

The background of the image is an underwater scene. Sunlight rays penetrate the deep blue water from the surface, creating bright, glowing streaks that fan out downwards. The ocean floor is visible at the bottom, covered in dark, rocky or coral-like terrain. A few small, silhouetted fish are scattered across the scene.

Our Revealing, receiving, relenting God

Jonah 3

Nine heart attitudes (*fruit of the Spirit*):

*“...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”* (Galatians 5:22)

**Flesh** with its opposite sinful passions and desires:

*“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another...”* (Galatians 5:17)

## *Spoiled, fleshly fruit:*

*“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these...”* (Galatians 5:19-21)

*“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:24)*

*“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we **live** by the Spirit, let us also **walk** by the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:24-25)*

Since we have a **new spiritual life** given to us as God's gift in Jesus Christ, then we **can and must** live out, walk according to this new life.

**Three powerful expressions of God's compassion on sinners  
who deserve His punishment**

## I. God's **Revelation** (Jonah 3:1-4)

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- God's Compassion to **Jonah**
- *“And the word of the Lord came to **Jonah** the second time...”*





## II. Nineveh's **Repentance** (Jonah 3:5-9)

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- God must be worshiped for who He is, **for His own sake**, and not merely because of what He does or does not do in the lives of people.

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- “God delights in **gracious acts of compassion** in response to small steps in the right direction.”

(Hill and Walton, *Survey of the Old Testament*)

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- Have you reached out to **another believer** to bear it with you? Do you know how to form a **biblical plan** to help you identify and deal with the sinful desires of your heart which fuel the issue? Are you working the plan (repentance/obedience)?

### III. God's Relenting (Jonah 3:10)

## II. God's Relenting (Jonah 3:10)

- **In God's sovereignty** (in His power and purpose to control all things to accomplish His will), He has mercy on whom He has mercy, and compassion on whom He has compassion.
- God's sovereign will to save whom He chooses must always be viewed, understood, and balanced with His heart of compassion.

# God's Revelation to Us in Christ Jesus

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*“And the word of the Lord came...” is life!*

# God's Revelation to Us in Christ Jesus

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:1, 14)

# God's Revelation to Us in Christ Jesus

*“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)*

# God's Revelation to Us in Christ Jesus

*“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways (to include Jonah) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” (Hebrews 1:1-2)*

# Our Repentance to God in Christ Jesus

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*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:15)*

# Our Repentance to God in Christ Jesus

*“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)*

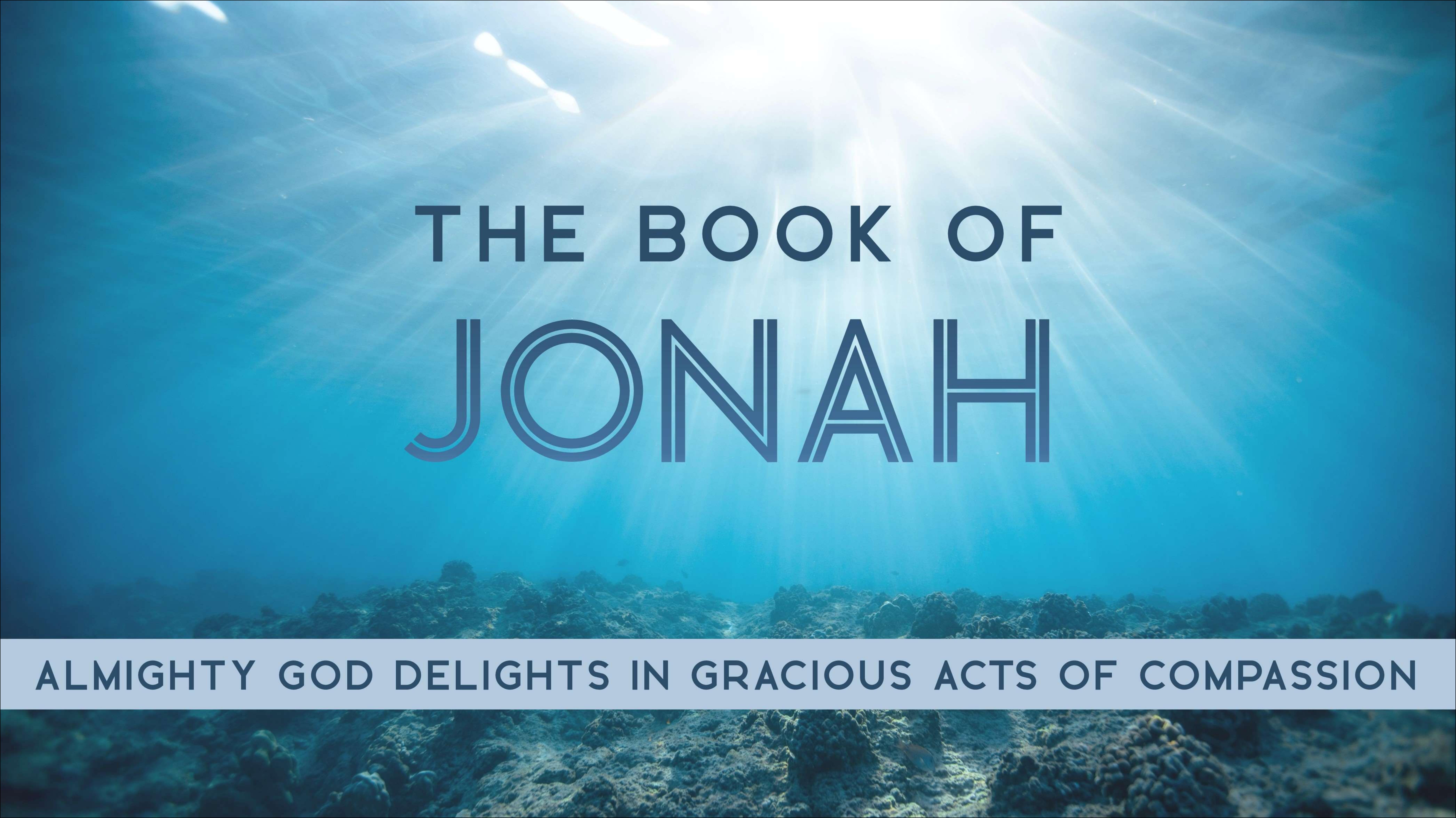
# God's Relenting to Us in His Reconciling Grace in Christ Jesus

# God's Relenting to Us in His Reconciling Grace in Christ Jesus

*“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)*

# God's Relenting to Us in His Reconciling Grace in Christ Jesus

*“God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

The background of the entire image is a photograph of an underwater environment. Sunlight filters down from the surface in bright, radial rays, illuminating a coral reef at the bottom. The water is a clear, vibrant blue.

# THE BOOK OF JONAH

ALMIGHTY GOD DELIGHTS IN GRACIOUS ACTS OF COMPASSION

# GRACE CHURCH

## WILLIAMSBURG