

FBC  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
DURHAM, NC

GAMMA22

GAMMA  
SERIES

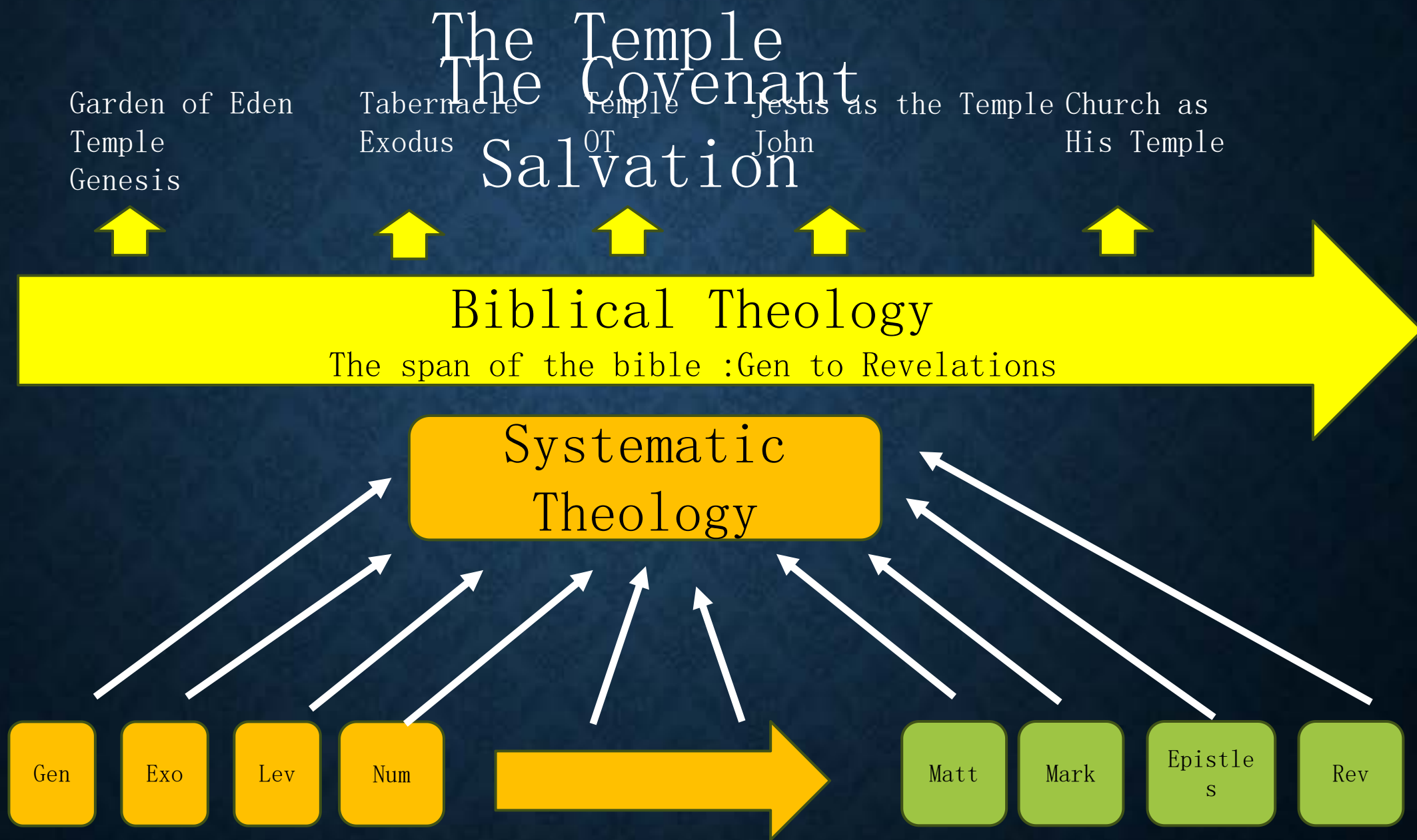
# EPHESIANS

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE, EMPOWERED BY PEACE

STUDY 2  
DISCUSSING DOCTRINE  
PREDESTINATION AND FREE WILL

Ephesians 1:1-6





# DOCTRINE: ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION

Ephesians 1:3–6 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as

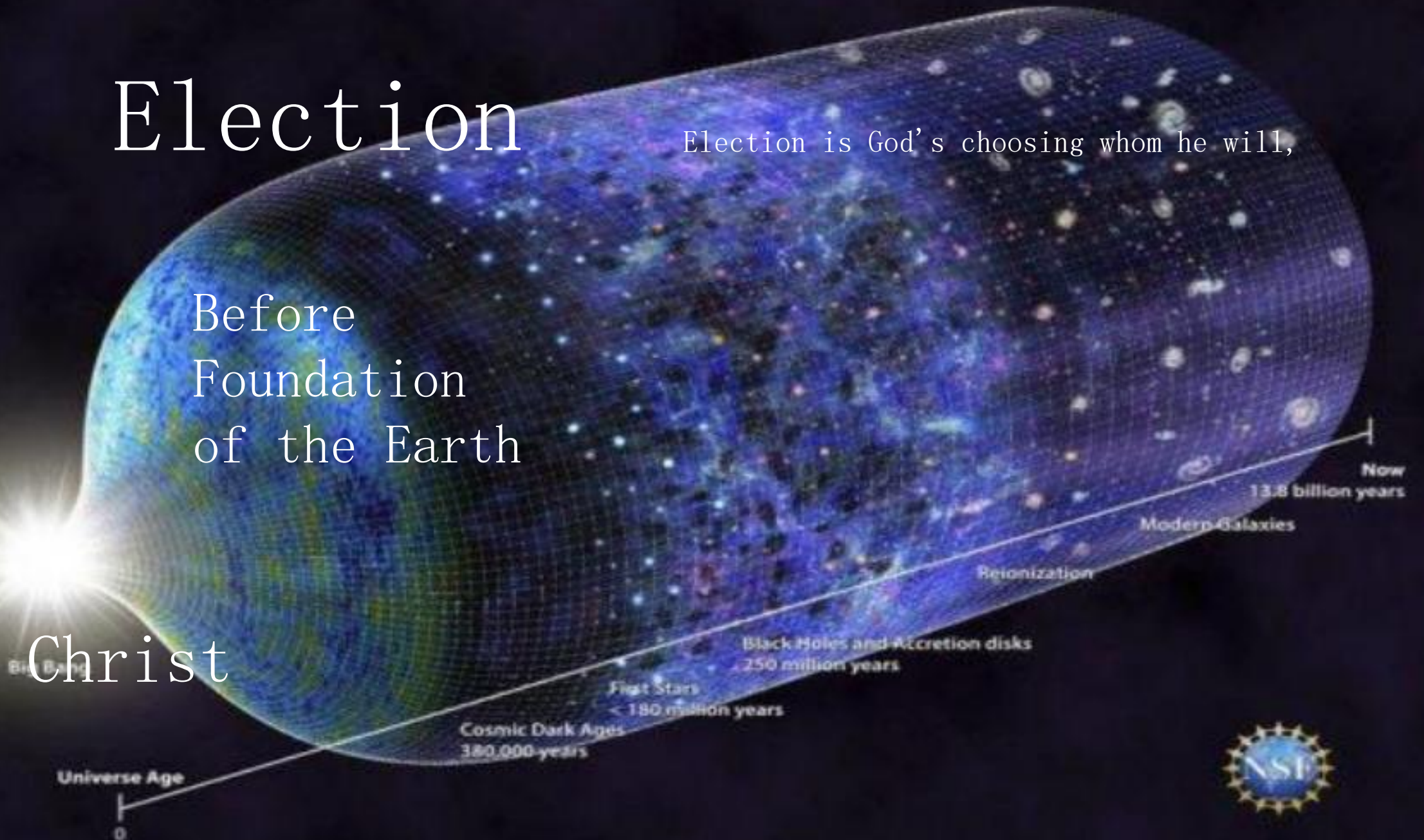
he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the

# Election

Election is God's choosing whom he will,

Before  
Foundation  
of the Earth

In Christ

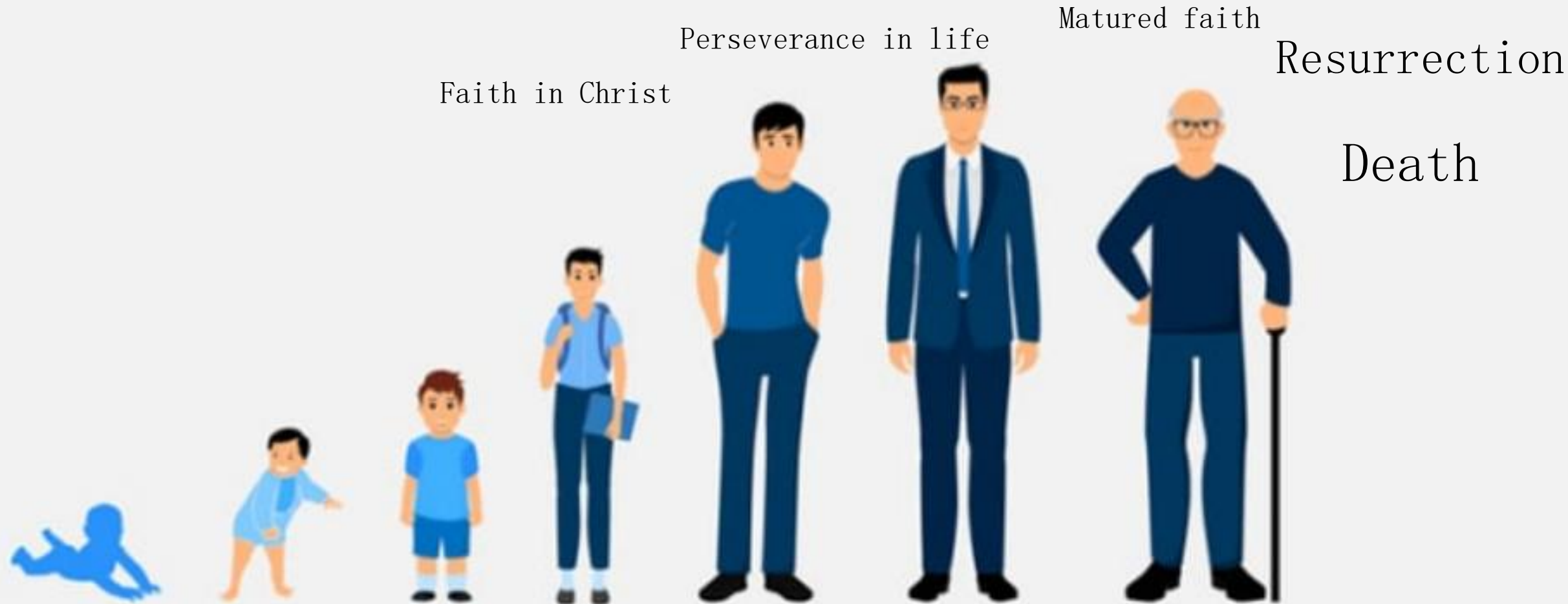


“Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

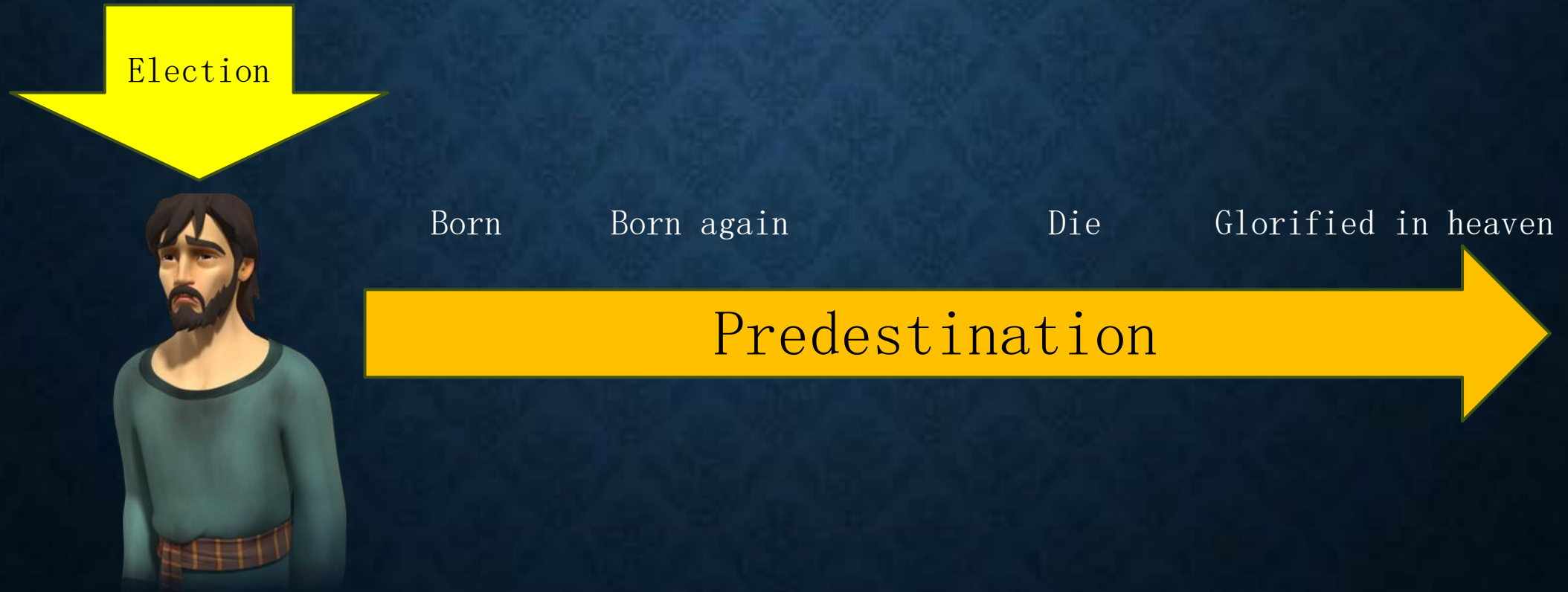


# PREDESTINATION-SELECT FOR A PURPOSE

God's determination that they will become his children.



The reason He chose us before out of all humanity is before he had pre-determined our destiny



# THE TENSION



God' s  
Sovereignty  
Unconditional  
Election

Man' s  
Accountability  
Free Will



An open book is shown from a high angle, with its pages fanned out. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright, warm glow from the top center, creating a lens flare effect. The text on the pages is mostly blurred, but some words are legible. Overlaid on the center of the book is the title 'COMMITMENT TO REVELATION' in a large, white, stylized font with a drop shadow. Below the title, the phrase 'There is no contradiction' is written in a smaller, plain white font. The overall mood is one of enlightenment and discovery.

# COMMITMENT TO REVELATION

There is no contradiction

# THE TENSION

Biblical Exegesis

Philosophy

God' s  
Sovereignty  
Unconditional  
Election

Man' s  
Accountability  
Free Will



## Unconditional Election

John 15:16 (ESV) 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

John 6:37 (ESV) 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

John 6:44 (ESV) 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

## Free Will

John 3:16 (ESV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Acts 16:31–32 (ESV) And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Romans 10:9 (ESV) because, 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.

# ACCOUNTABILITY

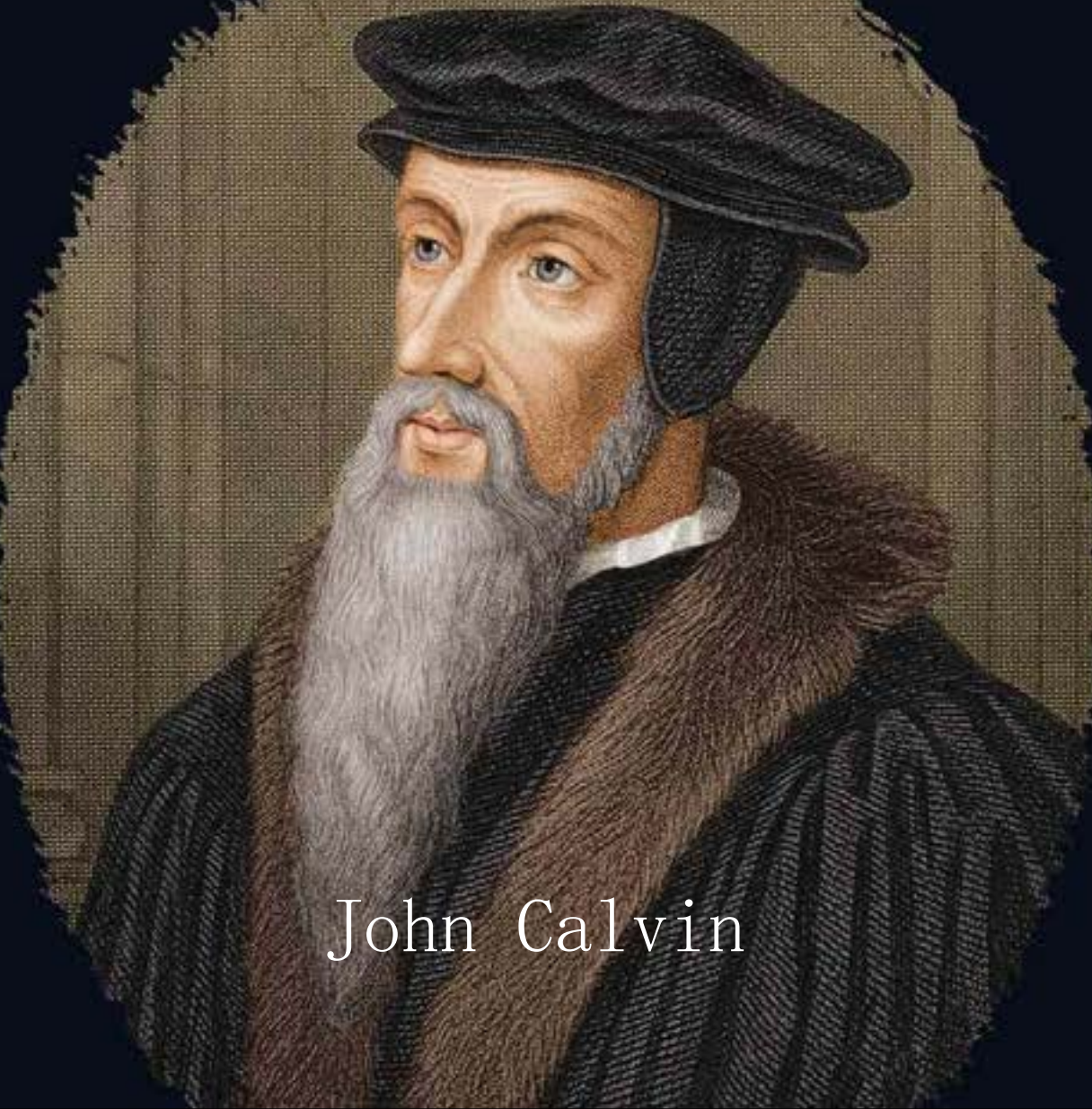
John 3:18–19 (ESV) 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

Wesleyans,  
Methodists,  
Pentecostals

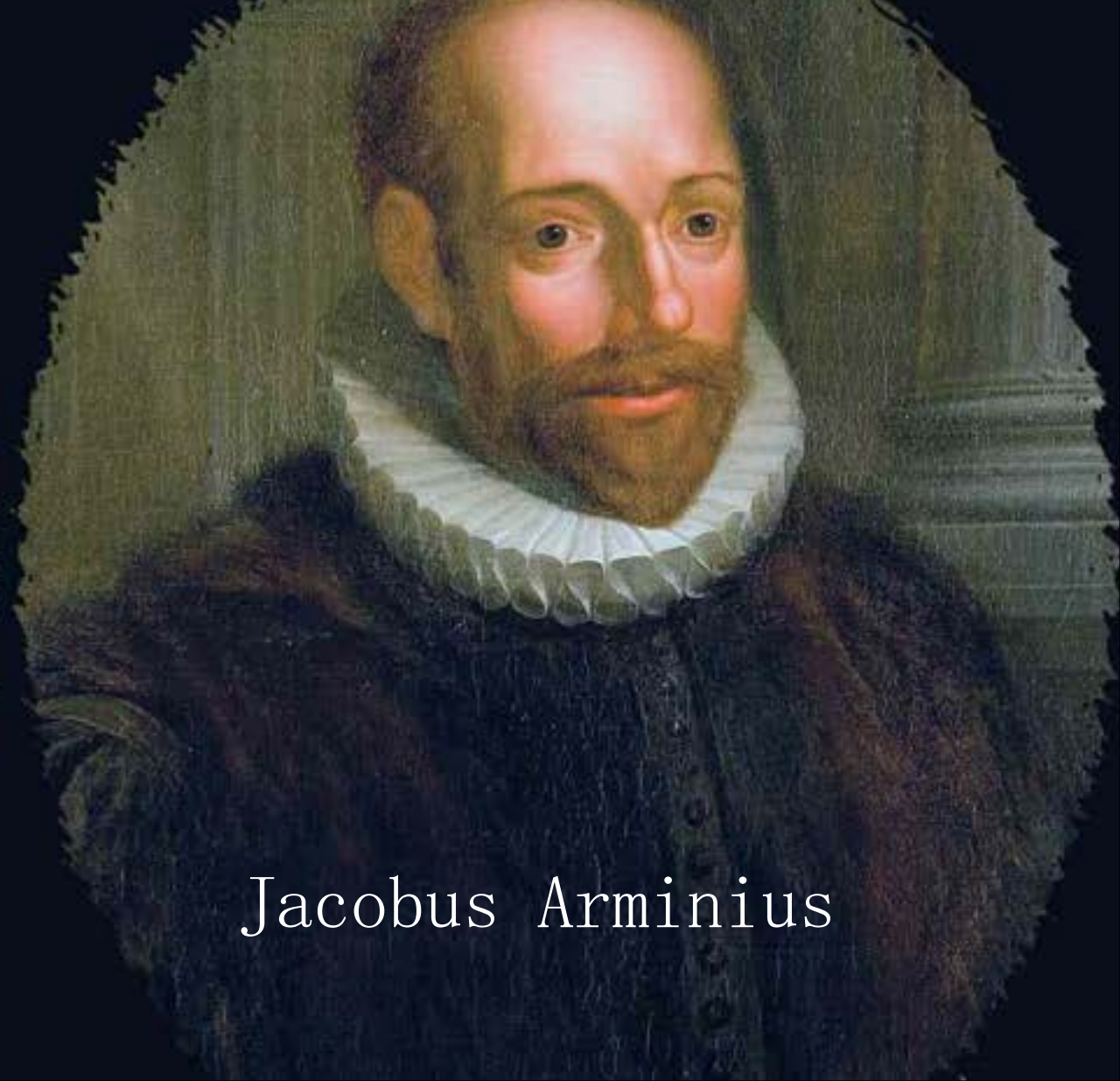
FAIR

Sovereignty of God

Free Will of Man



John Calvin



Jacobus Arminius

# CONCEPTS OF ELECTION

## CALVIN

- God chooses unconditionally whom he will mercifully bring to faith and whom he will justly leave in their rebellion.
- The faith is granted by God

## ARMINIAN

- God chooses all those whom he foreknew will have the necessary faith for salvation.
- The faith comes from man



# PROBLEM WITH ARIMINIAM VIEW

SCRIPTURE NEVER SPEAKS OF MAN'S FAITH AS  
THE REASON GOD CHOSE US

IT WOULD BE SALVATION BY WORKS NOT GRACE

Romans 11:5-6 So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

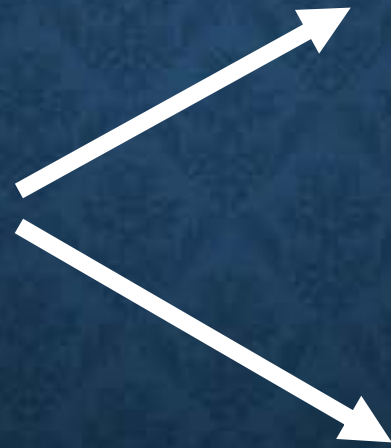
## THE ISSUE OF FOREKNOWLEDGE

Romans 8:29–30 (ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.



DOCTOR WHO

Foreknowledge



Mental knowledge

*knowing  
somebody  
intimately and  
experientially in a  
saving manner*

1 Corinthians 8:3 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.



You cannot love God unless He knows you

Matthew 7:22–23 (ESV) On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name, and you will not declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

It is not mental knowledge  
It is saving relationship

# PREDESTINE

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations ”

It does not say God knew he was going to be decide to be a prophet in the future and then appointed him

# MAN'S WILL IS SUBJECT TO GOD NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND

Proverbs 21:1 (ESV) The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

# *ON HIS OWN MAN DOES NOT SEEK GOD*

Romans 3:10–12 (ESV) None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”



## ACTS 13:48 (ESV)

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed

# IF GOD ONLY KNEW THE FUTURE BUT COULD NOT CHANGE IT



- If God only foreknew who would be saved because of their free will faith then who determined this ? This outcome is unchangeable even by God
- Not logical as there is no being greater than God

# THE TENSION

Sovereignty of  
God

Man's Free  
Will  
Accountability



# CONCEPTS OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

## CALVIN

- God totally sovereign

## ARMINIAN

- God has chosen to limit the exercise of His sovereignty in certain respects, particularly in relation to human freedom.

Open Theists

## *GOD REACTS TO MAN*

Genesis 11:5–6 (ESV) And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.

# WHAT IS FREE WILL?

I choose what I  
want to believe



## HUMAN CONCEPT OF FREE WILL

*“the supposed power or capacity of humans to make decisions or perform actions independently of any prior event or state of the universe”*

# DOES THE LION REALLY HAVE A CHOICE?

Give him the choice 1000 times



Its not that they cannot its that they do not want to





MAN HAS A  
CHOICE-GOD  
CREATES THE  
DESIRE





Absolutely free



Absolutely free?



*THE CONCEPT OF FREEDOM*

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN

Romans 8:7–8 (ESV) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- John 8:43–44 (ESV) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires
- Romans 1:19–20 (ESV) For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So

# ARMINIAN: PREVENIENT GRACE



All humans  
spiritually dead



Prevenient grace



Respond in faith



Reject

# Reformed/Calvin



# Arminian

## Prevenient grace



Transient restoration of free will

How do we decide?



All mankind

Some men

Faith

Unbelief

God elects/predestines

Holy Spirit

Born again



Believes



# CONCEPTS OF BEING BORN AGAIN

## CALVIN

- God brings about new birth or spiritual regeneration that enables saving faith

## ARMINIAN

- God brings about new birth in response to our own saving faith

# ORDER OF SALVATION

Glorification



## BORN AGAIN

John 3:3-6 (ESV) Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1ST ED.  
(GRUDEM))

*God can work sovereignly through our desires so that he guarantees that our choices come about as he has ordained, but this can still be understood as a real choice because God has created us and he ordains that such a choice is real. In short, we can say that God causes us to choose Christ voluntarily.*

# CONCEPTS OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

## CALVIN

How can man be morally accountable?

If God loves us why doesn't He save everyone

## ARMINIAN

- God has not limited at the exercise of His sovereignty in certain areas, particularly in relation to human freedom.

## *GODS DESIRE...LIKE HIS MORAL WILL*

2 Peter 3:9–10 (ESV) 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

## EZEKIEL 33:11 (ESV)

Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?



Trinity

Intra-Trinitarian

God's Love

Providential

Salvific

Special

Conditional



All peoples



Church





## GOD USES ASSYRIA TO PUNISH ISRAEL

Isaiah 10:5-6 (ESV) Woe to, Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! 6  
Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

# ASSYRIA DID NOT ATTACK ISRAEL OUT OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD

Isaiah 10:7 (ESV) But he does not so intend,  
and his heart does not so think;  
but it is in his heart to destroy,  
and to cut off nations not a few;

He voluntarily attacked Israel for his own purpose

## GOD PUNISHES THE VERY INSTRUMENT HE USED FOR HIS PURPOSES

Isaiah 10:12 (ESV) When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes.

# GOD JUDGES HIS VOLUNTARY MOTIVES

Isaiah 10:13 (ESV) For he says: “By the strength of my hand

I have done it, and by

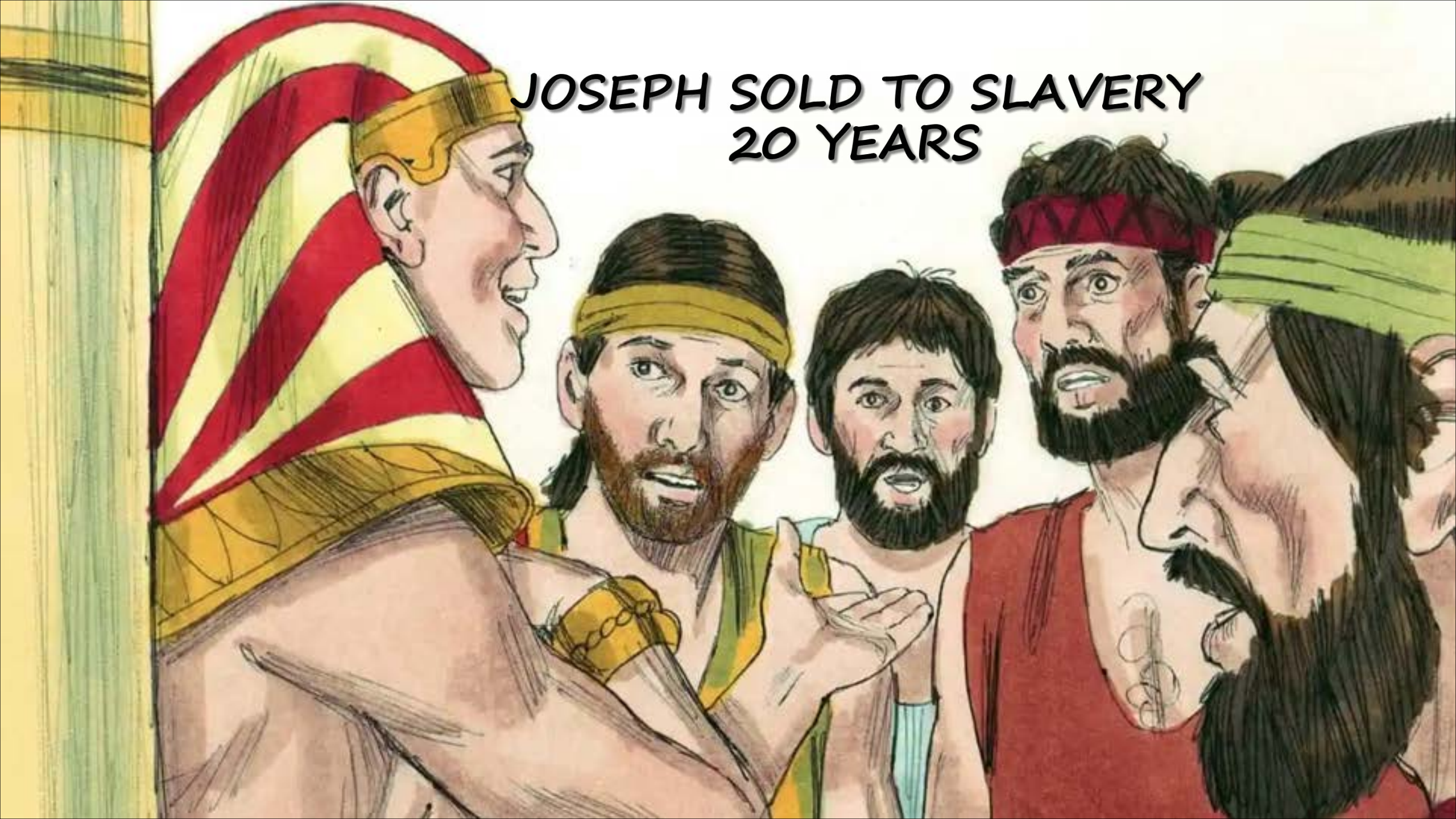
my wisdom, for

I have understanding;

I remove the boundaries of peoples, and plunder their treasures; like a bull

I bring down those who sit on thrones.

# JOSEPH SOLD TO SLAVERY 20 YEARS



# THEIR MOTIVES AND GOD'S PURPOSES WORK IN PARALLEL



Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.



# *COMPATIBILISM*

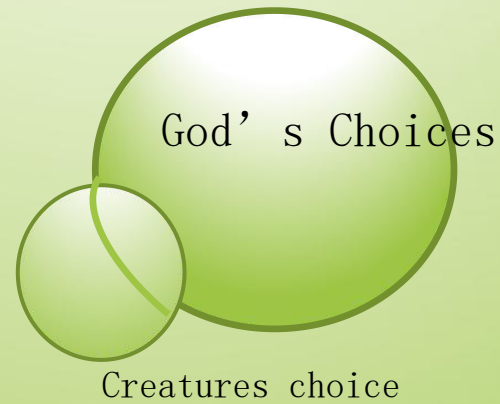
Predestination

Free will



# COMPATIBILISM

God' s Sovereignty



Creatures' choices still under God' s sovereign rule. He permits evil, but he uses their disobedience, if at all, to accomplish his plan

IS IT UNFAIR?

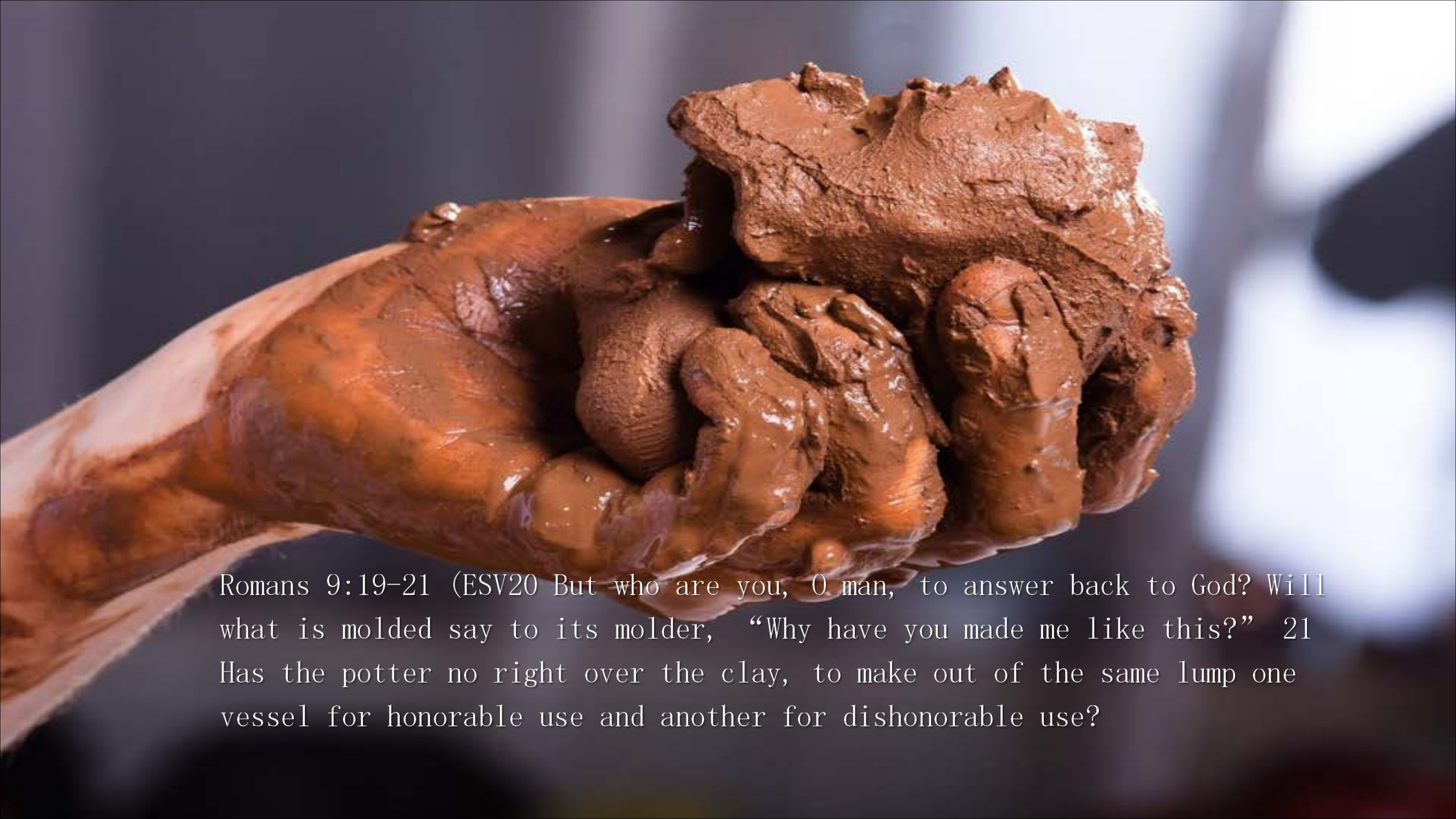


Its not fair that we are going  
to jail

Its your fault we are  
here, you were obligated  
to knock us all out

## *MIND YOUR OWN BUSSINESS*

John 21:21–22 (ESV) When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?”  
22 Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!”



Romans 9:19-21 (ESV20) 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?