



Best to be sure ...

“nailing down your salvation”

Part 4: “The Backslider Blues”



Part 1: Taking the test

Part 2: The test

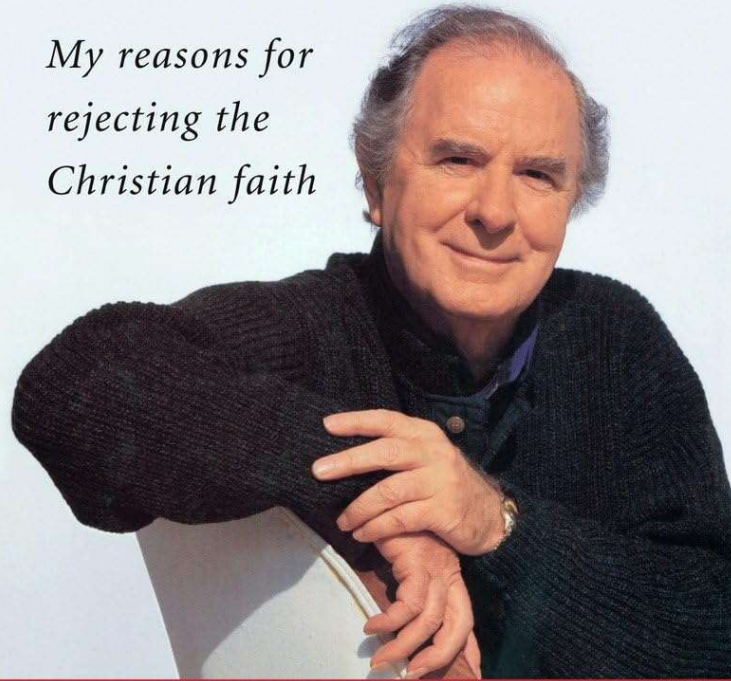
Part 3: Failing the test and losing your salvation



2024 July 28 Dan Fisher - Best to Be Sure (Part 4)

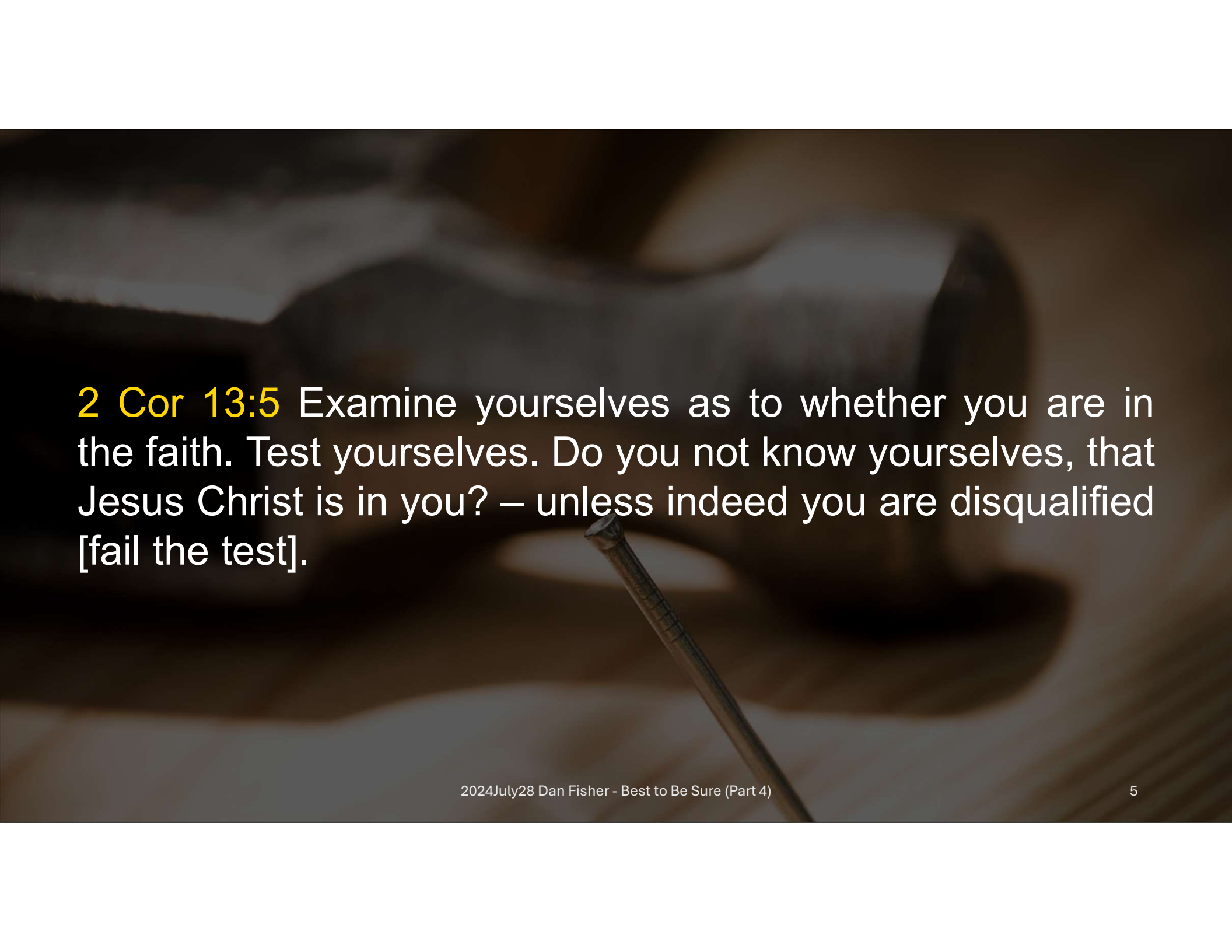
FAREWELL TO GOD

*My reasons for
rejecting the
Christian faith*



Charles Templeton

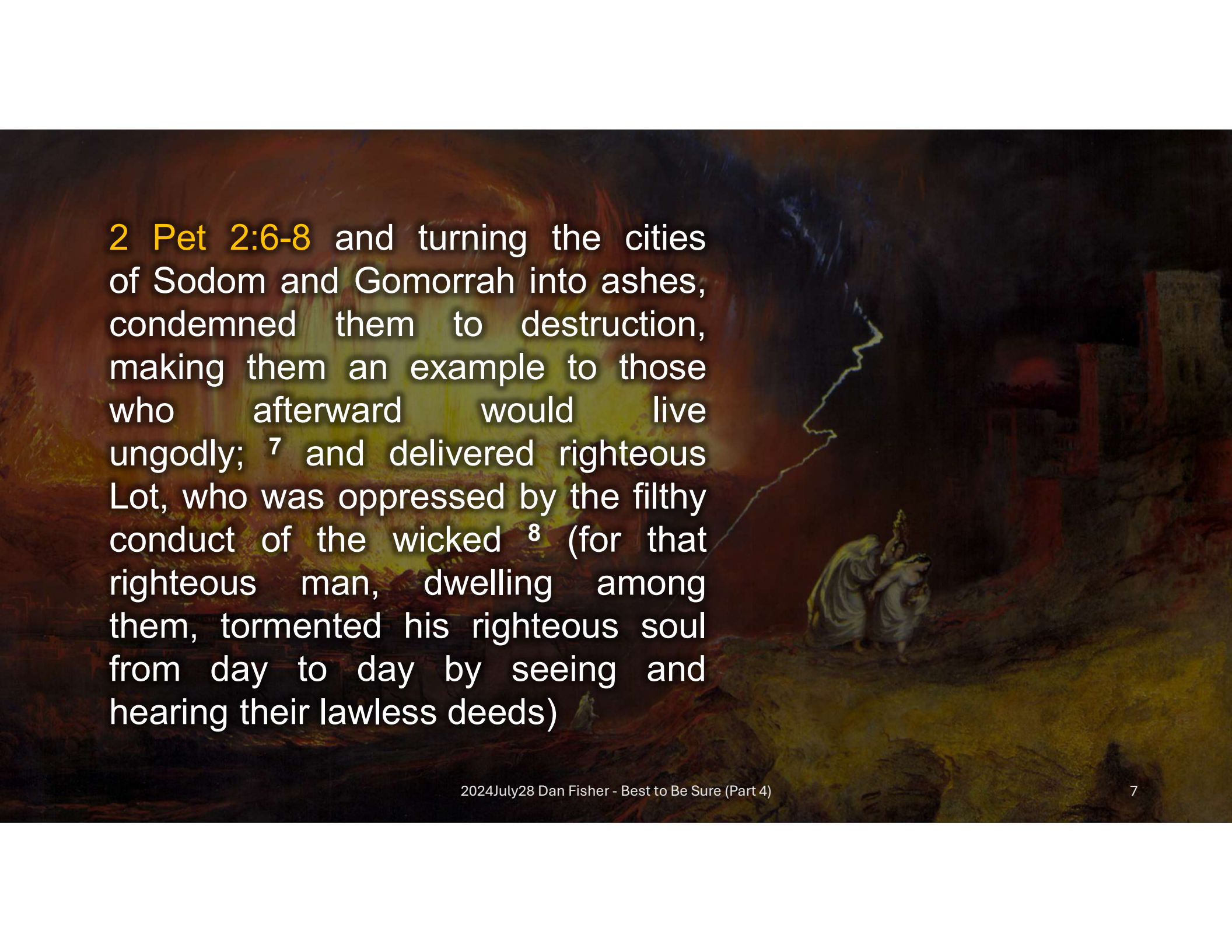
2024 July 28 Dan Fisher - Best to Be Sure (Part 4)



2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified [fail the test].



Gen 13 & 19




2 Pet 2:6-8 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; ⁷ and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)

A dramatic painting depicting a city being destroyed by fire and lightning. The scene is dark and intense, with a large fire consuming the city in the background. A bright lightning bolt strikes the ground in the foreground, illuminating a group of people who appear to be in a state of panic or despair. The overall mood is one of destruction and chaos.

Sin will always ...


- Take you farther than you intended to go
- Make you stay longer than you intended to stay
- Cost you more than you were prepared to pay

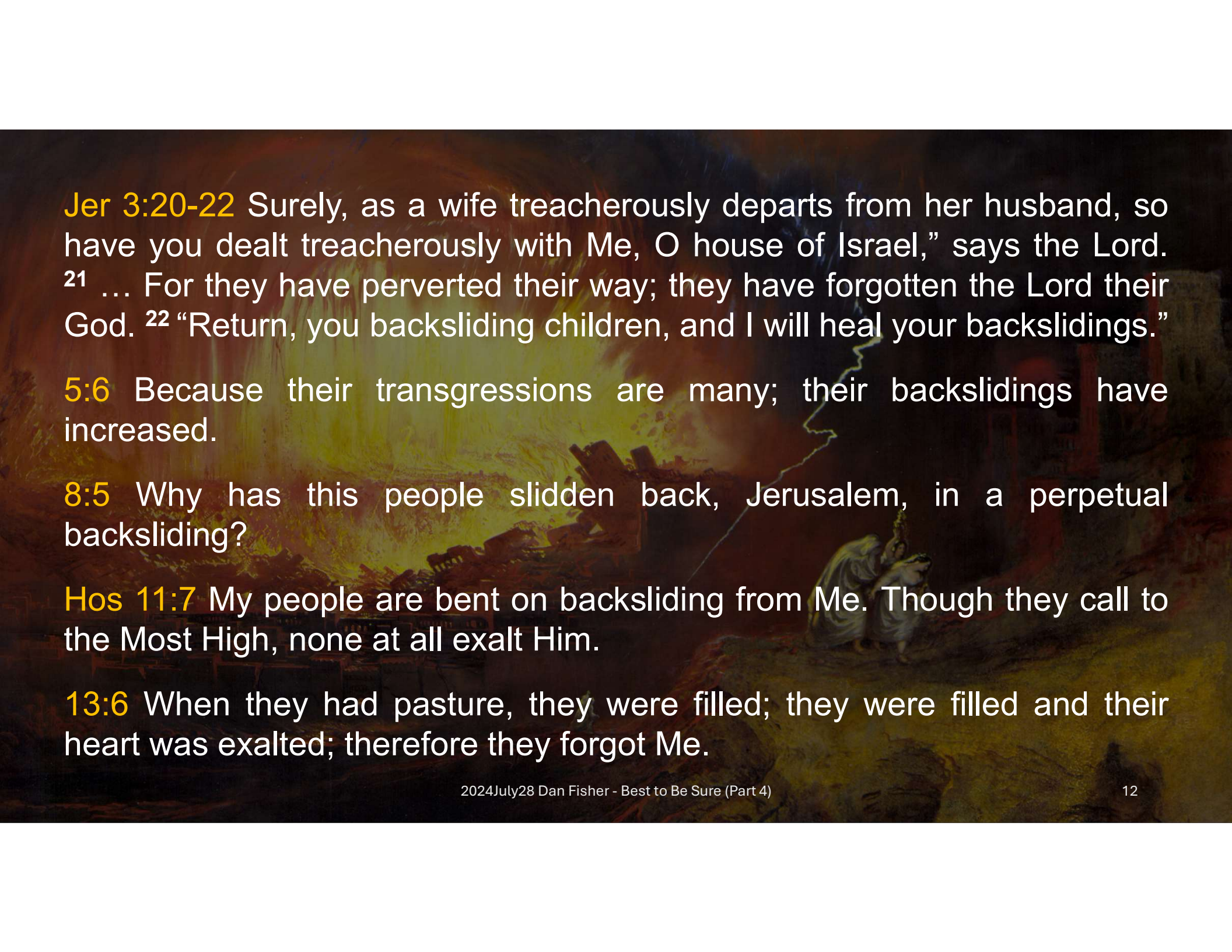


Backsliding: a process by which a believer reverts to pre-conversion habits and/or lapses into sin and turns from God to pursue their own desires



1. Backsliding is confirmed and condemned in Scripture

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- Lot
 - David
 - Jonah
 - Israel

A dramatic painting of a city in flames, with a lightning bolt striking down from a dark, stormy sky. The scene is filled with fire and smoke, creating a sense of destruction and divine judgment. In the foreground, a figure is seen in a state of prayer or distress, looking up towards the sky.

Jer 3:20-22 Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel,” says the Lord.
21 ... For they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the Lord their God. 22 “Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.”

5:6 Because their transgressions are many; their backslidings have increased.

8:5 Why has this people slidden back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding?

Hos 11:7 My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, none at all exalt Him.

13:6 When they had pasture, they were filled; they were filled and their heart was exalted; therefore they forgot Me.



- **Demas**

2 Tim 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica

- **Galatian believers**

Gal 1:6;5:7 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ... ⁷ You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

- **Ephesian believers**


Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

A dramatic painting depicting a city being destroyed by fire and lightning. The scene is dark and intense, with a large, bright fire consuming the city in the background. A lightning bolt strikes the ground in the foreground, illuminating a group of people in white robes who appear to be in a state of distress or prayer. The overall mood is one of tragedy and divine judgment.

2. Backsliding is a “process” – generally not a particular sin


A dramatic painting depicting a volcanic eruption. A massive, glowing yellow and orange plume of smoke and ash rises from a city that has been largely destroyed. A bright lightning bolt strikes down from the dark, stormy sky towards the ruins. In the foreground, a man and a woman in white robes are huddled together, looking towards the devastation. The scene is dark and atmospheric, with a sense of tragedy and destruction.

3. How does someone become a backslidden?

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- Distractions – “Lost sheep” (Lk 15:3-7)
 - Carelessness – “Lost coin” (Lk 15:8-10)
 - Willful sin – “Prodigal son” (Lk 15:11-32)

A dramatic painting depicting a volcanic eruption. In the background, a massive plume of fire and smoke billows into a dark sky, with a bright yellow and orange glow emanating from the base. In the foreground, a city with dark, rectangular buildings is visible on the left. On the right, two figures in white robes are huddled together, looking towards the eruption. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a sense of impending disaster.

4. What are the signs that someone is backslidden?

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- Decreased devotion to the Lord
 - Compromised convictions
 - Indifference to salvation & evangelism
 - Reduced/lost spiritual disciplines
 - Damped compassion
 - Spiritual fruitlessness
 - Lack of spiritual joy/victory
 - Feeling of God's discipline

A dramatic painting depicting a volcanic eruption. A massive, glowing yellow and orange plume of smoke and ash rises from a dark, jagged mountain peak on the left. A bright lightning bolt strikes the dark, stormy sky on the right. In the foreground, a landscape of dark, rocky terrain is shown. On the right, a group of people in white robes are huddled together, appearing to be fleeing or seeking shelter. On the left, a small, dark structure is visible. The overall atmosphere is one of intense danger and chaos.

5. What happens to the backslider?




The plight of the backslider –

“They cannot enjoy the Lord they are rejecting nor the world they are embracing.”

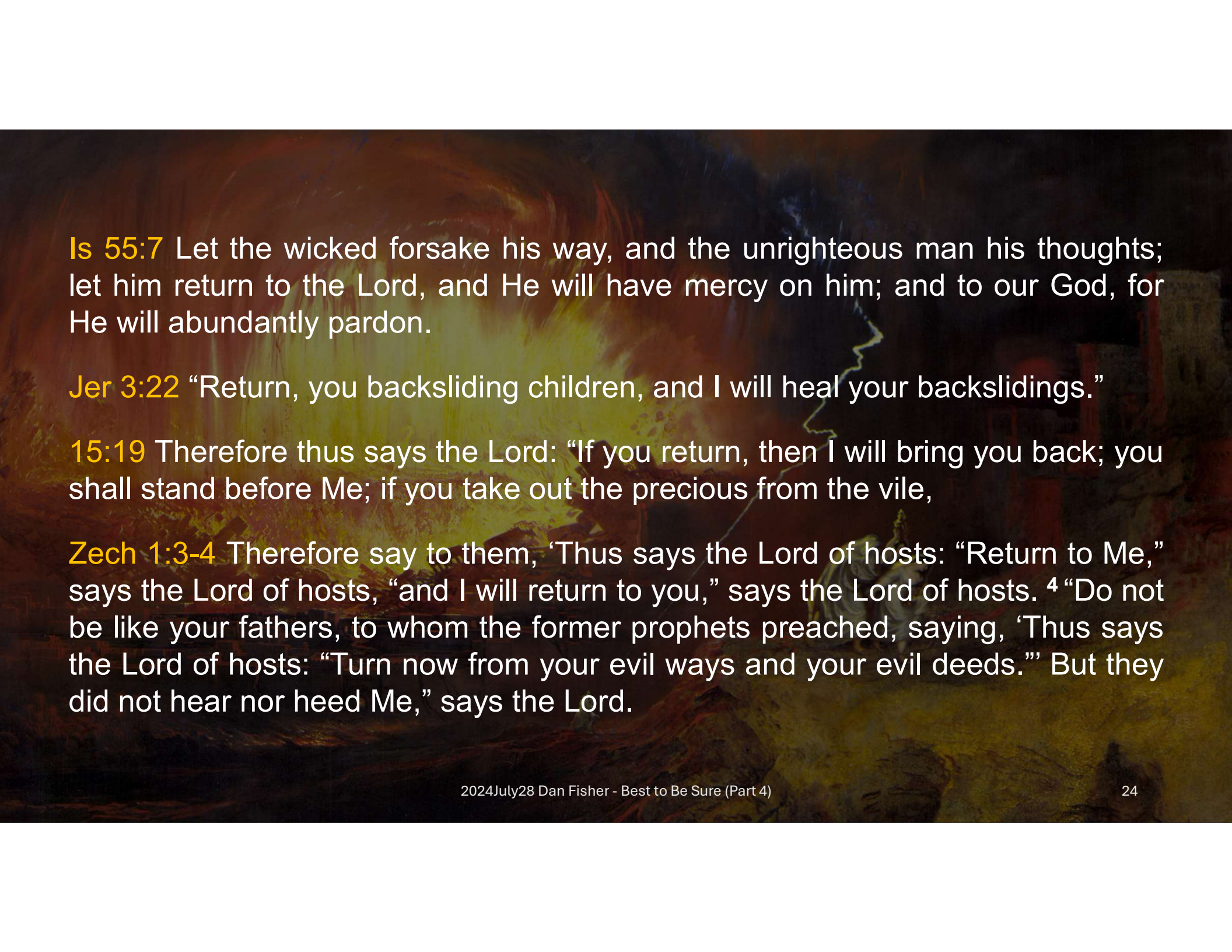


“The most miserable man is not an unsaved man – it’s a child of God out of fellowship with God. ... Sin promises much but pays little. ... When you are saved, God doesn’t fix you so you cannot sin, He fixes it so you cannot sin and enjoy it anymore.” Adrian Rogers

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- A dramatic painting depicting a volcanic eruption. A massive plume of fire and smoke billows from a mountain, with a bright lightning bolt striking down towards a city. In the foreground, a group of people in white robes are huddled together, looking towards the destruction. The scene is dark and atmospheric, with a sense of impending doom.
- They are miserable
 - Their sin affects others close to them
 - They may die prematurely

A dramatic painting depicting a volcanic eruption. In the background, a massive plume of fire and smoke billows upwards, illuminated by a bright yellow and orange glow. A jagged lightning bolt strikes down from the dark, stormy sky onto a path in the foreground. On the right side of the path, two figures in white robes are huddled together, one appearing to be supporting the other. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a sense of danger and urgency.

6. Is there a road back for the backslider?



Is 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Jer 3:22 “Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.”

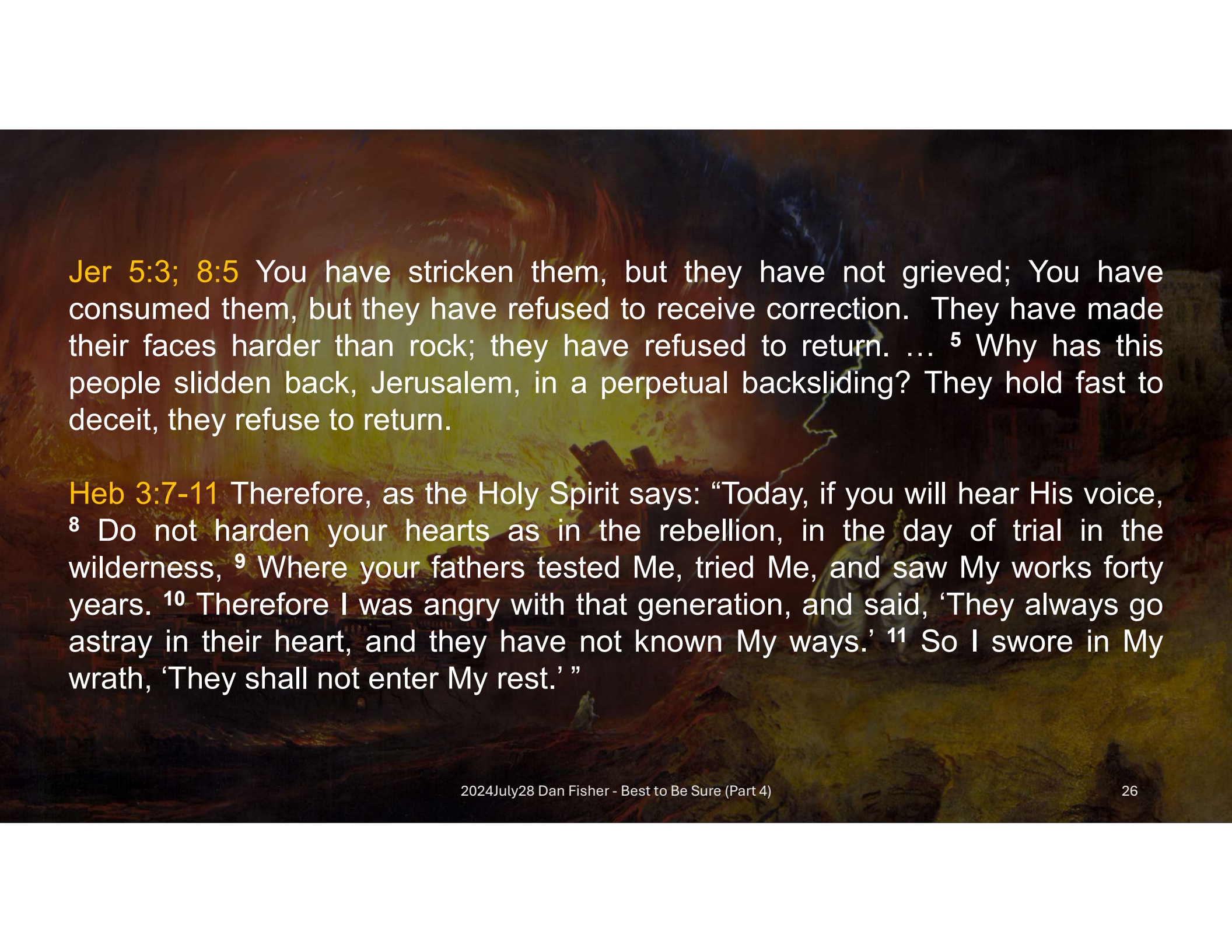
15:19 Therefore thus says the Lord: “If you return, then I will bring you back; you shall stand before Me; if you take out the precious from the vile,

Zech 1:3-4 Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the Lord of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts. ⁴ “Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.”’ But they did not hear nor heed Me,” says the Lord.



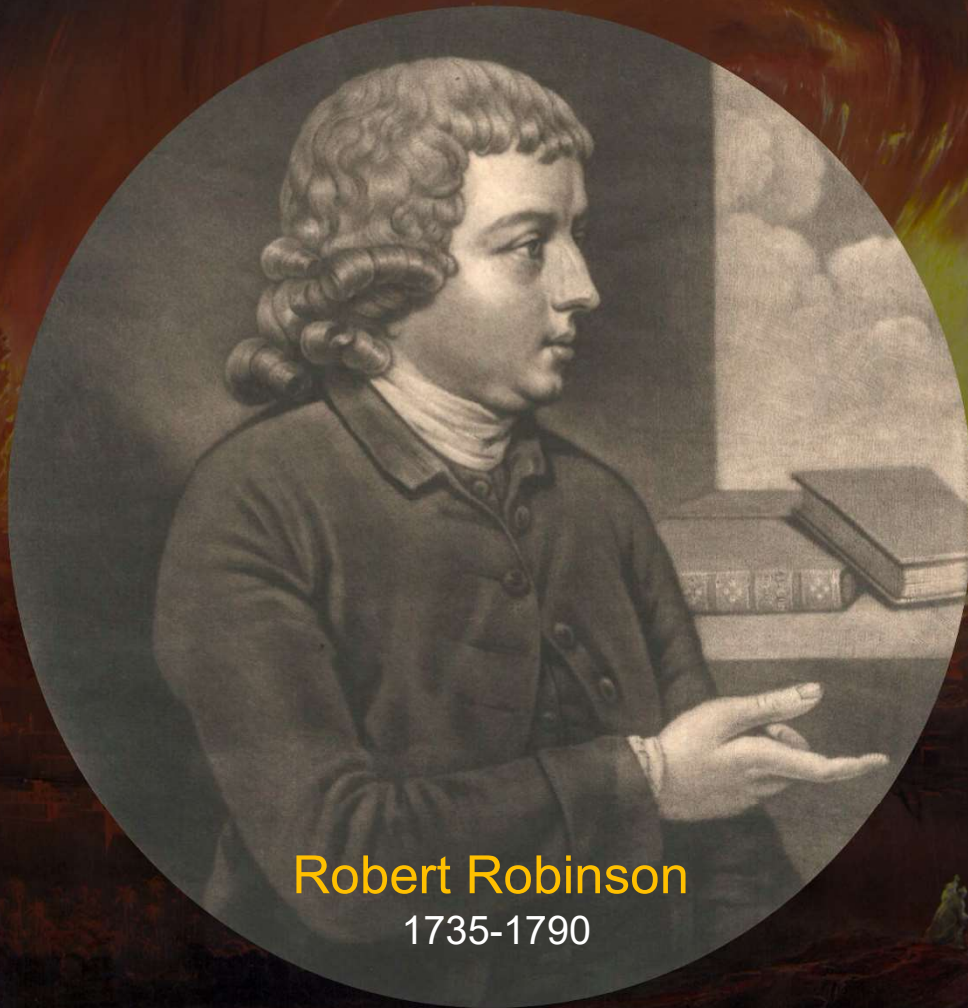
Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works,

**Remember
Repent
Repeat**



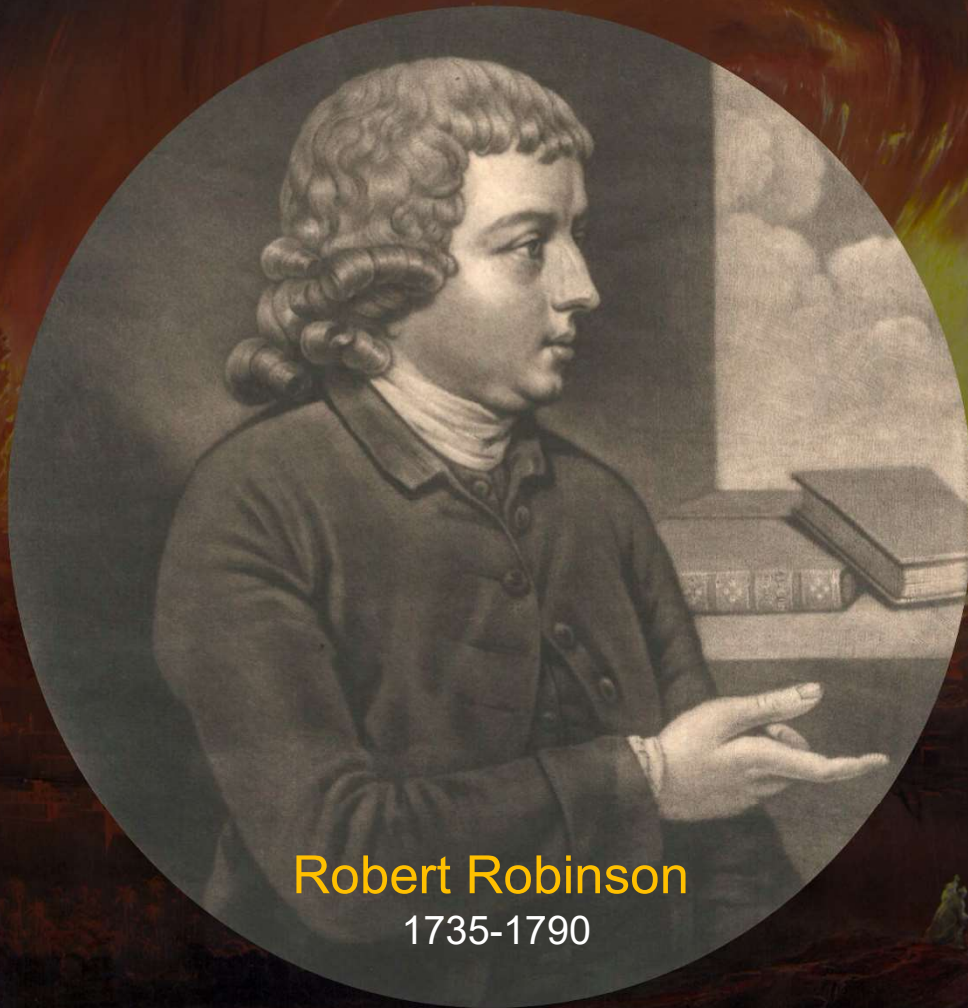
Jer 5:3; 8:5 You have stricken them, but they have not grieved; You have consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return. ... ⁵ Why has this people slidden back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return.

Heb 3:7-11 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice,
⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.’ ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”



Robert Robinson
1735-1790

“Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here’s my heart Lord take it seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above”



Robert Robinson
1735-1790

“Prone to wander, Robert was. He left the Methodists and became a Baptist. Later on, having become a close friend of Joseph Priestly, he was accused of becoming a Unitarian. Priestly and other Unitarians denied the full divinity of Christ.”

However, there is some evidence Robinson declared before the end of his ministry that he believed Jesus was divine.