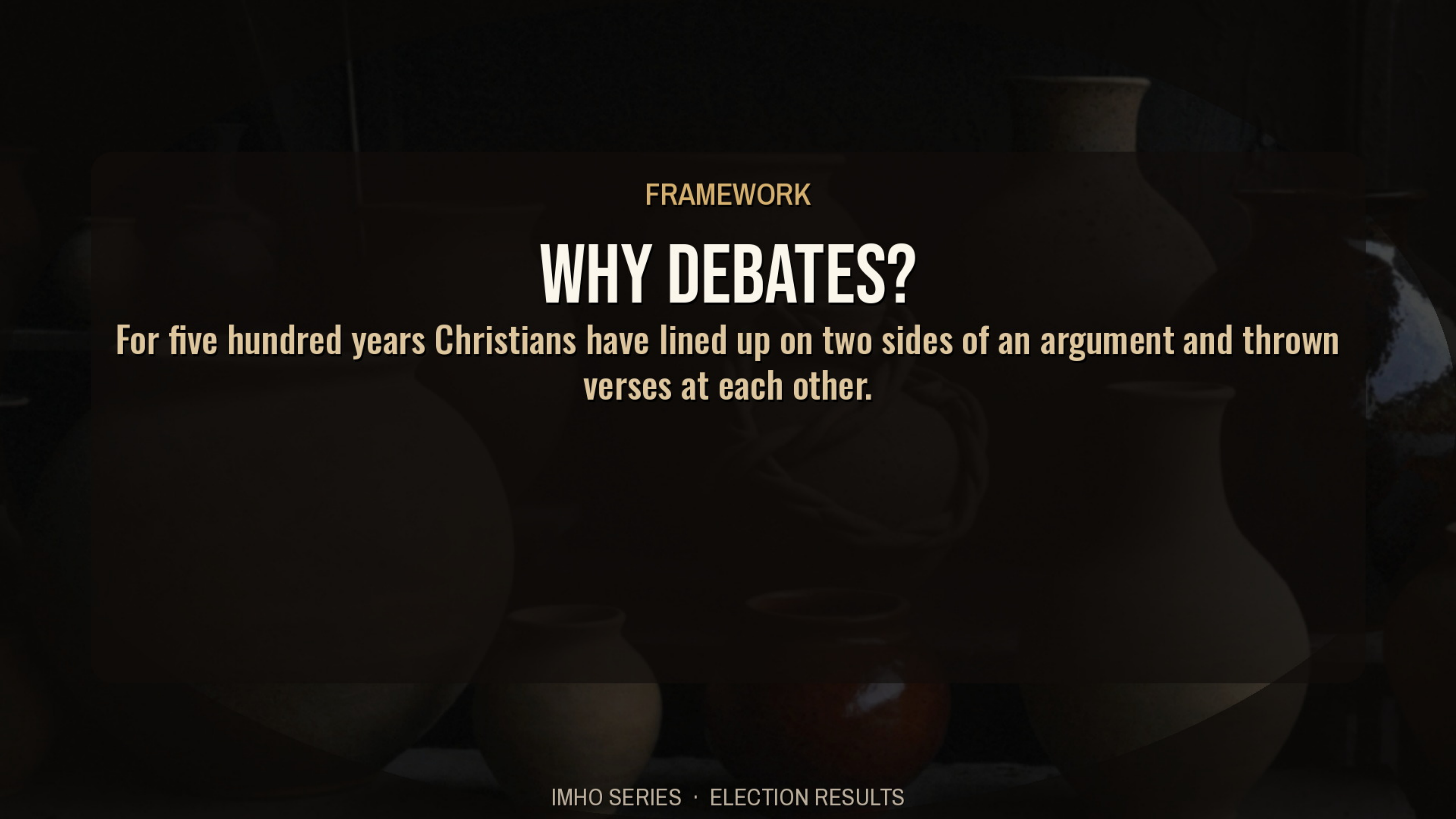




ELECTION RESULTS

IMHO: Calvinism vs Arminianism



FRAMEWORK

WHY DEBATES?

For five hundred years Christians have lined up on two sides of an argument and thrown verses at each other.

THE SPLIT

**ONE SIDE SAYS
GOD CHOOSES WHO HE SAVES.
THE OTHER SIDE SAYS
WE CHOOSE.**

The thing is, both are quoting the Bible.

THE PROBLEM

**IF ALL SCRIPTURE IS TRUE,
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE TO
IGNORE THE OTHER PILE.**



THE AIM

**THERE NEEDS TO BE
A CIRCLE BIG ENOUGH
TO FIT ALL THE VERSES.**

HOW WE WILL DO THIS
IN THIS ORDER

- 1. The case for predestination**
- 2. The case for free will**
- 3. The circle big enough for both**

Because God is not trapped inside our systems.

FAIR WARNING

I WILL NOT CROWN CALVIN OR ARMINIUS.

If you came hoping Scripture would still stand when the argument is over, stay with me.

VISUAL MAP
TWO TRUE PILES OF VERSES

GOD CHOOSES
PREDESTINATION

WE CHOOSE
FREE WILL

We will fill both. Neither pile gets thrown away.
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PART I

THE ARGUMENT FOR CALVINISM

These verses are in your Bible.

WATCH THIS WORD

CHOSE / CHOSEN EKLEKTOS

The Greek word behind “elect”

It will be pivotal when we draw the big circle.

GOD CHOSE US BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

GOD LOVED US AND CHOSE US IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:4–5 NLT

Even before He made the world. He decided in advance to adopt us. It gave Him great pleasure.

UNITED WITH CHRIST

**HE CHOSE US IN ADVANCE
AND MAKES EVERYTHING
WORK OUT ACCORDING
TO HIS PLAN**

Ephesians 1:11 NLT

CIRCLE ONE BEGINS
SALVATION STARTS WITH GOD

GOD CHOOSES
PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance

WE CHOOSE
FREE WILL

Not with a clever sinner.
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NO HINT THAT WE SAVED OURSELVES

**KNEW ☒ CHOSE
CALLED ☒ JUSTIFIED
GLORIFIED**

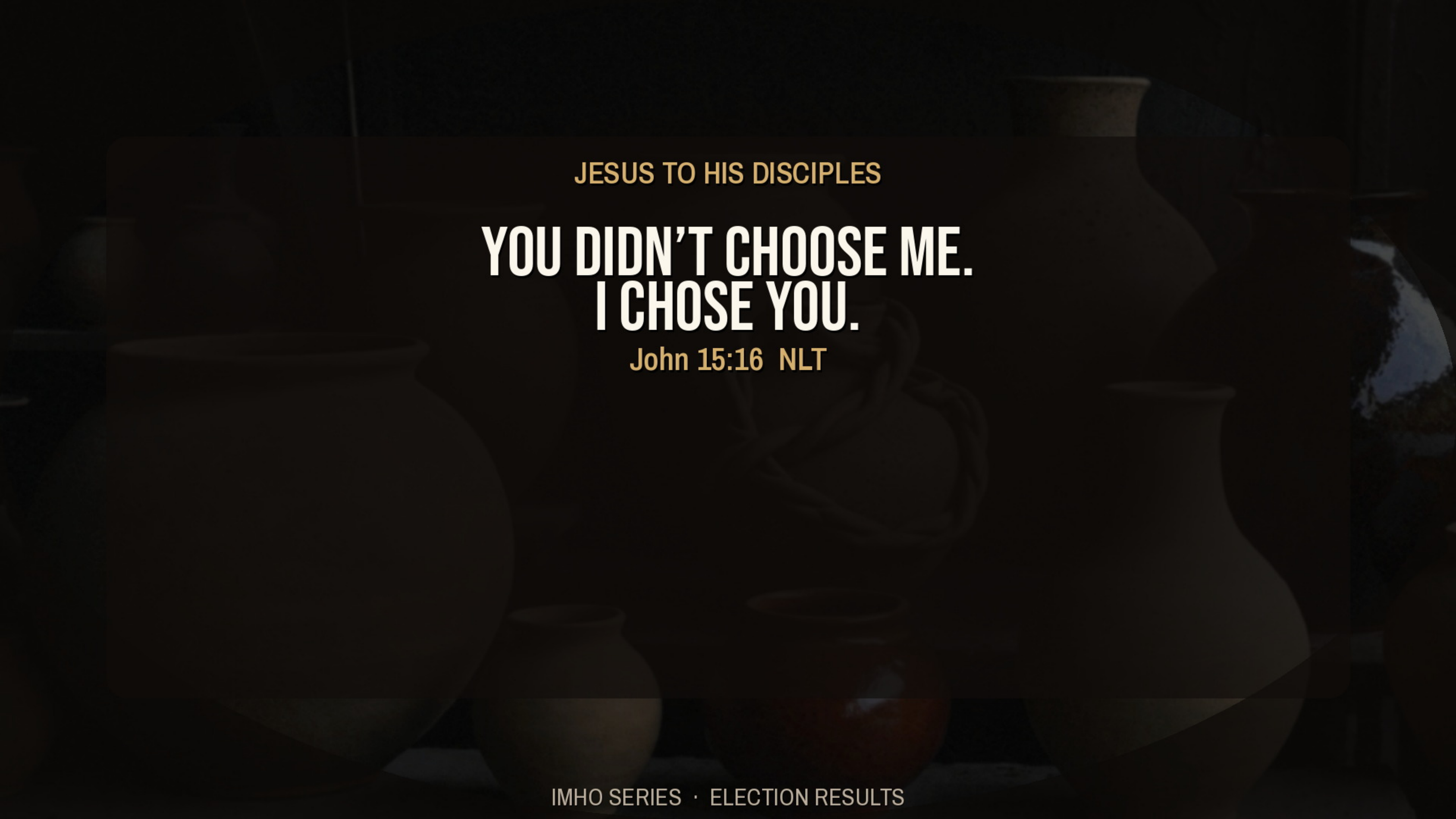
Romans 8:29–30 NLT

God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son.

DRAWN

**NO ONE CAN COME TO ME
UNLESS THE FATHER
WHO SENT ME DRAWS THEM**

John 6:44 NLT



JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES

**YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE ME.
I CHOSE YOU.**

John 15:16 NLT

THE ORDER MATTERS

THOSE CHOSEN FOR ETERNAL LIFE BECAME BELIEVERS

Acts 13:48 NLT

It does not say they believed and therefore got chosen.

CIRCLE ONE FILLING
GOD DRAWS. GOD APPOINTS.

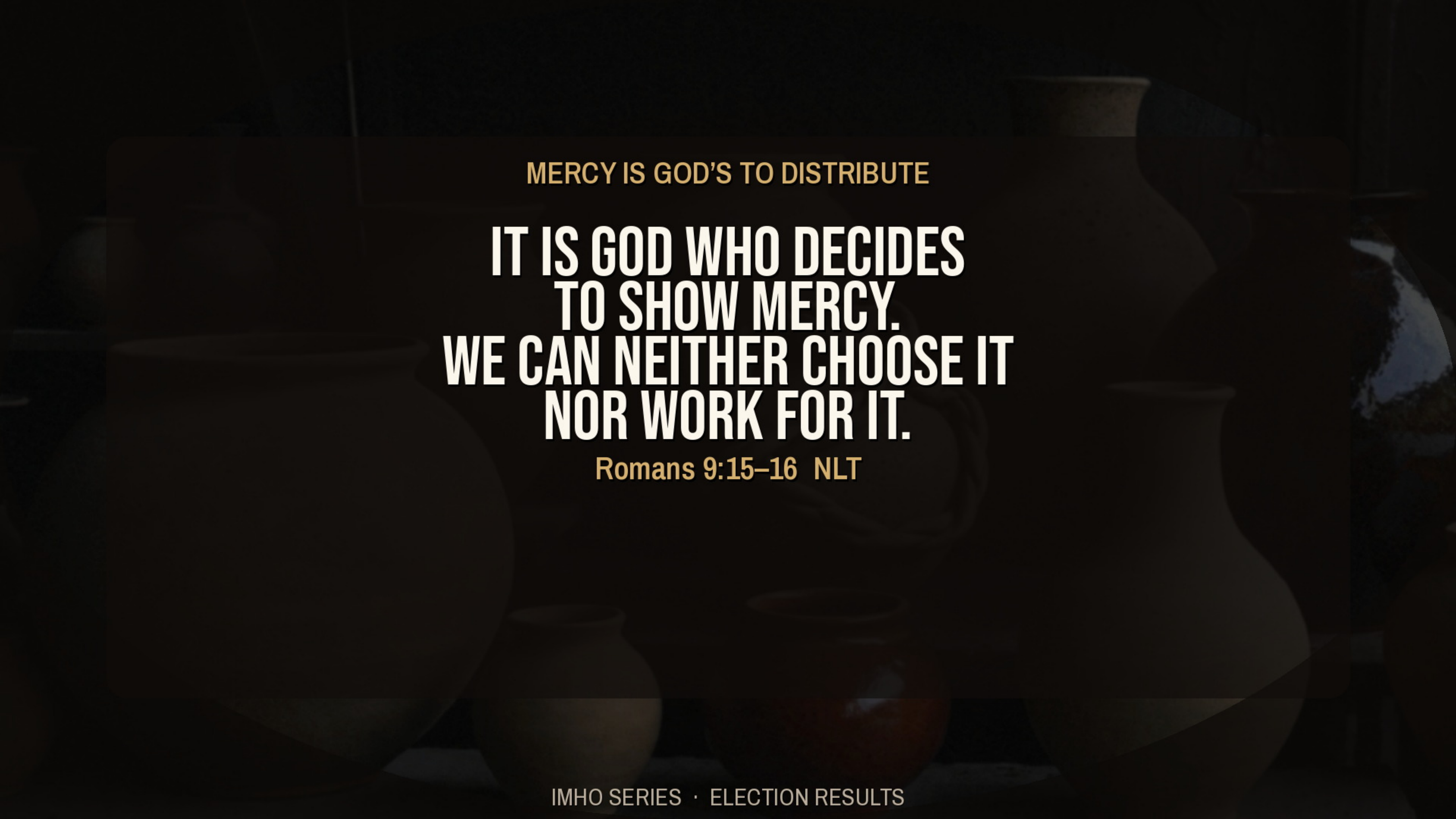
GOD CHOOSES

PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance
Rom 8:29–30 The chain
John 6:44 Father draws
John 15:16 I chose you
Acts 13:48 Appointed

WE CHOOSE

FREE WILL



MERCY IS GOD'S TO DISTRIBUTE

**IT IS GOD WHO DECIDES
TO SHOW MERCY.
WE CAN NEITHER CHOOSE IT
NOR WORK FOR IT.**

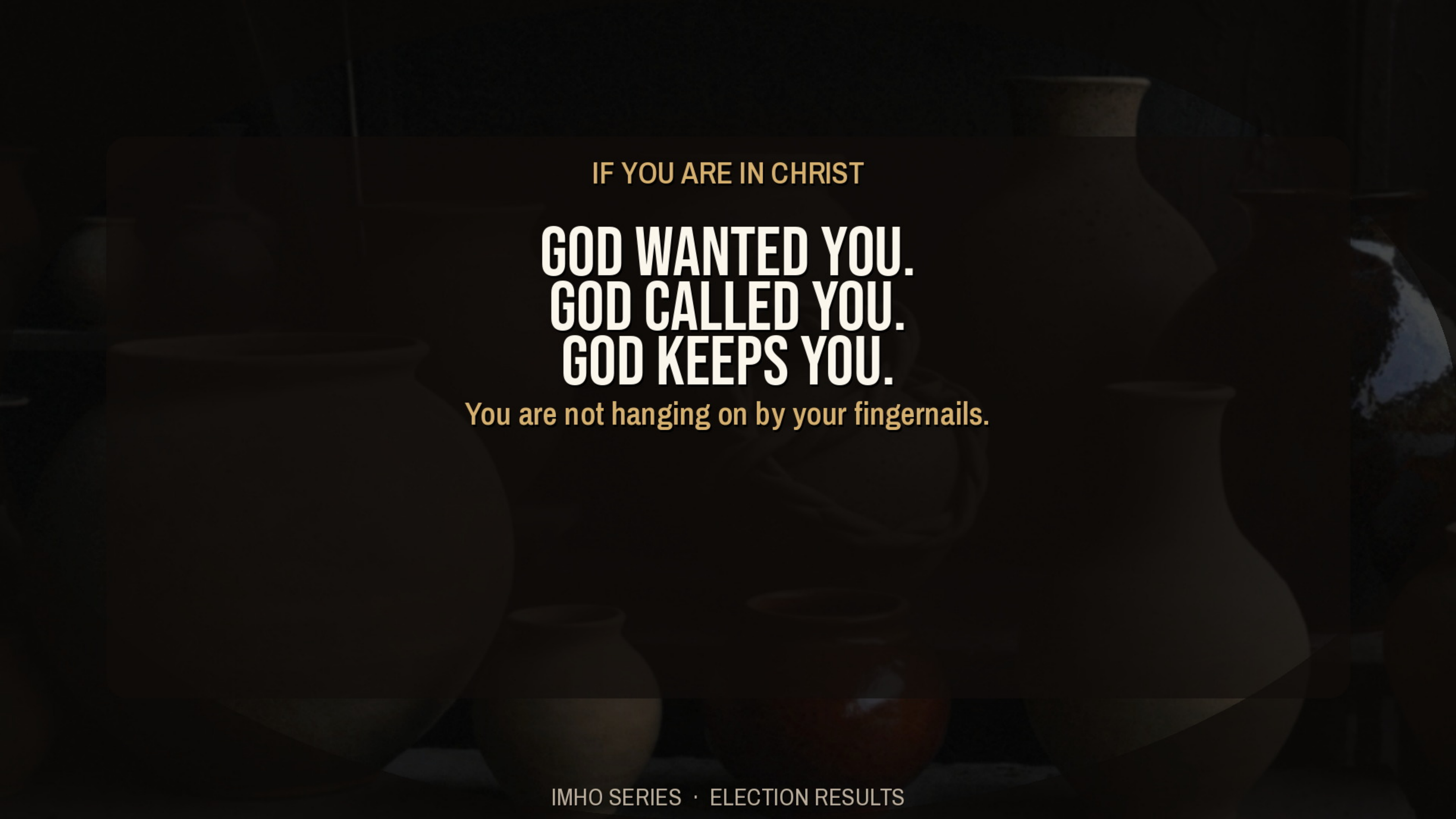
Romans 9:15–16 NLT

THE CRUX OF THIS CIRCLE

DEAD PEOPLE DO NOT CLIMB OUT OF GRAVES.

Ephesians 2:1, 4–5 NLT

Even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life. It is only by God's grace you have been saved.



IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST

**GOD WANTED YOU.
GOD CALLED YOU.
GOD KEEPS YOU.**

You are not hanging on by your fingernails.

CIRCLE ONE COMPLETE THAT CIRCLE IS BIBLICAL

GOD CHOOSES

PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance
Rom 8:29–30 The chain
John 6:44 Father draws
John 15:16 I chose you
Acts 13:48 Appointed
Rom 9:15–16 His mercy
Eph 2:1,4–5 Dead to life

WE CHOOSE

FREE WILL

Lots of verses. Remember — they are all true.

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PART II

THE ARGUMENT FOR FREE WILL

God over and over throughout the Bible gives a real choice.

A REAL CHOICE

**I HAVE GIVEN YOU
THE CHOICE BETWEEN
LIFE AND DEATH.
OH, THAT YOU WOULD
CHOOSE LIFE.**

Deuteronomy 30:19 NLT

NOT THEATER

CHOOSE TODAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE.

Joshua 24:15 NLT

If letting us choose is just for theatrics, then acting like we have an option is cruel.

CIRCLE TWO BEGINS

GOD GIVES A REAL CHOICE

GOD CHOOSES

PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance
Rom 8:29–30 The chain
John 6:44 Father draws
John 15:16 I chose you
Acts 13:48 Appointed
Rom 9:15–16 His mercy
Eph 2:1,4–5 Dead to life

WE CHOOSE

FREE WILL

Deut 30:19 Choose life
Josh 24:15 Choose today

GOD LOVED THE WORLD

**EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES
IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE**

John 3:16–18 NLT

No judgment against anyone who believes. Anyone who does not believe has already been judged.

WHAT GOD WANTS

**GOD OUR SAVIOR...
WANTS EVERYONE
TO BE SAVED AND
TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH**

1 Timothy 2:3–4 NLT

He wants everyone saved. But they're not.

JESUS OVER JERUSALEM

**I WANTED.
YOU WOULDN'T.**

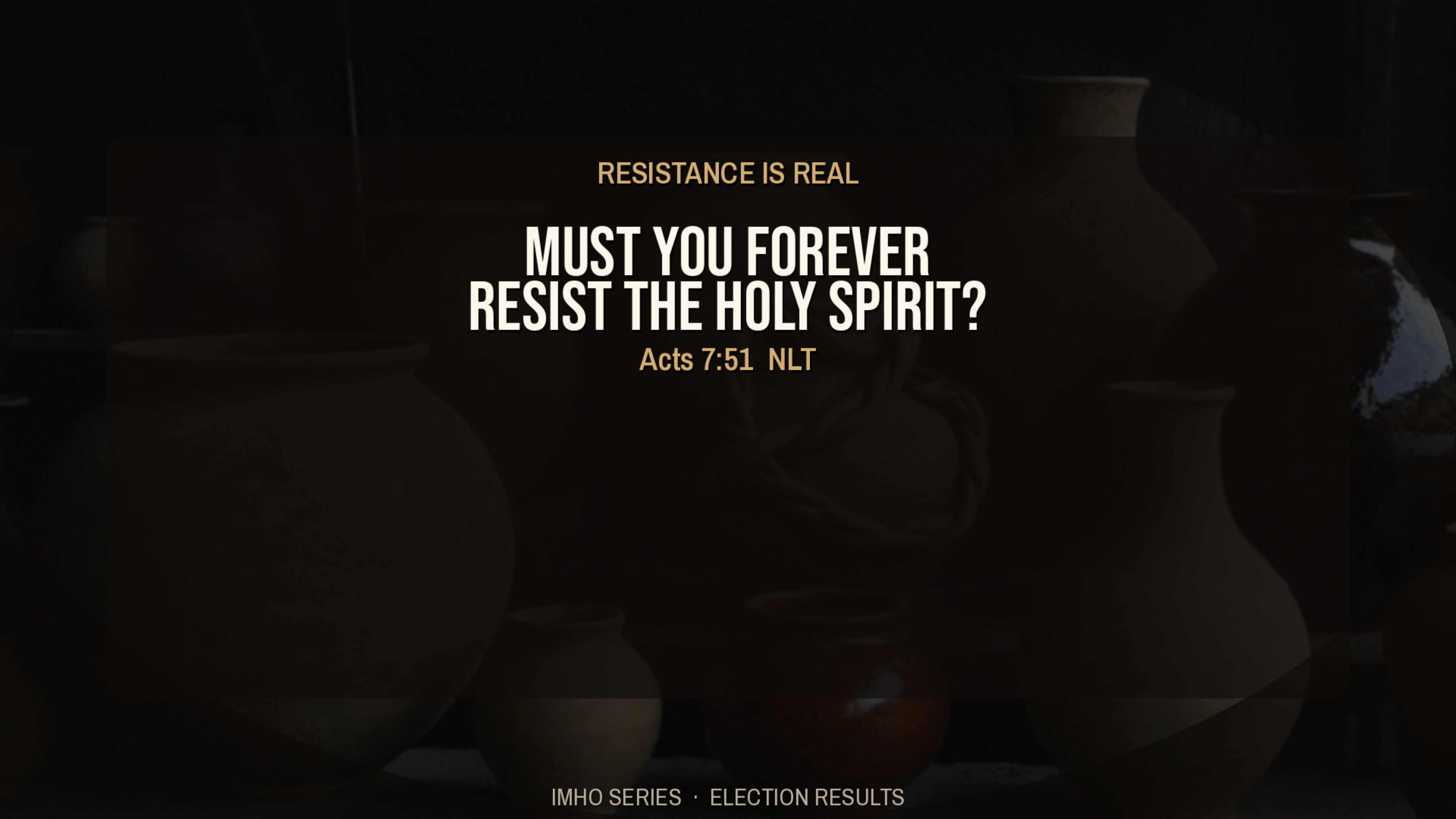
Matthew 23:37 NLT

How often I have wanted to gather your children... but you wouldn't let me.

PATIENT, NOT SLOW

**HE DOES NOT WANT
ANYONE TO BE DESTROYED,
BUT WANTS EVERYONE
TO REPENT**

2 Peter 3:9 NLT



RESISTANCE IS REAL

MUST YOU FOREVER RESIST THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Acts 7:51 NLT

CIRCLE TWO FILLING
I WANTED. YOU WOULDN'T.

GOD CHOOSES

PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance
Rom 8:29–30 The chain
John 6:44 Father draws
John 15:16 I chose you
Acts 13:48 Appointed
Rom 9:15–16 His mercy
Eph 2:1,4–5 Dead to life

WE CHOOSE

FREE WILL

Deut 30:19 Choose life
Josh 24:15 Choose today
John 3:16–18 Whoever
1 Tim 2:3–4 Wants all
Matt 23:37 You wouldn't
2 Pet 3:9 All repent
Acts 7:51 Resist Spirit

FAITH IS REQUIRED OF US

**DECLARE THAT JESUS IS LORD.
BELIEVE GOD RAISED HIM.
YOU WILL BE SAVED.**

Romans 10:9 NLT

GIFT AND RECEIVING

**GRACE IS A GIFT.
BELIEVING IS HOW
YOU RECEIVE IT.**

Ephesians 2:8–9 NLT

Never treat faith as a wage you earned. Never treat unbelief as someone else's fault.

BOTH PILES STAND
TWO CIRCLES. BOTH TRUE.

GOD CHOOSES

PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance
Rom 8:29–30 The chain
John 6:44 Father draws
John 15:16 I chose you
Acts 13:48 Appointed
Rom 9:15–16 His mercy
Eph 2:1,4–5 Dead to life

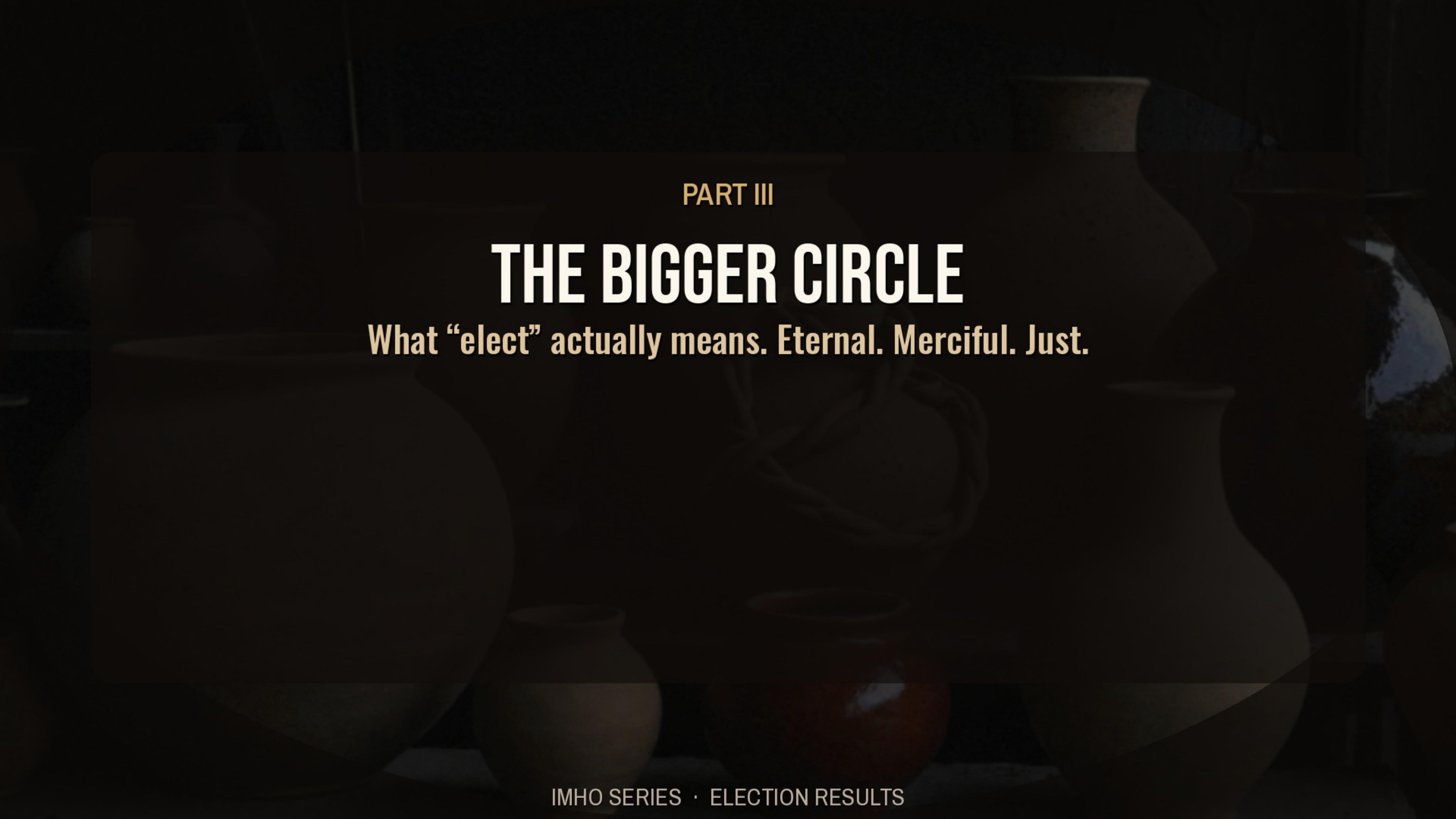
WE CHOOSE

FREE WILL

Deut 30:19 Choose life
Josh 24:15 Choose today
John 3:16–18 Whoever
1 Tim 2:3–4 Wants all
Matt 23:37 You wouldn't
2 Pet 3:9 All repent
Acts 7:51 Resist Spirit
Rom 10:9 Believe

Now we need a circle big enough for both.

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PART III

THE BIGGER CIRCLE

What “elect” actually means. Eternal. Merciful. Just.

WAS ISRAEL ELECT?

**YES.
CHOSEN TO BE HIS
OWN SPECIAL TREASURE**

Deuteronomy 7:6 NLT

If elect means automatically saved, the exile does not make sense.

DEFINITION CHECK

ELECTION, IN THE BIBLE, IS NOT A SYNONYM FOR “SAVED.”

Otherwise there are a bunch of Baal worshipers awkwardly with Jesus.

ISRAEL'S PATTERN

CHOSEN NATION · BELIEVING REMNANT

ELECTION WAS ACCESS

- Israel had the truth.
- The covenants. The prophets. The temple.
- The other nations did not.
- That is what “chosen” meant.
- Yet they broke the covenant and were exiled.

INSIDE THE NATION

- A remnant actually trusted Yahweh.
- Romans 11:5 — a remnant by grace.
- Chosen nation.
- Believing remnant inside the nation.

THE NEW TESTAMENT SHOCK

**ONCE YOU WERE FAR AWAY.
NOW YOU HAVE BEEN
BROUGHT NEAR BY THE
BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

Ephesians 2:13 NLT

If “non-elect” meant pre-damned with no future, Gentile salvation cannot happen. But it did.

ISRAEL-LANGUAGE ON THE CHURCH

**YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE.
ROYAL PRIESTS.
A HOLY NATION.
GOD'S OWN POSSESSION.**

1 Peter 2:9 NLT



REFRAME

ELECTION IS MORE OF A VOCATION THAN A DESTINATION.

You've been called to something or Someone — but you still have a choice.

1 SAMUEL 23

GOD KNEW A FUTURE THAT DID NOT OCCUR.

David asks. Saul would come. The men would betray. David leaves. None of it happens.

Therefore “God knew it” cannot mean “God made it happen.”

HOW THAT MAKES SENSE

**I DECLARE THE END
FROM THE BEGINNING...
MY PLAN WILL TAKE PLACE.**

Isaiah 46:10 CSB

Time is part of creation. The Creator is outside of it. He sees the whole story at once — the road taken and the road refused.

KNOWING IS NOT CAUSING

**KNOWING IT ALL
AND SEEING IT ALL
IS NOT THE SAME THING
AS CAUSING IT ALL.**

A man who already knows the final score of a recorded game has not moved the players' feet.

THE OUTER CIRCLE GOD OUTSIDE OF TIME

Merciful · Just
Elect = access + vocation

GOD CHOOSES PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance
Rom 8:29–30 The chain
John 6:44 Father draws
John 15:16 I chose you

WE CHOOSE FREE WILL

Deut 30:19 Choose life
Josh 24:15 Choose today
John 3:16–18 Whoever
1 Tim 2:3–4 Wants all
Matt 23:37 You wouldn't

From eternity He knows His own. Inside history He lets people be people.

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BOTH CIRCLES FIT
PERFECTLY MERCIFUL · PERFECTLY JUST

Elect = access + vocation · Chosen nation, believing remnant
Nations brought near · Foreknowledge is not coercion

GOD CHOOSES
PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance
Rom 8:29–30 The chain
John 6:44 Father draws
John 15:16 I chose you

WE CHOOSE
FREE WILL

Deut 30:19 Choose life
Josh 24:15 Choose today
John 3:16–18 Whoever
1 Tim 2:3–4 Wants all
Matt 23:37 You wouldn't

THE BIG CIRCLE ALL THE VERSES FIT HERE

Elect = access + vocation · Chosen nation, believing remnant · Nations brought near
Foreknowledge is not coercion · God outside time · Merciful and just

GOD CHOOSES PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:4–5 Chose us
Eph 1:11 In advance
Rom 8:29–30 The chain
John 6:44 Father draws
John 15:16 I chose you

WE CHOOSE FREE WILL

Deut 30:19 Choose life
Josh 24:15 Choose today
John 3:16–18 Whoever
1 Tim 2:3–4 Wants all
Matt 23:37 You wouldn't

He predestines the ends He promised. He lets the story play so mercy is mercy and judgment is just.

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PART IV

TWO STORIES THAT SHOW HOW GOD WORKS

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ABRAHAM AND CANAAN

**THE END WAS ALREADY SET.
THE TIMING WAS NOT
“AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.”
THE TIMING WAS
“WHEN JUDGMENT IS JUST.”**

Genesis 15:13–16 NLT

400 years of oppression — because the sins of the Amorites did not yet warrant their destruction.

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

HE CAN DECLARE THE END

and still refuse to commit injustice
to keep a schedule that looks efficient to us.
He's outside time — He knows how it plays out.
He's perfectly merciful and just — so He lets it play out.

BEFORE MOSES GOES BACK

**I WILL HARDEN HIS HEART
SO HE WILL REFUSE
TO LET THE PEOPLE GO.**

Exodus 4:21 NLT

Sounds like Calvinism. Then watch the order in the story.

WATCH THE ORDER PHARAOH FIRST · THEN THE LORD

HIS HEART HARDENED

- After the frogs — his heart became stubborn. Ex 8:15
- After the flies — his heart hardened again. Ex 8:32
- Blood. Frogs. Magicians: “This is the finger of God.”
- The king still says no.

THEN GOD HARDENS

- Exodus 9:12 — the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart.
- After that, God is the one hardening his heart.
- His heart was already hard before that lock.
- God locked the door his heart had already slammed.

THE POINT

**GOD DID NOT INVENT
THAT PRIDE.
GOD TESTED IT.
GOD CONFIRMED IT.**

Exodus 10:1–2 · Romans 9:17

So He could display His signs — and so you will know that He is the Lord.

TWO TRUTHS. ONE STORY.

**PHARAOH IS GUILTY.
HIS HEART HARDENED.
GOD IS ALSO SOVEREIGN.
HE USED THAT HARD HEART.**

Same pattern as Canaan. The end is set. The story still has to run until the verdict is righteous and God gets the glory.



PART V

LIVE INSIDE THE BIG CIRCLE

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NOTHING GETS THROWN AWAY BOTH INNER CIRCLES STAY

CIRCLE ONE

- God chooses.
- God draws.
- God raises the dead.
- No one boasts.
- Those verses stay.

CIRCLE TWO

- People choose.
- People resist.
- People are invited.
- People are judged for what they did with the truth they had.
- Those verses stay.

THE OUTER CIRCLE

GOD STANDS OUTSIDE OF TIME

“Elect” means a people for access, witness, and a remnant.

Not that every name on a list is automatically in glory.

Not that the outsider is locked out of mercy.

He predestines the ends He promised.

He lets the story play — so saving is mercy, and judging is just.

PAUL DID NOT APOLOGIZE FOR EITHER CIRCLE

**WHO ARE YOU,
A MERE HUMAN BEING,
TO ARGUE WITH GOD?**

Romans 9:20 NLT

God is God. We are not.



AND IN THE NEXT BREATH

**EVERYONE WHO CALLS
ON THE NAME OF THE LORD
WILL BE SAVED.**

Romans 10:13 NLT

WHEREVER YOU LEAN DON'T GET SMALLER THAN SCRIPTURE

IF YOU LEAN CALVINIST

- That's okay.
- Remember: the God who chose a people also wept over Jerusalem.
- He waited four hundred years rather than judge too soon.

IF YOU LEAN ARMINIAN

- Do not get proud.
- You did not invent your faith.
- You were dead. He made you alive.

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE YOU BELONG

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO
SOLVE ROMANS 9
BEFORE YOU OBEY
ROMANS 10.**

The warrant for coming is not decoded election papers.
The warrant is this: Christ died. Christ rose. He says come.

THE INVITATION IS NOT FAKE

**THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE
SAY, "COME."
LET ANYONE WHO IS THIRSTY
COME.**

Revelation 22:17 NLT

God already knows whether you will. That makes it urgent — not theatrical.

THE LAST MOVE

**SO CHOOSE LIFE.
AND WHEN YOU HAVE CHOSEN,
GET ON YOUR FACE AND THANK
THE GOD WHO CHOSE YOU FIRST.**

Deuteronomy 30:19 + Ephesians 1:4

ALL OF SCRIPTURE IS TRUE

**GOD IS NOT LESS SOVEREIGN
BECAUSE YOUR CHOICE IS REAL.
YOUR CHOICE IS NOT LESS REAL
BECAUSE GOD IS SOVEREIGN.**

IMHO · ELECTION RESULTS
LIVE INSIDE THE BIG CIRCLE

Outside time · Merciful and just
Elect = vocation · The story is allowed to run

GOD CHOOSES
PREDESTINATION

God chooses
God draws
God raises the dead

WE CHOOSE
FREE WILL

People choose
People resist
People are invited

The Judge of all the earth will do right.
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