

When God Says Yes and You Say No

Lessons from Jonah's Journal



Albert Einstein

Mark Twain

Thomas Edison

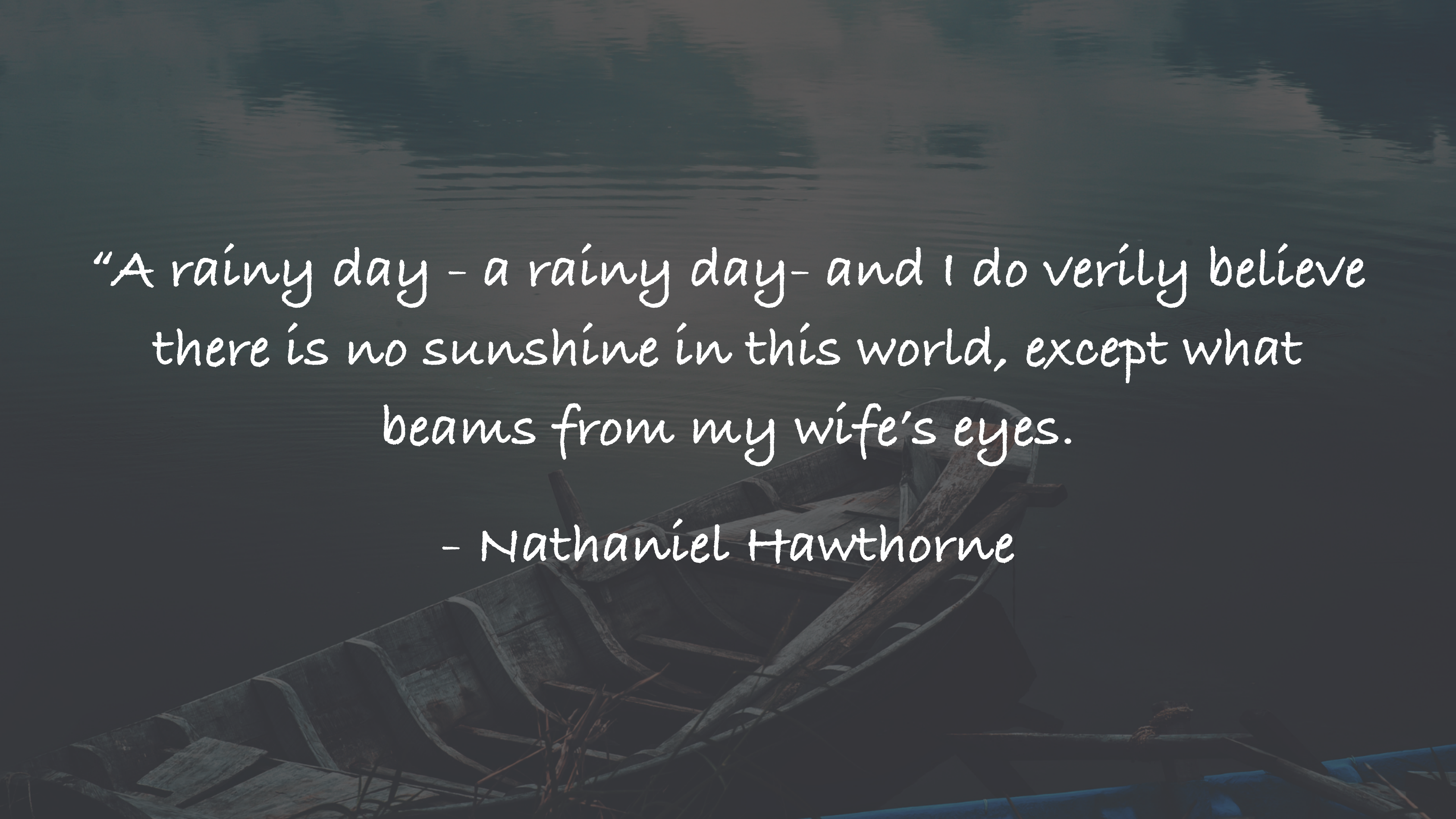
Theodore Roosevelt

Marilyn Monroe

John Wilkes Booth



Nathaniel Hawthorne



"A rainy day - a rainy day- and I do verily believe
there is no sunshine in this world, except what
beams from my wife's eyes.

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

A dark, moody photograph of a wooden boat on water at dusk or dawn. The boat is in the foreground, partially visible, with its wooden planks and structure clearly seen. The water is calm, reflecting the soft light from the sky. The overall tone is somber and contemplative. The title 'The book of Jonah' is overlaid in a white, serif font, centered horizontally and slightly above the boat.

The book of Jonah

Entry

"Guess I dozed off. I'm still exhausted from all that's happened. I ended my last entry with me treading water in the open seas and the ship disappearing over the horizon. I tread water as long as I could, then I tried to float. Guess I still didn't have the guts to just drown."

Entry

I didn't know why God was dragging this out, but I knew it was just about over. Then I felt it.

It pulled at my foot a time or two, as if it were playing with me. I yelled at the sky, 'It wasn't enough that I drown?! Now your going to have me torn apart and eaten?!'

Entry

Then I and the water around me were pulled
into it's cavernous mouth...into a vortex
swirling rapidly like water going down a hole.
When it stopped, I was in one piece but wanting
to die rather than face the horrors that would
come next.

Entry

But it didn't happen! I found an air pocket in this cramped, foul, slimy prison. With seaweed wrapped around my head, I had reached the depths (literally and emotionally) and He still would not end it!

Entry

Then I realized...ending it wasn't His plan or purpose. He wasn't dragging this out...I WAS! For the first time since all this started, I prayed and submitted...I submitted! And when I did, there was a convulsing so violent that it sent me tumbling and twisting in a horrid muck. Finally, I woke up on the beach."

Text

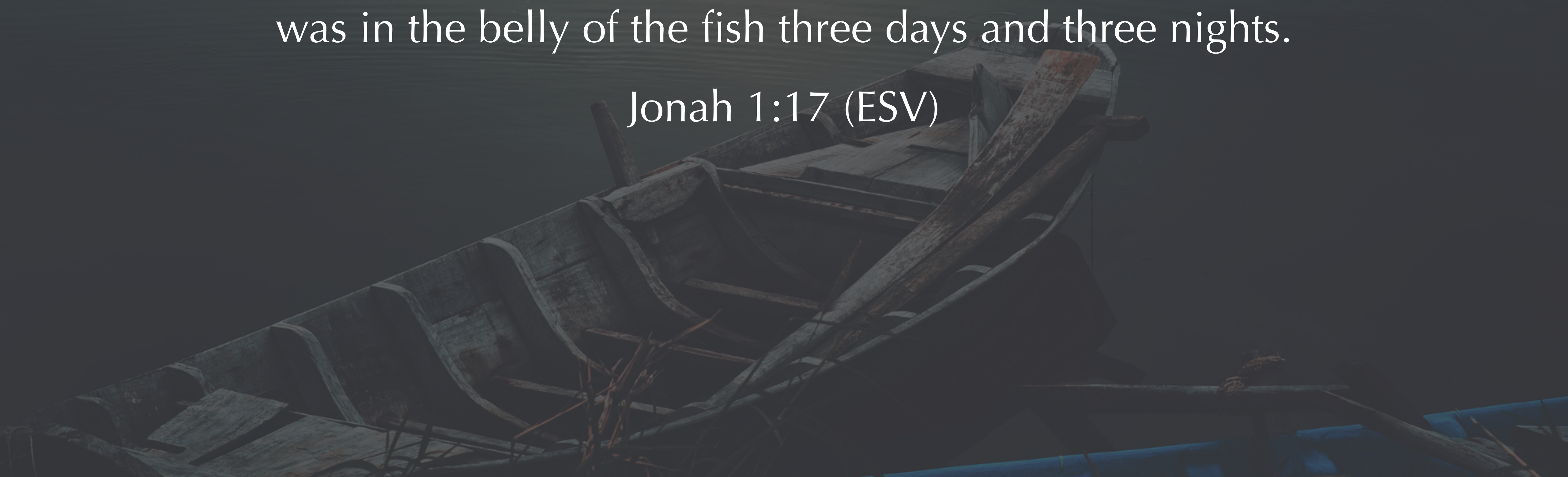
And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:17 (ESV)

Take Apart

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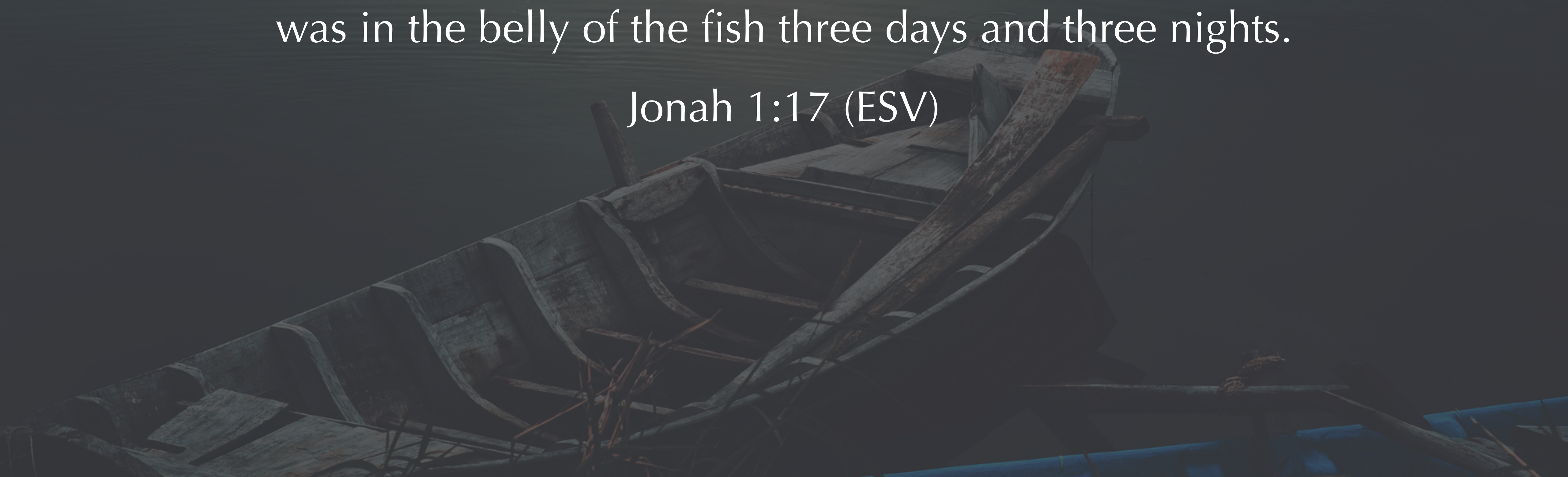
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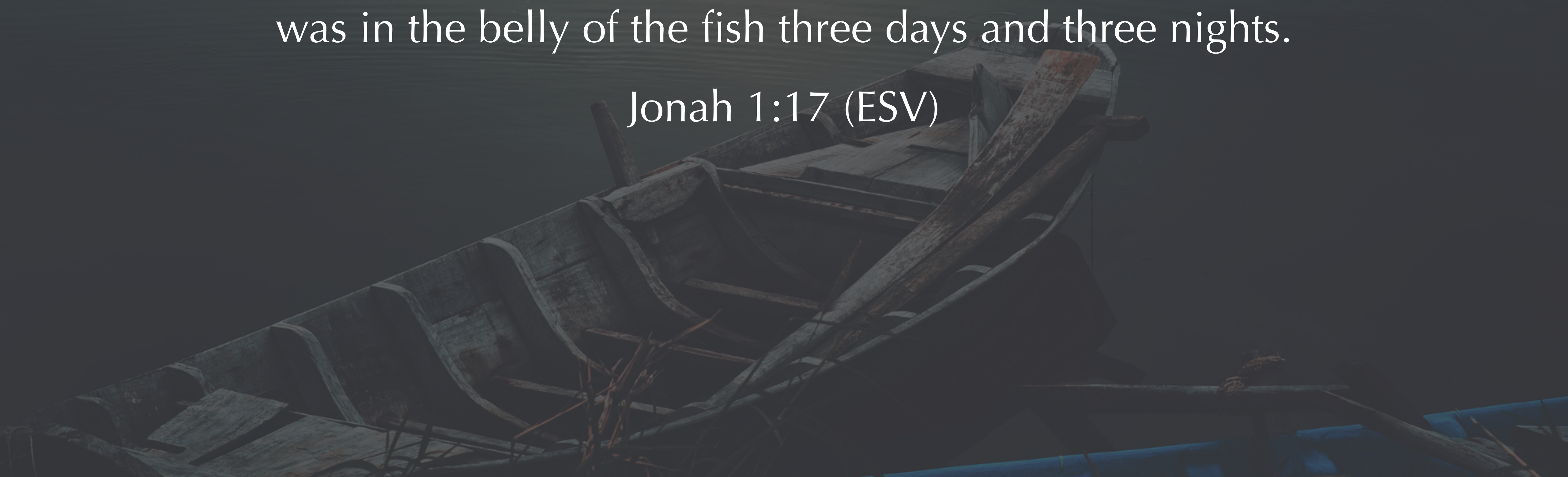
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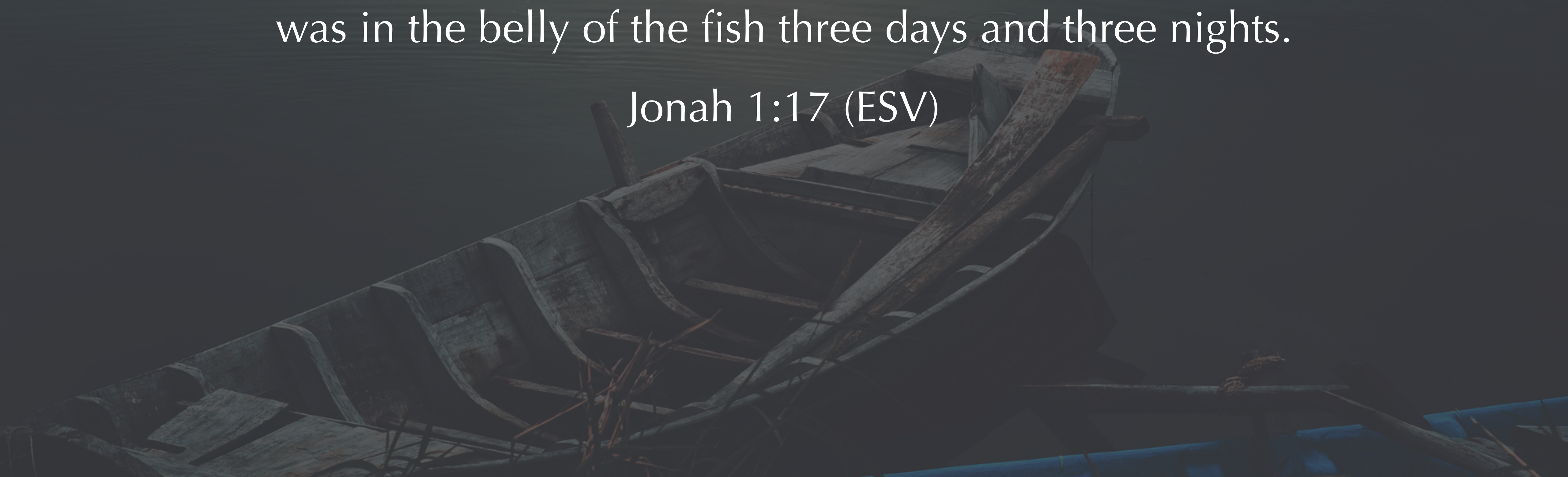
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Jonah 1:17 (ESV)

Israel is swallowed up; already they are among the nations as a useless vessel.

Hosea 8:8 (ESV)

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Jonah 1:17 (ESV)



Text

1 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish,
2 saying, “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered
me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. 3 For
you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood
surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.
4 Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look
upon your holy temple.’

Jonah 2:1-4 (ESV)

Text

5 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head 6 at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. 7 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. 8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

Jonah 2:5-8 (ESV)

Text

9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!" 10 And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Jonah 2:9-10 (ESV)

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Jonah 2:9-10 (ESV)

Did you notice....

The parallel to Christ's resurrection



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Something's Missing





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Something's Missing

8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

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Jonah 2:8-9 (ESV)

Take Aways

The sooner you turn to God the better.



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The sooner you turn to God the better.

As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not
harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

Hebrews 3:15 (ESV)

Take Aways

If there's no other way, God will cause us to hit bottom to force us to look to Him.



Take Aways

If there's no other way, God will cause us to hit bottom to force us to look to Him.

"I called on your name, O Lord, from the depths of the pit;

Lamentation 3:55 (ESV)

Take Aways

Sometimes, something that appears awful is actually
a tool of God's deliverance.



Take Aways

When you run from God, He focuses on
getting you back...not getting back at you!



Take Aways

When you run from God, He focuses on getting you back...not getting back at you!

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?

Luke 15:4 (ESV)