

# Saved



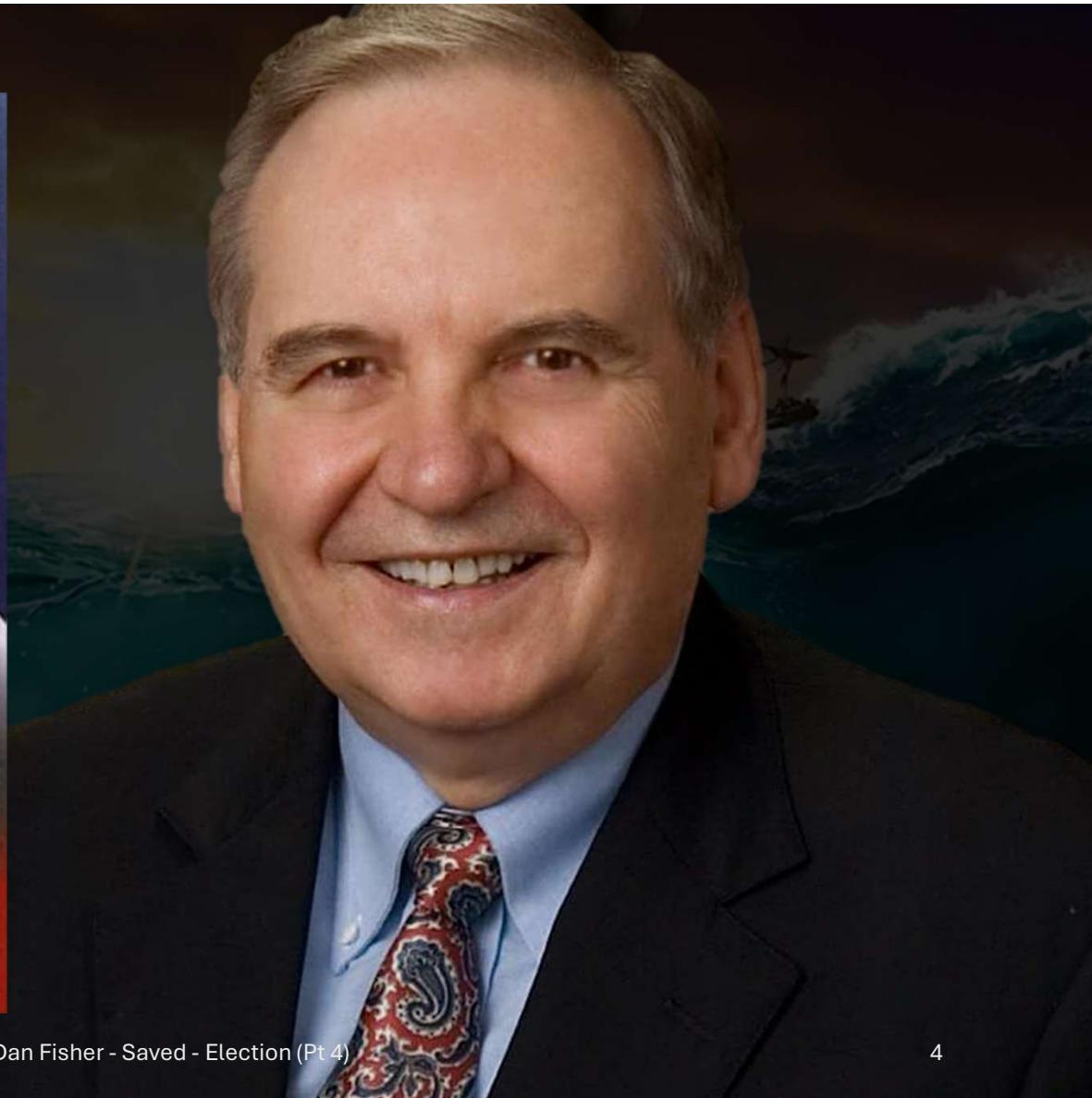
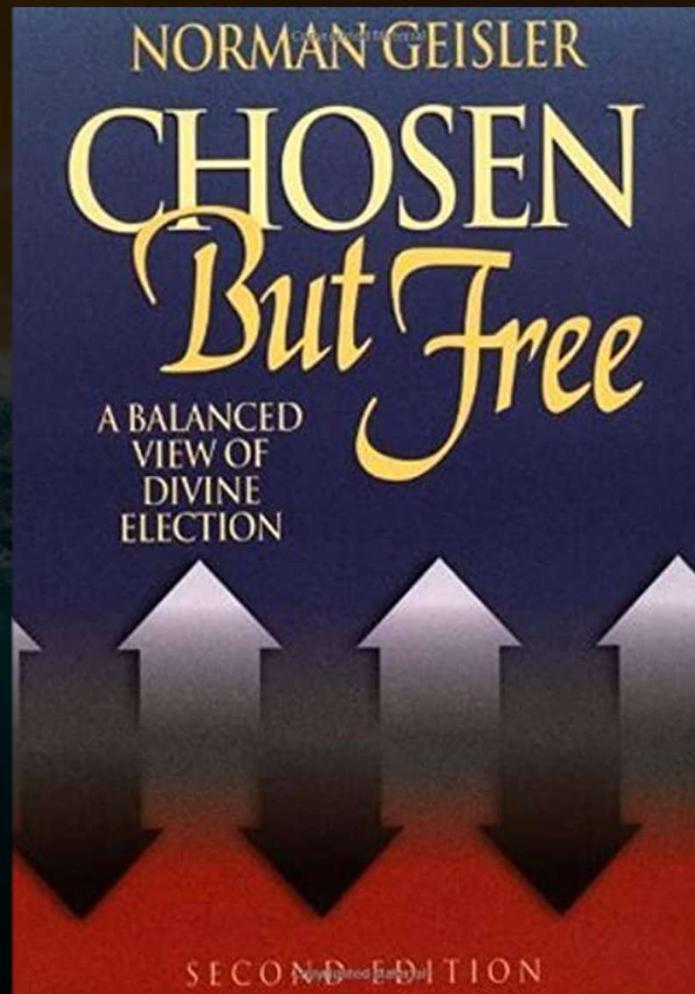
# Saved

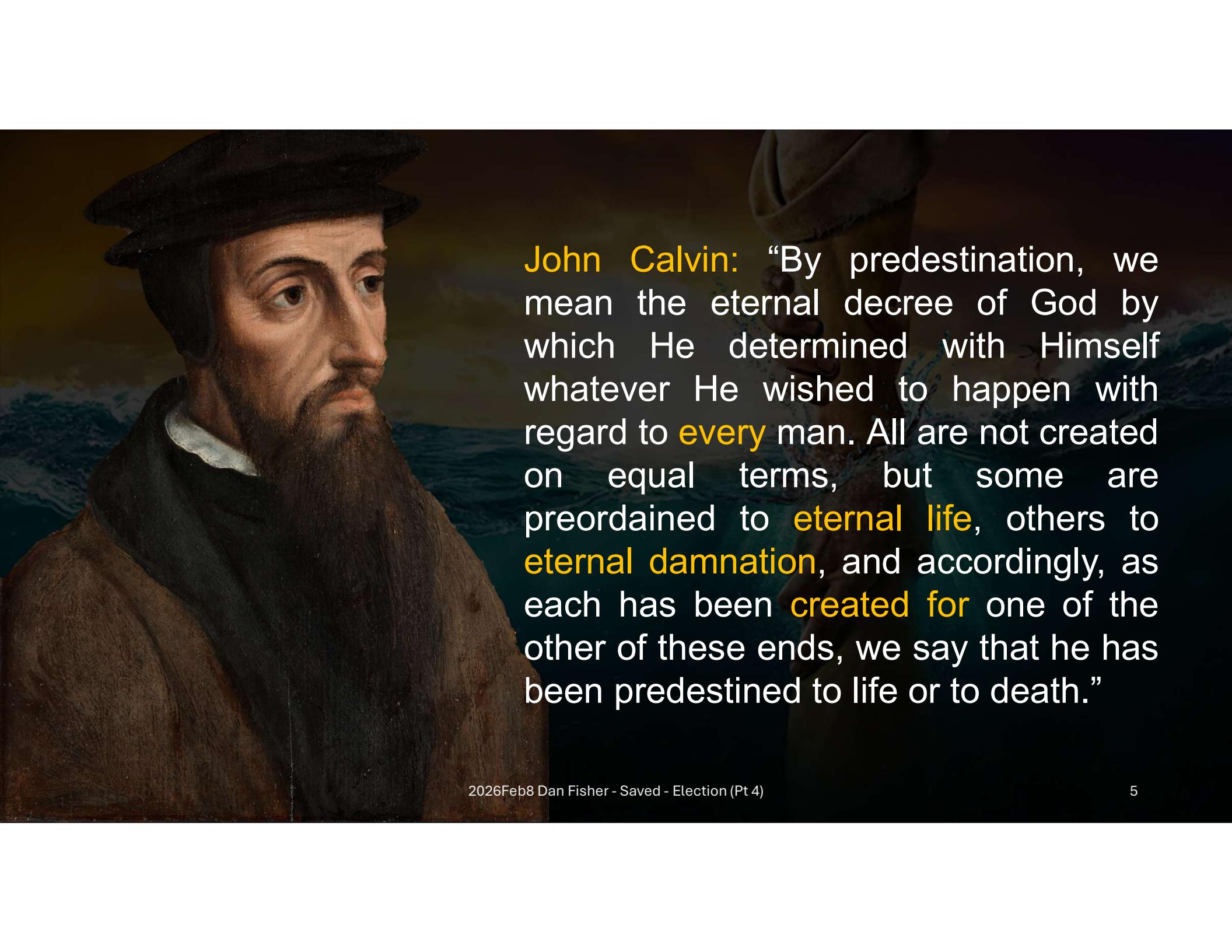
**Election  
Eternal security  
Ending life by suicide  
Eternal conscious torment vs. annihilation**

A dramatic image of a hand reaching out of turbulent blue water, holding a scroll tied with a tan strap. The hand is partially submerged, with water splashing around it. In the background, a small boat with a cross on it is visible on a horizon under a sky filled with orange and yellow clouds.

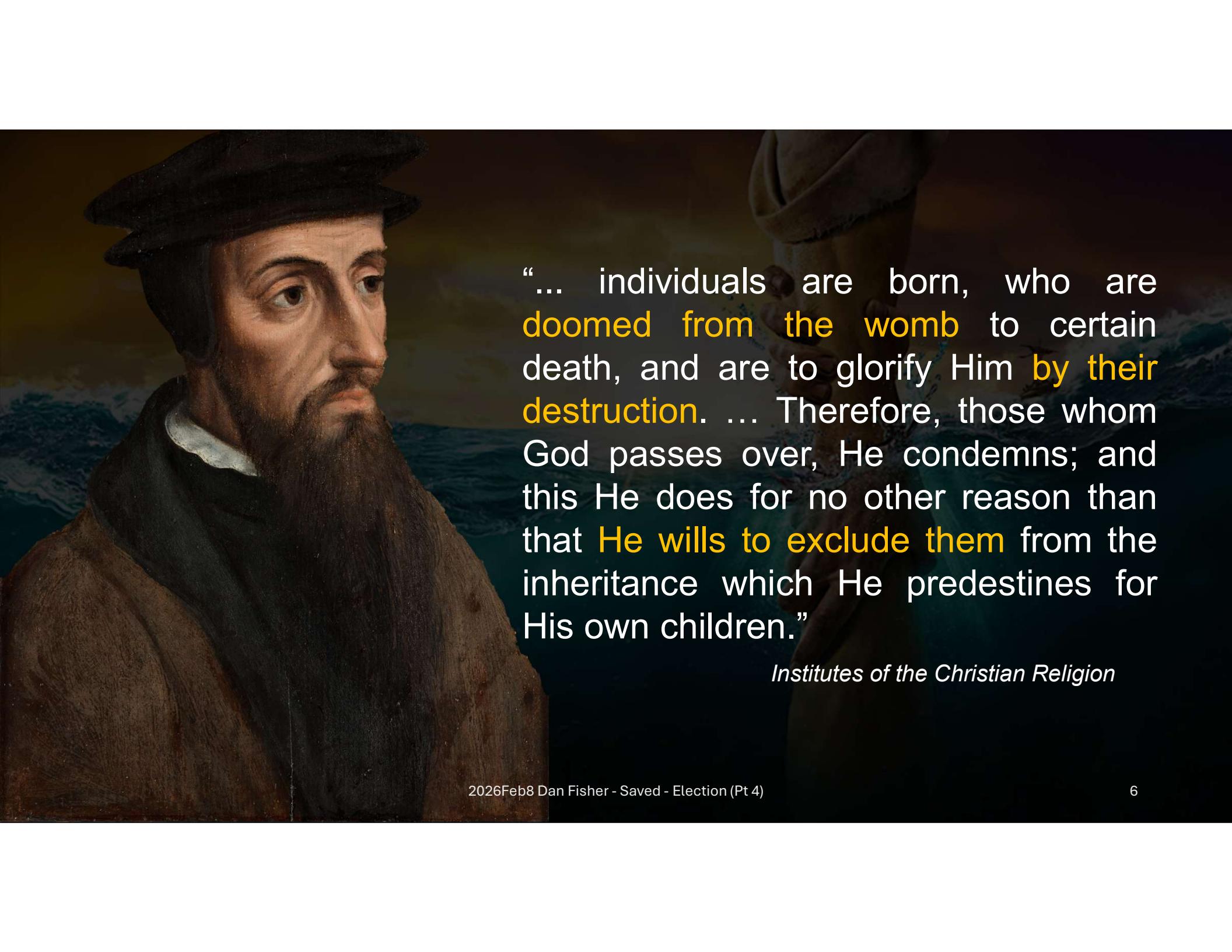
# Election

**Pt 4: Does God Predestine People For Hell?**



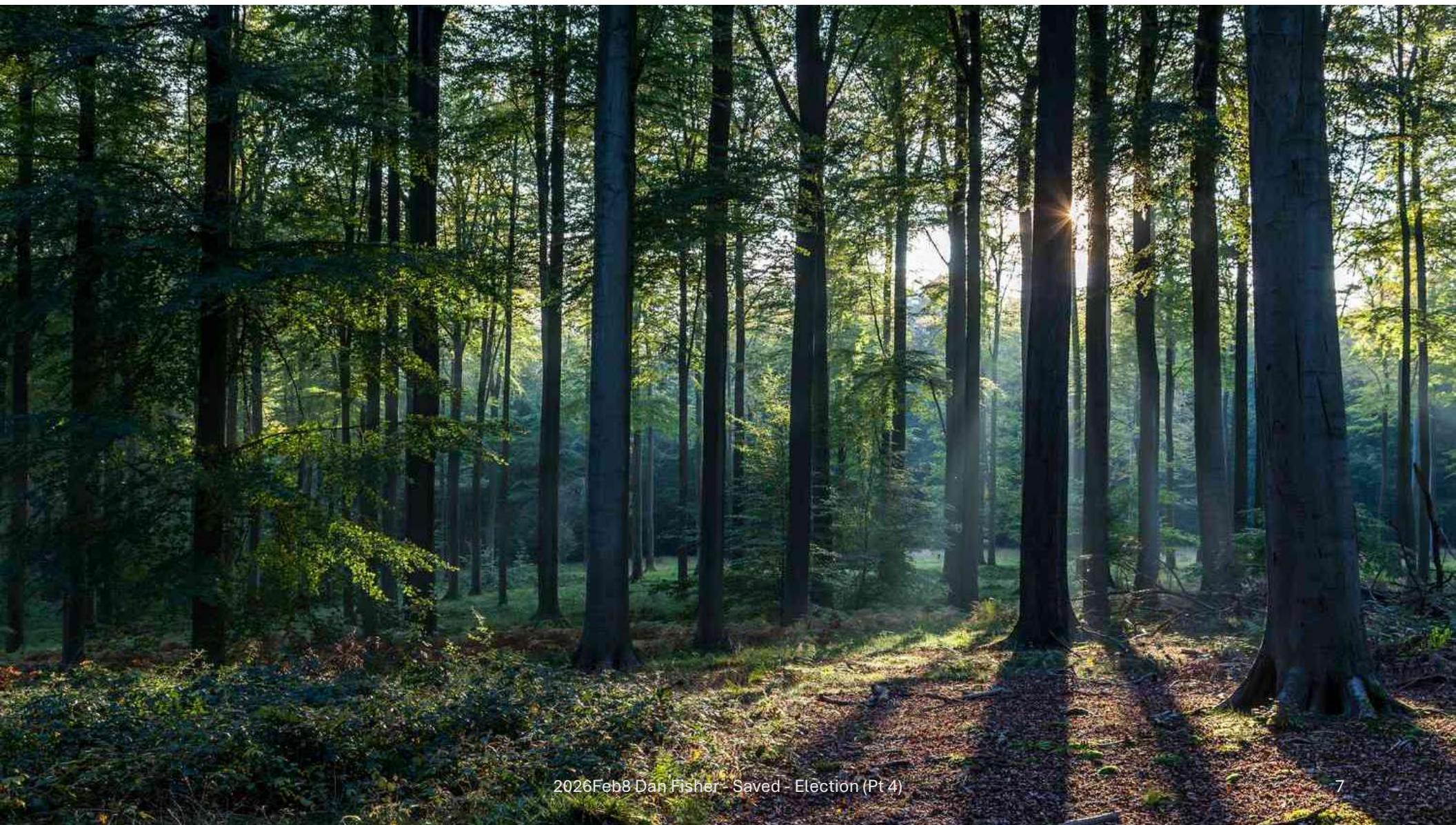
A portrait of John Calvin, a French theologian and a prominent figure of the Protestant Reformation. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, textured robe and a dark beret. He has a full, dark beard and is looking slightly to his left with a thoughtful expression. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting an indoor setting.

John Calvin: “By predestination, we mean the eternal decree of God by which He determined with Himself whatever He wished to happen with regard to **every** man. All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to **eternal life**, others to **eternal damnation**, and accordingly, as each has been **created for** one of the other of these ends, we say that he has been predestined to life or to death.”

A portrait of John Calvin, a French theologian and a prominent figure of the Protestant Reformation. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, textured robe and a black beret. He has a full, dark beard and is looking slightly to his right with a thoughtful expression. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting an indoor setting.

“... 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.”

*Institutes of the Christian Religion*



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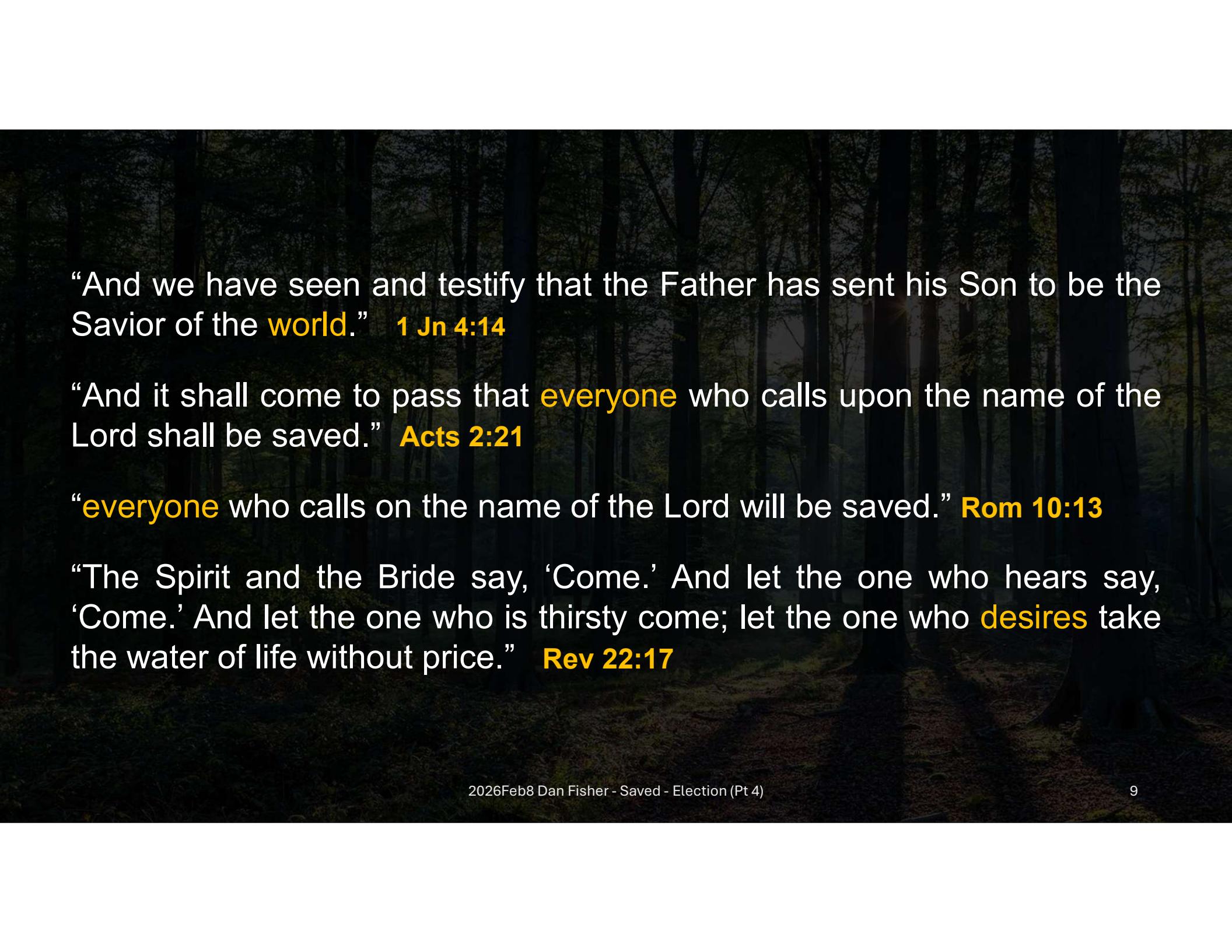
“**All** we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us **all**.” **Is 53:6**

“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**

“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us **all**, how will he not also with him graciously give us **all** things?” **Rom 8:32**

“who desires **all** people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” **1 Tim 2:4**

“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the **whole world**.” **1 Jn 2:2**

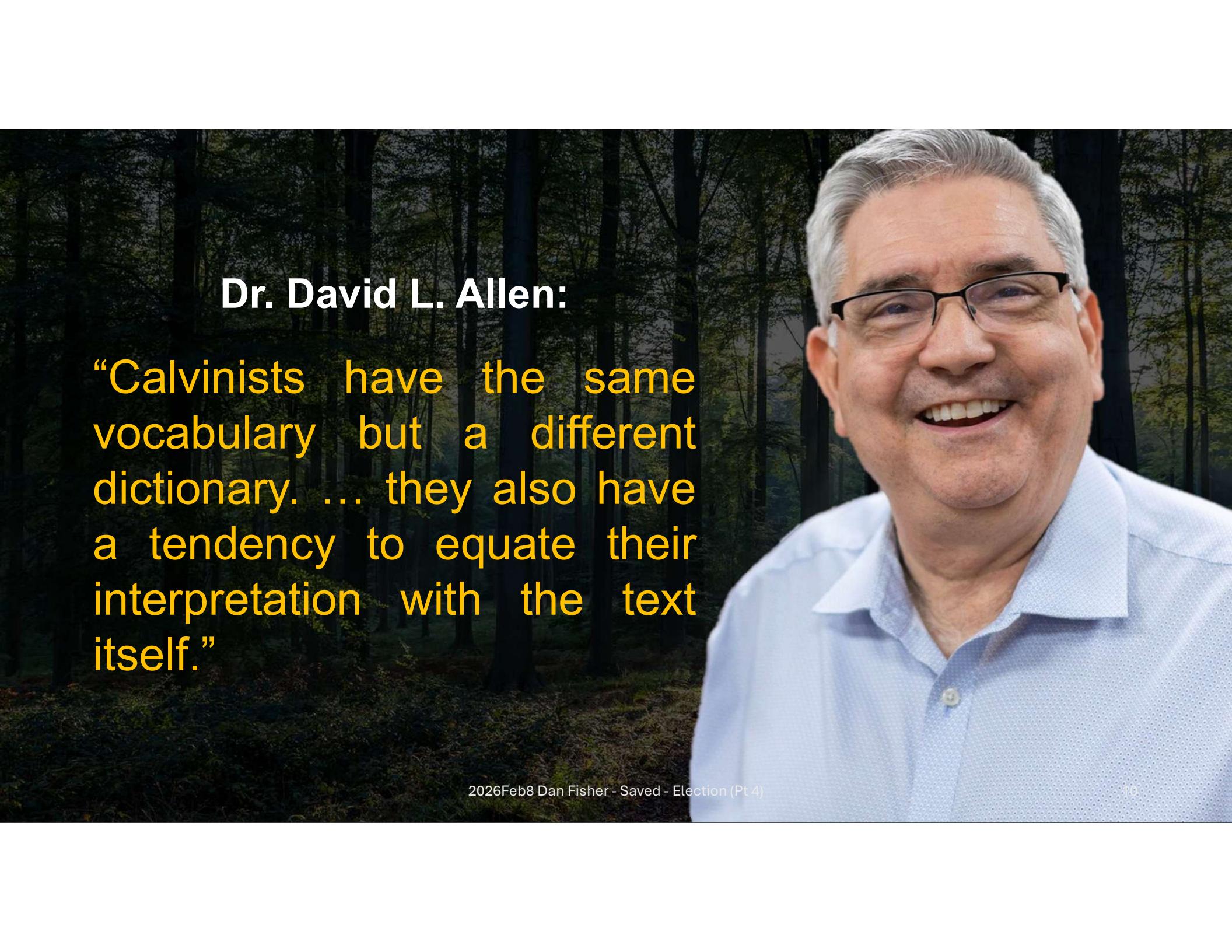


“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.” **1 Jn 4:14**

“And it shall come to pass that **everyone** who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” **Acts 2:21**

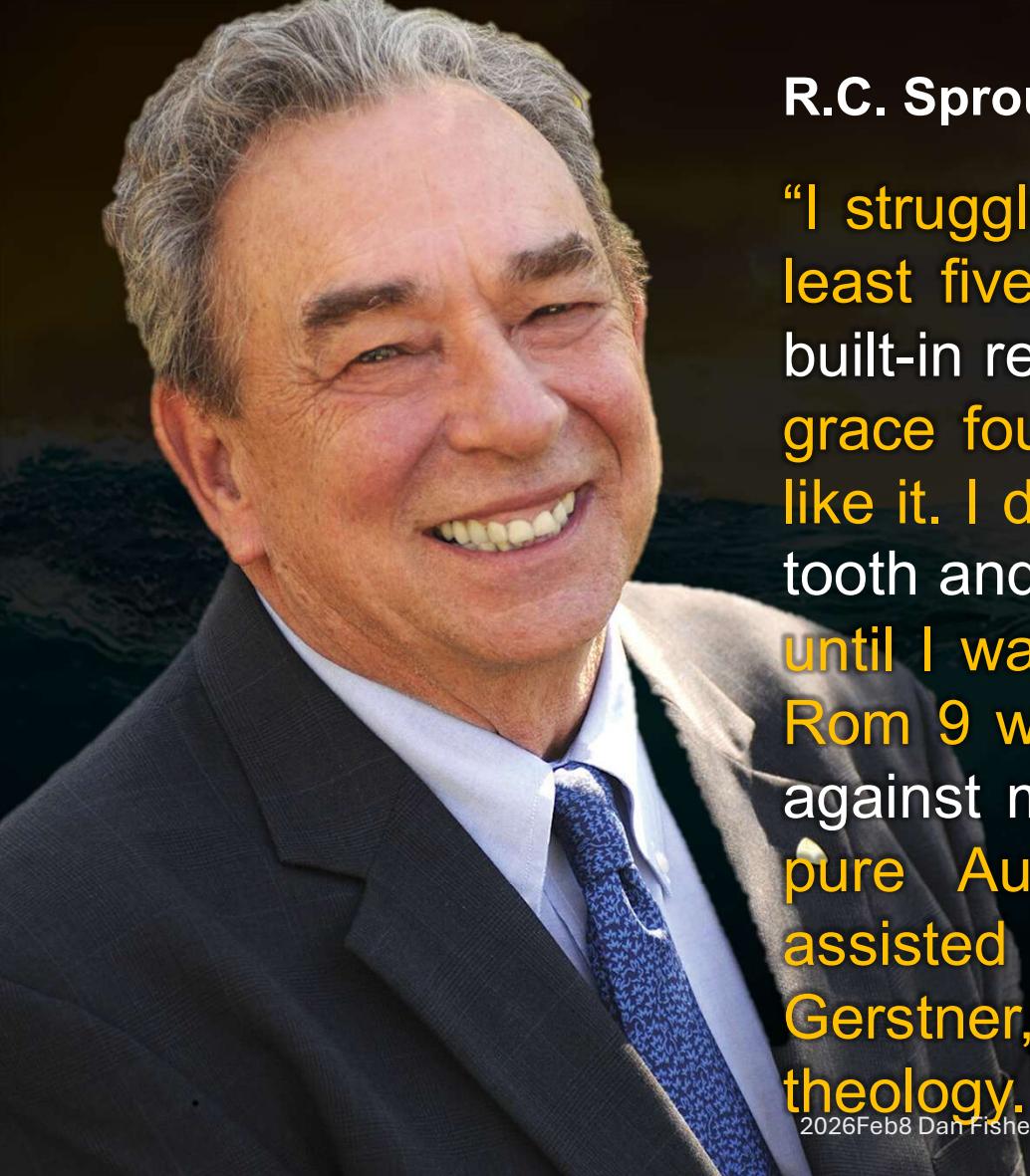
“**everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **Rom 10:13**

“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**



## Dr. David L. Allen:

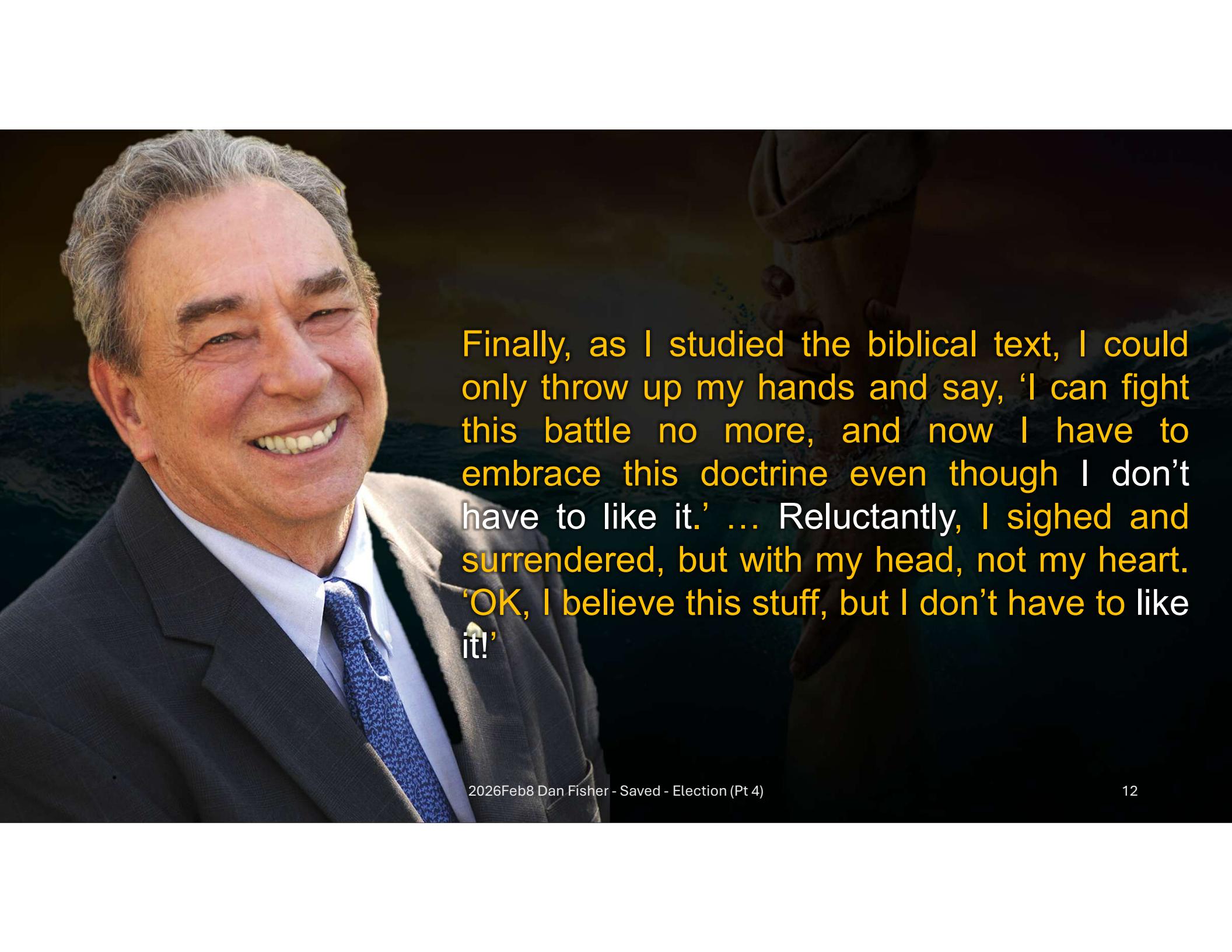
“Calvinists have the same vocabulary but a different dictionary. . . they also have a tendency to equate their interpretation with the text itself.”

A close-up portrait of R.C. Sproul, an elderly man with grey hair, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. The background is dark and slightly out of focus.

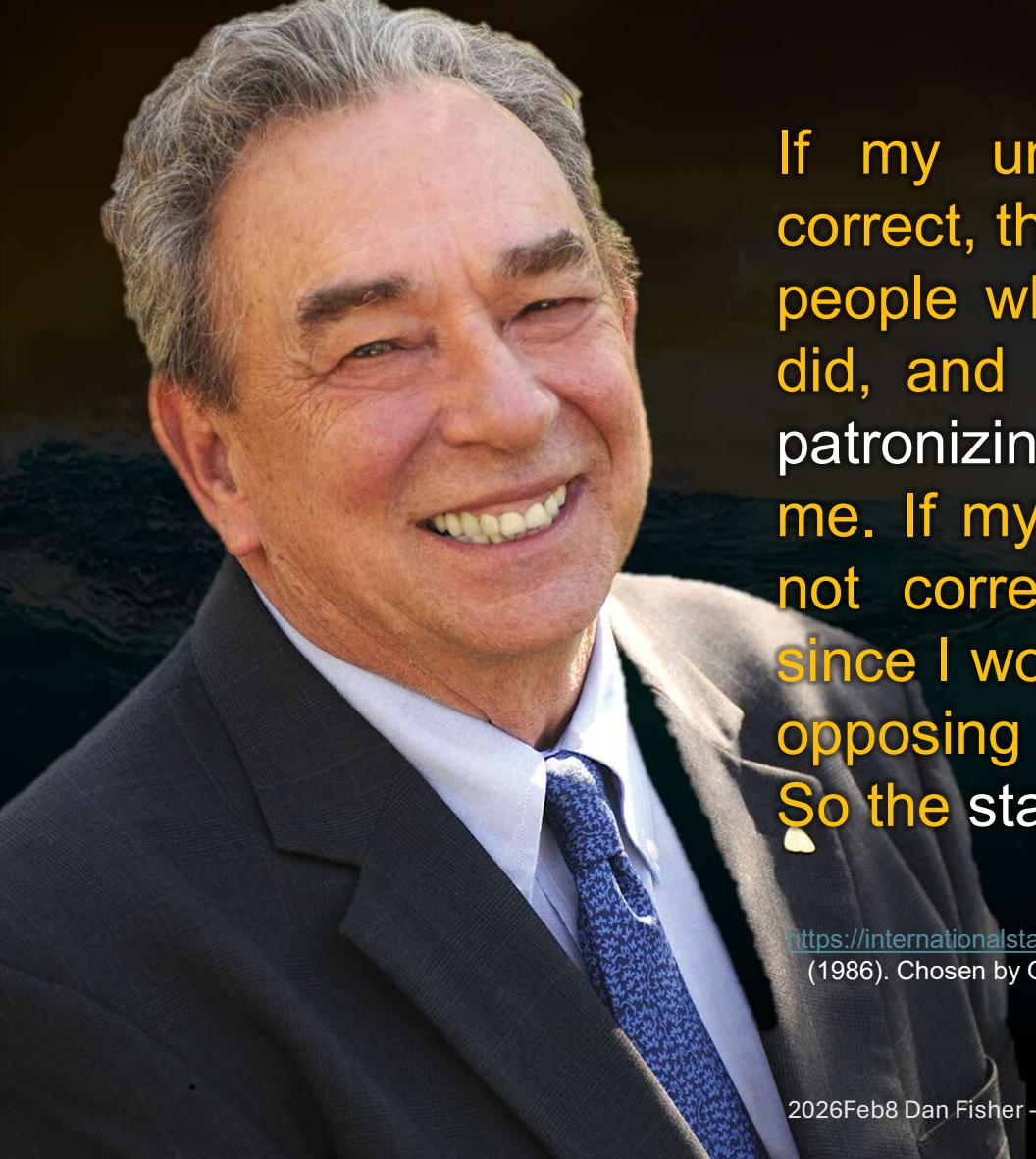
## R.C. Sproul:

“I struggled with the doctrine [election] for at least five years after my conversion ... The built-in resistance to the sovereignty of God’s grace found a root in my soul. ... I did not like it. I did not like it at all. I fought against it tooth and nail all the way through college. Not until I was exposed to a careful treatment of Rom 9 was I brought kicking and screaming against my will, to an initial acquiescence of pure Augustinianism [Calvinism]. I was assisted in my understanding by John Gerstner, that great defender of Reformed theology.

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Finally, as I studied the biblical text, I could only throw up my hands and say, 'I can fight this battle no more, and now I have to embrace this doctrine even though I don't have to like it.' ... Reluctantly, I sighed and surrendered, but with my head, not my heart. 'OK, I believe this stuff, but I don't have to like it!'

A portrait of R.C. Sproul, a middle-aged man with grey hair, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. The background is a soft-focus landscape of hills and trees.

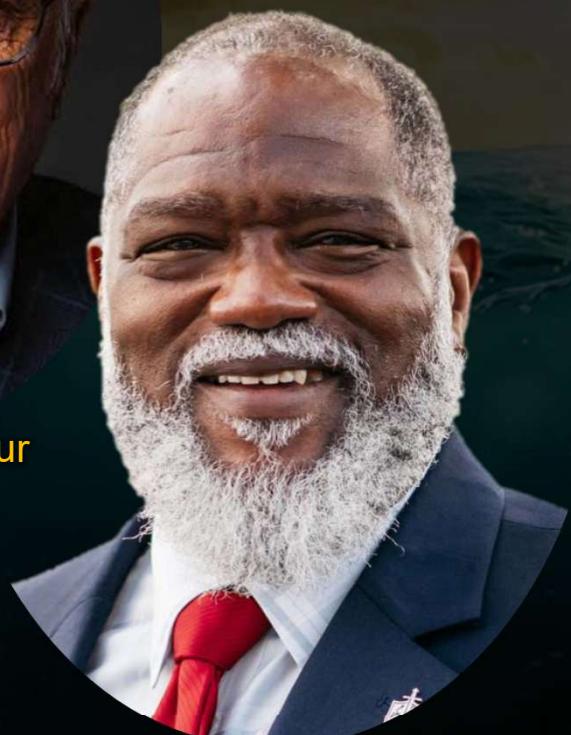
If my understanding of predestination is correct, then at best I am being impatient with people who are merely struggling as I once did, and at worst I am being arrogant and patronizing toward those who disagree with me. If my understanding of predestination is not correct, then my sin is compounded, since I would be slandering the saints who by opposing my view are fighting for the angels. So the stakes are high for me in this matter."

"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 Expositional Commentary*.



**Calvinist**

John MacArthur

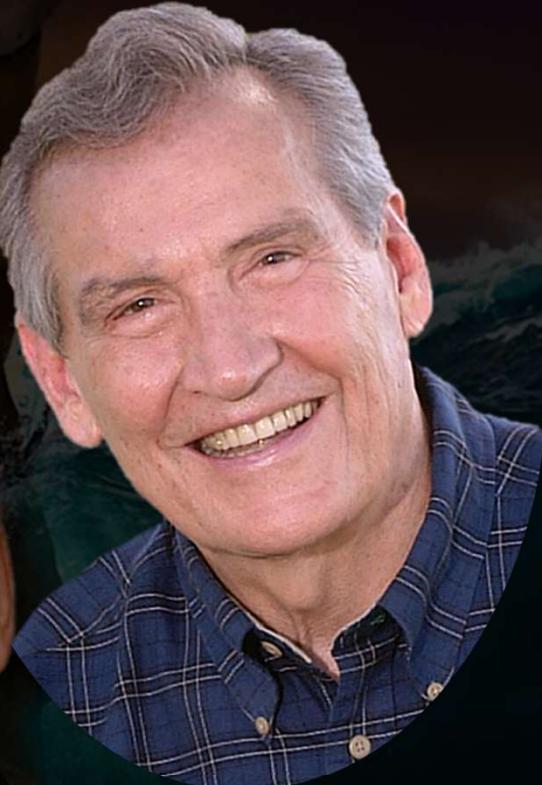


Voddie Baucham



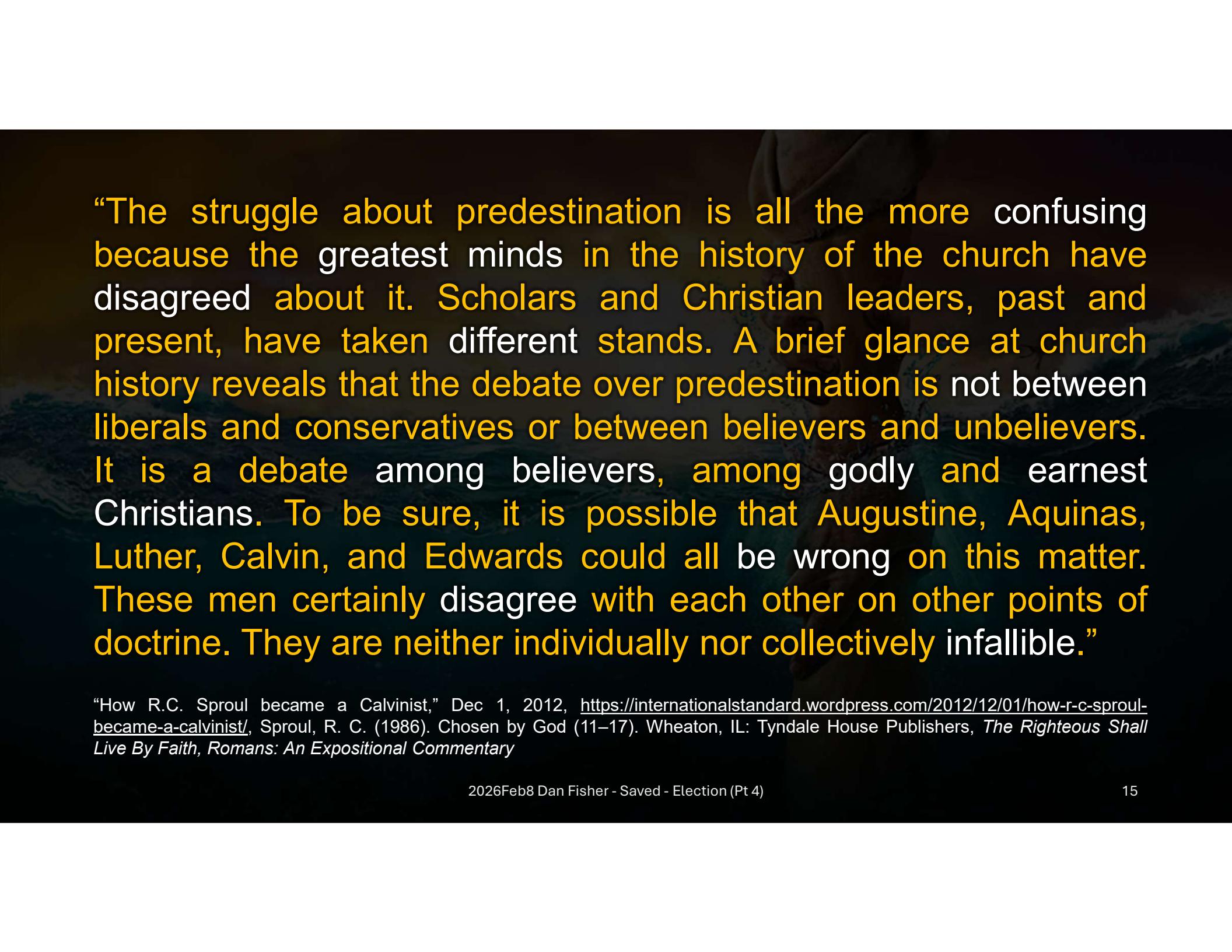
**Non-Calvinist**

Norman Geisler



Adrian Rogers

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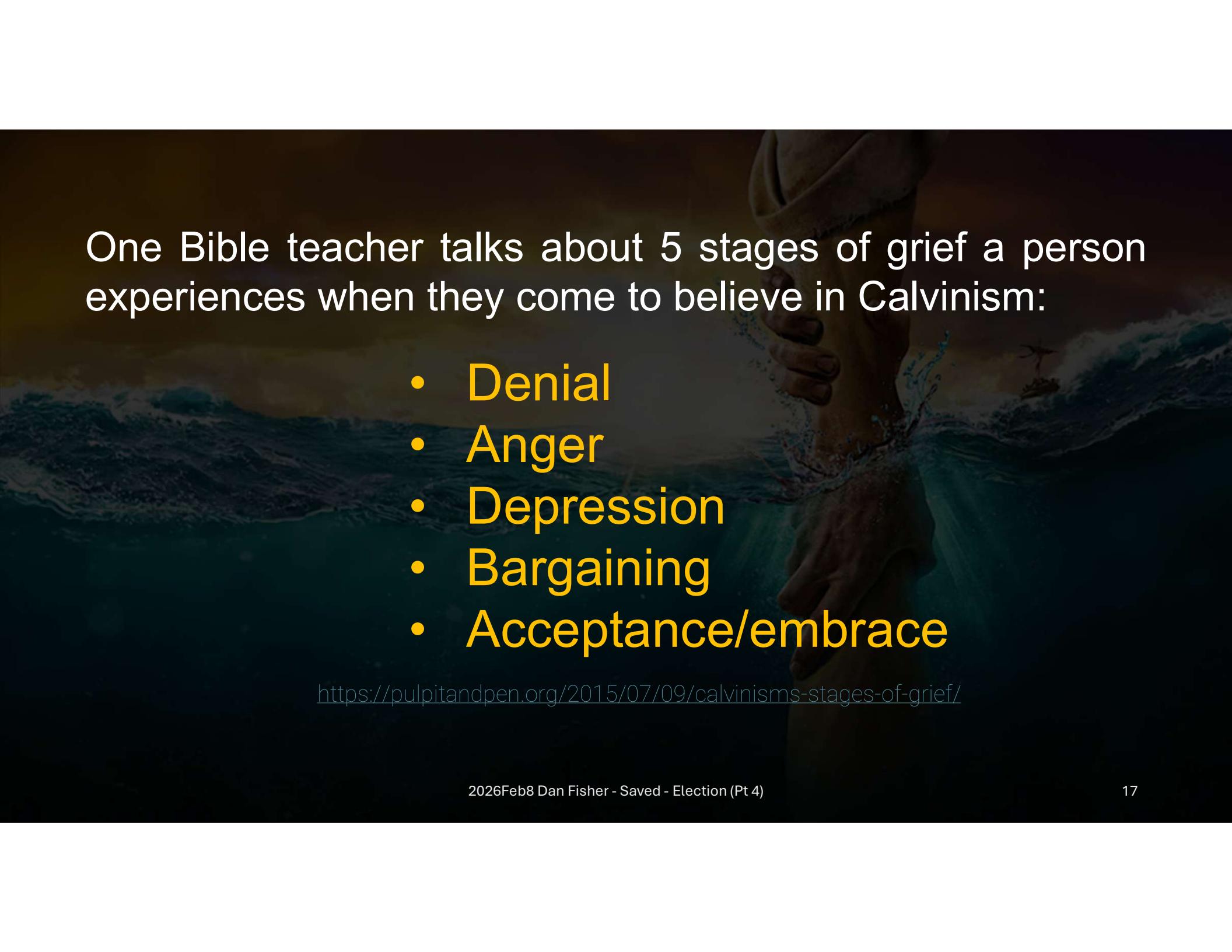


“The struggle about predestination is all the more confusing because the greatest minds in the history of the church have disagreed about it. Scholars and Christian leaders, past and present, have taken different stands. A brief glance at church history reveals that the debate over predestination is not between liberals and conservatives or between believers and unbelievers. It is a debate among believers, among godly and earnest Christians. To be sure, it is possible that Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, and Edwards could all be wrong on this matter. These men certainly disagree with each other on other points of doctrine. They are neither individually nor collectively infallible.”

“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 Expositional Commentary*

“[E]motions run very high in a 22-year-old, who finds his man-centered world collapsing around him. So, one day I met [my professor] in the hall, who was confronting me with these texts that were making me very angry and making me cry in the afternoon as I read my Bible. .... Emotions run very high when your world is collapsing. By the end of the semester, it was in ruins.”

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>

A person in a white lab coat is holding a test tube with blue liquid. They are standing in a field with a cloudy sky in the background.

One Bible teacher talks about 5 stages of grief a person experiences when they come to believe in Calvinism:

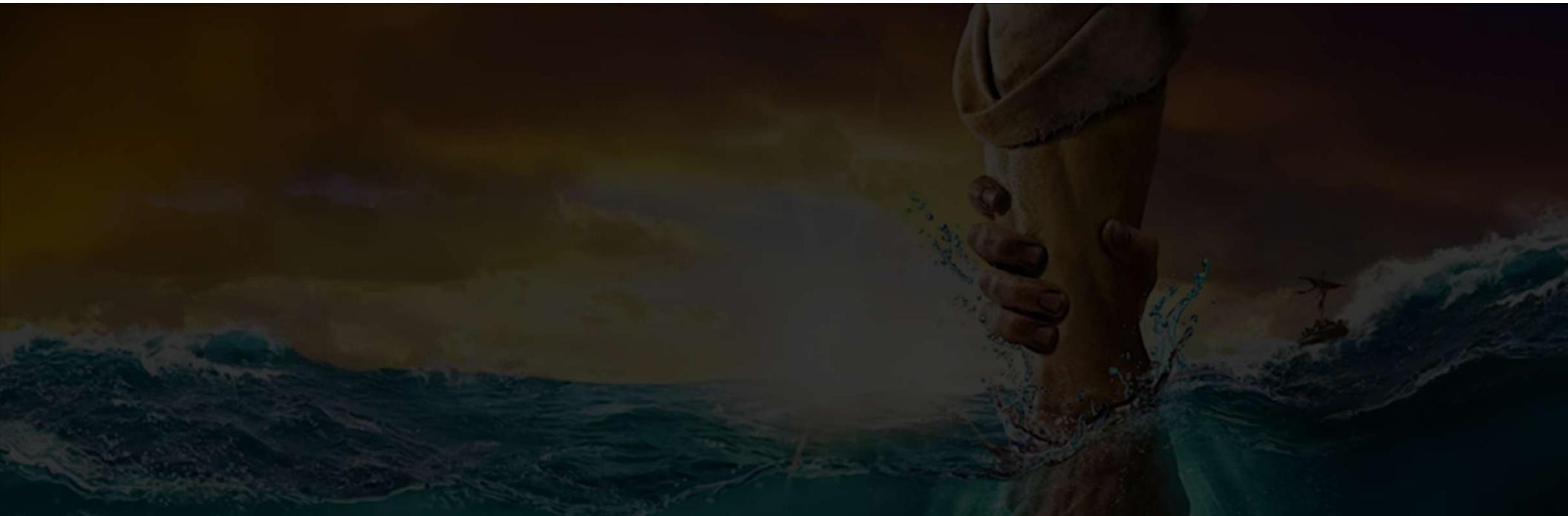
- Denial
- Anger
- Depression
- Bargaining
- Acceptance/brace

<https://pulpitandpen.org/2015/07/09/calvinisms-stages-of-grief/>

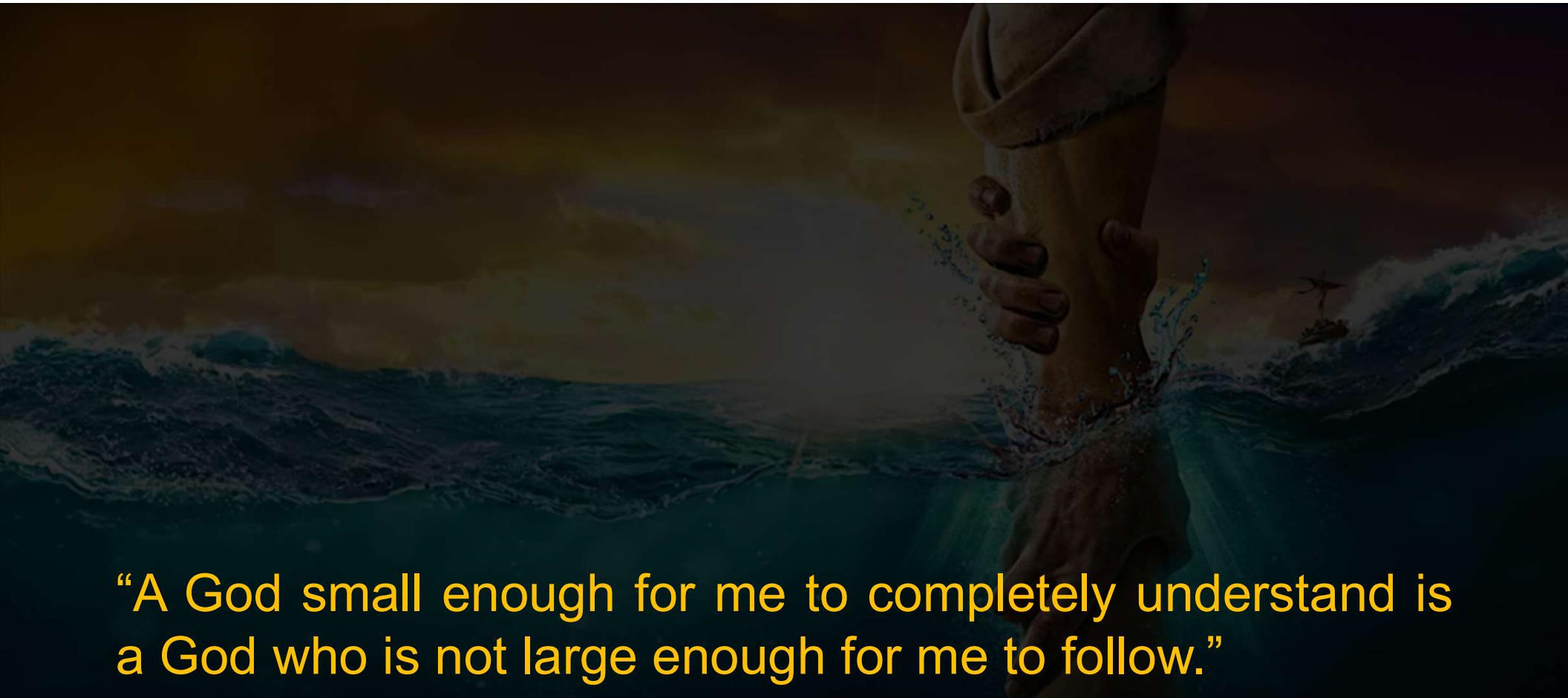
One of the critical, if not most critical, biblical texts for Calvinists is Romans 9. If they have misinterpreted that passage, Calvinism is practically doomed as an orthodox position.

“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, “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>



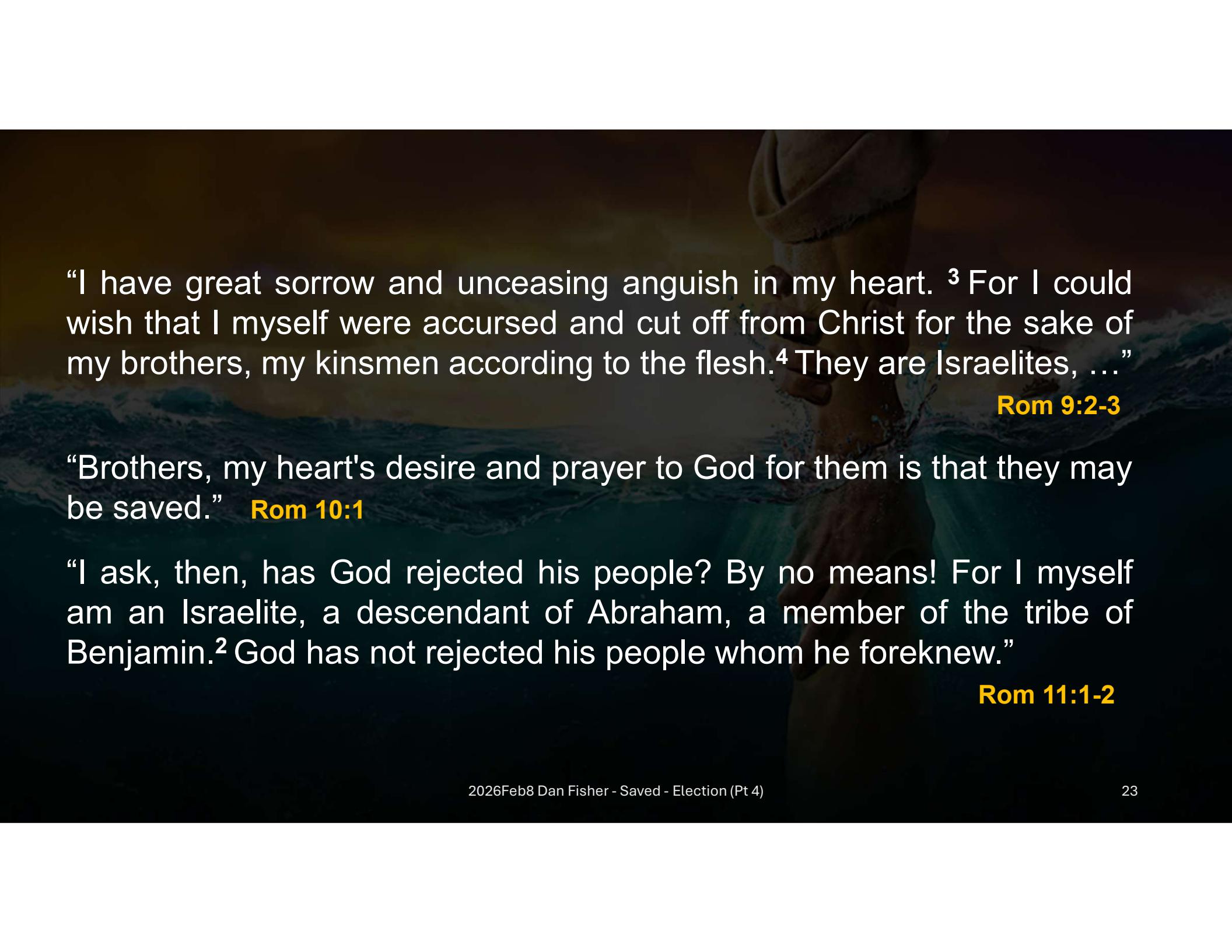
“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! <sup>34</sup> ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?’ ... <sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.” **Rom 11:33-34,36**



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



**1. Rom 9, 10, & 11 are primarily about Israel – not believers in general**



“I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.<sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, ...”

**Rom 9:2-3**

“Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.” **Rom 10:1**

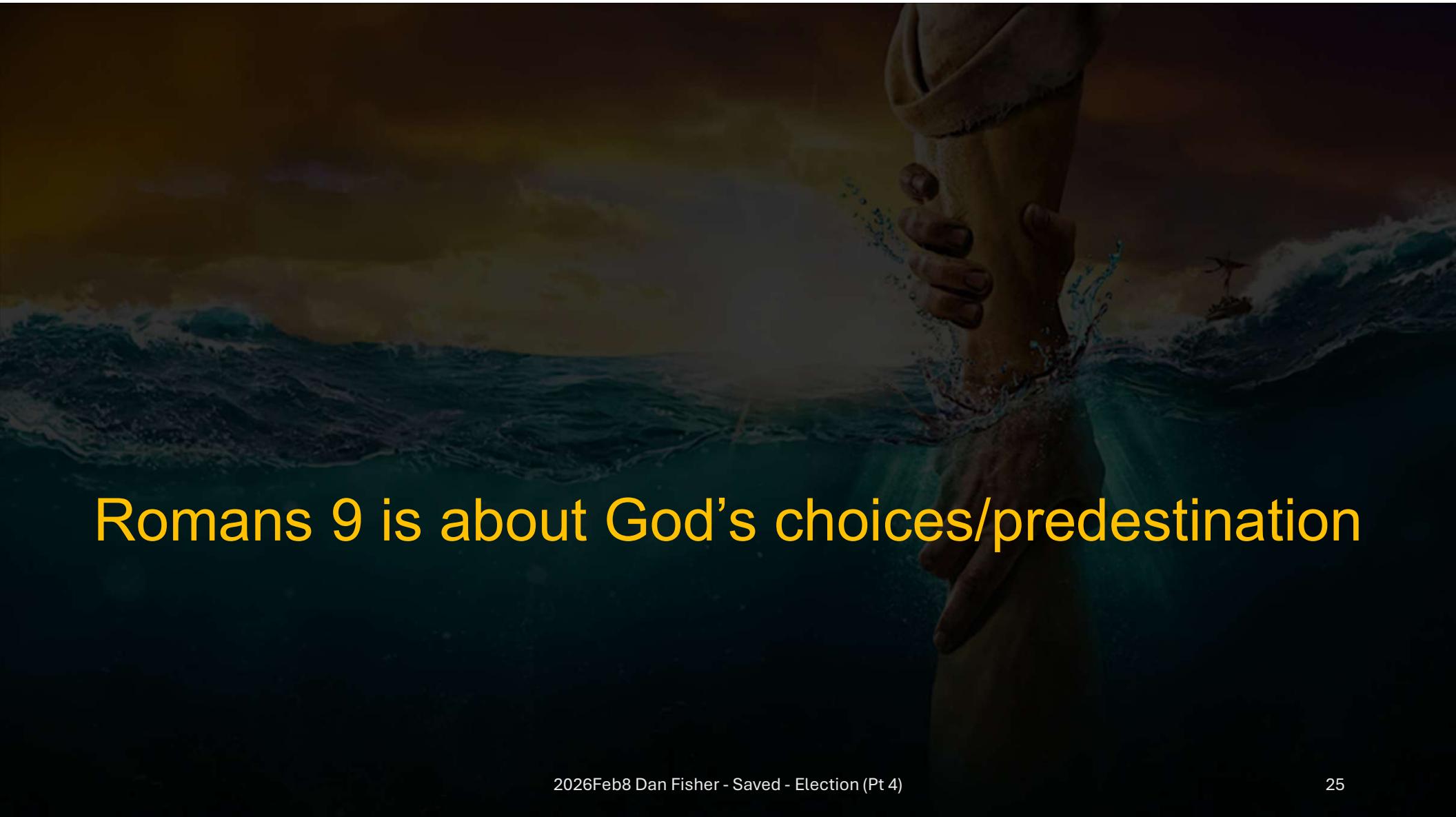
“I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.<sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.”

**Rom 11:1-2**

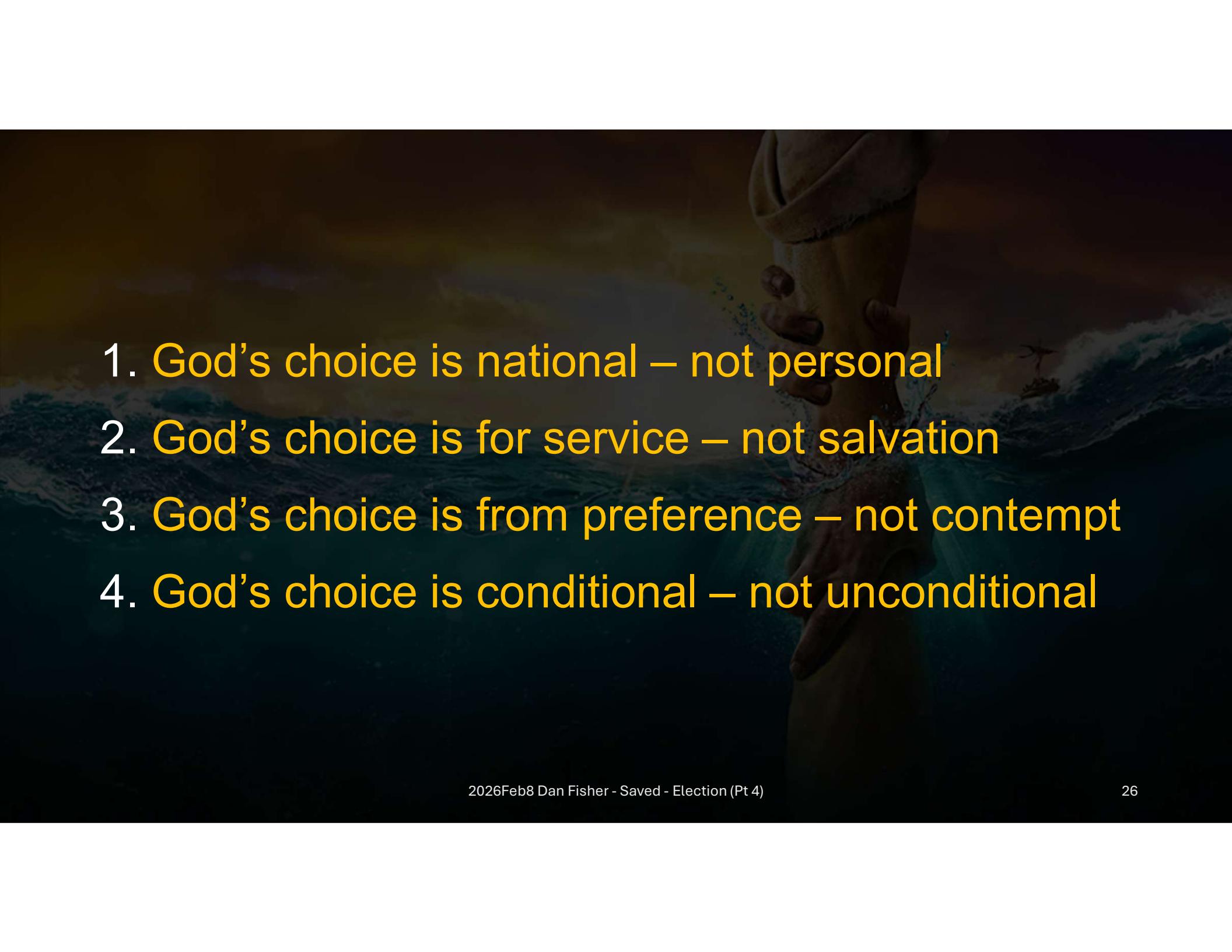


A verse in Romans 9-11 most Calvinists will not spotlight:

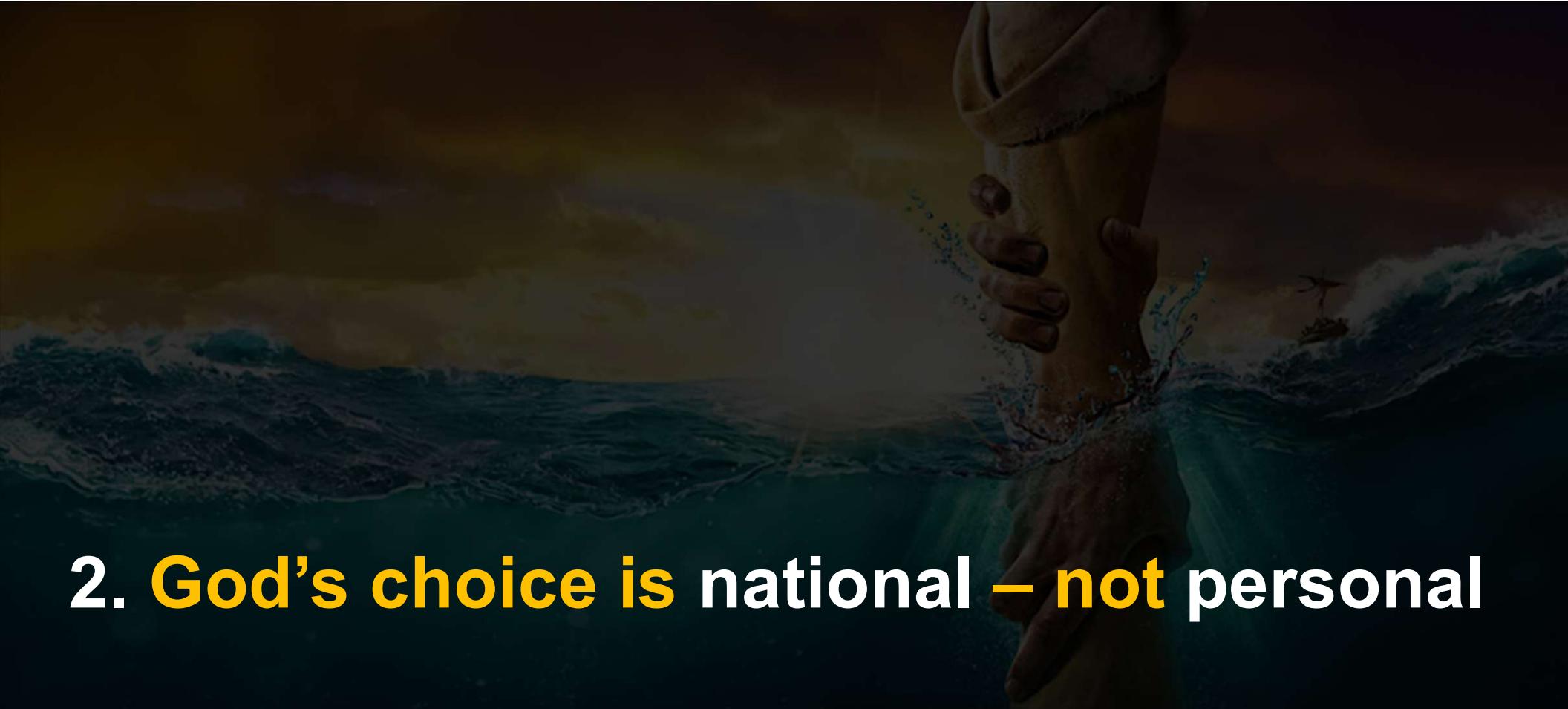
“For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.” **Rom 11:32**



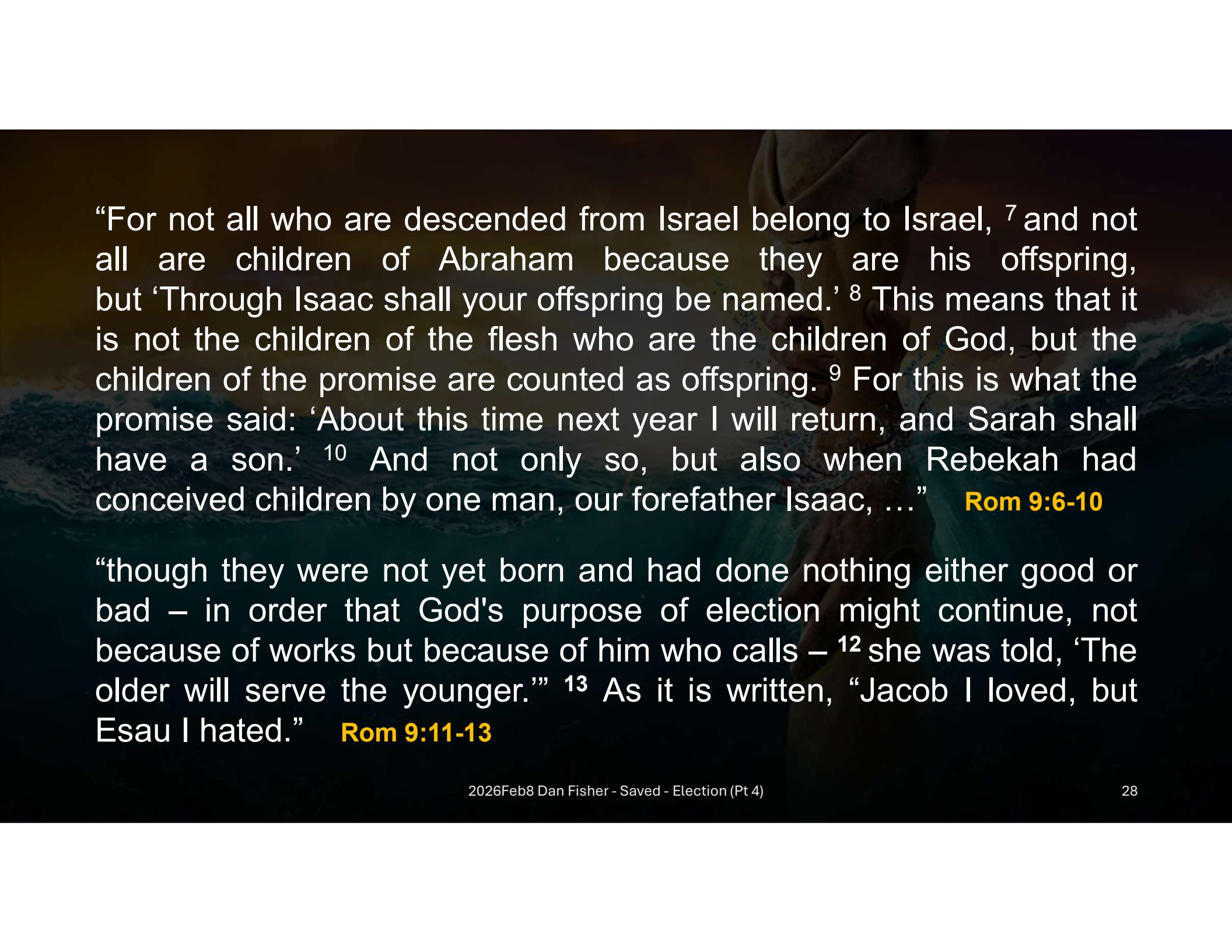
Romans 9 is about God's choices/predestination



1. God's choice is national – not personal
2. God's choice is for service – not salvation
3. God's choice is from preference – not contempt
4. God's choice is conditional – not unconditional

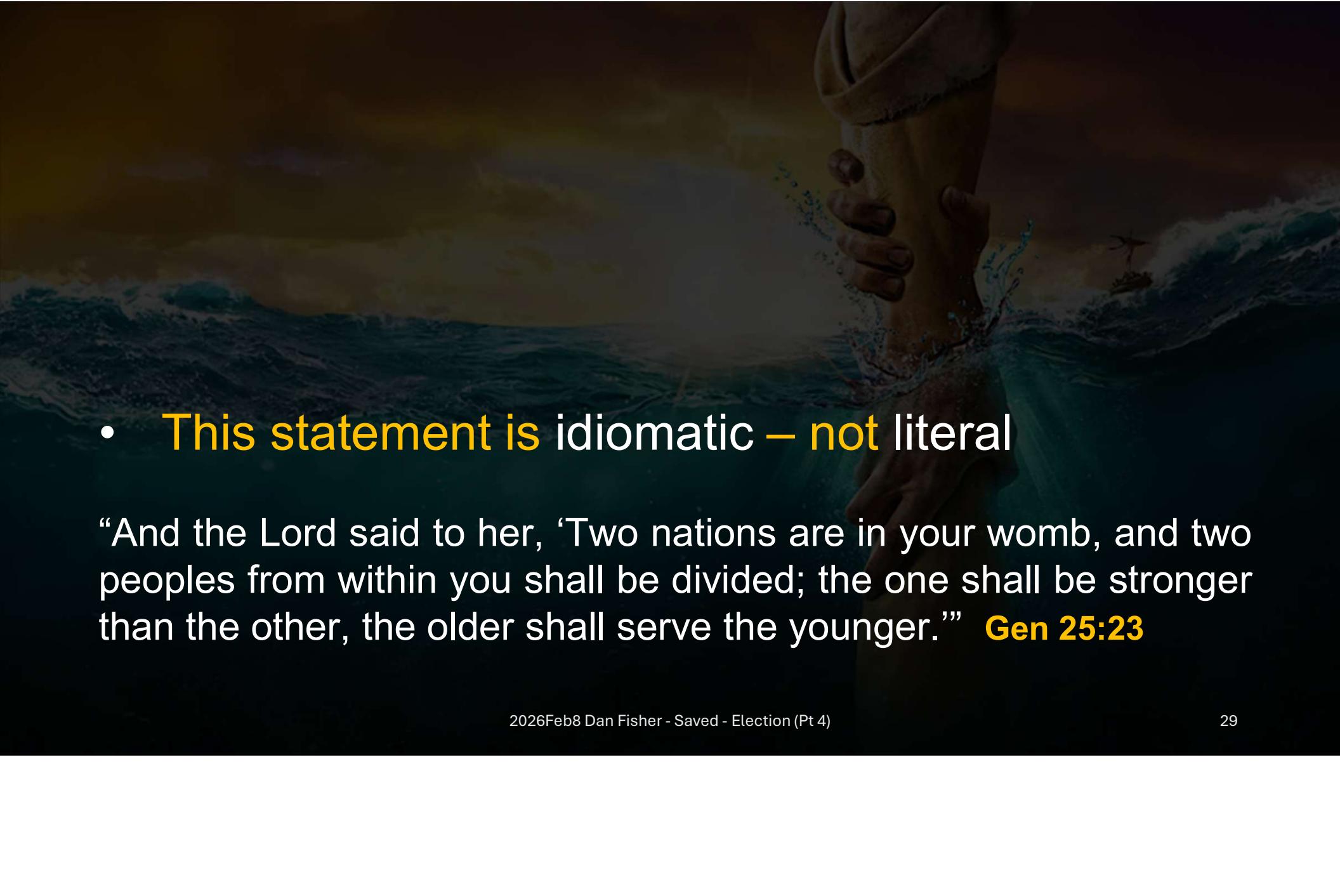


## 2. God's choice is national – not personal



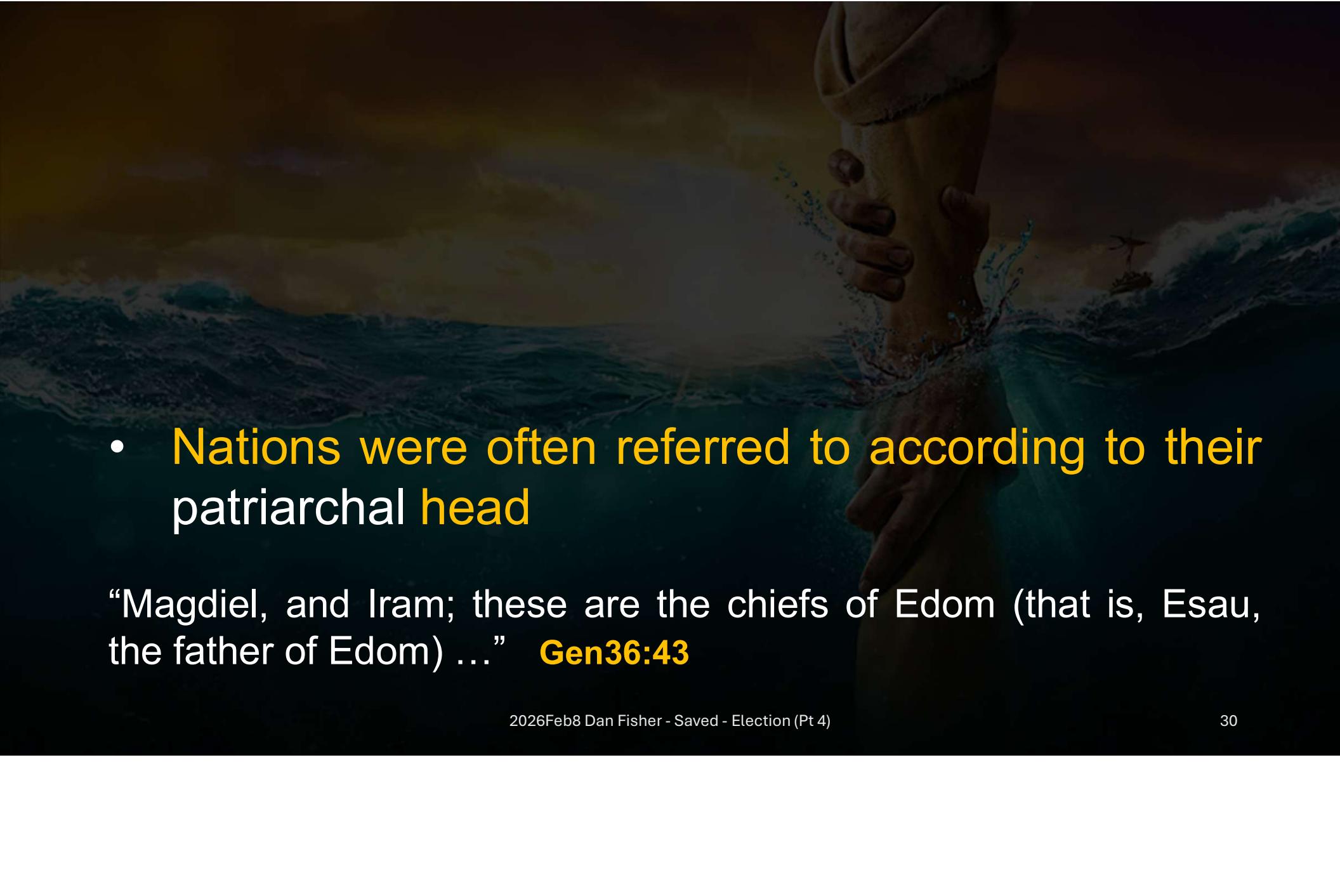
“For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,<sup>7</sup> and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but ‘Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.’<sup>8</sup> This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.<sup>9</sup> For this is what the promise said: ‘About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.’<sup>10</sup> And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ...” **Rom 9:6-10**

“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 –<sup>12</sup> she was told, ‘The older will serve the younger.’”<sup>13</sup> As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” **Rom 9:11-13**



- This statement is idiomatic – not literal

“And the Lord said to her, ‘Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.’” **Gen 25:23**

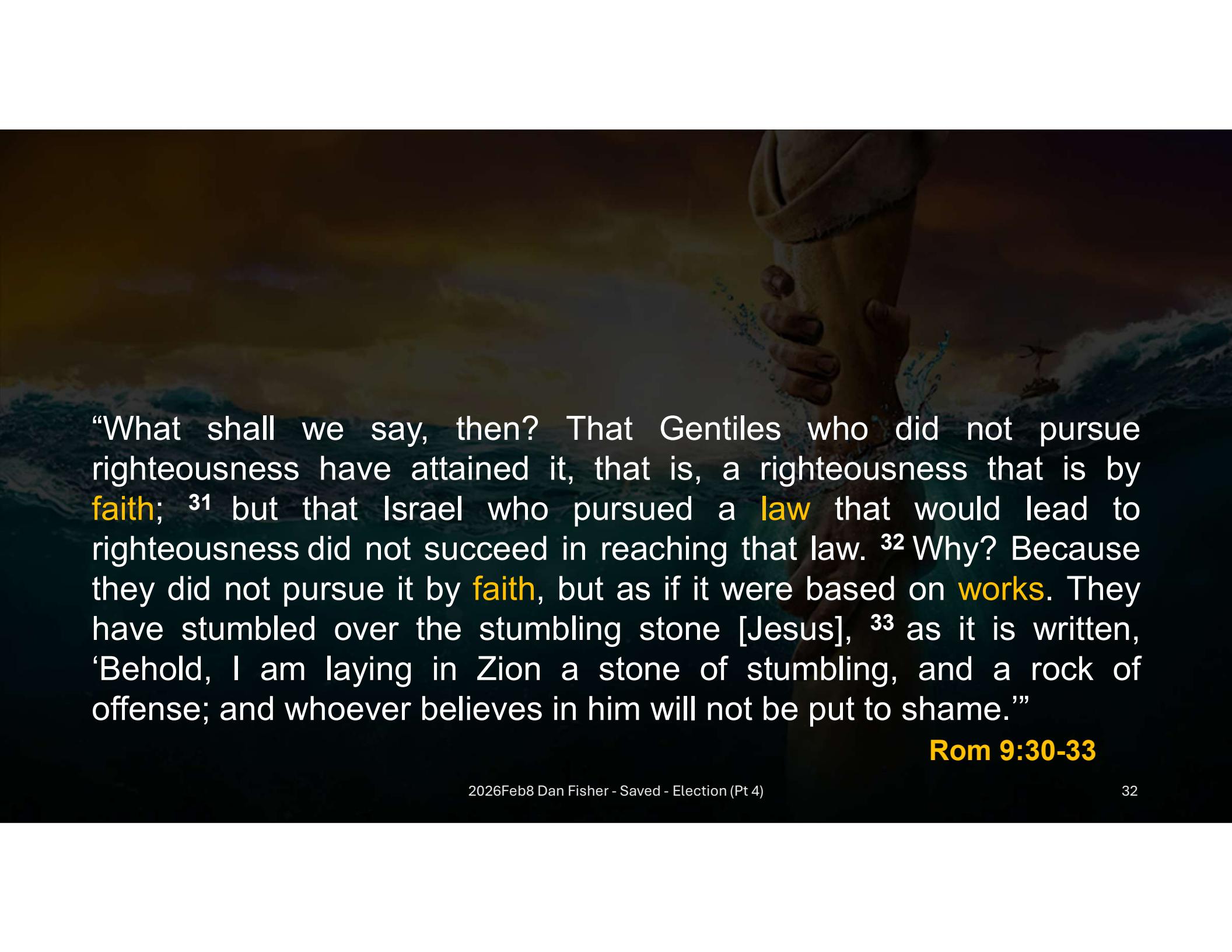


- Nations were often referred to according to their patriarchal head

“Magdiel, and Iram; these are the chiefs of Edom (that is, Esau, the father of Edom) ...” **Gen36:43**

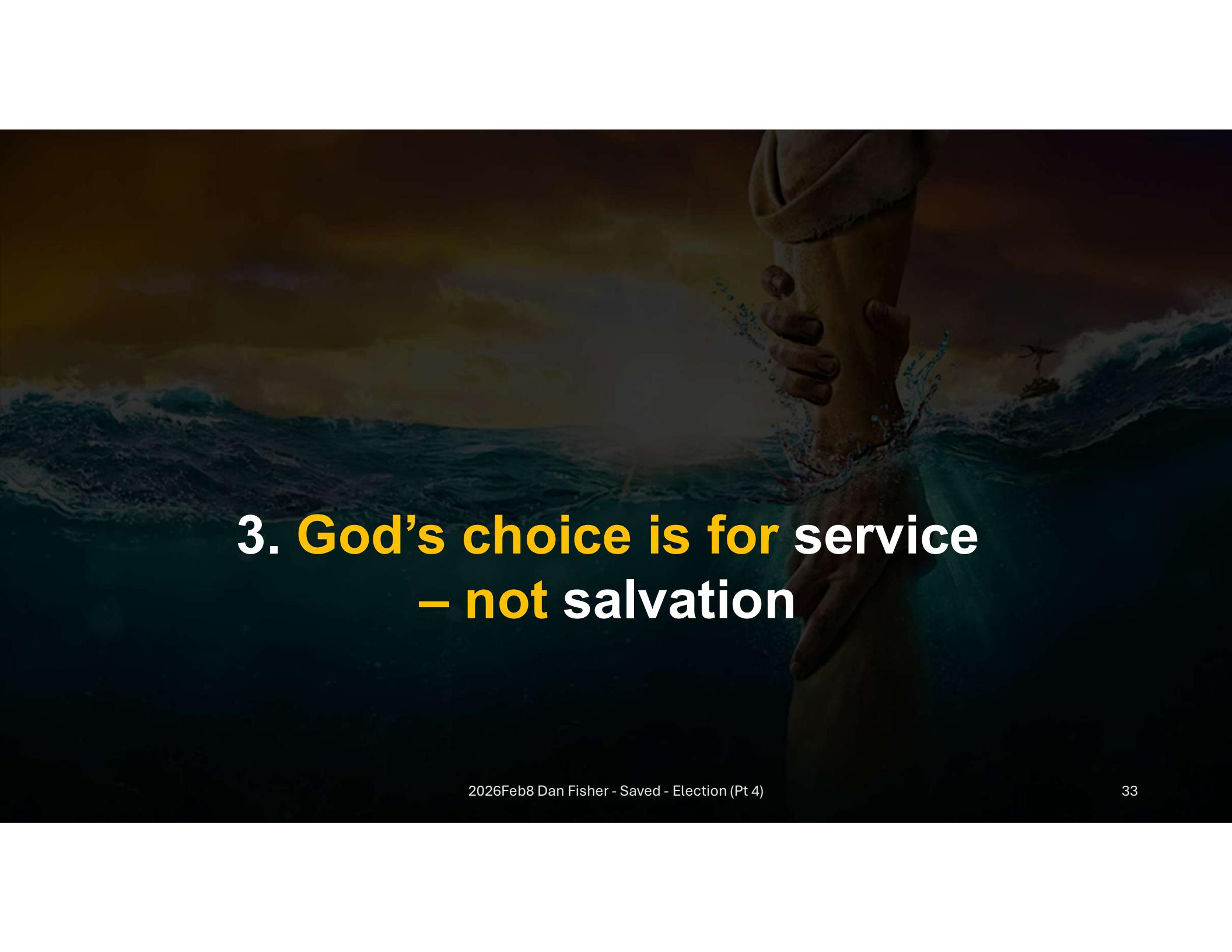
- Two children can also represent two covenants

“For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the son of the slave was born according to the **flesh**, while the son of the free woman was born through **promise**. <sup>24</sup> Now this may be interpreted **allegorically**: these women are two **covenants**. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery [**the law, works**] with her children [**Israel**]. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem above [**Sarah**] is free [**promise, faith, grace**], and she is our mother.” **Gal 4:22-27**

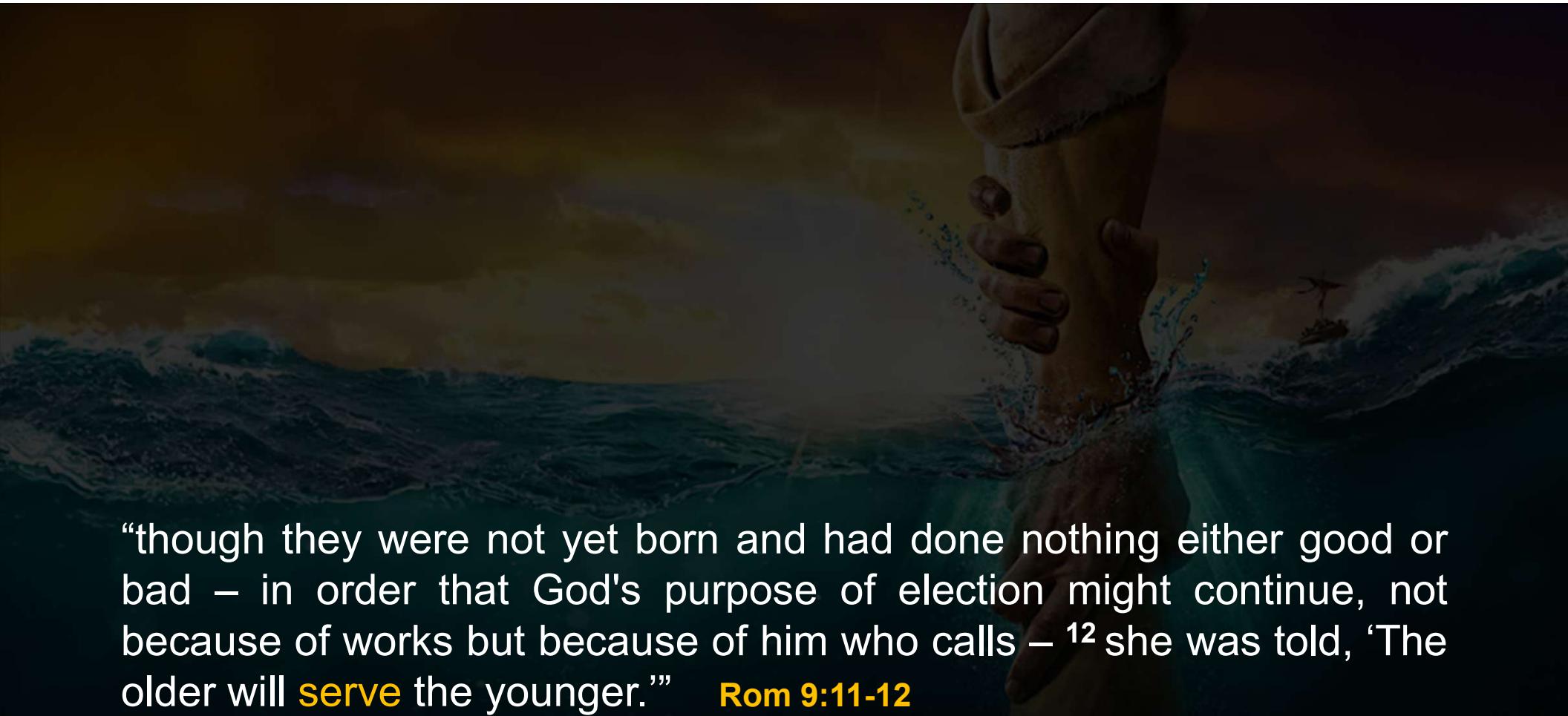
A hand is shown holding a scroll, with a map of the world visible in the background, suggesting a global context or reach.

“What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by **faith**; <sup>31</sup> but that Israel who pursued a **law** that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. <sup>32</sup> Why? Because they did not pursue it by **faith**, but as if it were based on **works**. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone [Jesus], <sup>33</sup> 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**

A dramatic illustration of a hand pouring water from a bucket into a small boat. The boat is tilted, and water is splashing out. The background is a dark, stormy sea with large, white-capped waves under a dark sky.

### 3. God's choice is for service – not salvation



“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 – <sup>12</sup> she was told, ‘The older will **serve** the younger.’” **Rom 9:11-12**

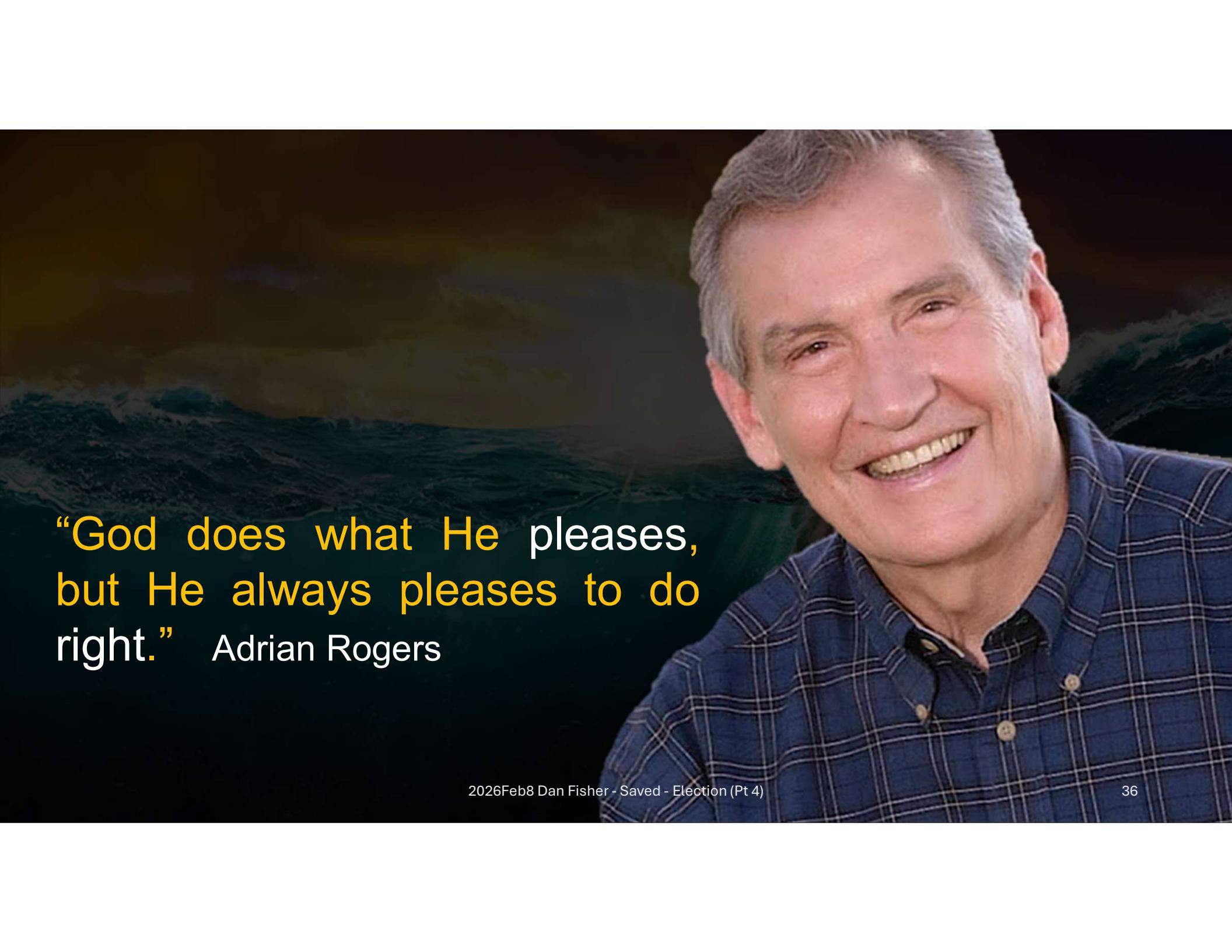
- God is sovereign and can do what He pleases

“Our God is in the heavens; He does all that he pleases.” **Ps 115:3**

“Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.” **Ps 135:6**

“for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’” **Is 46:10**

“He does according to His will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” **Dan 4:35**

A portrait of Adrian Rogers, a man with grey hair and a warm smile, wearing a blue plaid shirt. He is positioned on the right side of the image, with a dark, textured background that suggests a landscape with hills or mountains. The lighting is soft, highlighting his face and the texture of his shirt.

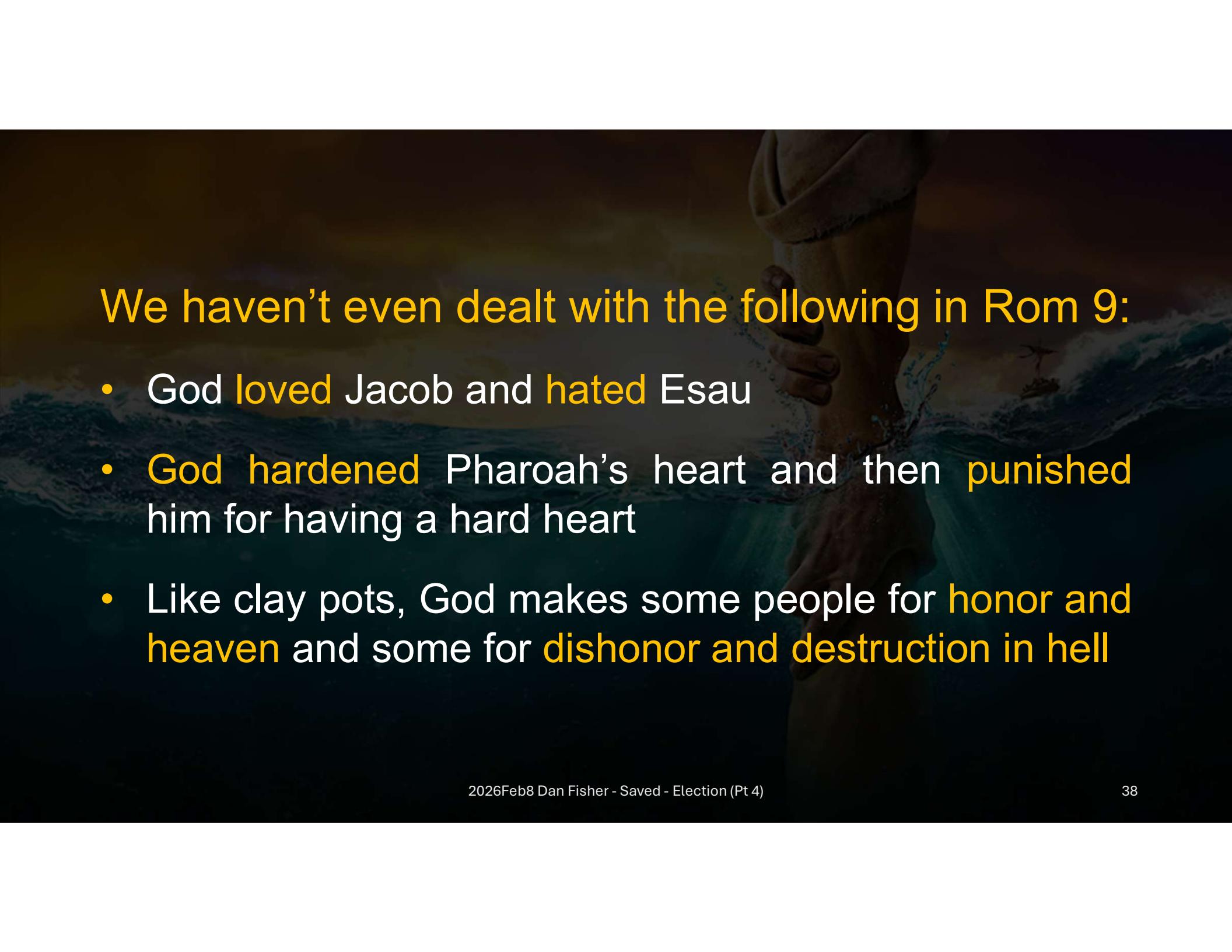
“God does what He pleases,  
but He **always** pleases to do  
right.” Adrian Rogers

- God chooses who serves where and how they serve

“All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” **1 Cor 12:11**

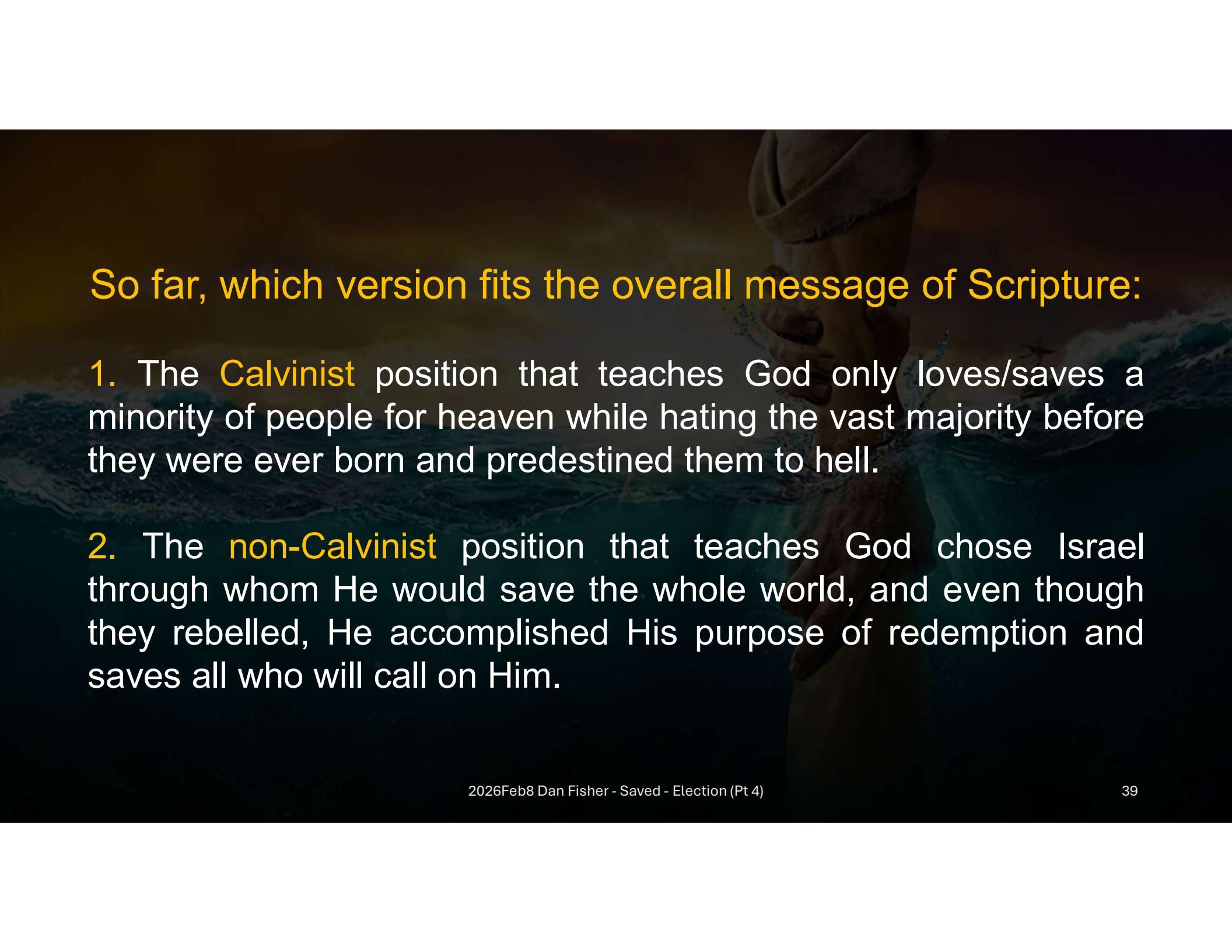
He chose Isaac – not Ishmael

He chose Jacob – not Esau



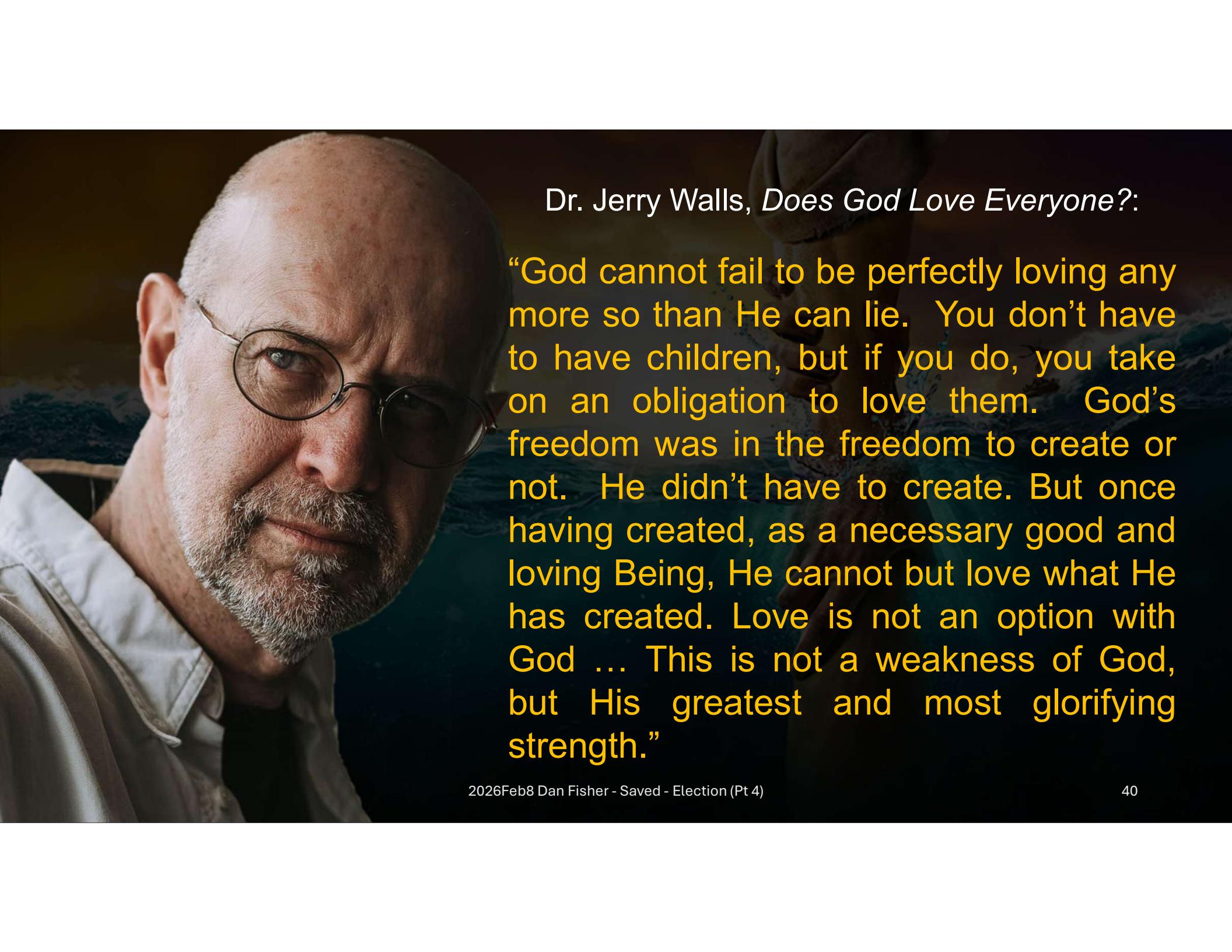
We haven't even dealt with the following in Rom 9:

- God loved Jacob and hated Esau
- God hardened Pharoah's heart and then punished him for having a hard heart
- Like clay pots, God makes some people for honor and heaven and some for dishonor and destruction in hell



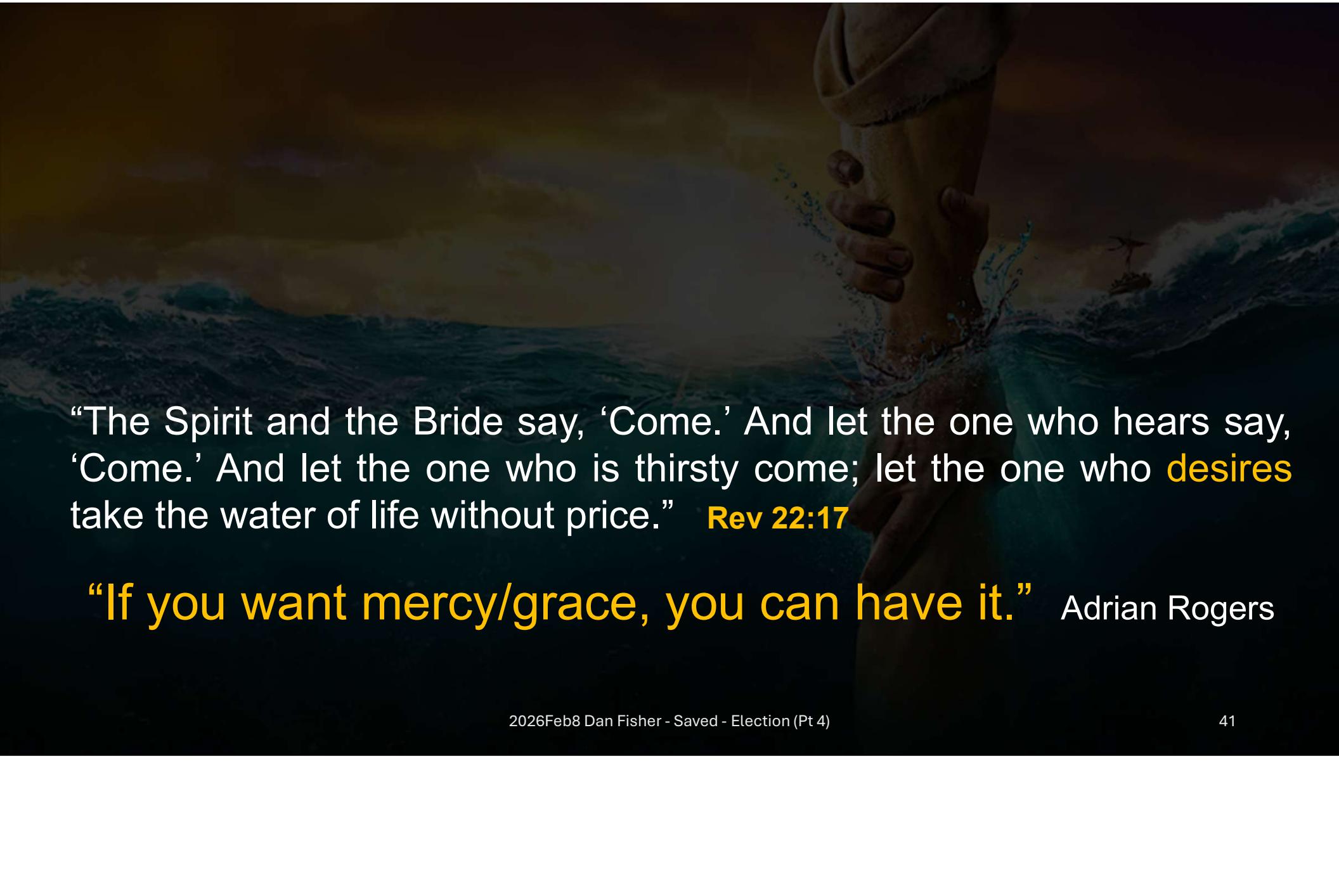
So far, which version fits the overall message of Scripture:

1. The **Calvinist** position that teaches God only loves/saves a minority of people for heaven while hating the vast majority before they were ever born and predestined them to hell.
2. The **non-Calvinist** position that teaches God chose Israel through whom He would save the whole world, and even though they rebelled, He accomplished His purpose of redemption and saves all who will call on Him.

A close-up portrait of Dr. Jerry Walls, a man with a shaved head, a beard, and glasses, looking slightly to the side with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a light-colored shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Dr. Jerry Walls, *Does God Love Everyone?*:

“God cannot fail to be perfectly loving any more so than He can lie. You don’t have to have children, but if you do, you take on an obligation to love them. God’s freedom was in the freedom to create or not. He didn’t have to create. But once having created, as a necessary good and loving Being, He cannot but love what He has created. Love is not an option with God ... This is not a weakness of God, but His greatest and most glorifying strength.”



“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