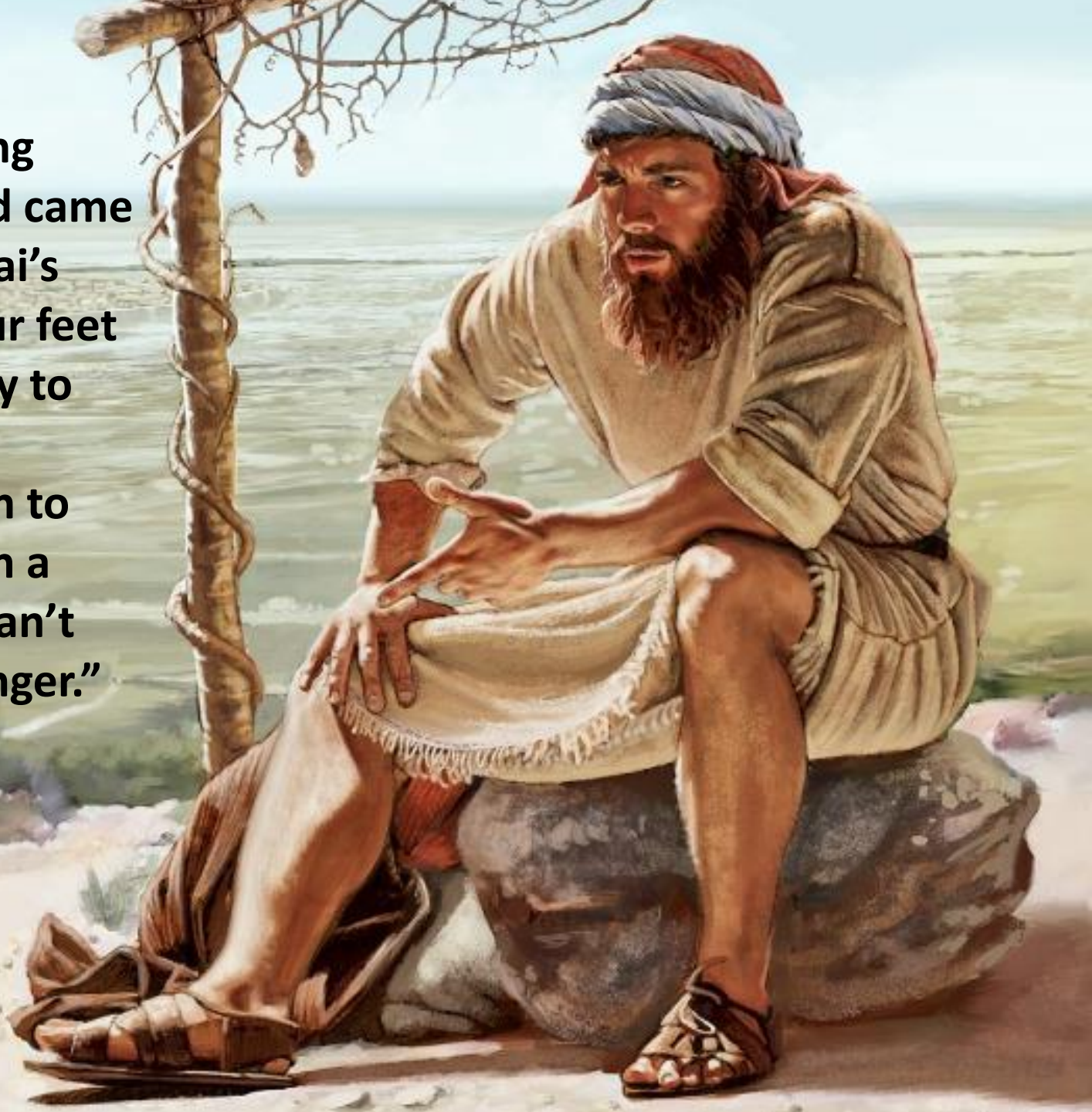


1¹⁻² One day long ago, God's Word came to Jonah, Amittai's son: "Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer." (Msg)





³ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish. (NLT)

TARSHISH

NINEVEH

Gath-hepher

JOPPA





4-6 But GOD sent a huge storm at sea, the waves towering.

The ship was about to break into pieces. The sailors were terrified. They called out in desperation to their gods. They threw everything they were carrying overboard to lighten the ship. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down into the hold of the ship to take a nap. He was sound asleep. The captain came to him and said, “What’s this? Sleeping! Get up! Pray to your god! Maybe your god will see we’re in trouble and rescue us.” (Msg)



⁷ Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit. ⁸ “Why has this awful storm come down on us?” they demanded. “Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?”

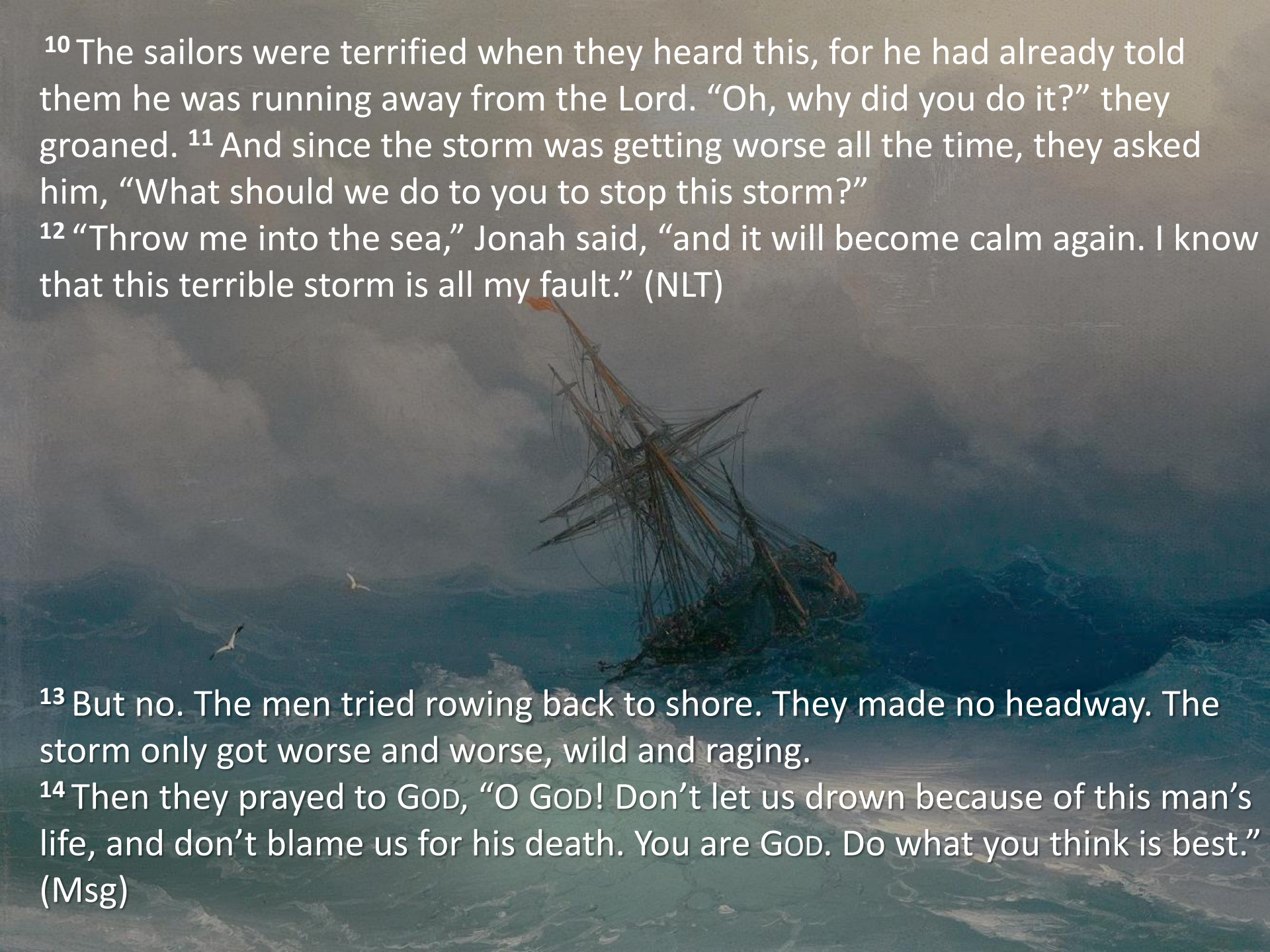
⁹ Jonah answered, “I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.” (NLT)

¹⁰ The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the Lord. “Oh, why did you do it?” they groaned. ¹¹ And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, “What should we do to you to stop this storm?”

¹² “Throw me into the sea,” Jonah said, “and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault.” (NLT)

¹³ But no. The men tried rowing back to shore. They made no headway. The storm only got worse and worse, wild and raging.

¹⁴ Then they prayed to GOD, “O GOD! Don’t let us drown because of this man’s life, and don’t blame us for his death. You are GOD. Do what you think is best.” (Msg)



¹⁵ Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! ¹⁶ The sailors were awestruck by the Lord's great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him. (NLT)



Why do we resist God's word?

- Fear
- Comfort loving
- Lack of love, hardness of heart
- Anger and/or unforgiveness
- Negative mindset, lack of thankfulness for God's mercy and love
- Looking to "signs" for confirmation of poor choices
- Spiritual immaturity

But... we can choose to live by the Spirit...

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Eph 4:22-24

And... God pursues us relentlessly!

Surely your goodness and unfailing
love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the Lord
forever.

Psa 23:6

...we have "a gracious and compassionate
God, slow to anger and abounding in love"!

From Rend Collective's "Second Chance":

*Countless second chances
We've been given at the cross*

*Fragments of brokenness
Salvaged by the art of grace
You craft life from our mistakes*

*Black skies of my regrets
Outshone by this kindness
New life dawns over my soul*

*Oh Your cross, it changes everything
There my world begins again with You
Oh Your cross, it's where my hope restarts
A second chance is Heaven's heart*