

Saved





Saved

Election

Eternal security

Ending life by suicide

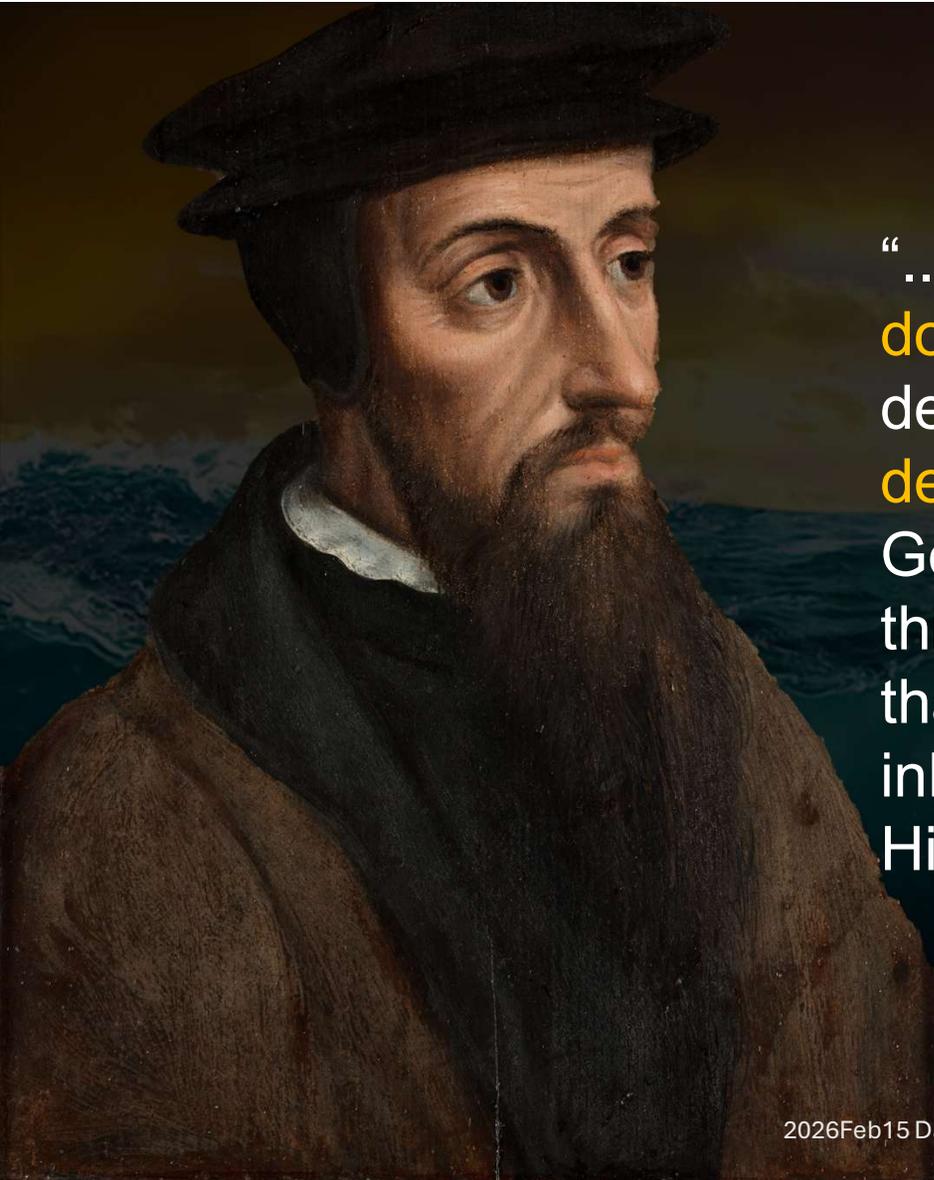
Eternal conscious torment vs. annihilation



Election

Pt 4: Does God Predestine People For Hell?

2026Feb15 Dan Fisher - Saved - Election (Pt 4B)



“... individuals are born, who are **doomed from the womb** to certain death, and are to glorify Him **by their destruction**. ... Therefore, those whom God passes over, He condemns; and this He does for no other reason than that **He wills to exclude them** from the inheritance which He predestines for His own children.”

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*





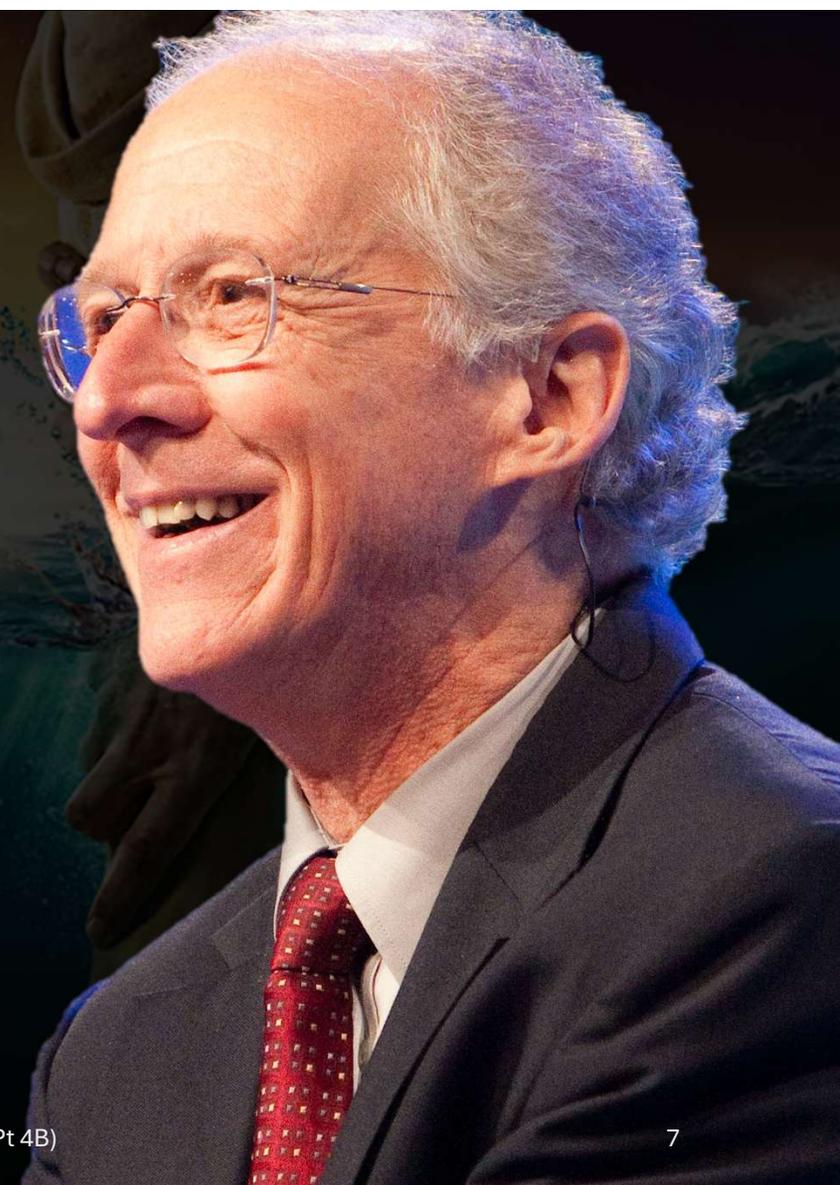
R.C. Sproul:

“I struggled with the doctrine [election] for at least five years after my conversion ... I fought against it tooth and nail ... I was brought kicking and screaming against my will, to an initial acquiescence of pure Augustinianism [Calvinism]. ... Reluctantly, I sighed and surrendered ...”

“How R.C. Sproul became a Calvinist,” Dec 1, 2012,
<https://internationalstandard.wordpress.com/2012/12/01/how-r-c-sproul-became-a-calvinist/>, Sproul, R. C.
(1986). Chosen by God (11–17). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, R.C. Sproul: *The Righteous Shall Live By Faith, Romans: An Expository Commentary*.

“[E]motions run very high in a 22-year-old, who finds his man-centered world collapsing around him. ... these texts were making me very angry and making me cry in the afternoon as I read my Bible.”

John Piper, “How Did John Piper Become A Calvinist,” Episode 1514, Aug 19, 2020, <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-did-john-piper-become-a-calvinist>, sermon: “The Absolute Sovereignty of God, What Is Romans Nine About?,” Nov 3, 2002, <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-absolute-sovereignty-of-god>



Calvinists



John MacArthur



Voddie Bauchum

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Calvinists

Non-Calvinists



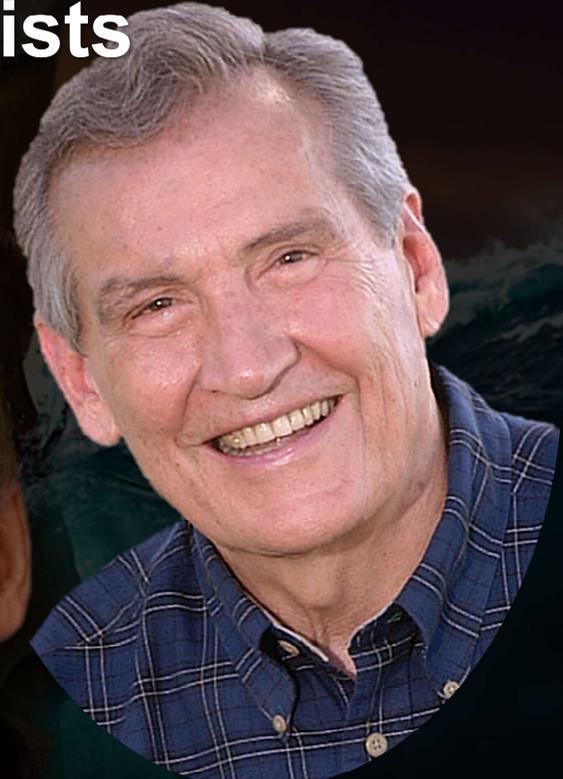
John MacArthur



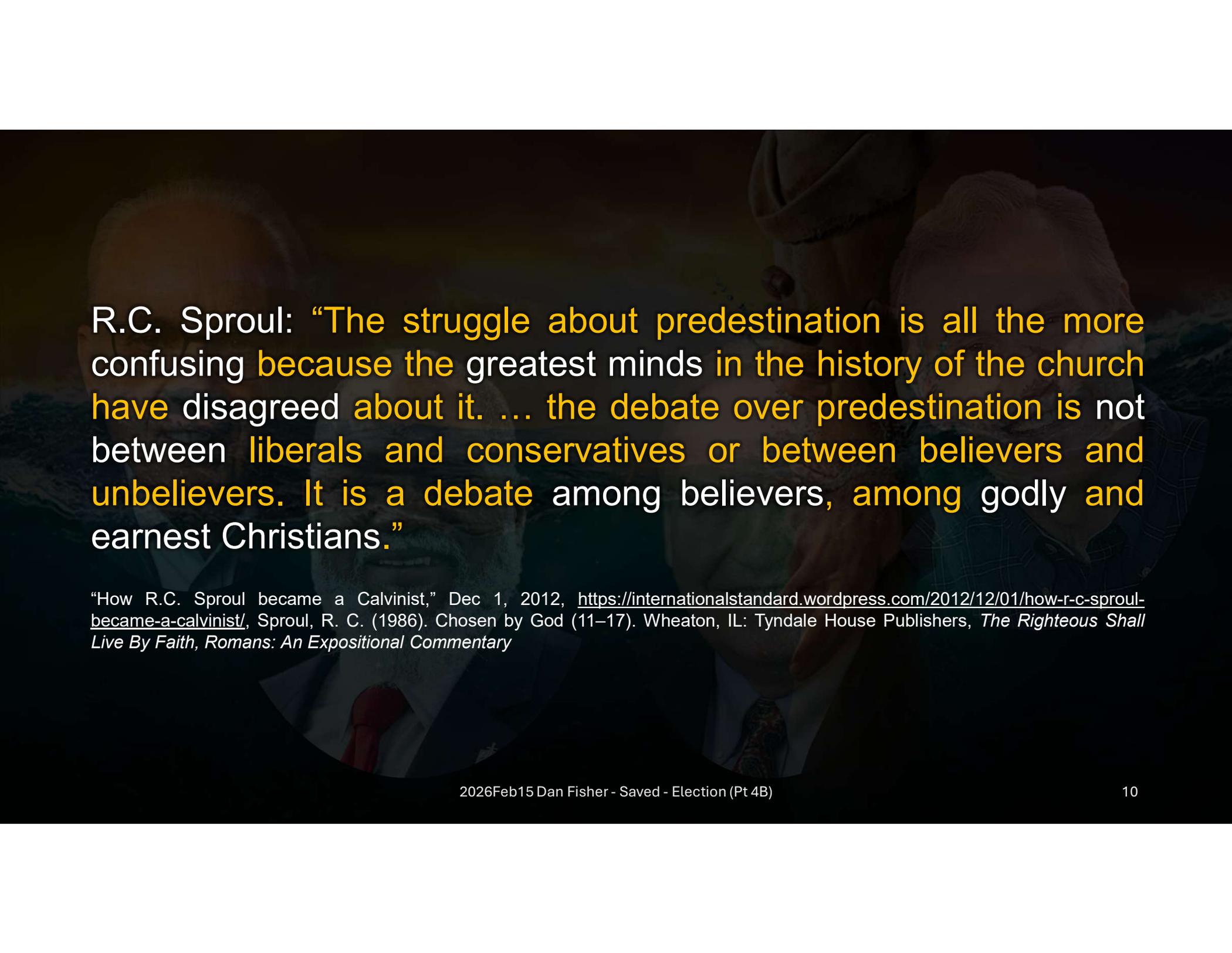
Voddie Bauchum



Norman Geisler



Adrian Rogers



R.C. Sproul: “The struggle about predestination is all the more confusing because the greatest minds in the history of the church have disagreed about it. ... the debate over predestination is not between liberals and conservatives or between believers and unbelievers. It is a debate among believers, among godly and earnest Christians.”

“How R.C. Sproul became a Calvinist,” Dec 1, 2012, <https://internationalstandard.wordpress.com/2012/12/01/how-r-c-sproul-became-a-calvinist/>, Sproul, R. C. (1986). Chosen by God (11–17). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, *The Righteous Shall Live By Faith, Romans: An Expository Commentary*

One of the critical, if not most critical, biblical texts for Calvinists is Romans 9. If they have misinterpreted that passage, Calvinism is practically doomed as an orthodox position.

“There are two experiences in my life that make Romans 9 one of the most important (if not *the* most important) chapter in the Bible in shaping the way I think about everything, and in determining where I have been led by God to minister.” John Piper



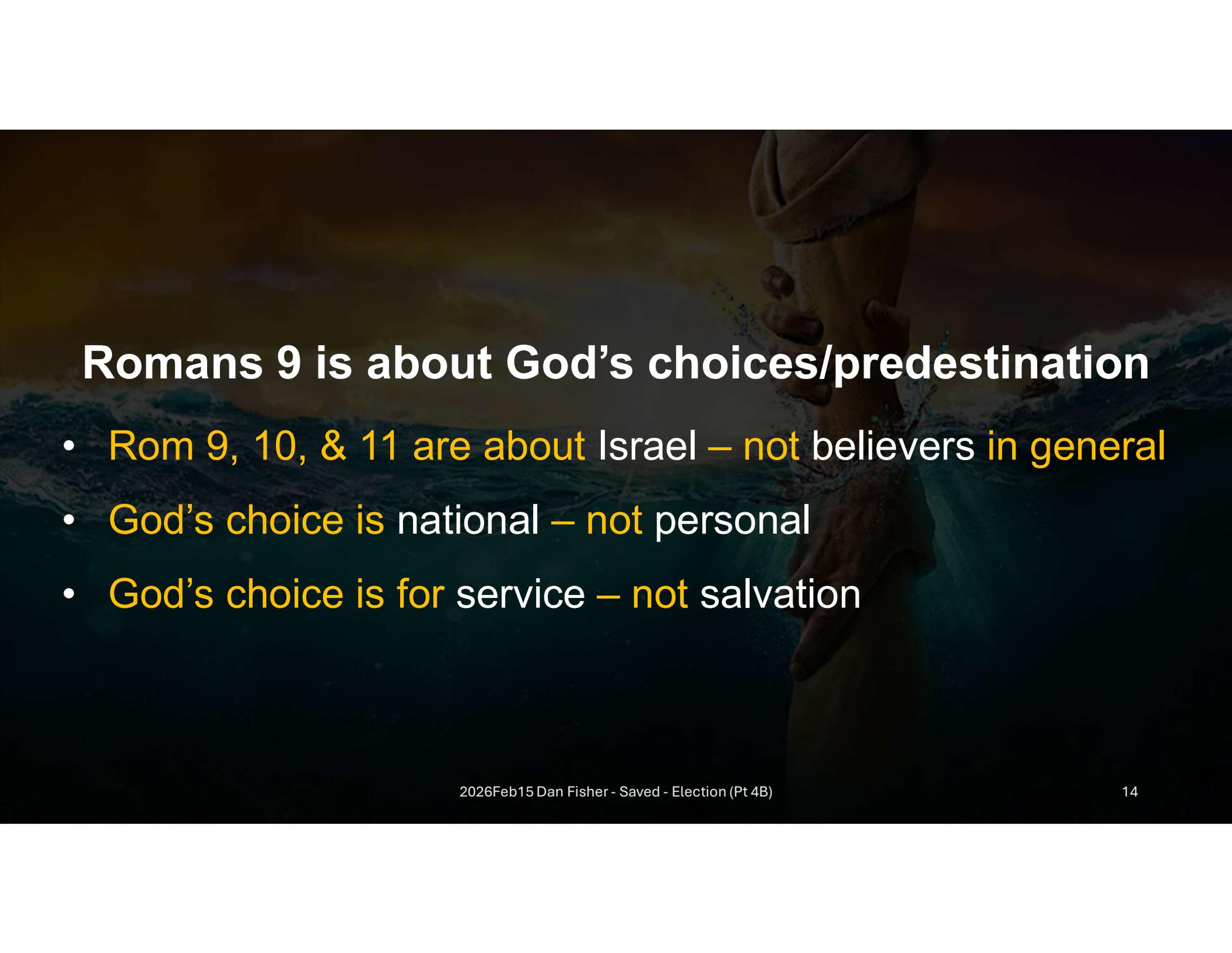
“A God small enough for me to completely understand is a God who is not large enough for me to follow.”

A portrait of Megan Phelps-Roper, a woman with long, dark, curly hair, wearing a black top and colorful earrings. She is smiling slightly. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The image is framed by dark, atmospheric side panels showing a stormy sea.

unfollow

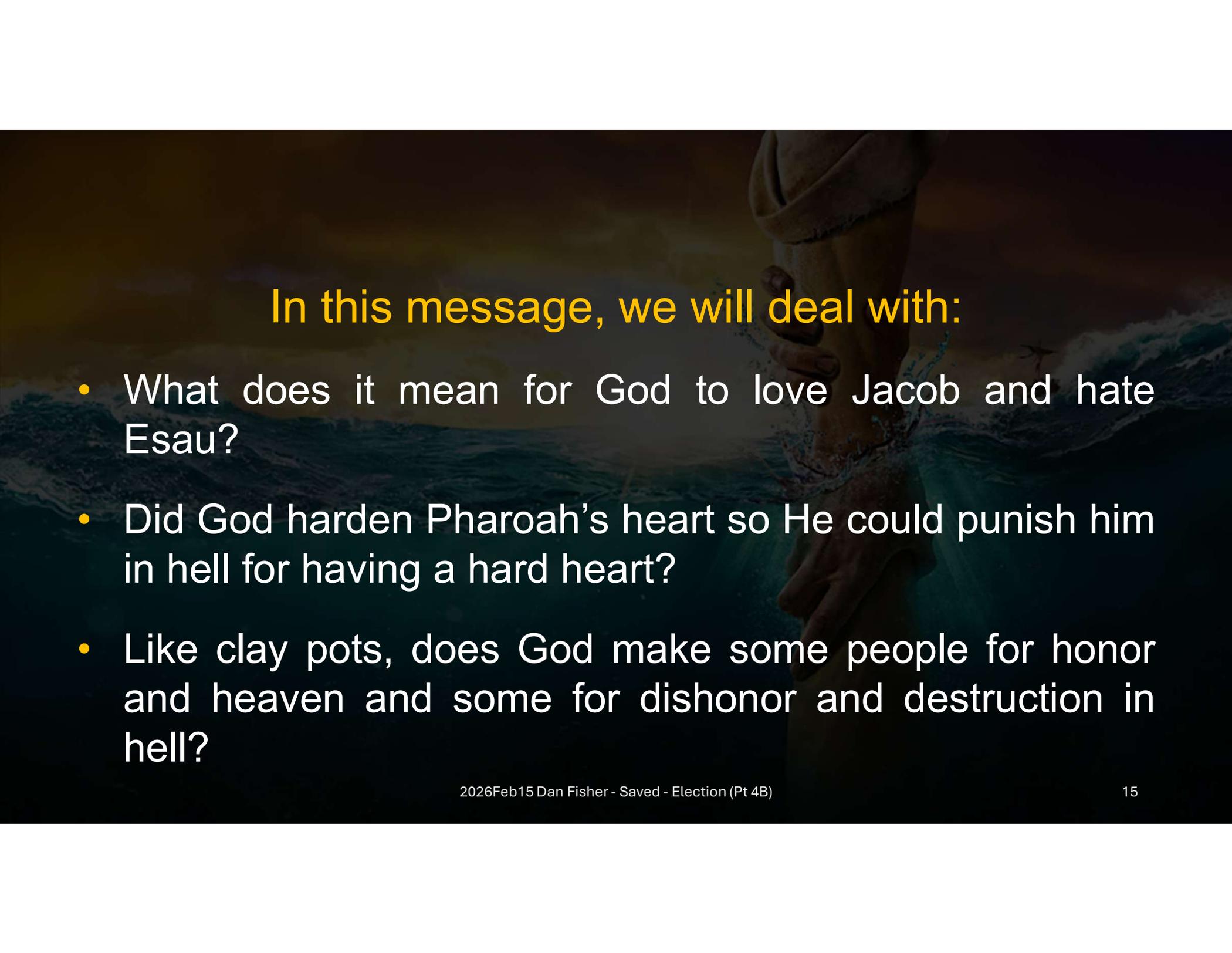
Megan Phelps-Roper

2026Feb15 Dan Fisher - Saved - Election (Pt 4B)

A background image showing a person's head and hands being submerged in water, likely during a baptism. The water is splashing, and the scene is dimly lit, creating a solemn and spiritual atmosphere.

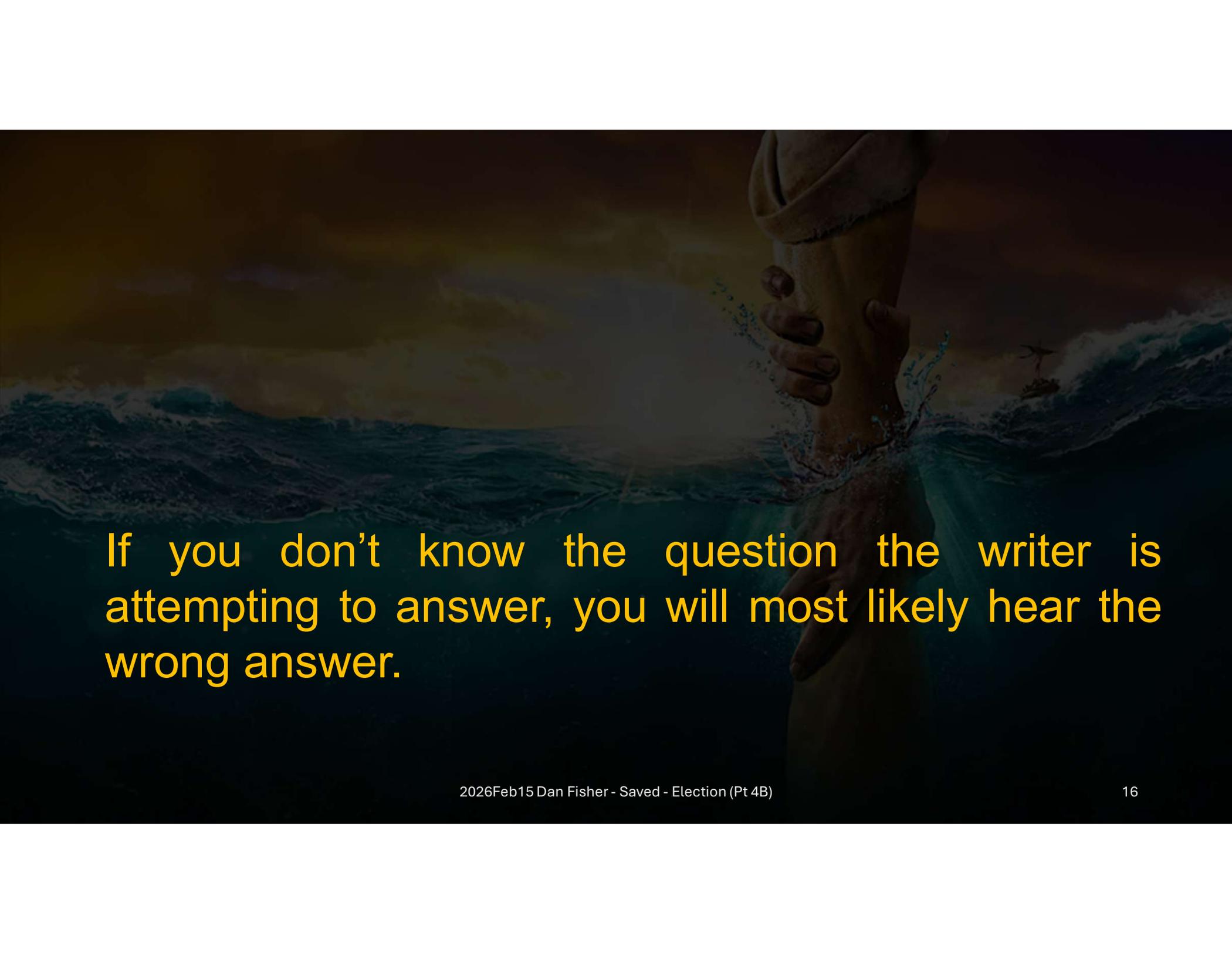
Romans 9 is about God's choices/predestination

- Rom 9, 10, & 11 are about Israel – not believers in general
- God's choice is national – not personal
- God's choice is for service – not salvation

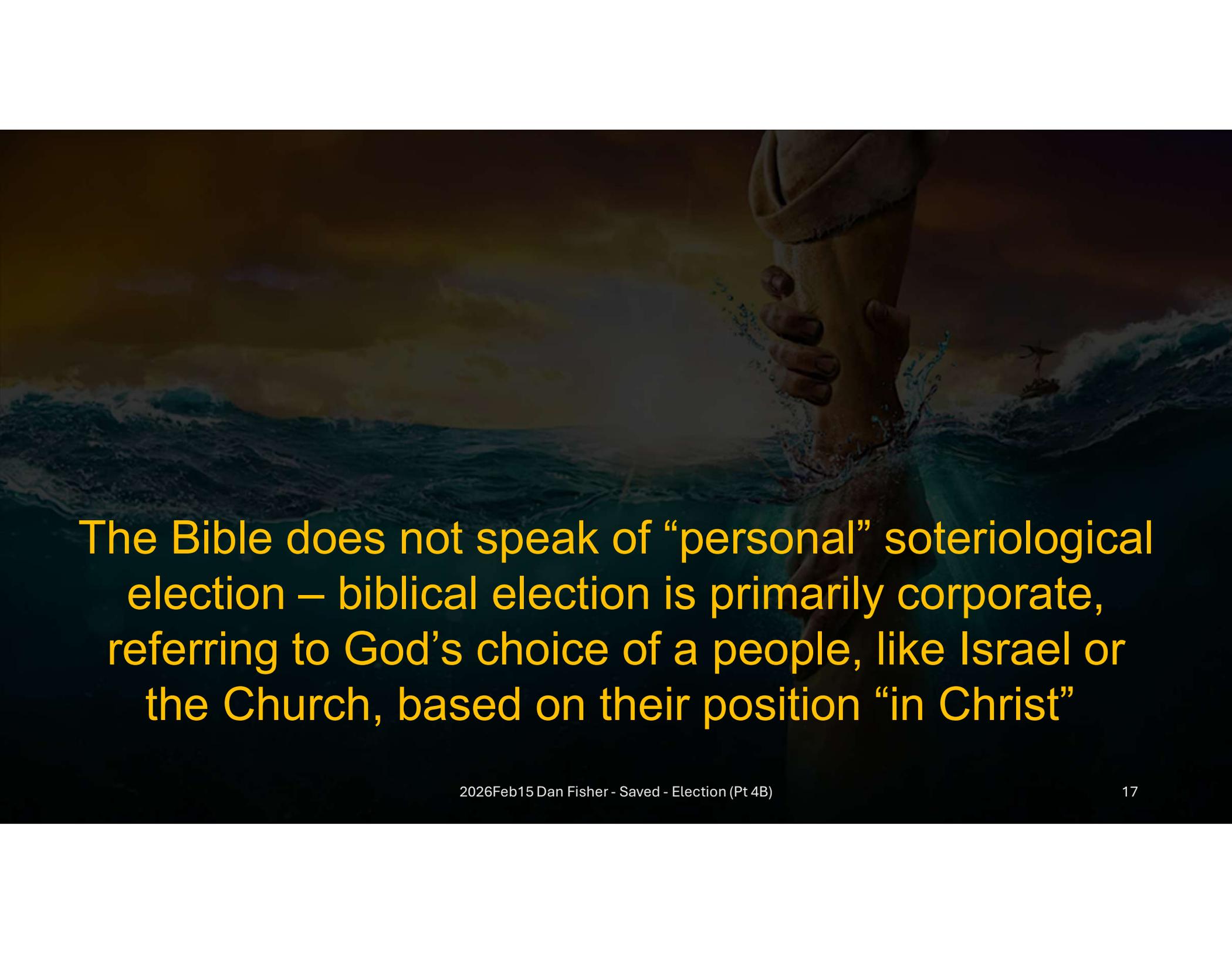
A close-up photograph of a person's hand being washed in water. The hand is held under a stream of water, and the water is splashing around it. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

In this message, we will deal with:

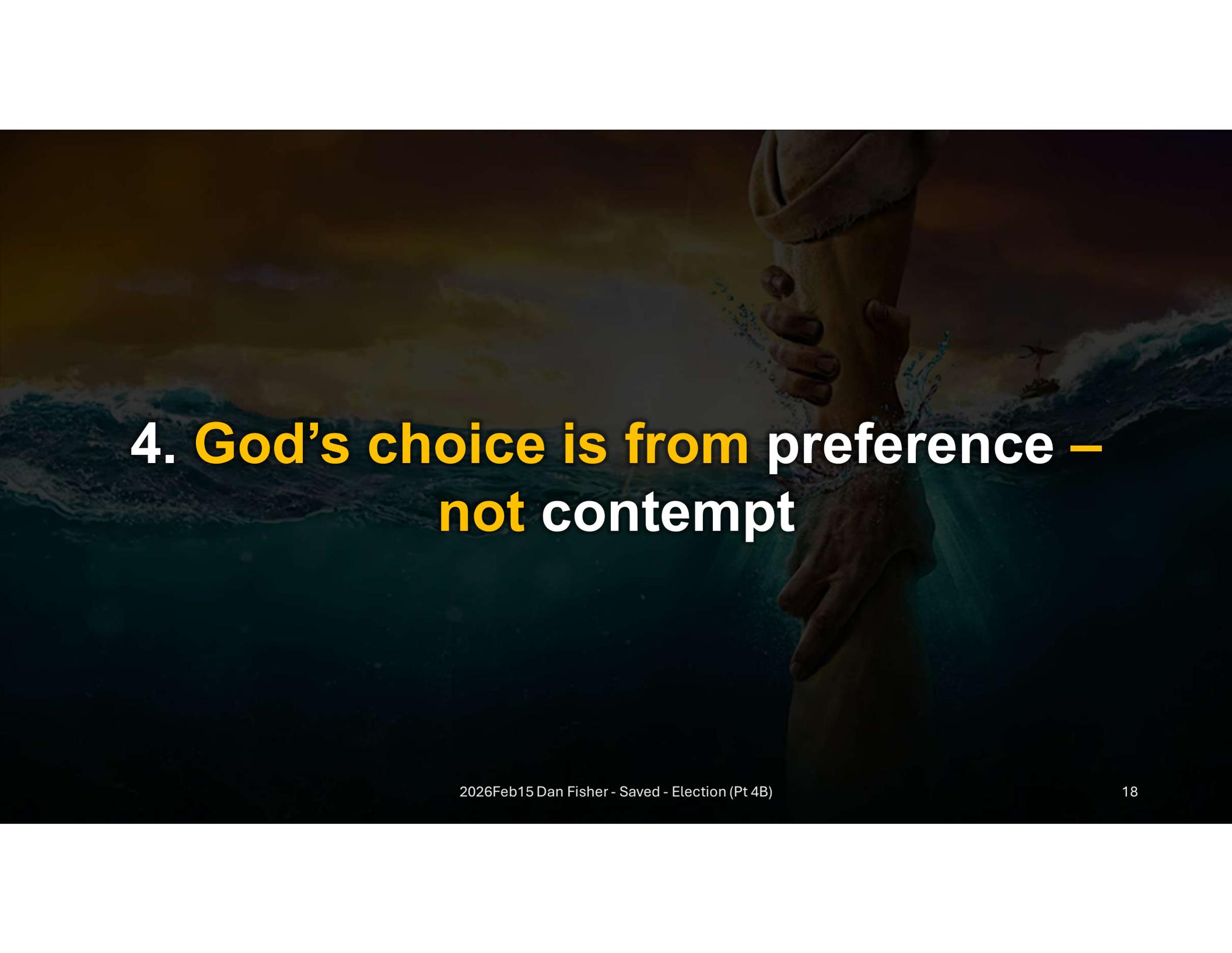
- What does it mean for God to love Jacob and hate Esau?
- Did God harden Pharoah's heart so He could punish him in hell for having a hard heart?
- Like clay pots, does God make some people for honor and heaven and some for dishonor and destruction in hell?

A dramatic painting of a hand reaching out from a stormy sea. The hand is the central focus, emerging from the dark, turbulent water. The background shows a dark, stormy sky and a small boat in the distance. The overall mood is one of hope and struggle.

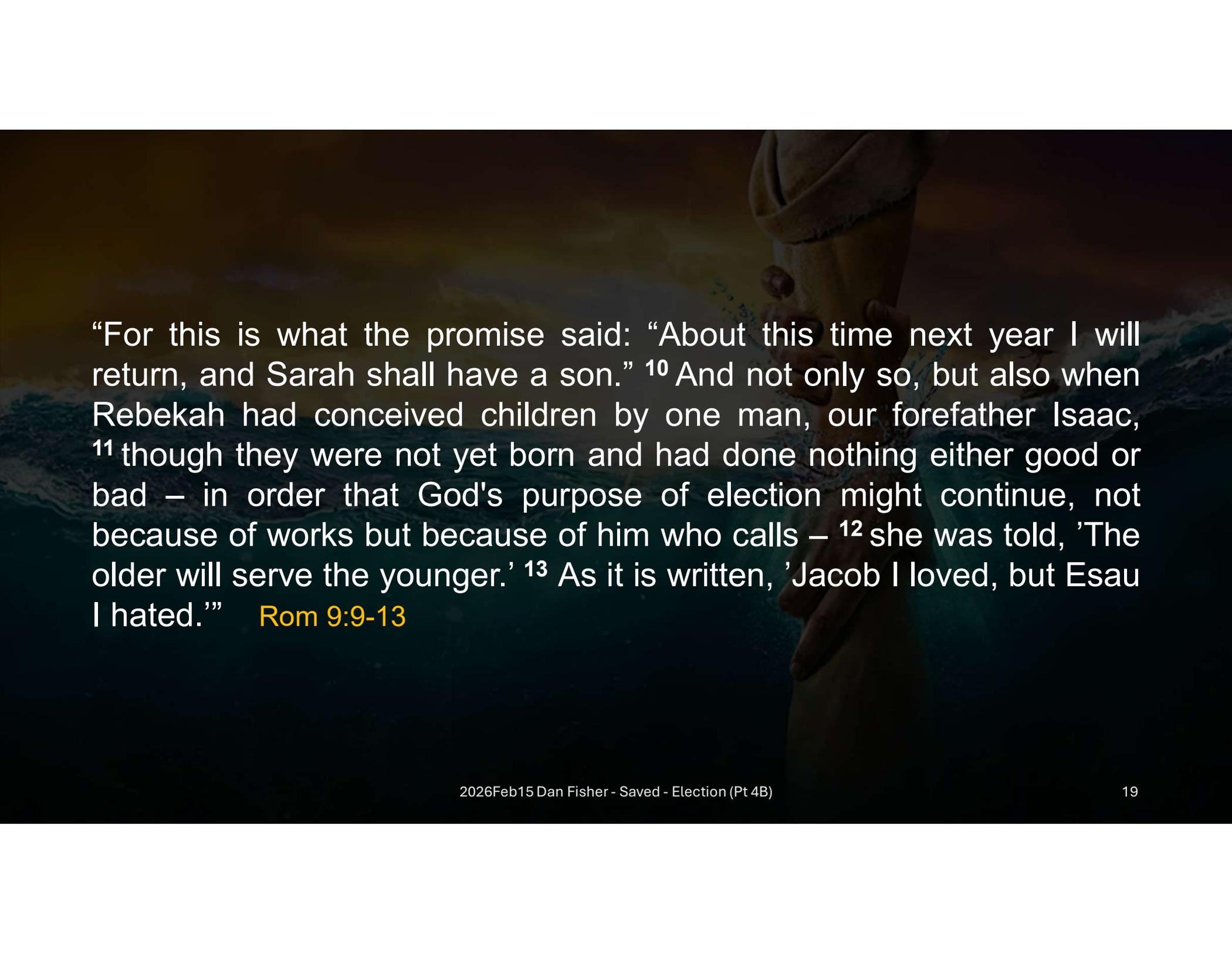
If you don't know the question the writer is attempting to answer, you will most likely hear the wrong answer.

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric painting of a stormy sea. In the upper right corner, a hand in a light-colored sleeve reaches down towards the water. In the distance, a small boat is visible on the horizon under a cloudy, dark sky. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

The Bible does not speak of “personal” soteriological election – biblical election is primarily corporate, referring to God’s choice of a people, like Israel or the Church, based on their position “in Christ”



4. **God's choice is from preference – not contempt**



“For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad – in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls – ¹² she was told, ‘The older will serve the younger.’ ¹³ As it is written, ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’” **Rom 9:9-13**

- **God's nature is to love – not hate**

“The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.”

Ps 145:9

“God is love” **1 Jn 4:8**

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved” **Eph 2:4-5**

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us ... according to his own mercy” **Titus 3:4-5**

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Rom 5:8**

- God does possess a “righteous hate” for evil and for those who persist in doing evil

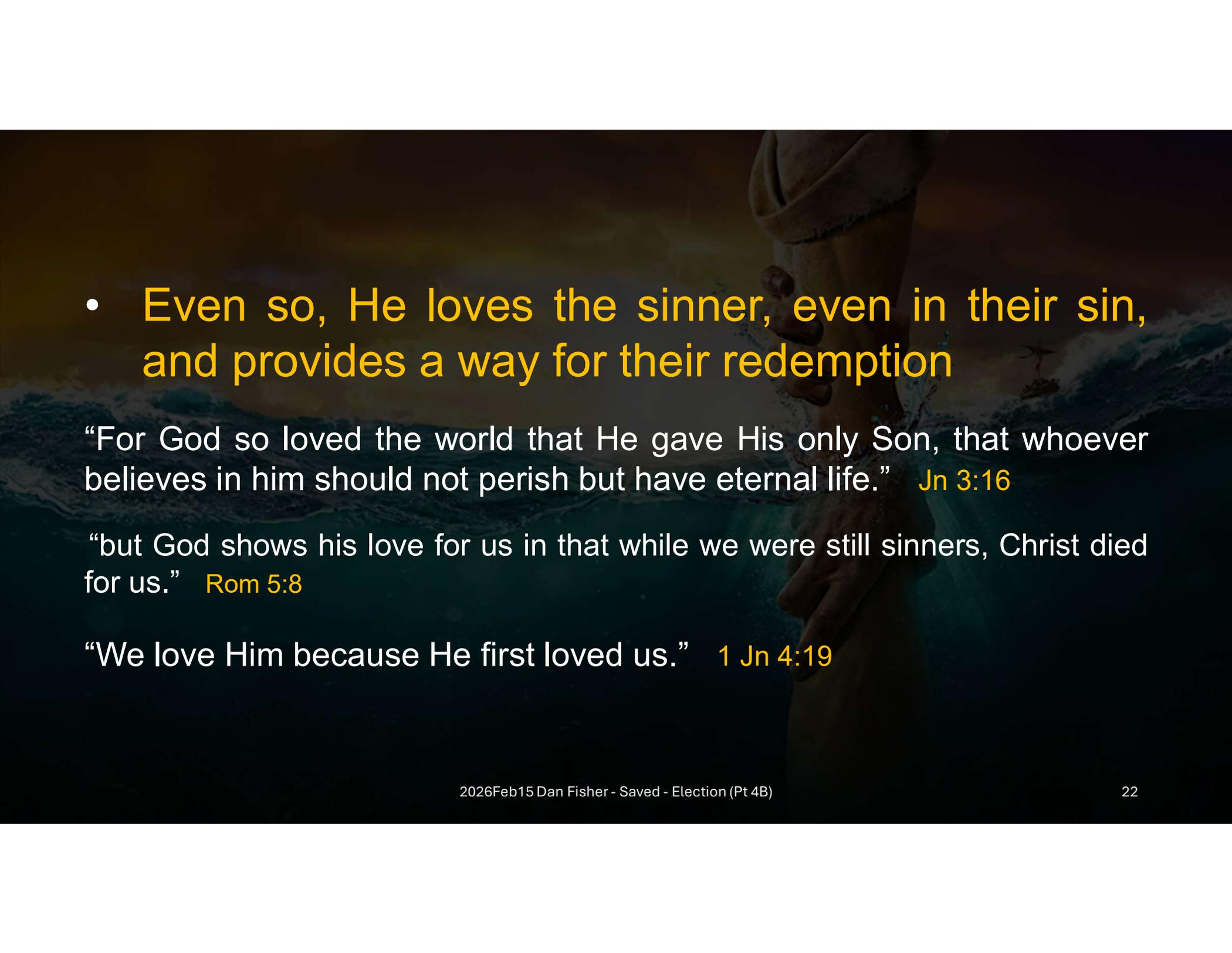
Prov 6:16-19 speaks of 6 things God hates

“The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.
6 You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.” Ps 5:5-6

“The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. 6 Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.” Ps 11:5-6

“The sacrifices and way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord”

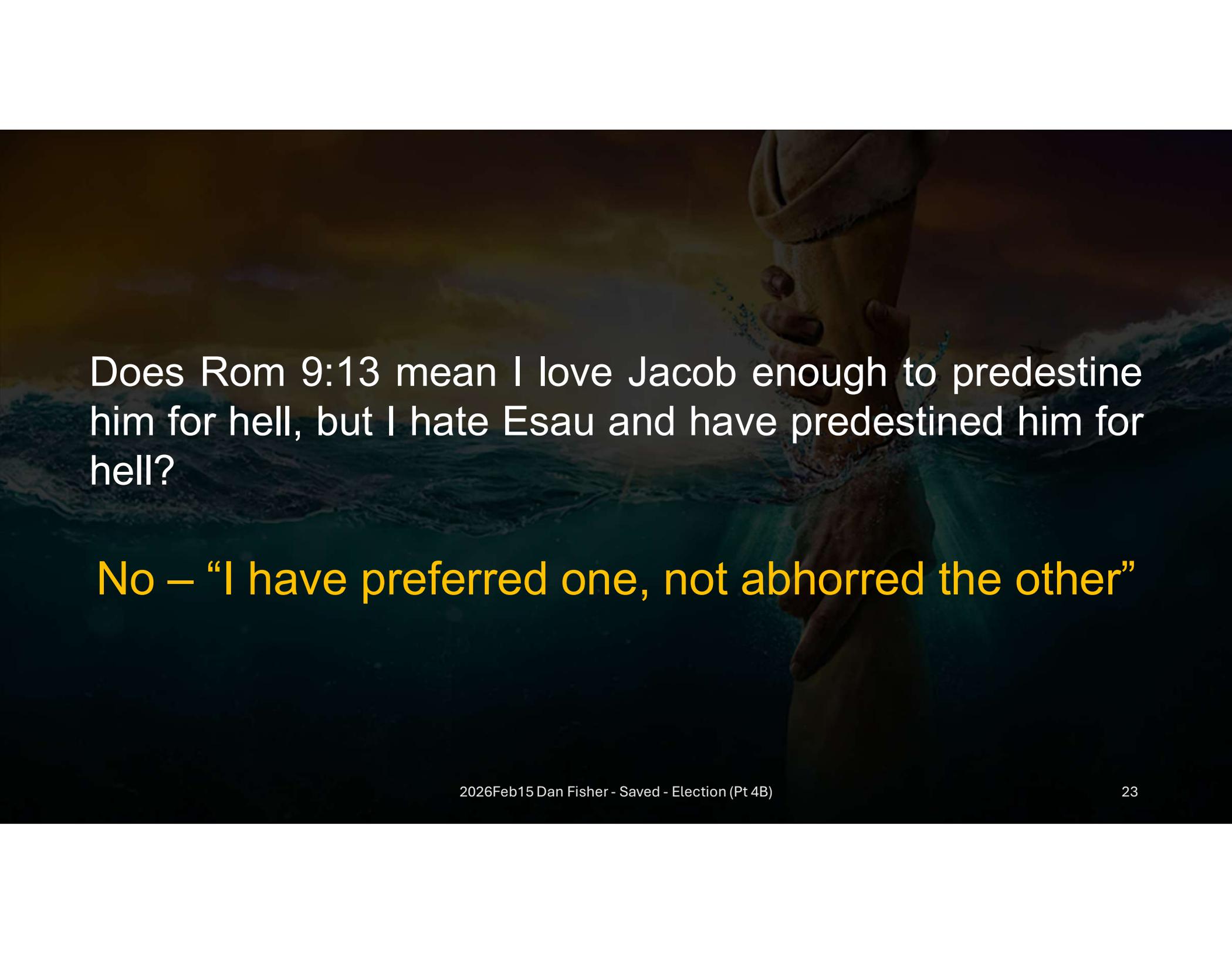
Prov 15:8-9

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- Even so, He loves the sinner, even in their sin, and provides a way for their redemption

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” **Jn 3:16**

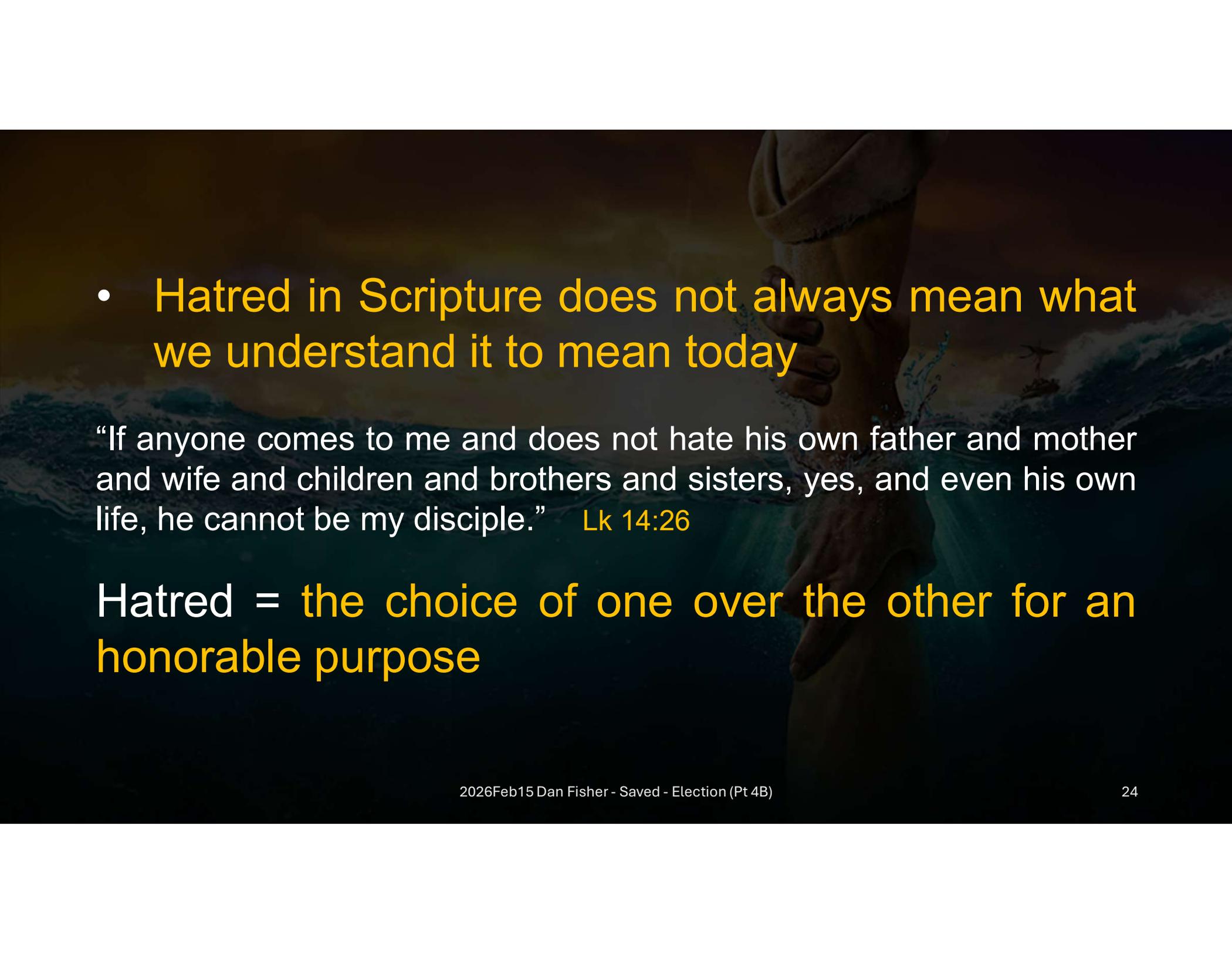
“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Rom 5:8**

“We love Him because He first loved us.” **1 Jn 4:19**



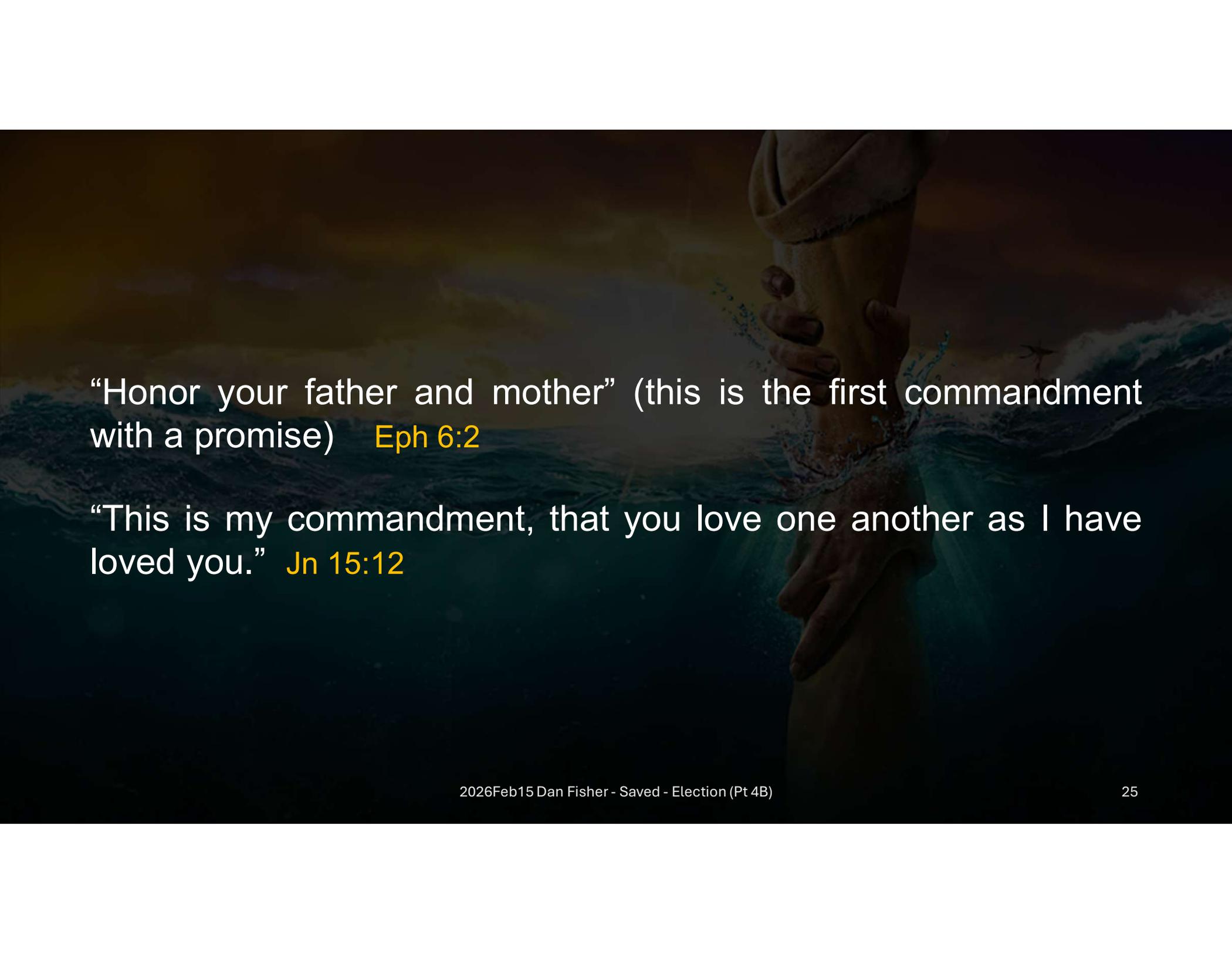
Does Rom 9:13 mean I love Jacob enough to predestine him for hell, but I hate Esau and have predestined him for hell?

No – “I have preferred one, not abhorred the other”

- 
- Hatred in Scripture does not always mean what we understand it to mean today

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” Lk 14:26

Hatred = the choice of one over the other for an honorable purpose

A person is being baptized in water. The person's head is tilted back, and water is splashing around their face. The background is a dark, moody sky with some light clouds. The overall tone is solemn and spiritual.

“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise) Eph 6:2

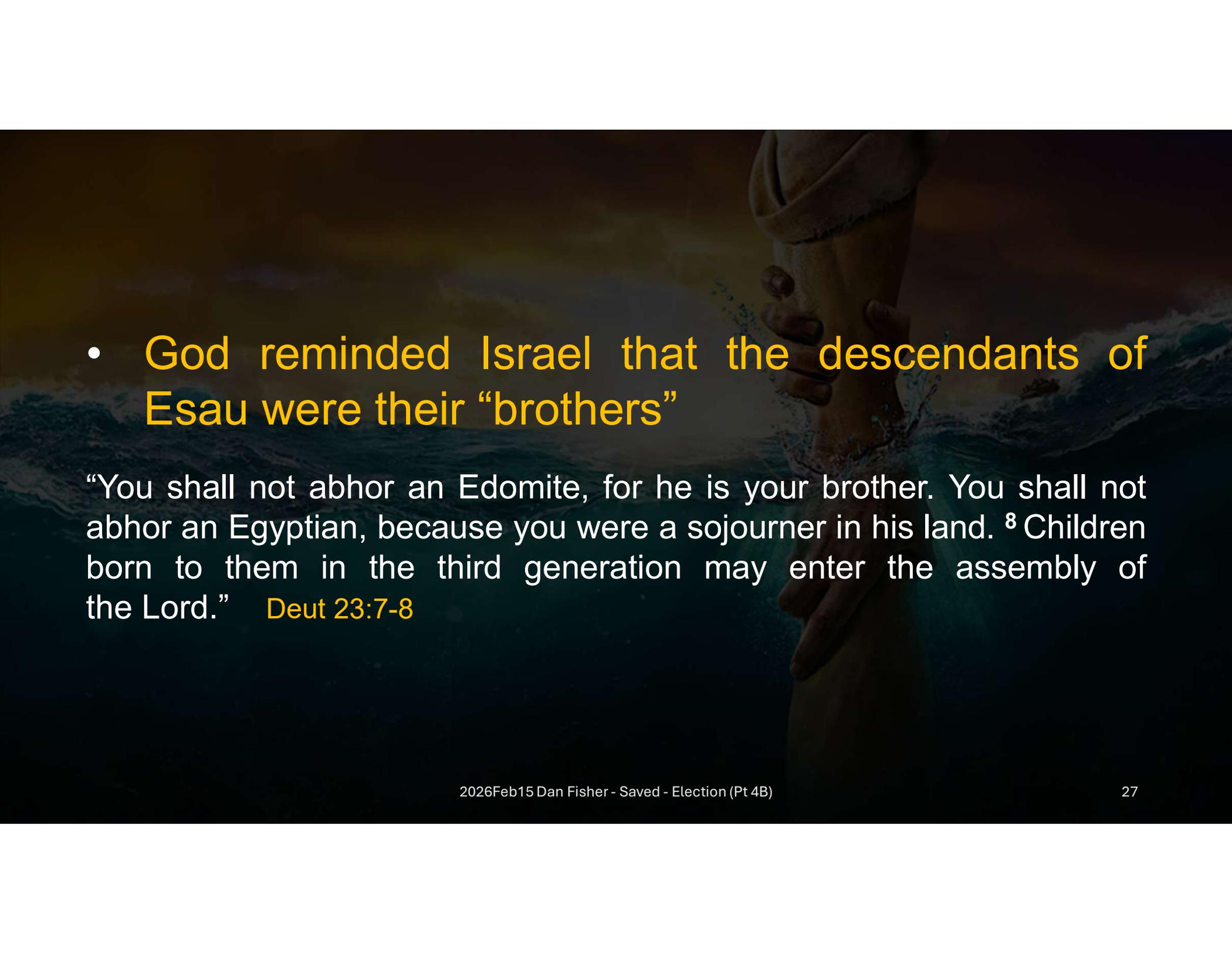
“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” Jn 15:12

- Remember, Paul is referring to “nations” – not persons

Rom 9:12 – Paul is quoting from Gen 25

Rom 9:13 – he is quoting from Mal 1:2-5

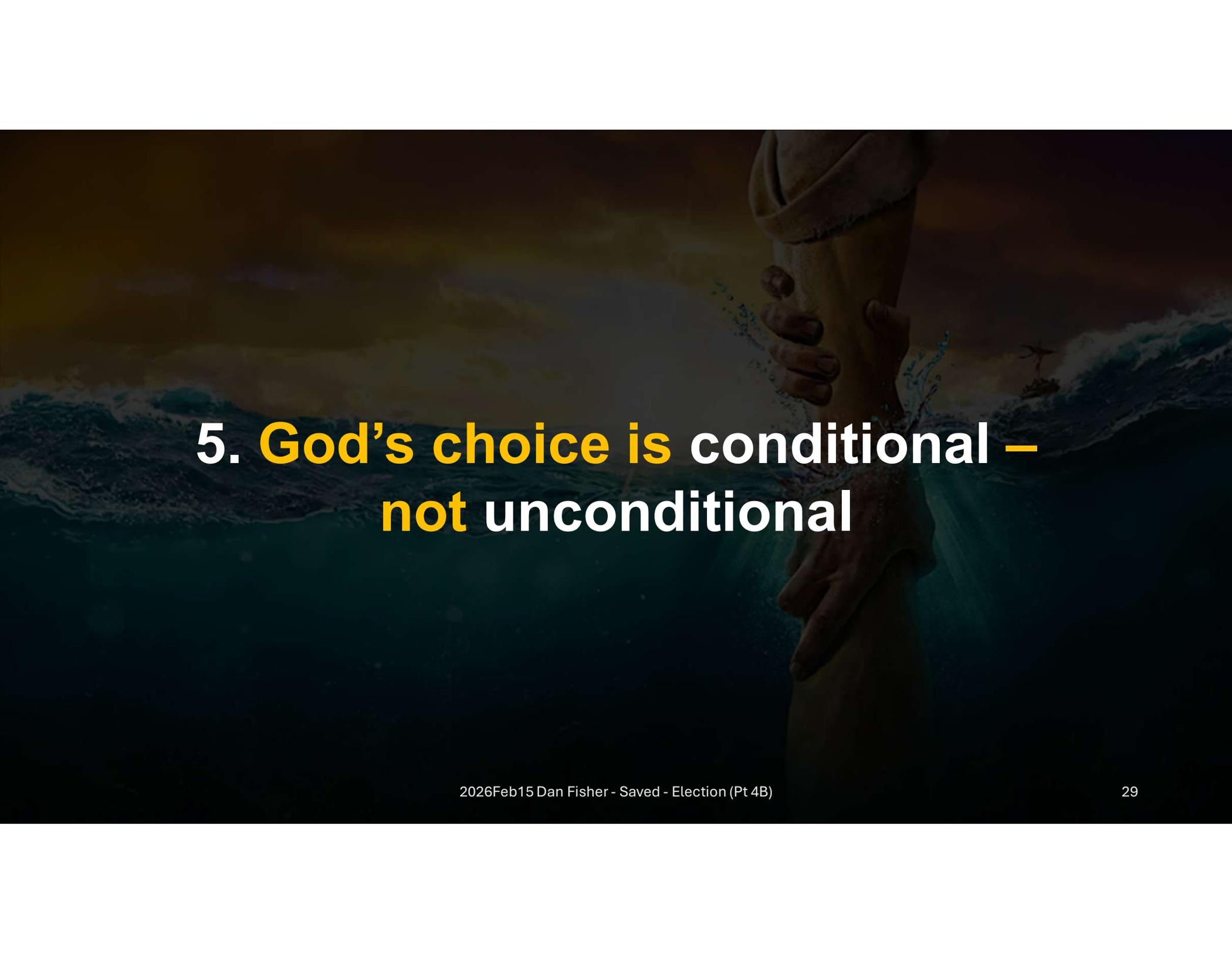
1500 yrs separate those books and Paul is giving us a before & after picture – not introducing a new doctrine of election. In Mal, Esau has been dead 1500 yrs and Malachi is referring to his descendants. They were being judged for rejecting God and His plan

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- A background image showing a person's hand holding another person's hand in water. The water is splashing, and the scene is dimly lit, suggesting a dramatic or emotional moment. The hands are the central focus, with one hand appearing to support or hold the other.
- God reminded Israel that the descendants of Esau were their “brothers”

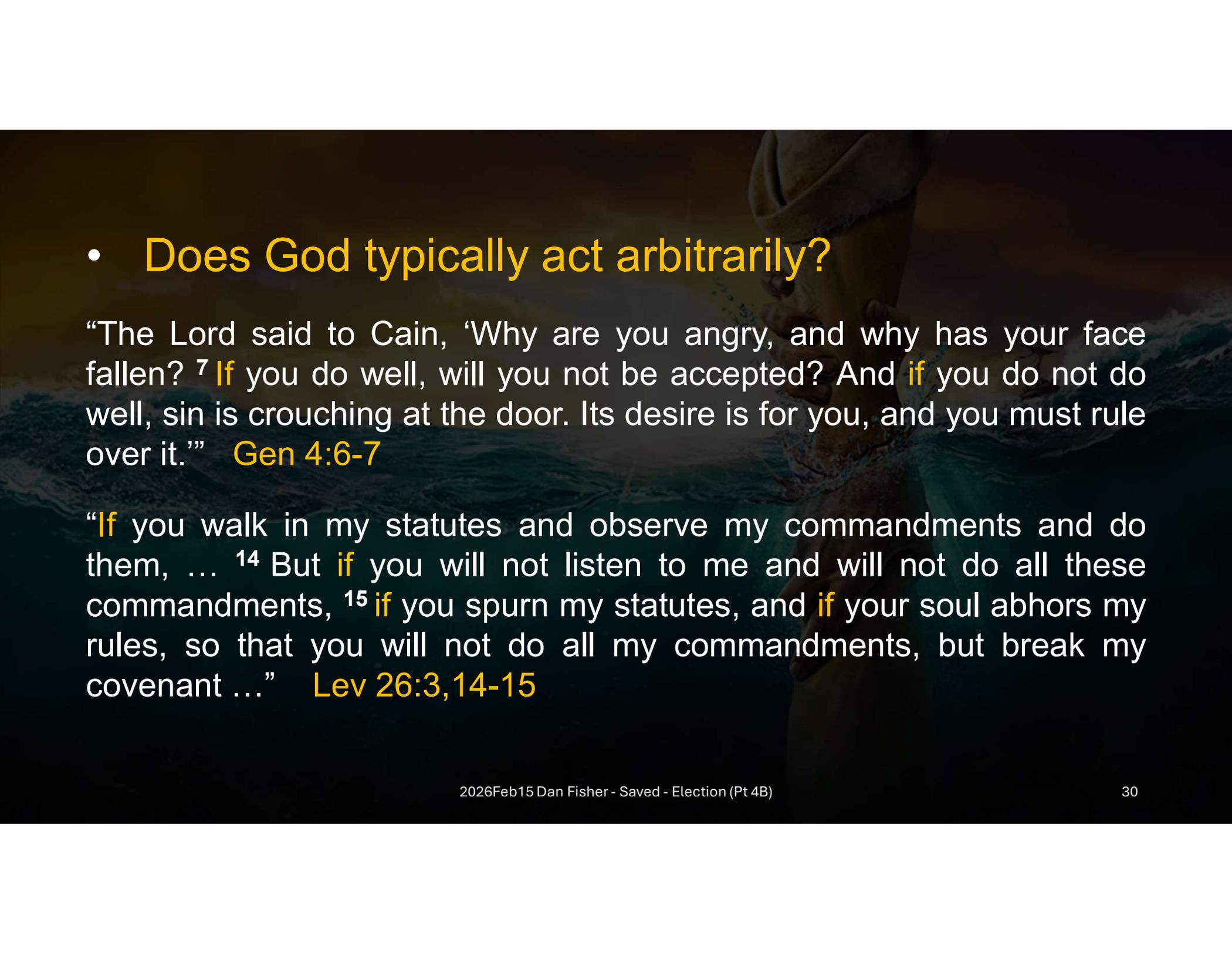
“You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were a sojourner in his land. ⁸ Children born to them in the third generation may enter the assembly of the Lord.” **Deut 23:7-8**

- **Unfortunately Edom rebelled against God and attacked Israel and incurred God's judgment**

“But Edom said to him, ‘You shall not pass through, lest I come out with the sword against you.’ ¹⁹ And the people of Israel said to him, ‘We will go up by the highway, and if we drink of your water, I and my livestock, then I will pay for it. Let me only pass through on foot, nothing more.’ ²⁰ But he said, ‘You shall not pass through.’ And Edom came out against them with a large army and with a strong force. ²¹ Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory, so Israel turned away from him.” **Num 20:18-21**

A dramatic painting of a stormy sea with a ship in the distance and hands clasped in the foreground. The scene is dark and moody, with a turbulent sky and churning water. In the foreground, two hands are clasped together, one appearing to be in a white garment, possibly a sailor's uniform. The overall atmosphere is one of struggle and hope.

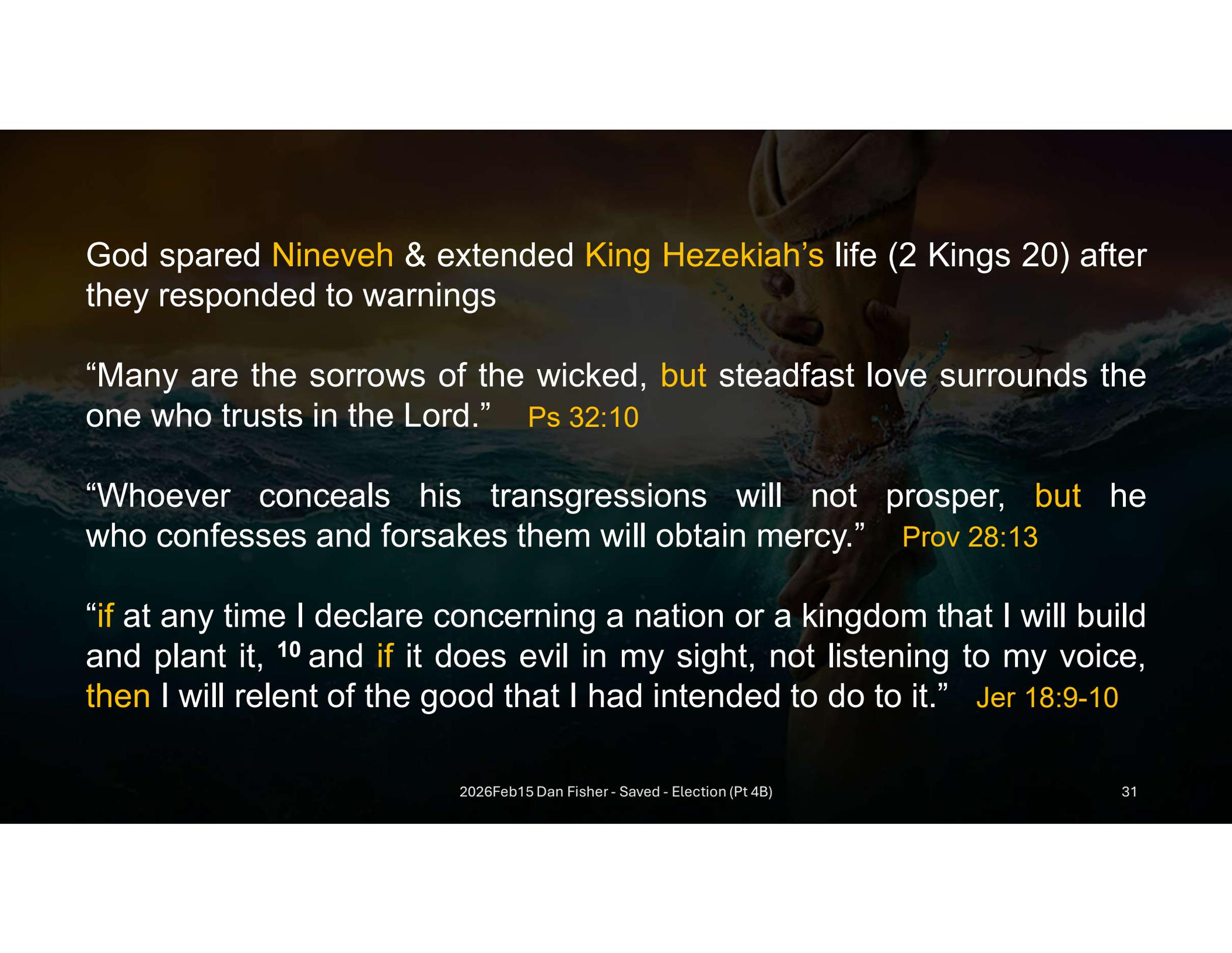
**5. God's choice is conditional –
not unconditional**



- Does God typically act arbitrarily?

“The Lord said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ **if** you do well, will you not be accepted? And **if** you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it.’” **Gen 4:6-7**

“**if** you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, ... ¹⁴ But **if** you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, ¹⁵ **if** you spurn my statutes, and **if** your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant ...” **Lev 26:3,14-15**

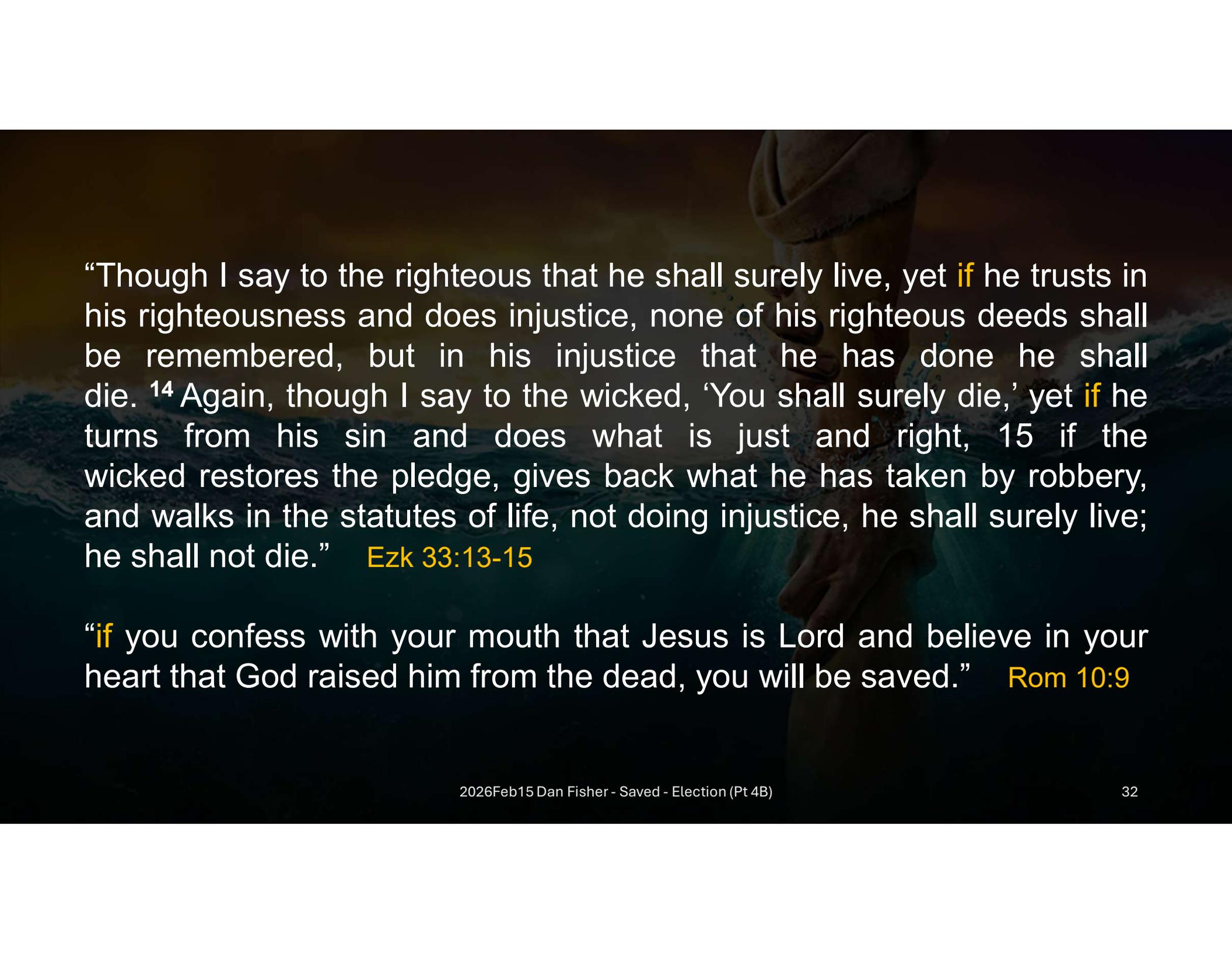


God spared **Nineveh** & extended **King Hezekiah's** life (2 Kings 20) after they responded to warnings

“Many are the sorrows of the wicked, **but** steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.” **Ps 32:10**

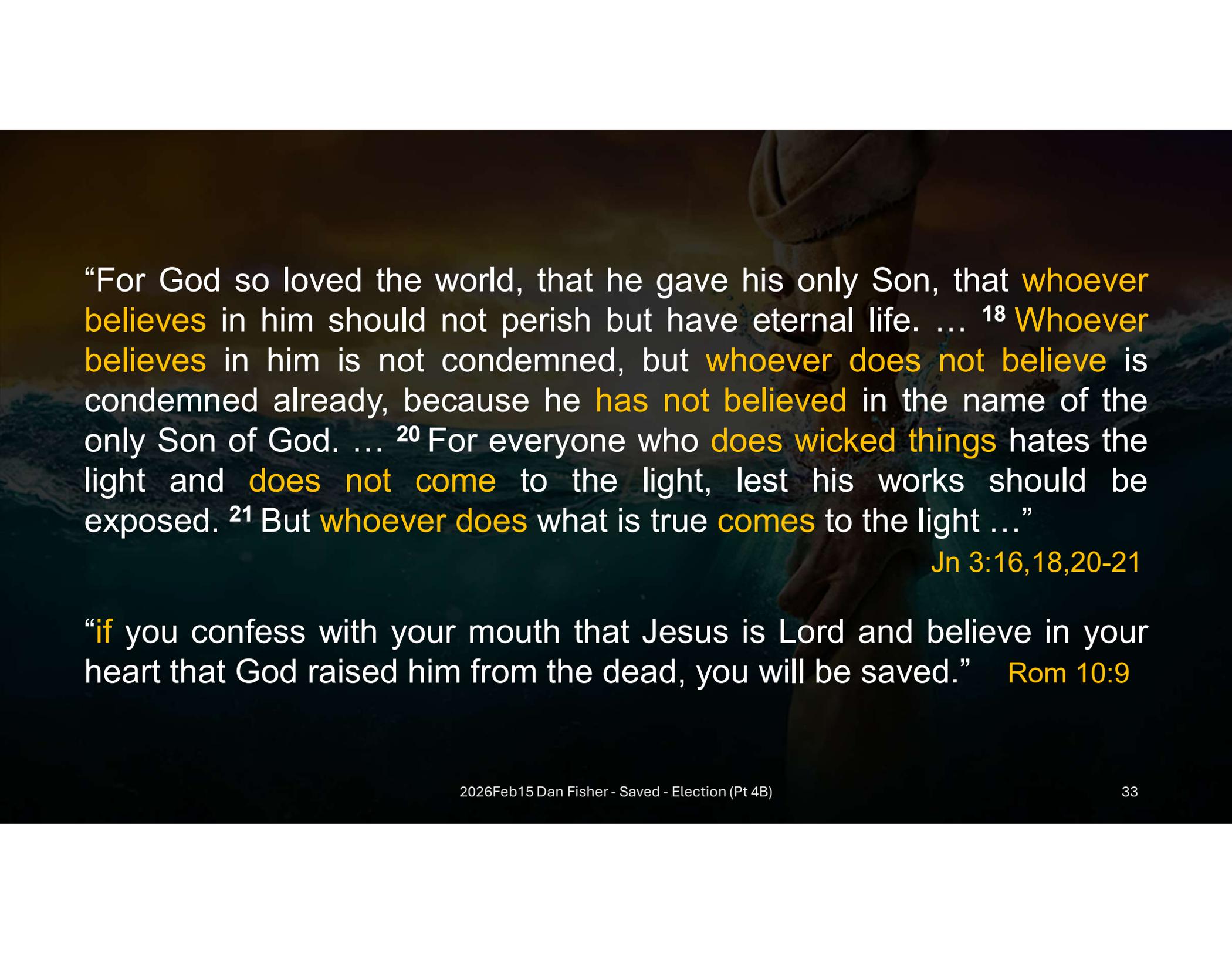
“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, **but** he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” **Prov 28:13**

“**if** at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ and **if** it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, **then** I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.” **Jer 18:9-10**



“Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet **if** he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴ Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet **if** he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵ if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die.” **Ezk 33:13-15**

“**if** you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Rom 10:9**



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life. ... ¹⁸ **Whoever believes** in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe** is condemned already, because he **has not believed** in the name of the only Son of God. ... ²⁰ For everyone who **does wicked things** hates the light and **does not come** to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But **whoever does** what is true **comes** to the light ...”

Jn 3:16,18,20-21

“**if** you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Rom 10:9**



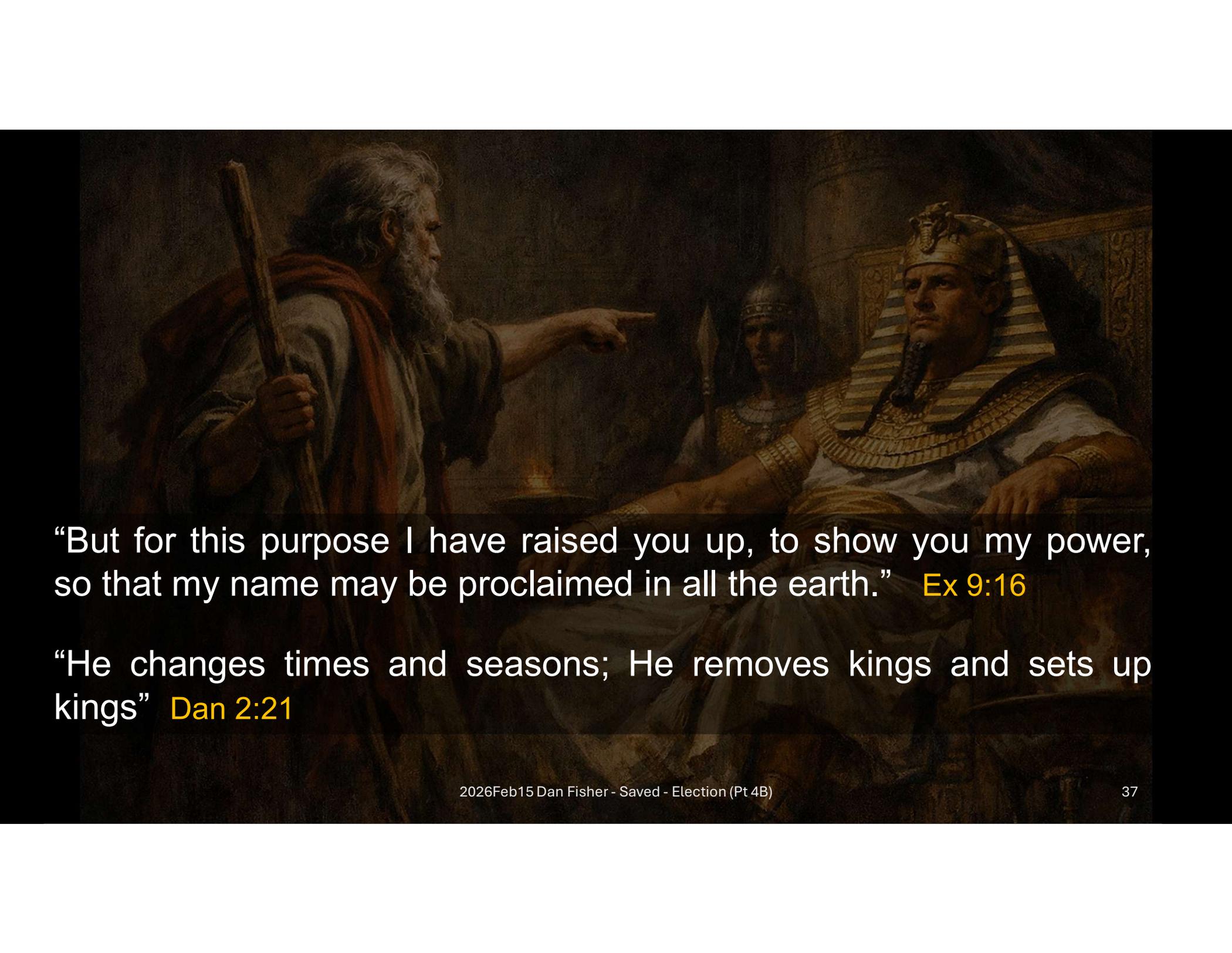


“For he says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’ ... ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, ‘For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’ [Dan 2:21] ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.” **Rom 9:15,17-18**



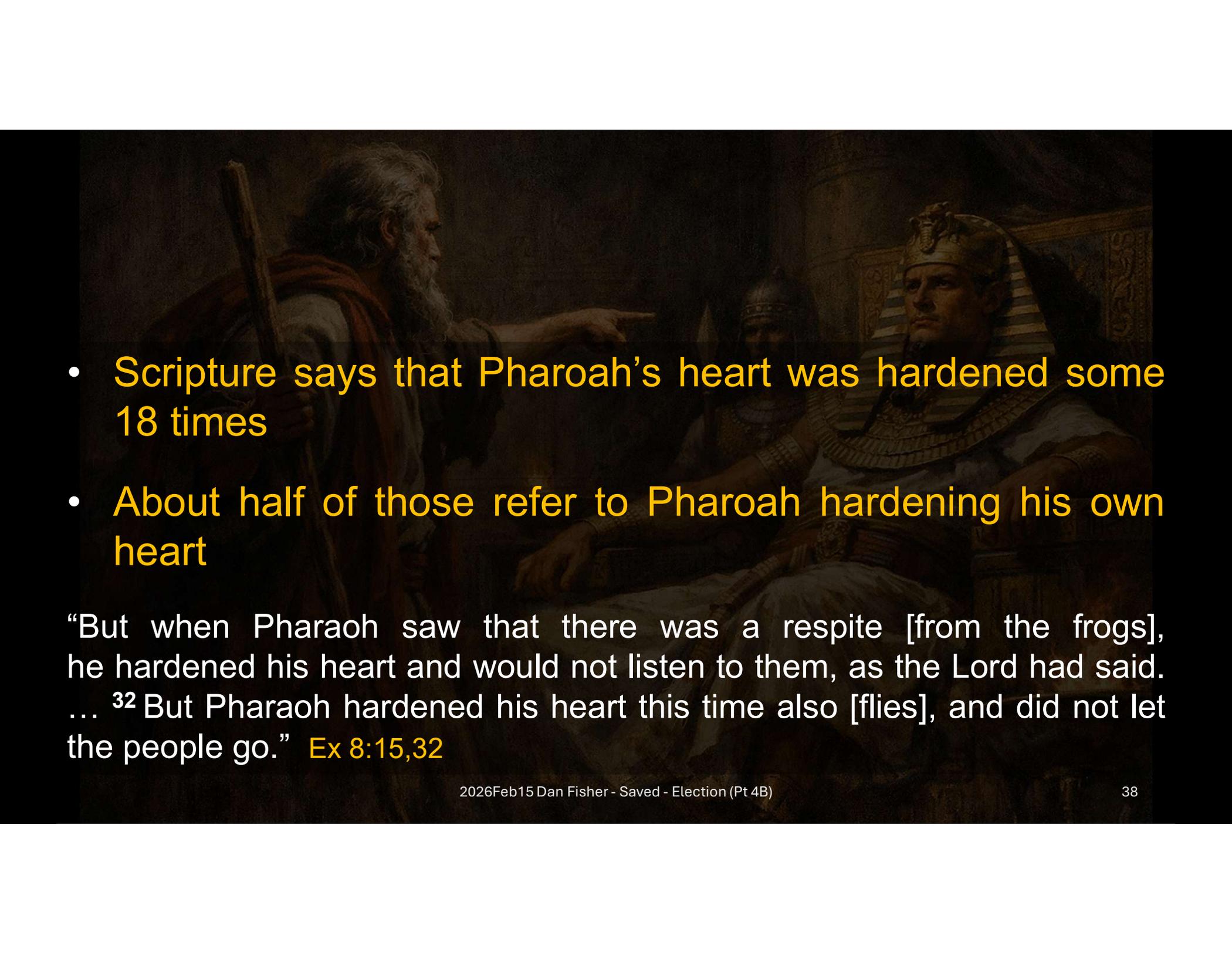
Does God harden people's hearts just so He can punish them?

Did He harden Pharaoh's heart just to punish him?

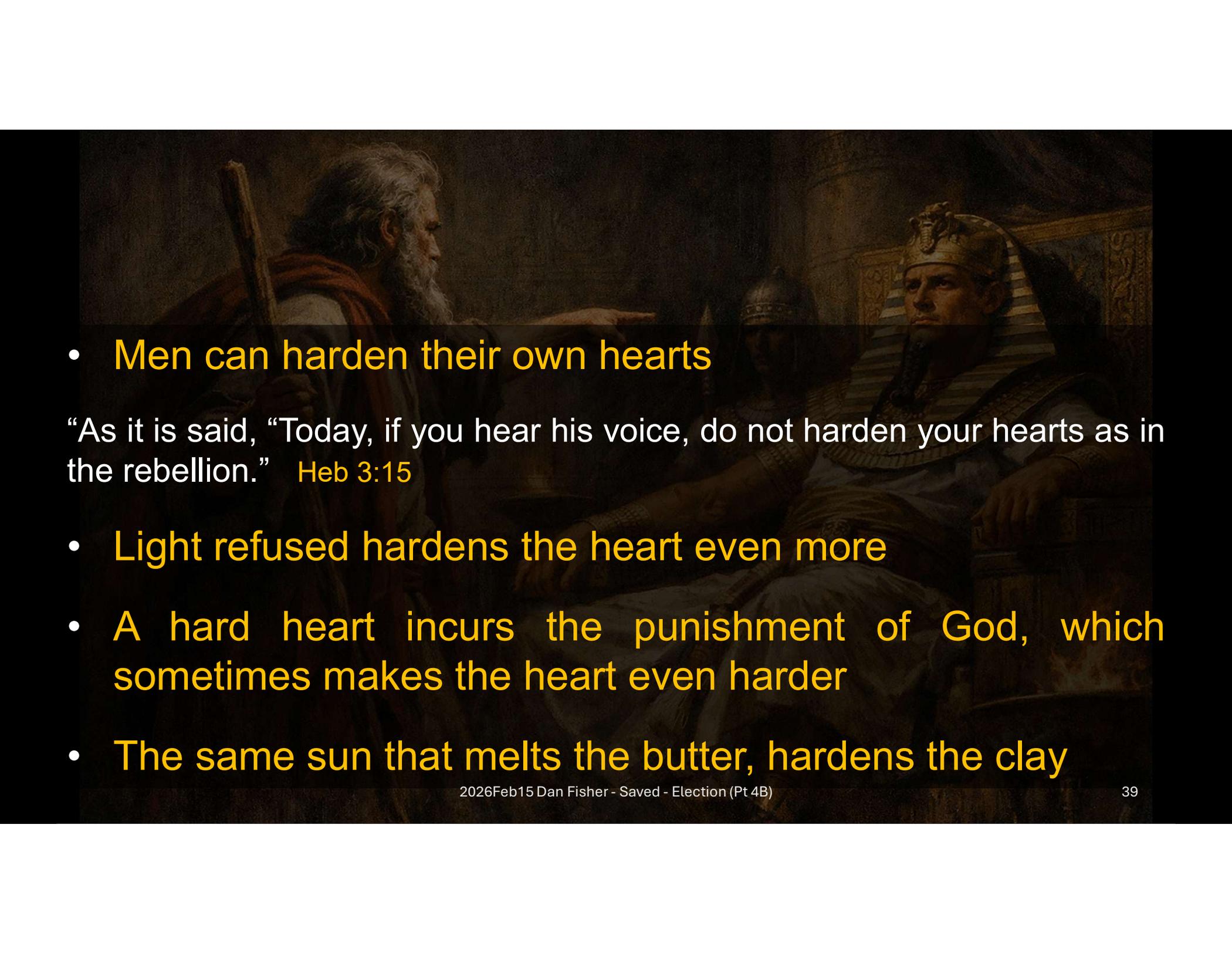


“But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.” **Ex 9:16**

“He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings” **Dan 2:21**

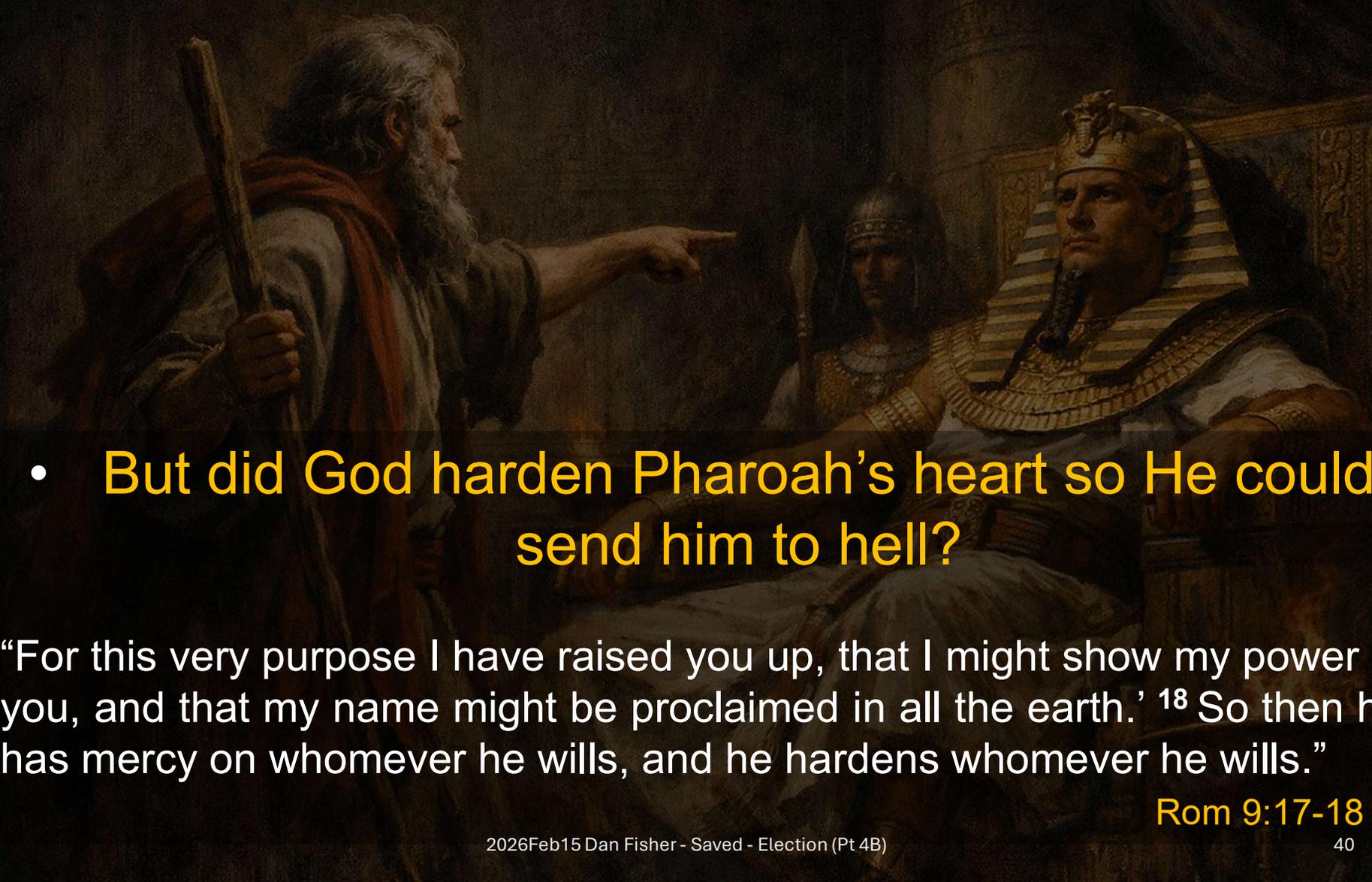
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- Scripture says that Pharaoh's heart was hardened some 18 times
 - About half of those refer to Pharaoh hardening his own heart

“But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite [from the frogs], he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ... ³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also [flies], and did not let the people go.” **Ex 8:15,32**

- 
- **Men can harden their own hearts**

“As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” **Heb 3:15**

- **Light refused hardens the heart even more**
- **A hard heart incurs the punishment of God, which sometimes makes the heart even harder**
- **The same sun that melts the butter, hardens the clay**

- 
- **But did God harden Pharaoh's heart so He could send him to hell?**

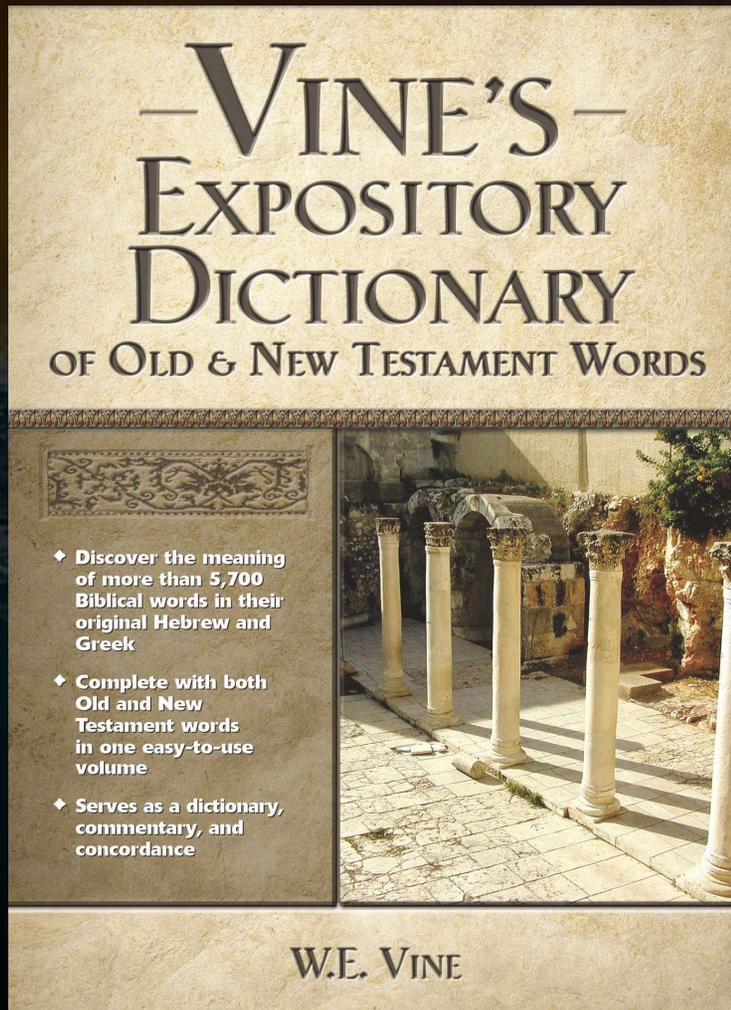
“For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’ ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.”

Rom 9:17-18

- Does God intentionally “make” people so he can destroy them in hell?

“You will say to me then, ‘Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?’ ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, ‘Why have you made me like this?; ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared [fitted, KJV, the vessel acted] for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory”

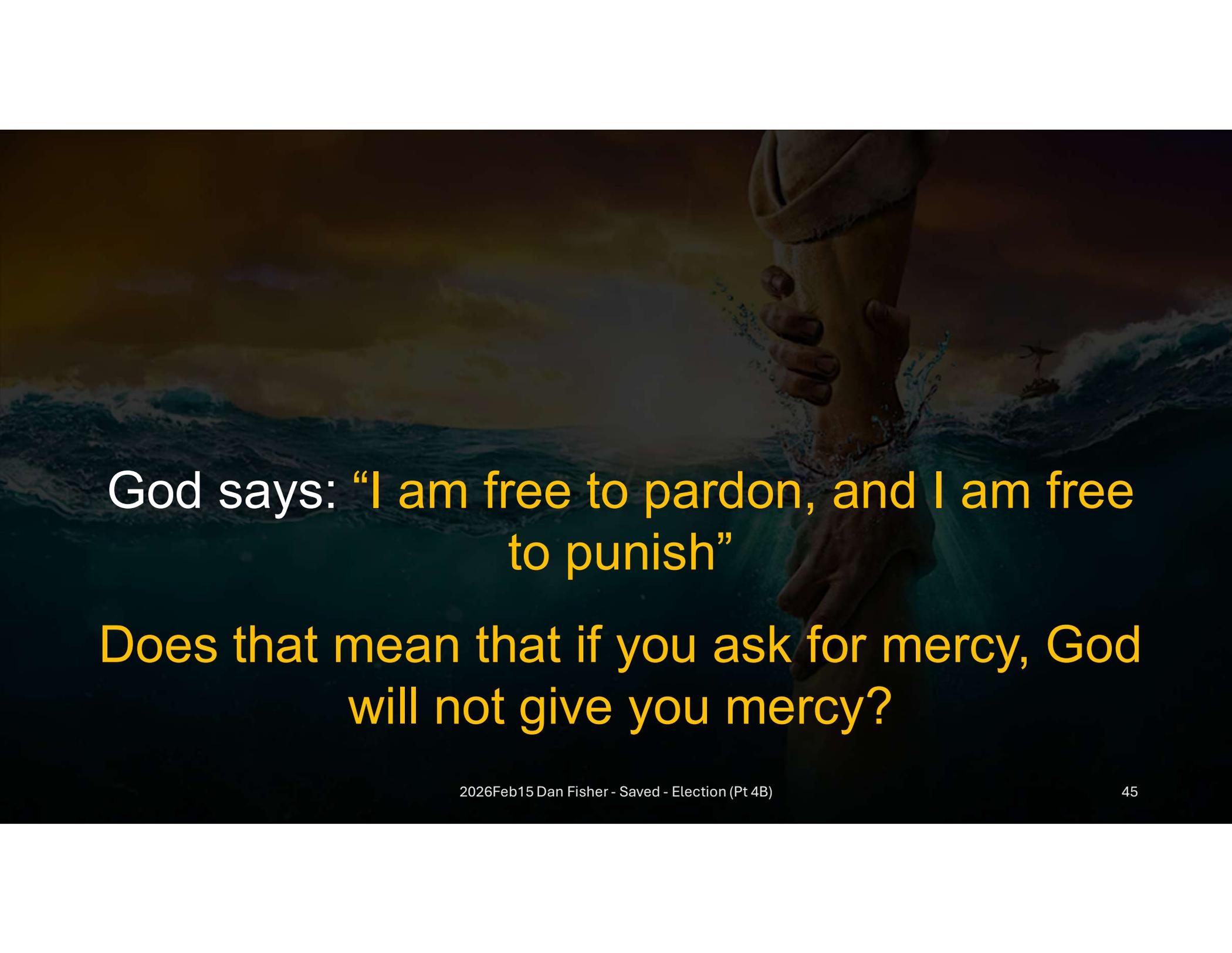
Rom 9:19-23



The Greek middle voice is a verb where the subject acts on itself, showing personal involvement, highlighting the subject's self-interest or participation in the action

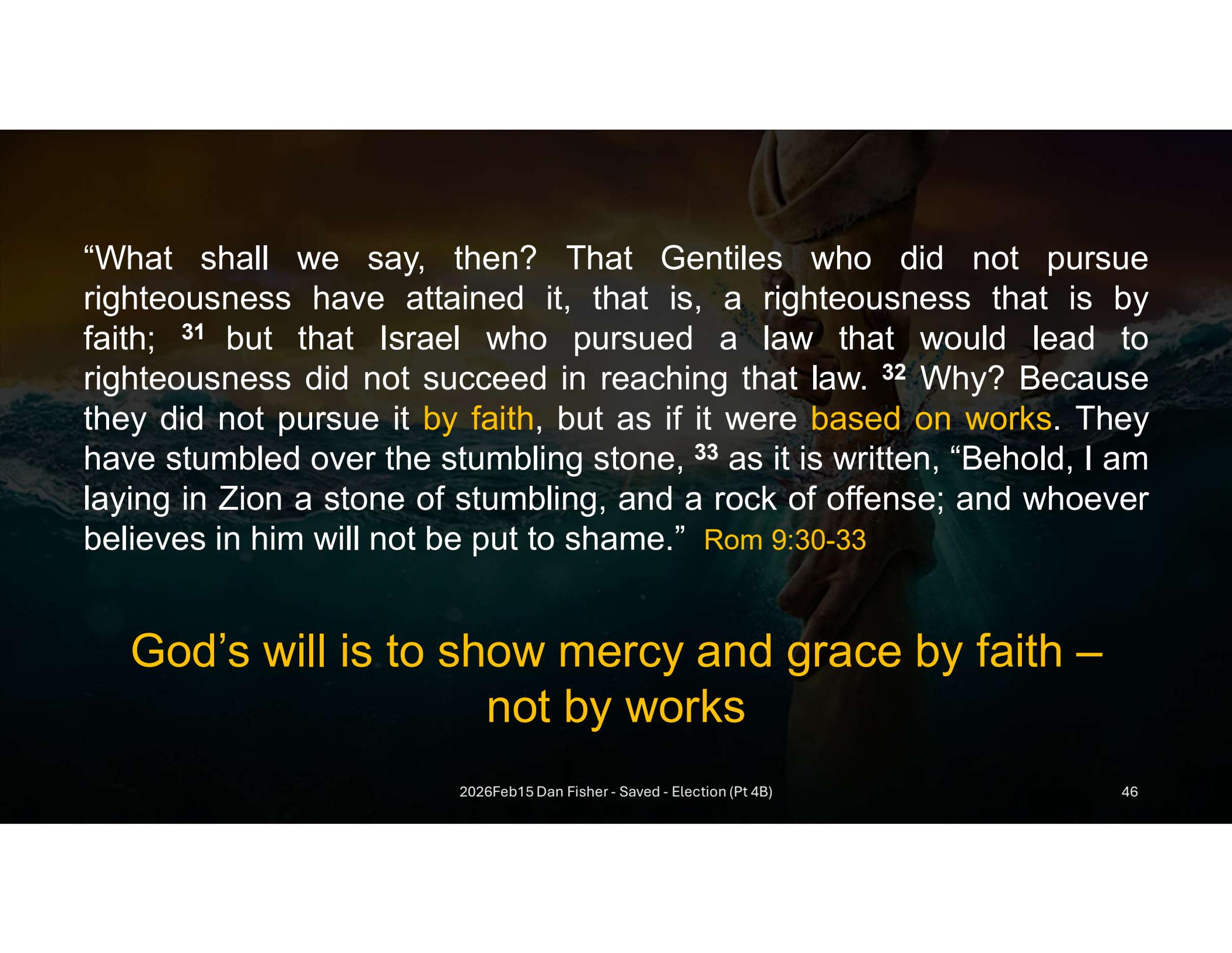


“So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he **reworked** it into **another** vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. ⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶ “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, **turns** from its evil, I will **relent** of the disaster that I **intended** to do to it. ⁹ And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ and if it **does** evil in my sight, **not** listening to my voice, then I will **relent** of the good that I had **intended** to do to it.” **Jer 18:3-10**

A dramatic painting of a stormy sea with a ship in the distance and hands clasped in the foreground. The scene is dark and moody, with a large, turbulent wave in the foreground. In the background, a small ship is visible on the horizon under a dark, cloudy sky. In the foreground, two hands are clasped together, one appearing to be in a white sleeve, possibly representing a person in distress or a moment of prayer. The overall atmosphere is one of tension and divine judgment.

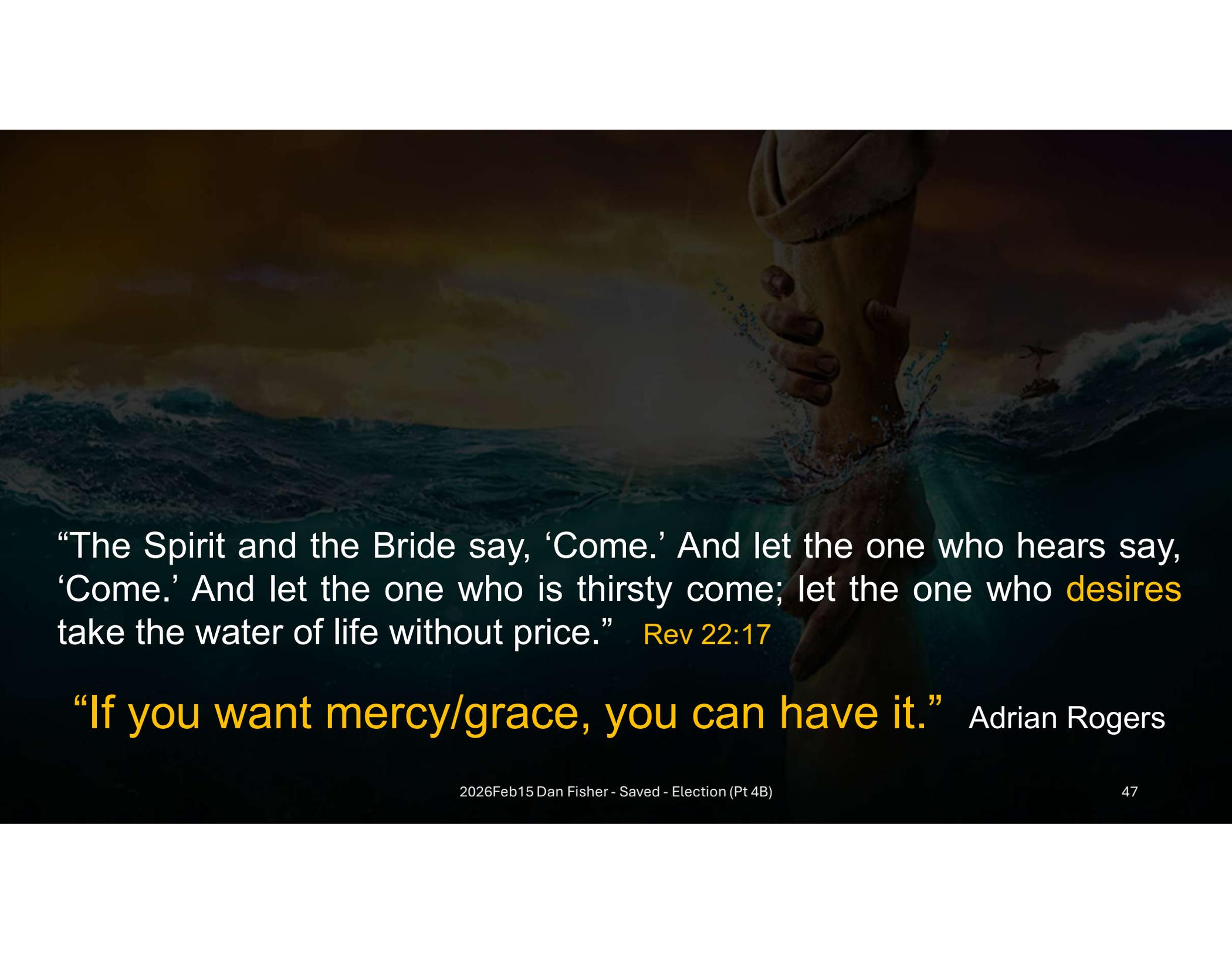
God says: “I am free to pardon, and I am free
to punish”

Does that mean that if you ask for mercy, God
will not give you mercy?



“What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. ³² Why? Because they did not pursue it **by faith**, but as if it were **based on works**. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³ as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” **Rom 9:30-33**

**God’s will is to show mercy and grace by faith –
not by works**



“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who **desires** take the water of life without price.” **Rev 22:17**

“If you want mercy/grace, you can have it.” Adrian Rogers