leafy plant^a and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. 

⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered.^u 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,^v and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"^w

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern^x for the great city of Nineveh,^y in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"



Conclusion

An intriguing ending...