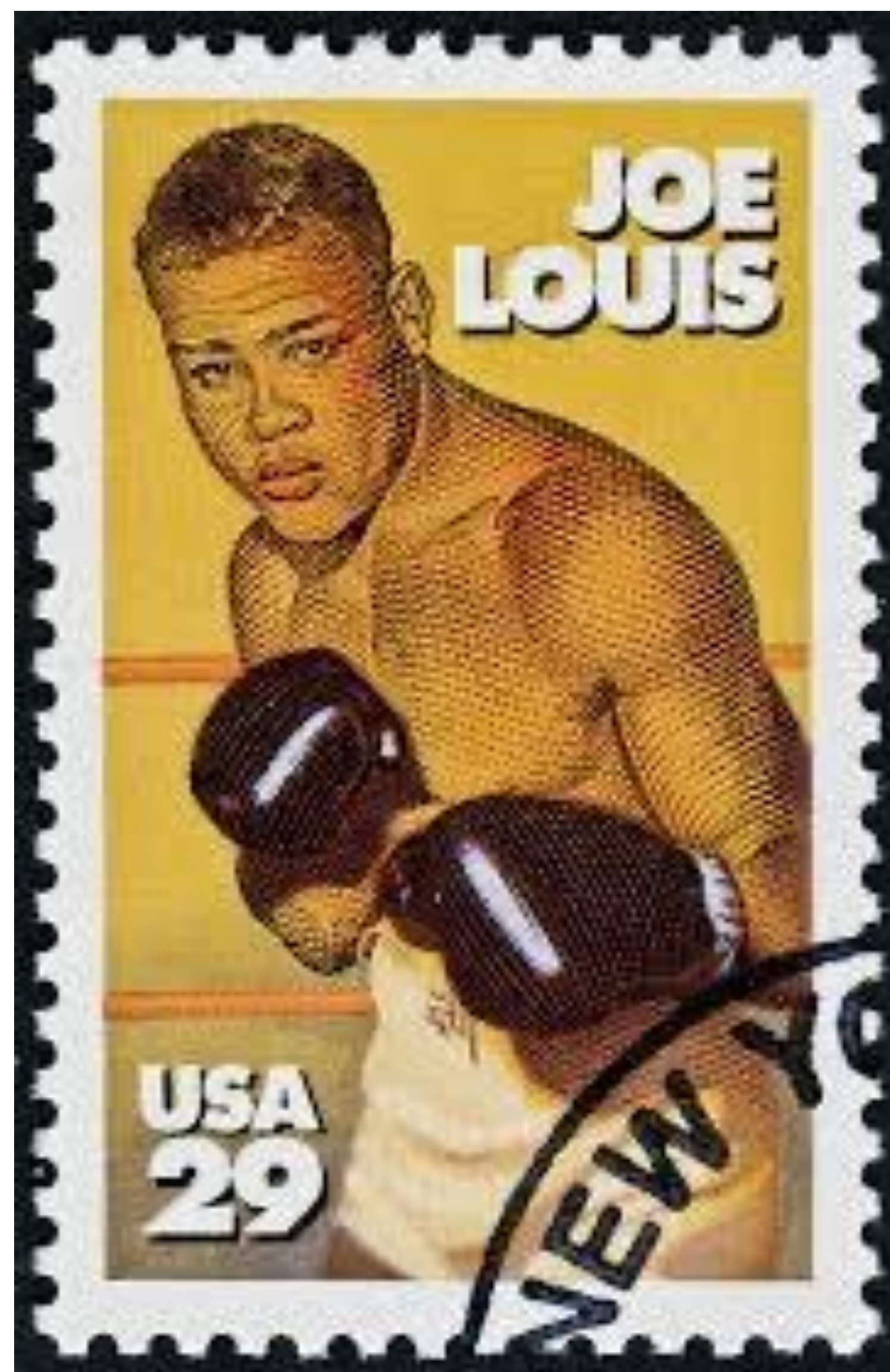
The background is a dramatic, monochromatic illustration in shades of blue and teal. It depicts a turbulent sea with dark, swirling waves. In the center, a hand is shown reaching upwards from the water, with fingers spread, as if grasping for help or reaching towards a source of light. At the top of the frame, a bright, glowing light emanates from behind a dark, rocky or mountainous structure, creating a strong contrast with the dark water below. The overall mood is one of hope, struggle, and divine intervention.

JONAH

Surprising Mercy



**HE CAN RUN
BUT
HE CAN'T HIDE**

Jonah 1:17

**17 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.**

Chapter 2

**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.'**

**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.**

**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.**

**HE CAN RUN
BUT
HE CAN'T HIDE**

God's Attributes on Display in Jonah's Story

1. God is in Control of His Creation

**“Oh Lord..... all who forsake you
shall be put to shame; those who turn away from
you shall be written in the earth
(ie noticed and recorded),
for they have forsaken the Lord.....” Jeremiah 17:13**

1. God is in Control of His Creation

There are consequences when we run from God

1. God is in Control of His Creation

There are consequences when we run from God

**God's plan for your life is greater
than your plan for your life**

Instead of Running From God

**“.....let us set aside every weight and sin.....
and let us run with endurance the race
that is set before us, looking to Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith.....
so that you may not grow
weary or fainthearted.”**

Hebrews 12:1-3

God's Attributes on Display in Jonah's Story

1. God is in Control of His Creation

2. God is Merciful

Jonah in Desperation Cries Out

**Vs 2 “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress.....
out of the belly of Sheol I cried”**

Vs 4 “I am driven from your sight”

Jonah in Desperation Cries Out

**Vs 3,5 & 7 - He's cast into the deep,
a flood surrounding him and
weeds wrapped around his head....
He's drowning...his life is fainting away**

**Vs 6 "I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me forever."**

Jonah Prays out of Desperation

**vs 2 - “from the belly of Sheol I cried
and you heard my voice”**

vs 4 & 7 - “I shall again look upon your holy temple”...

**“and I remembered the Lord, and
my prayer came to you into
your holy temple.”**

2. God is Merciful

**When we Stop running *From God*
and**

run *To God* in Prayer....

He is Merciful and Listens to our Prayers

2. God is Merciful

When we Stop running from God
and run To God in Prayer....

He is Merciful and Listens to our Prayers

**Our prayers are powerful because
of the Merciful God to whom we are praying**

**8“Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake
their hope of steadfast love. 9 But I with the voice
of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you.....”**

THE IDOLATRY IN HIS HEART

LED TO

THE RUNNING IN HIS FEET

God's Attributes on Display in Jonah's Story

1. God is in Control of His Creation
2. God is Merciful
- 3. Salvation Belongs to the Lord**

**“For as Jonah was three days and three nights
in the belly of the great fish,
so will the Son of Man
be three days and three nights
in the heart of the earth”.**

Matthew 12:40

3. Salvation Belongs to the Lord

The sign of Jonah:

Foreshadows the resurrection of Jesus

3. Salvation Belongs to the Lord

The Sign of Jonah:

Foreshadows the resurrection of Jesus
and

Foreshadows the Saving Grace of Jesus

**“It is by grace we have been saved through faith....
and this is not from ourselves, it is the gift of God.”
(Romans 10:9)**

Salvation belongs to the Lord.