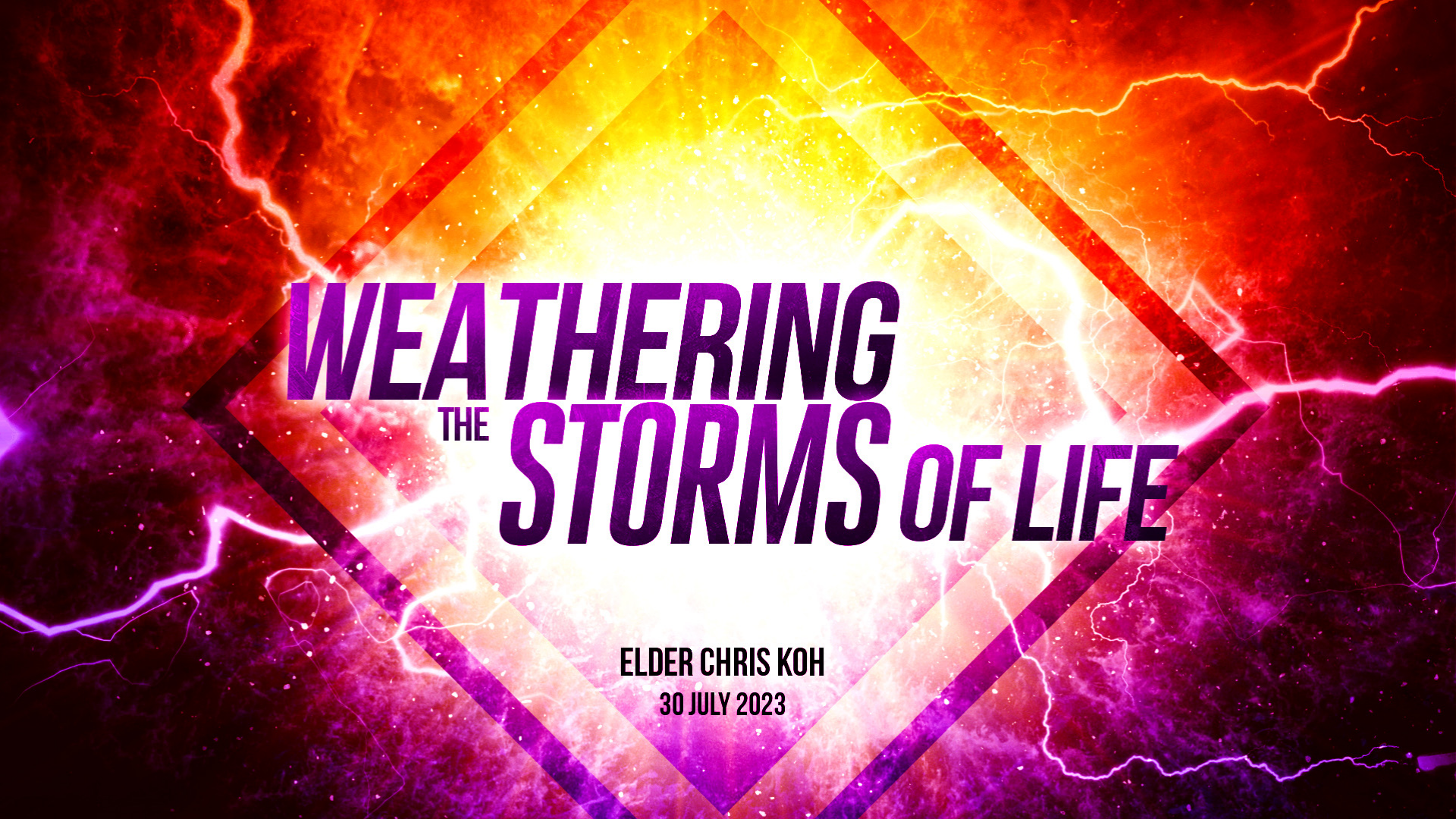




WEATHERING **THE** ***STORMS OF LIFE***

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Introduction

- **We all face storms at some point in our lives.**
- **“Finest Hours”**



MARK 4:37-39

³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he (Jesus) was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

MARK 4:37-39

39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Introduction

- **With Jesus in the boat, He was able to calm the sea.**
- **In real life, Jesus may not always calm the sea.**

ACTS 27:18-24

¹⁸ We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. ¹⁹ On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰ When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

ACTS 27:18-24

21 After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: “Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

ACTS 27:18-24

23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me **24** and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

JONAH 1:11-13, 15, 17

¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” ¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

JONAH 1:11-13, 15, 17

13 Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.

JONAH 1:11-13, 15, 17

**15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard,
and the raging sea grew calm.**

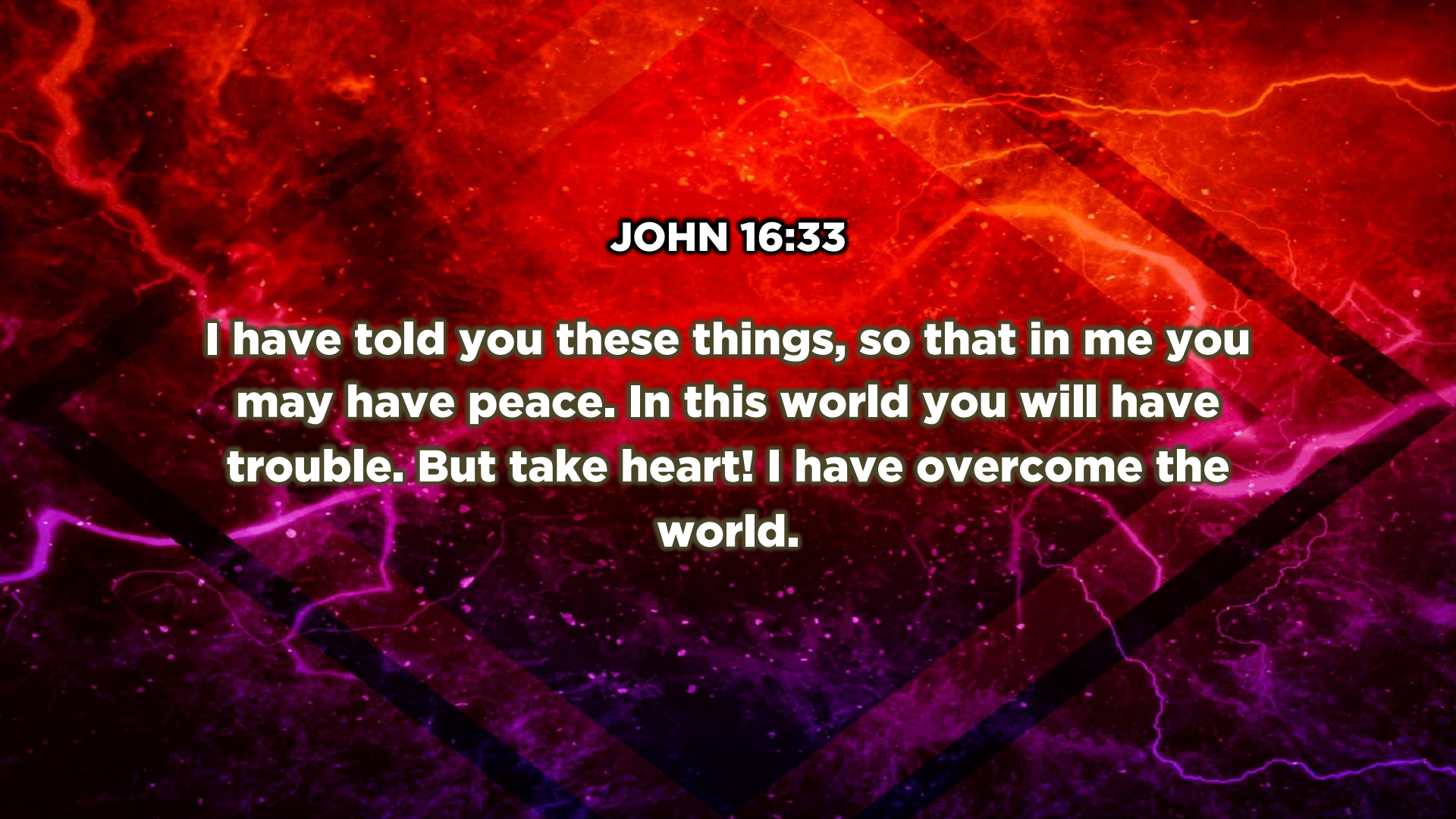
**17 Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow
Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three
days and three nights.**

Introduction

- **Storms are no respecter of people and it is the same with problems in life.**

1. Don't Ask “Why” or “Why me”

- **The most instinctive question to ask during a storm is “Why” or “Why me”:**
 - **most unproductive**
 - **energy-depleting**



JOHN 16:33

**I have told you these things, so that in me you
may have peace. In this world you will have
trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the
world.**

1. Don't Ask "Why" or "Why me"

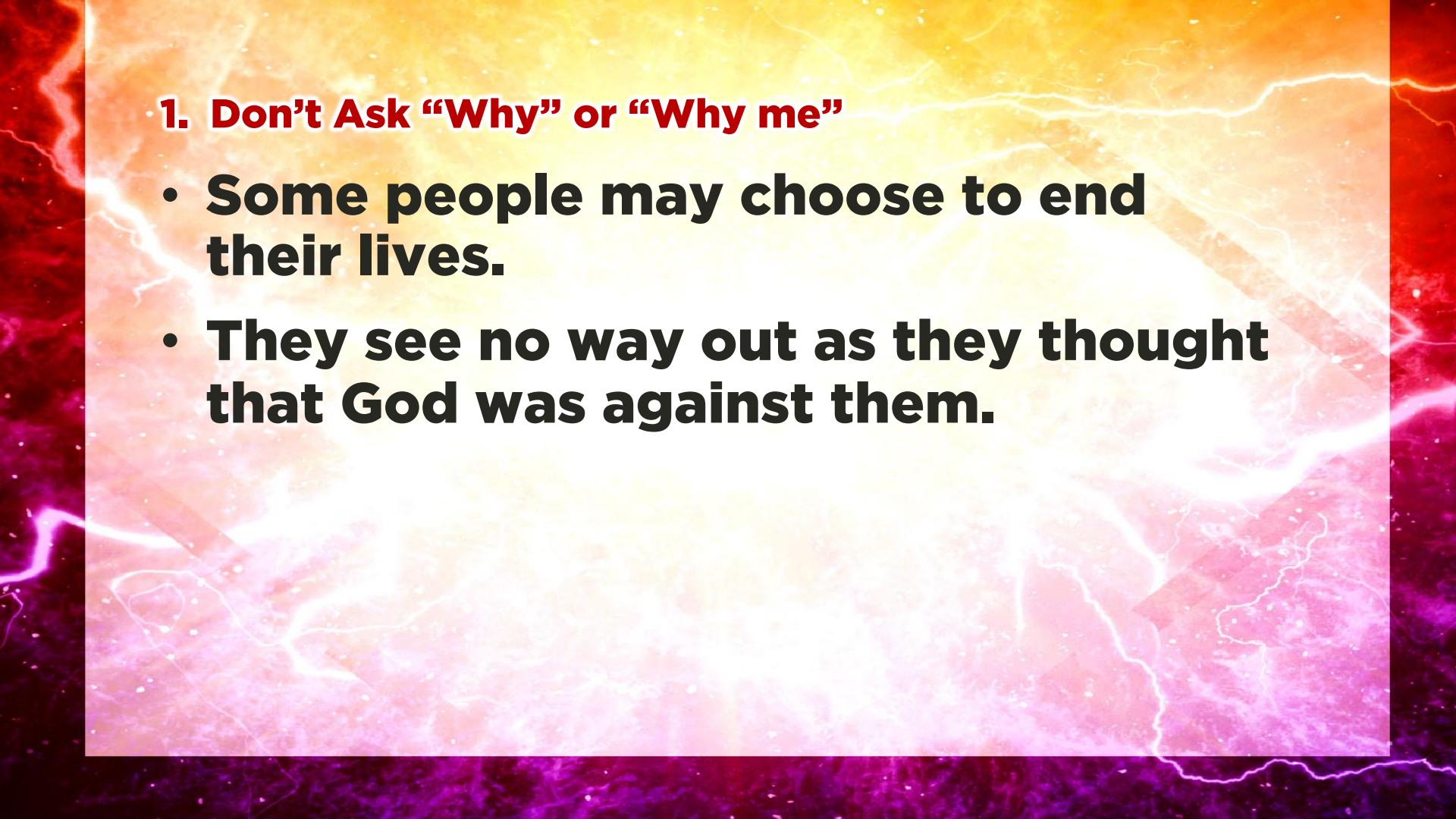
- **We should never ask "Why" or "Why me" because storms can happen to anyone.**
- **We ask why because we hope that there is a logical reason for our negative experience.**
- **We hope that a good reason can help us accept the situation.**

1. Don't Ask "Why" or "Why me"

- **We usually get no answers, or worse, we can get the wrong answers.**
- **In the midst of the storm, they drew the wrong conclusions about Jesus and started blaming Him.**

1. Don't Ask "Why" or "Why me"

- **How many of us have been tempted to question if God cares?**
- **If we think that we are at fault, then why would God help us?**
- **He concluded wrongly about God and saw no hope.**



1. Don't Ask "Why" or "Why me"

- **Some people may choose to end their lives.**
- **They see no way out as they thought that God was against them.**

1. Don't Ask "Why" or "Why me"

- **Sometimes the storms in our lives are a result of other people's actions or decisions.**
- **No amount of blaming can help us resolve the trouble we are in.**

The background of the entire slide is a dramatic, high-contrast image of a storm. It features bright yellow and orange light in the center, transitioning to deep reds and purples towards the edges. Several jagged, white lightning bolts are visible, some striking the ground and others hanging in the air. The overall effect is one of intense energy and chaos, which serves as a visual metaphor for the 'storm' mentioned in the text.

1. Don't Ask "Why" or "Why me"

**When you are in a storm,
do not ask
"Why" or "Why me"!**

2. Turning to God

- **The thing that you need to do most in a storm is to turn to God.**
- **We need interventions from a higher power.**

2. Turning to God

- **As a Christian, you can have access to Him.**
- **Emmanuel, “God with us”.**
- **The Holy Spirit lives in us.**

DEUTERONOMY 31:8

**The Lord himself goes before you and will be with
you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”**

2. Turning to God

- **What better assurance is there in a storm than to know God is with us.**
- **Sometimes, even if we do pray to God, we are so self-absorbed that we do not listen.**

2. Turning to God

- **At some point, we must stop doing everything else, turn to God and communicate with Him!**
- **Expect Him to speak to you.**

JONAH 2:2

**He said: “In my distress I called to the Lord,
and he answered me. From deep in the realm
of the dead I called for help, and you
listened to my cry.**

2. Turning to God

**During a storm, we must
turn to God, cry out to Him
and listen to what
He has to say.**

3. Do Not Put God into a Box

- **God has a plan but He will execute it His way.**
- **Jesus may not always calm the storms.**

3. Do Not Put God into a Box

- **Even though Paul was serving God, he had to weather a storm and get shipwrecked.**
- **How many of you would call him blessed?**

3. Do Not Put God into a Box

- **If Jesus could calm the storm with His word, then why did He not do it for Paul?**
- **God did not reveal if there was a purpose for the storm.**

3. Do Not Put God into a Box

- **God had a plan to fulfil His purpose in Paul's life and the storm was not going to stop Him.**
- **We should not put God in a box or expect Him to fulfill His purpose in any particular way.**

3. Do Not Put God into a Box

- **For Jonah, the miracle came too late.**
- **To the sailors, the fish was God's judgement.**
- **The dark and stinky belly of the fish was part of God's providence and deliverance.**
- **The storm was used to facilitate repentance and deliverance for Jonah.**

3. Do Not Put God into a Box

- **You need to turn back to God and He will provide.**
- **God wants to fulfil His purpose in your life.**

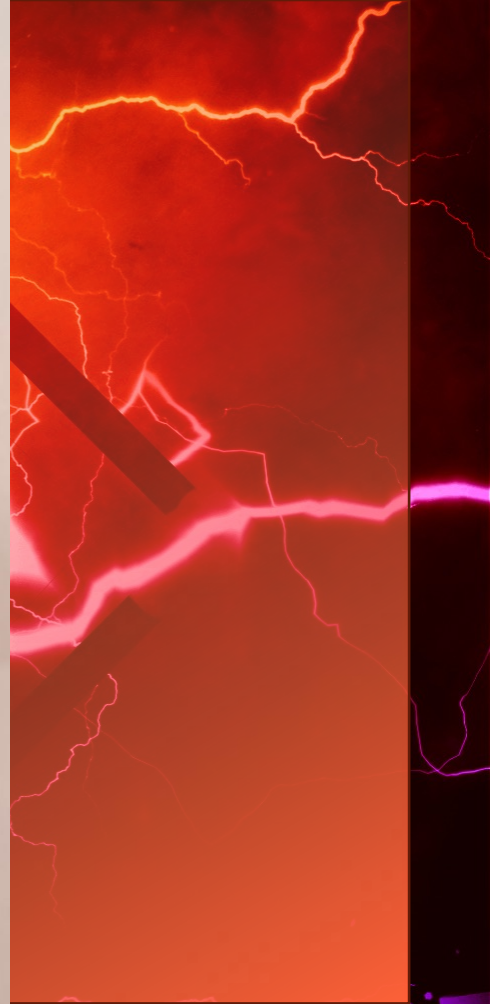


ROMANS 8:28

**And we know that in all things God works for the
good of those who love him, who have been
called according to his purpose.**

3. Do Not Put God into a Box

- **God always has a plan.**
- **God has every intention to fulfill His purpose in our lives.**



4. Let Your Light Shine

- **All the little lights in the midst of the darkness were able to guide the boat back towards the harbour.**
- **We are the light of the world and God is shining out His love through you and I.**

4. Let Your Light Shine

- **When all they can see is the darkness that has enveloped them, let your light shine.**
- **It takes deliberate efforts.**
- **He wants you to not think that it's someone else problem and that others are better equipped to help.**

MATTHEW 5:16

**In the same way, let your light shine before
others, that they may see your good deeds and
glorify your Father in heaven.**

CONCLUSION