



# The Fragrant Gospel

# 芬芳的福音

Acts 使徒行傳 28:23-31

How do I **react** to those who  
take **offense** at the gospel?

我如何回應那些對福音  
冒犯又生氣的人？

They arranged to **meet Paul** on a certain day,  
and came in even **larger numbers**  
to the place where he was staying.

He **witnessed** to them  
from morning till evening,  
explaining about the **kingdom of God**,  
  
and from the **Law** of Moses  
and from the **Prophets**  
he tried to **persuade** them about Jesus.

24 Some were **convinced** by what he said,  
but others **would not** believe.

25 They **disagreed** among themselves  
and began to leave  
after Paul had made this final statement:

“The **Holy Spirit** spoke the truth  
to your ancestors  
when he said through **Isaiah** the prophet:

Acts 28:24-25 (NIV) (p.2/5)

26 “‘Go to this people and say,  
“You will be ever **hearing**  
but never **understanding**;  
you will be ever **seeing** but never **perceiving**.”

27 For this people’s **heart**  
has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their **ears**,  
and they have closed their **eyes**.

Acts 28:26-27 (NIV) (p.3/5)

“‘Otherwise they might **see** with their eyes,  
**hear** with their ears,  
**understand** with their hearts  
and **turn**, and I would **heal** them.’

28 “Therefore I want you to know  
that God’s **salvation**  
has been sent to the **Gentiles**,  
and they will listen!”

Acts 28:27-28 (NIV) (p.4/5)

30 For **two** whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and **welcomed** all who came to see him.

31 He **proclaimed** the kingdom of God and **taught** about the Lord Jesus Christ – with all **boldness** and without hindrance!

Acts 28:30-31 (NIV) (p.5/5)

# The Fragrant Gospel (Ac28)

1. Paul's heart: **Persuasion** (v23)

保羅的心：勸導

2. Hearers' response: **Partition** (v24-25)

聽眾的回應：劃分

3. Spirit's prophecy: **Promise** (v26-27)

聖靈的預言：應許

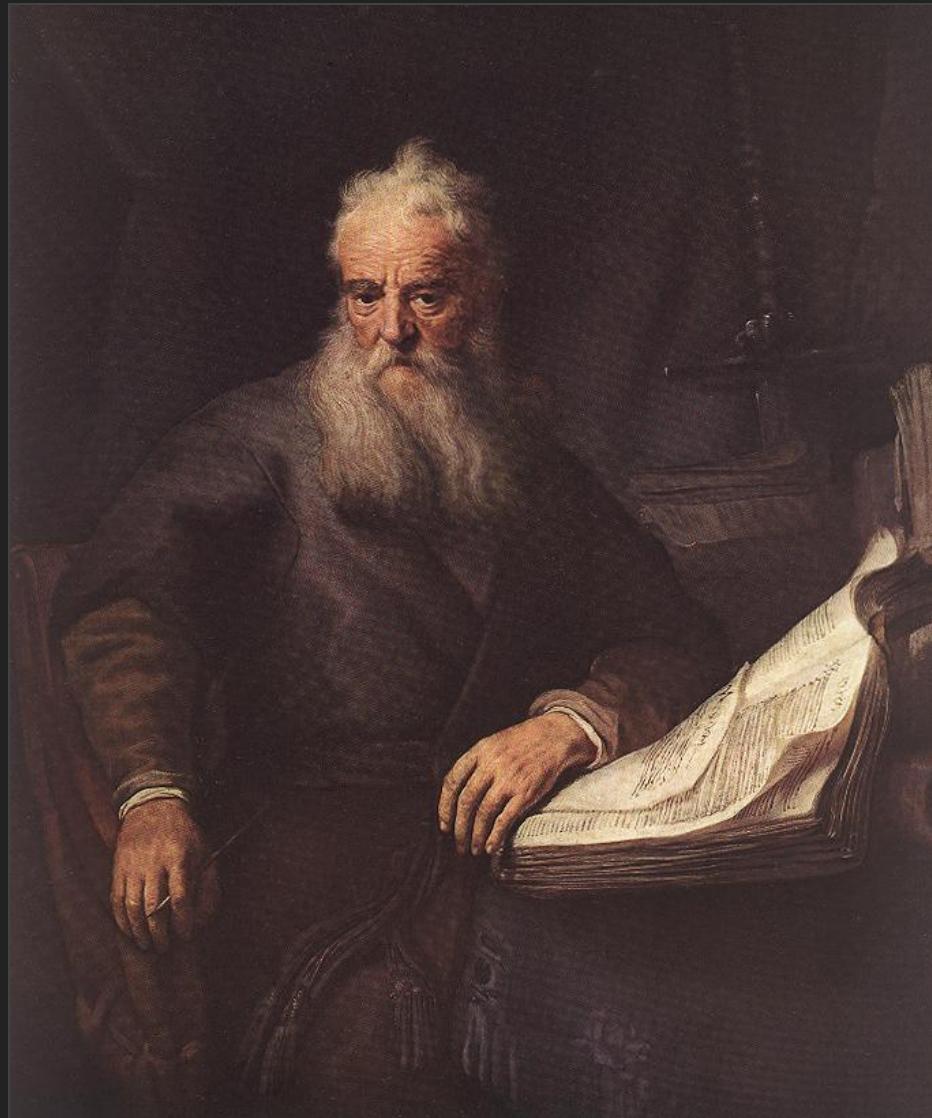
4. Paul's lifestyle: **Proclamation** (v28-31)

保羅的生活：傳揚

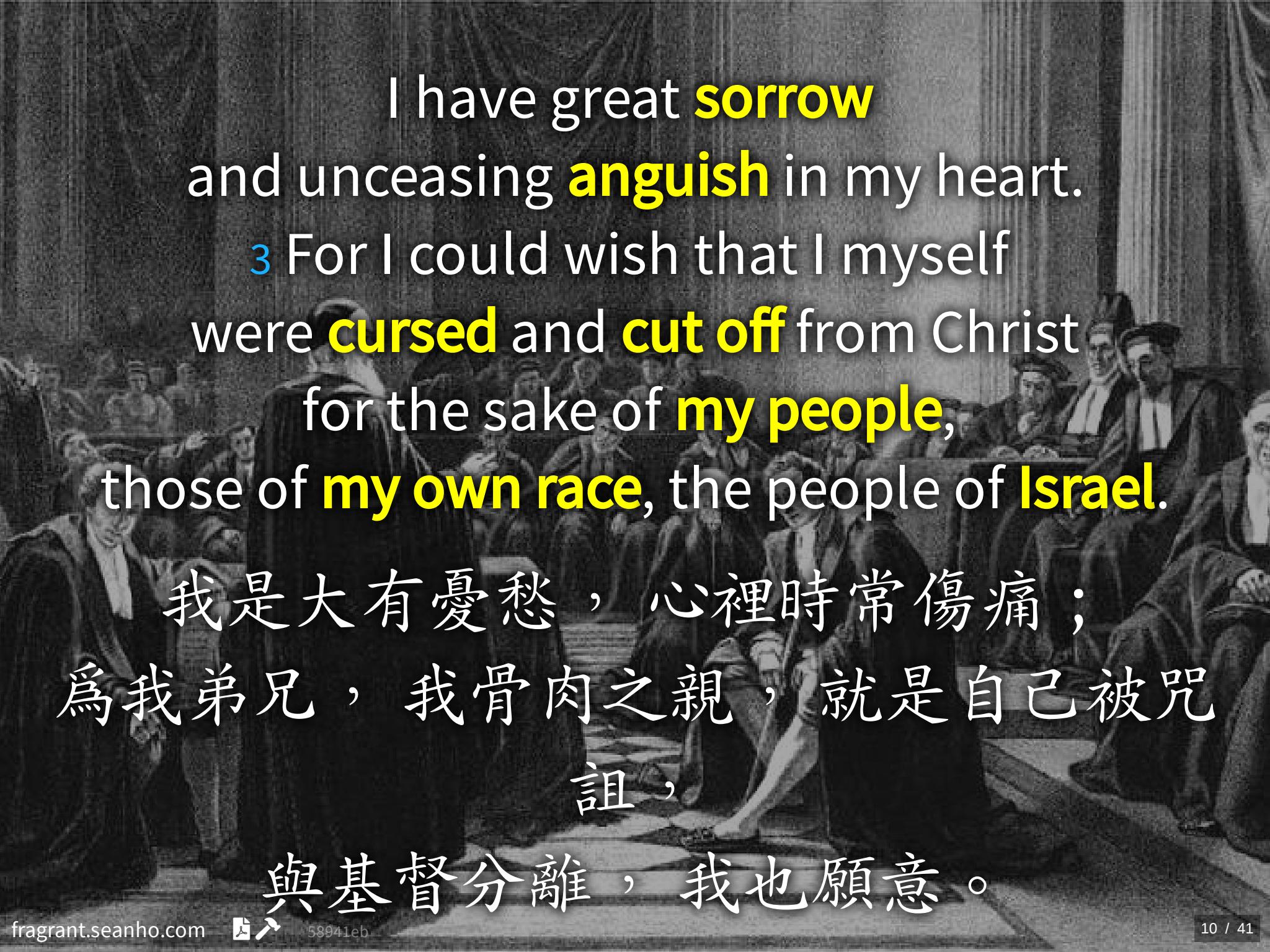
# Paul and the Jews

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- **Persecution:**  
Acts 13-14, 17-18,  
21
- **Heart for**  
Jews:  
Romans 9-11



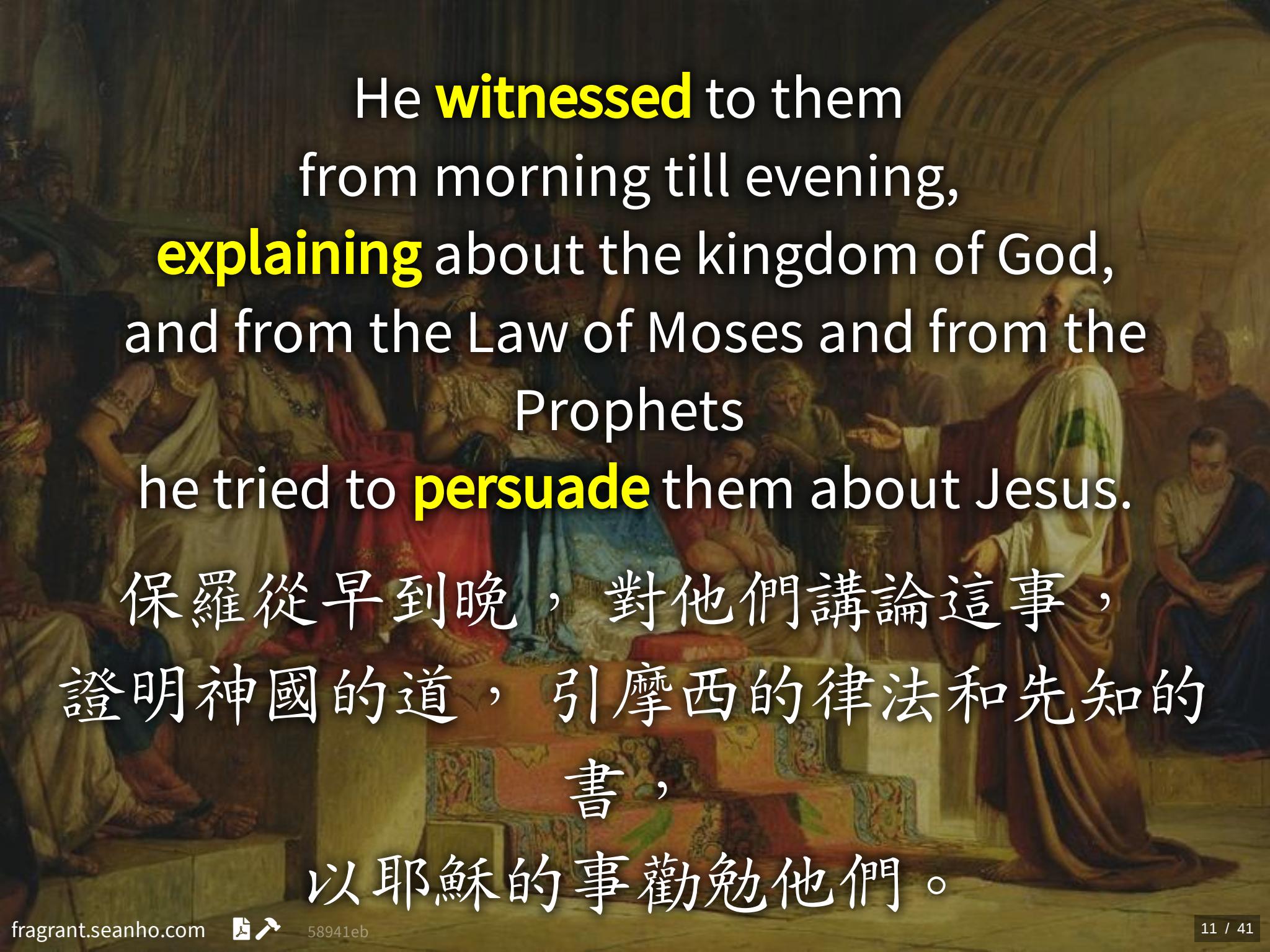
Rembrandt, "Apostle Paul", ~1633



I have great **sorrow**  
and unceasing **anguish** in my heart.

3 For I could wish that I myself  
were **cursed** and **cut off** from Christ  
for the sake of **my people**,  
those of **my own race**, the people of **Israel**.

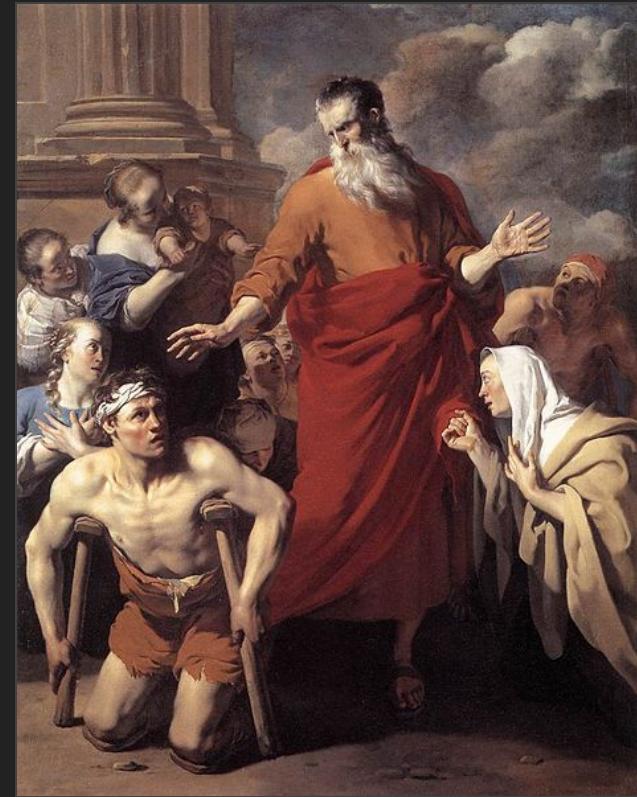
我是大有憂愁，心裡時常傷痛；  
爲我弟兄，我骨肉之親，就是自己被咒  
詛，  
與基督分離，我也願意。

A painting depicting the apostle Paul preaching to a large crowd. He is standing on the left, gesturing with his hands as he speaks. The crowd consists of many people in period clothing, some looking up at him while others look on. The scene is set outdoors with a building visible in the background.

He **witnessed** to them  
from morning till evening,  
**explaining** about the kingdom of God,  
and from the Law of Moses and from the  
Prophets  
he tried to **persuade** them about Jesus.

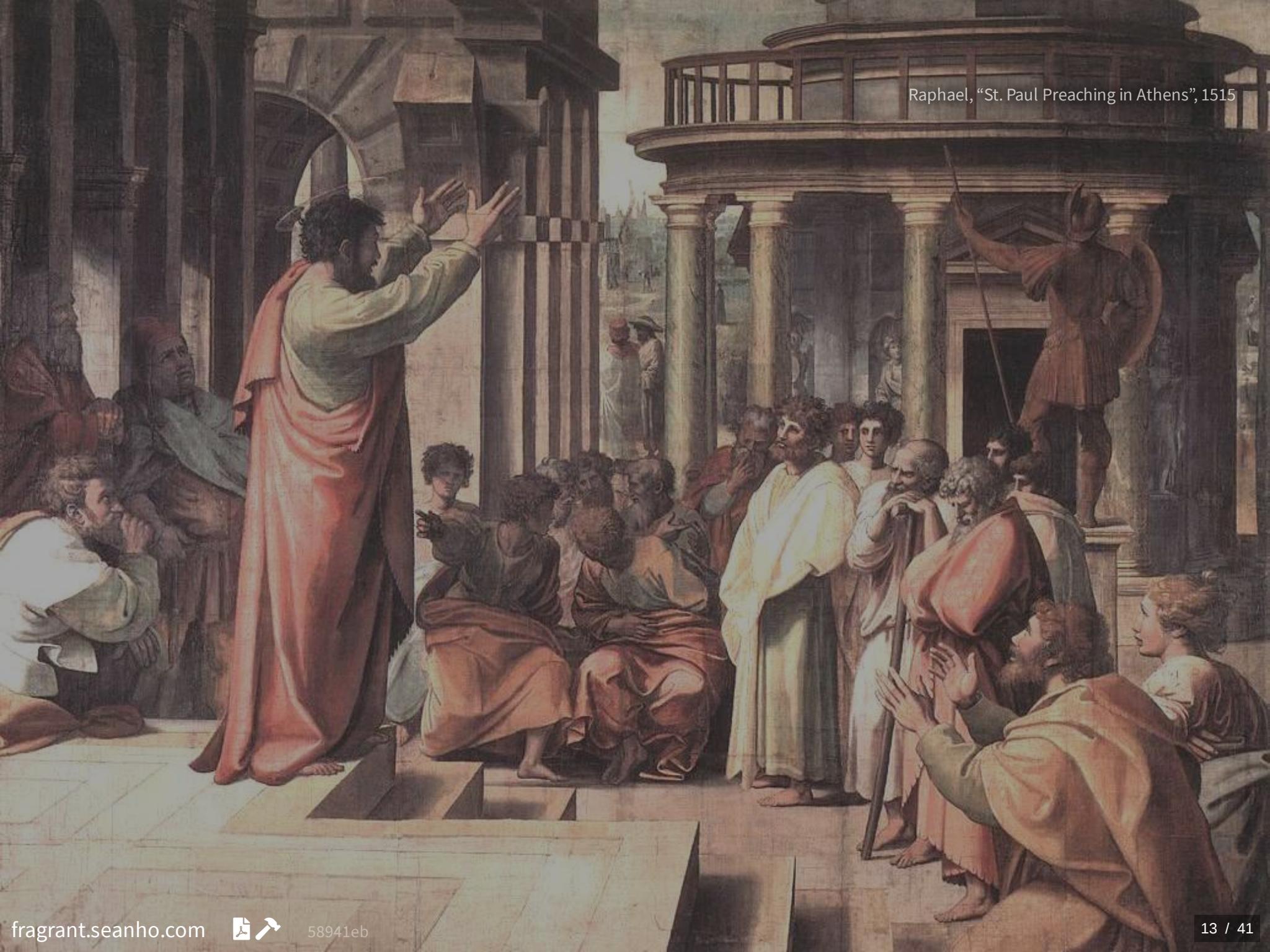
保羅從早到晚，對他們講論這事，  
證明神國的道，引摩西的律法和先知的  
書，  
以耶穌的事勸勉他們。

My **message** and preaching  
were  
not in **persuasive** words of  
wisdom,  
but in demonstration of the  
**Spirit** and  
of **power**,<sup>5</sup> so that your **faith**  
would  
not rest on the **wisdom of men**,  
but on the **power of God**.



1 Cor 2:4-5  
(NASB/CUV)

Raphael, "St. Paul Preaching in Athens", 1515



“Men of **Athens**, I observe that you are **very religious** ...

... I found an altar,

‘TO AN **UNKNOWN GOD**.’

Therefore what you **worship** in ignorance,

this I **proclaim** to you.”

眾位雅典人哪，  
我看你們凡事很敬畏鬼神。

...遇見一座壇，上面寫著未識

### Declining Share of Americans Express Absolutely Certain Belief in God

*Do you believe in God or a universal spirit? How certain are you about this belief?*



2007 2014

Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Acts 使徒行傳

17:22-23

(NASB/CUV)

Do I love my pious  
countrymen?  
Love them enough  
to lay out the gospel  
clearly to them?

我愛我敬虔的同胞嗎？  
能愛到我願意跟他們

# The Fragrant Gospel (Ac28)

1. Paul's heart: Persuasion (v23)

保羅的心：勸導

2. Hearers' response: Partition (v24-25)

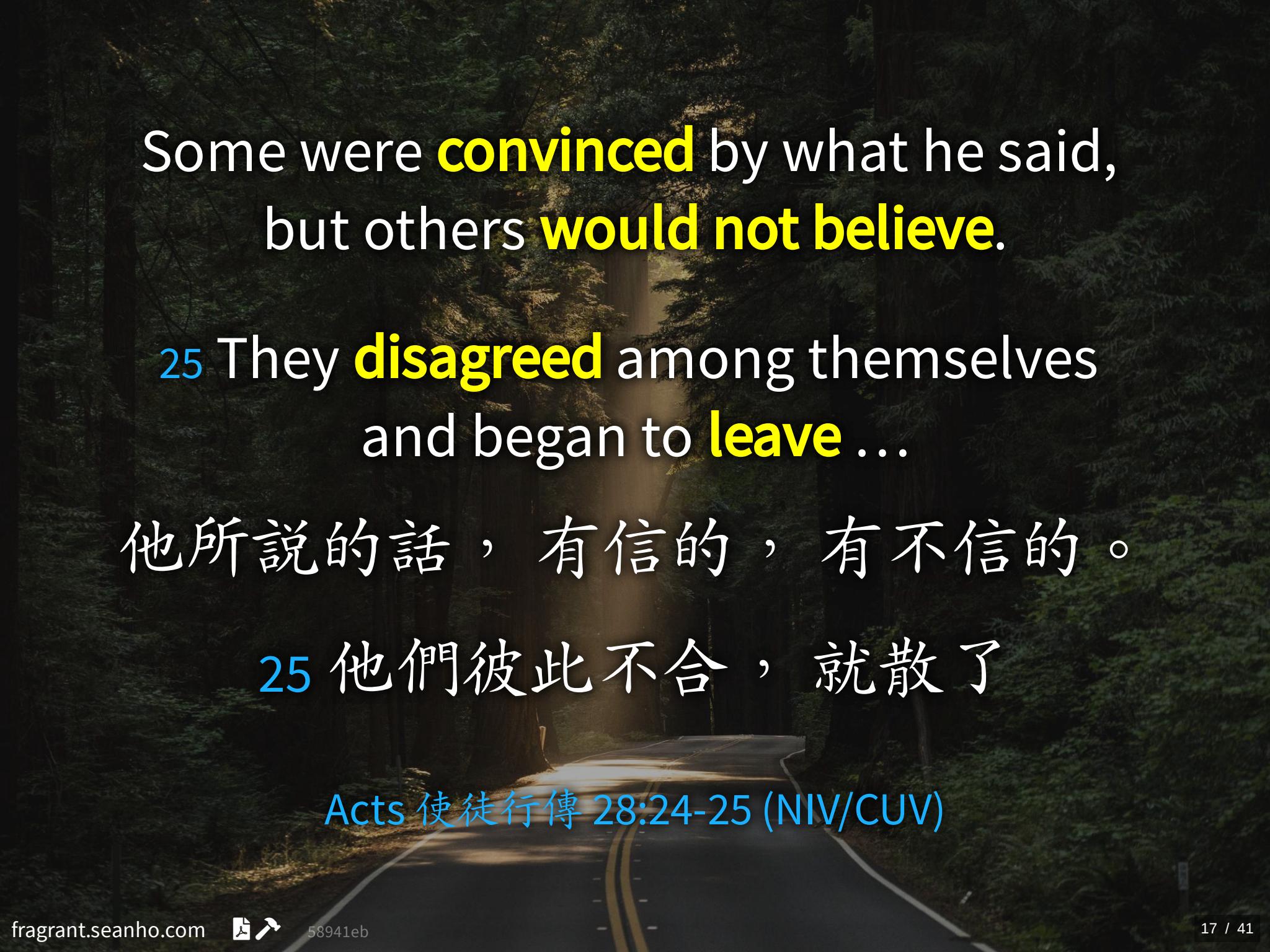
聽眾的回應：劃分

3. Spirit's prophecy: Promise (v26-27)

聖靈的預言：應許

4. Paul's lifestyle: Proclamation (v28-31)

保羅的生活：傳揚

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a forest road. Sunlight filters down from above, creating bright highlights on the asphalt and the trunks of tall evergreen trees. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

Some were **convinced** by what he said,  
but others **would not believe.**

25 They **disagreed** among themselves  
and began to **leave** ...

他所說的話，有信的，有不信的。

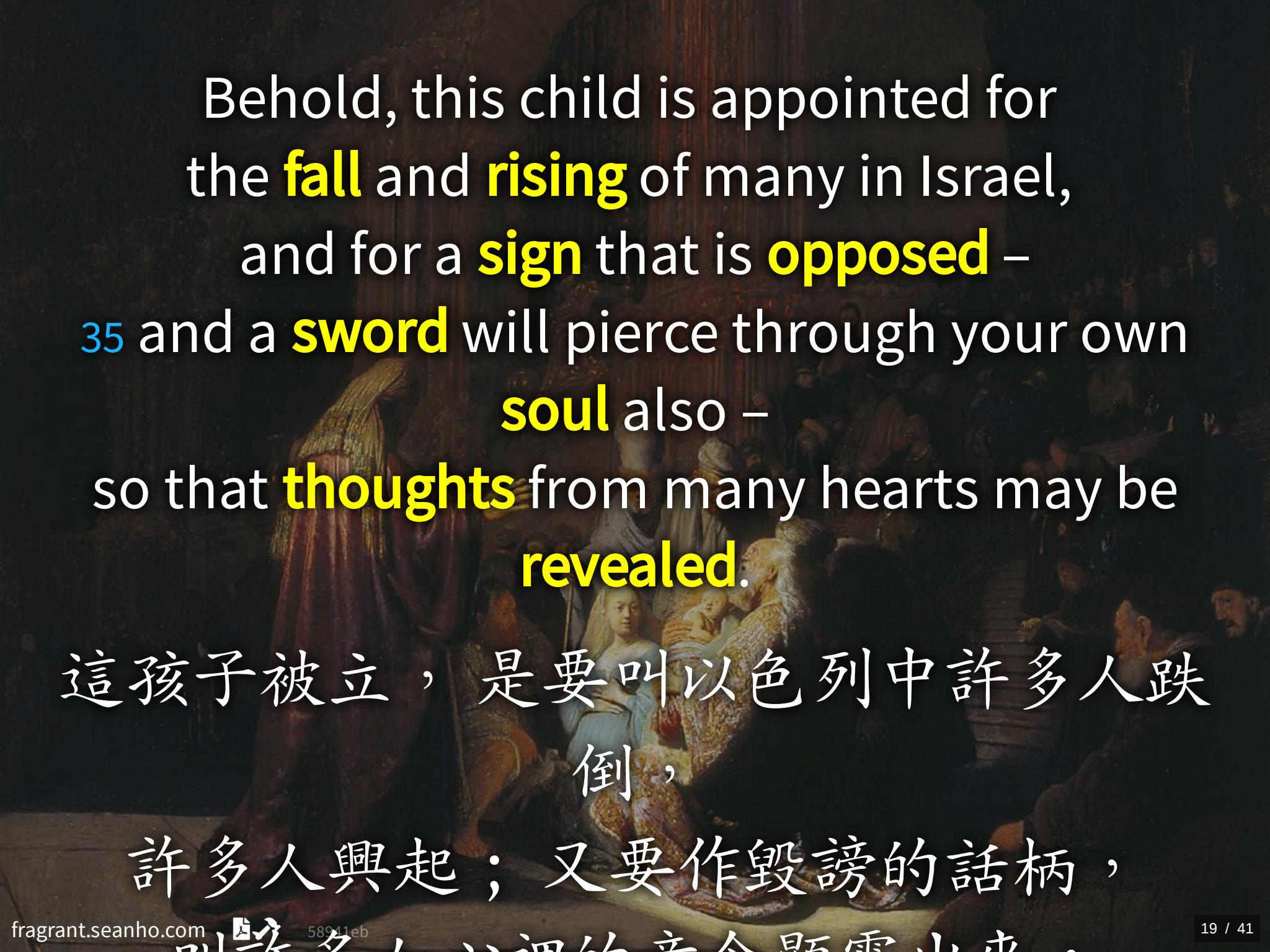
25 他們彼此不合，就散了

Acts 使徒行傳 28:24-25 (NIV/CUV)

# The Sign of Contradiction

Rembrandt, "Simeon's Song of Praise", 1631





Behold, this child is appointed for  
the **fall** and **rising** of many in Israel,  
and for a **sign** that is **opposed** –  
35 and a **sword** will pierce through your own  
**soul** also –  
so that **thoughts** from many hearts may be  
**revealed.**

這孩子被立，是要叫以色列中許多人跌  
倒，

許多人興起；又要作毀謗的話柄，

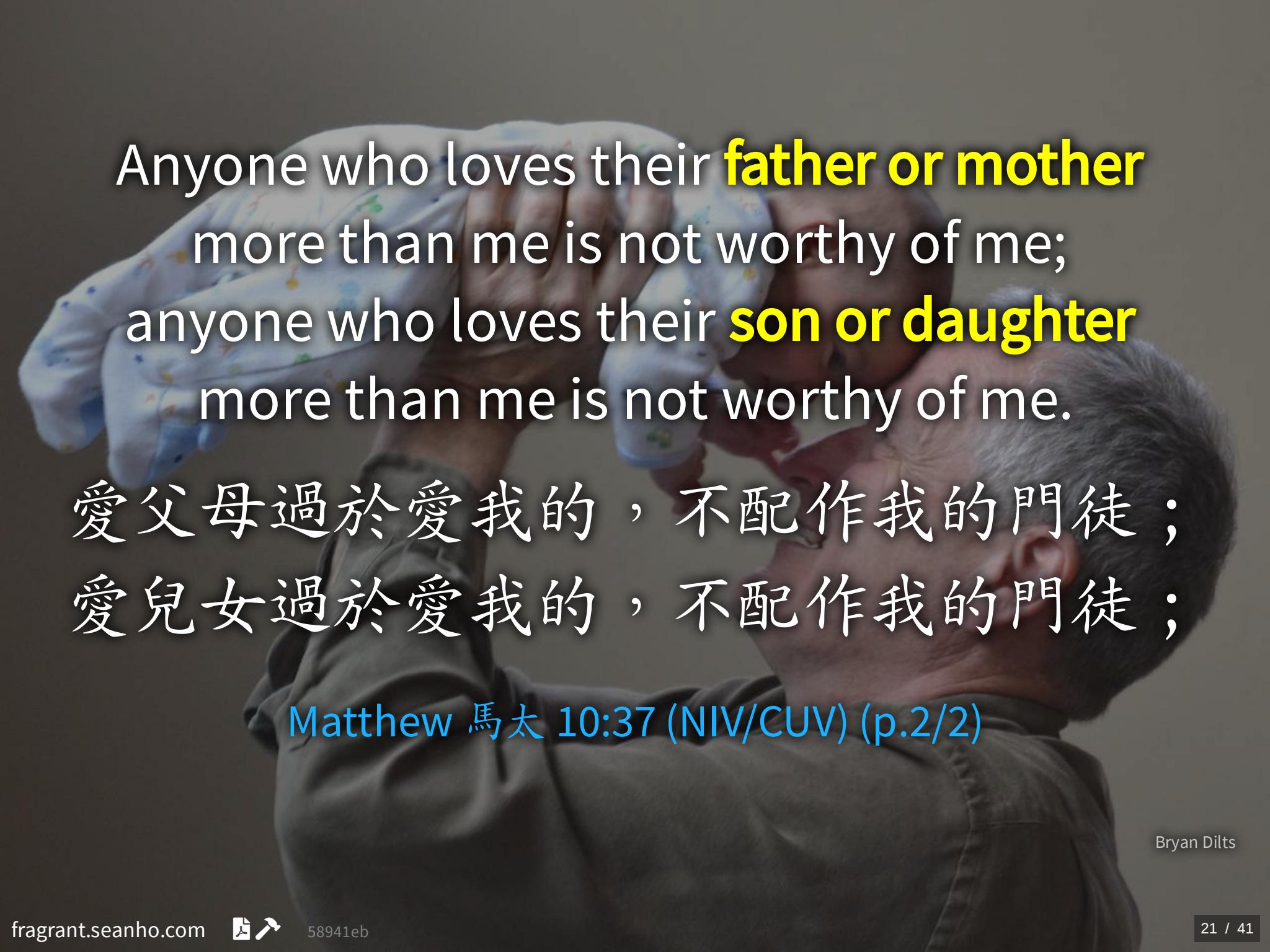
別些多人心裡的意念顯露出來。

Do not suppose that I have come  
to bring **peace** to the earth.  
I did not come to bring peace, but a **sword**.

你們不要想我來是叫地上太平；  
我來並不是叫地上太平，乃是叫地上動刀  
兵。

Matthew 馬太 10:34 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/2)

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Anyone who loves their **father or mother**  
more than me is not worthy of me;  
anyone who loves their **son or daughter**  
more than me is not worthy of me.

愛父母過於愛我的，不配作我的門徒；  
愛兒女過於愛我的，不配作我的門徒；

Matthew 馬太 10:37 (NIV/CUV) (p.2/2)

Bryan Dilts

Has the **sword** of Christ's  
kingship pierced **my own**  
soul?

Am I willing to let it **divide** my  
loved ones?

基督君王的刀劍  
已經刺透我的靈魂嗎？

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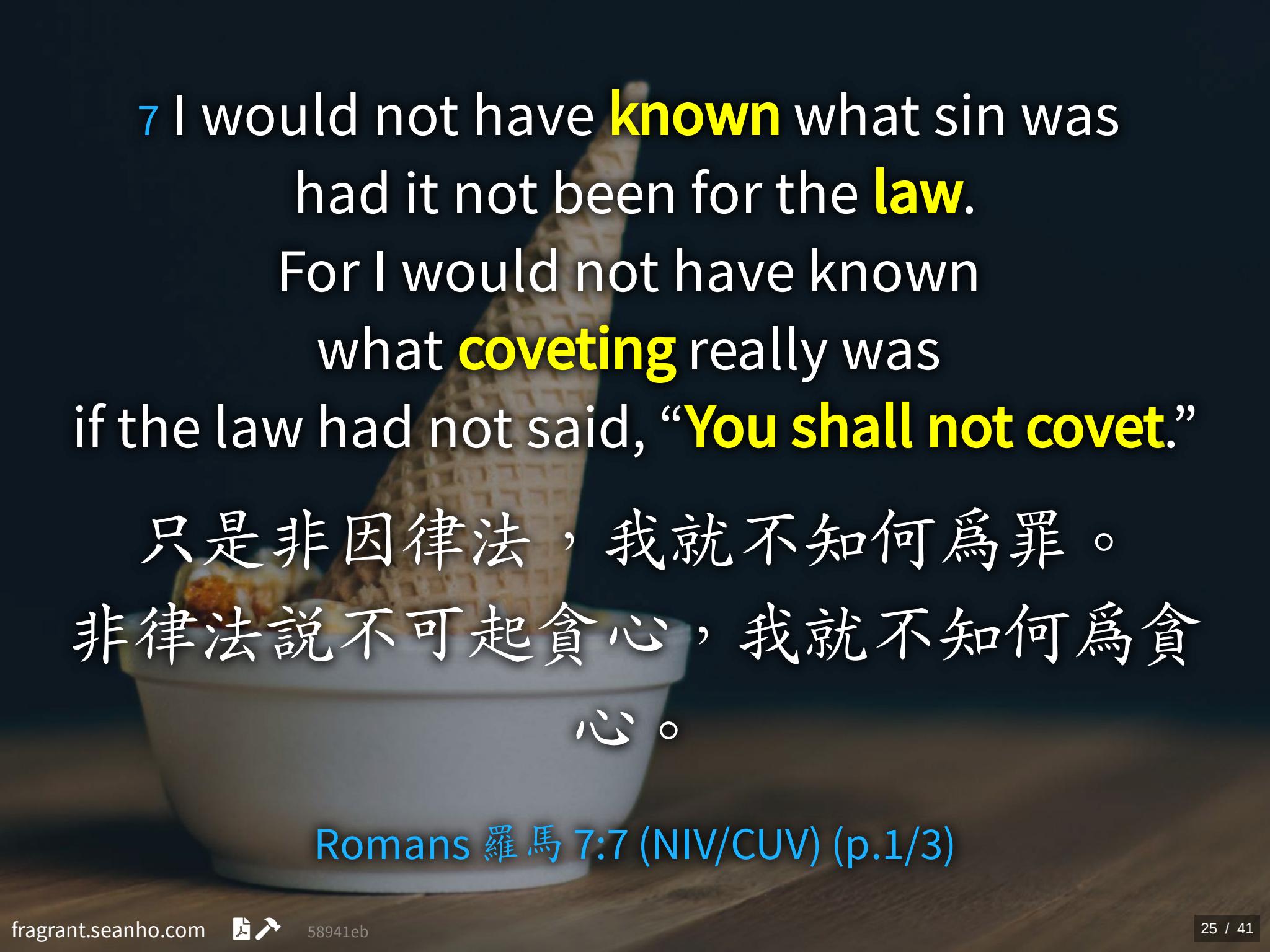
Go, and say to this people:  
“Keep on **hearing**, but do not understand;  
keep on **seeing**, but do not perceive.”

10 Make the heart of this people **dull**,  
and their ears **heavy**, and **blind** their eyes

你去告訴這百姓說：

你們聽是要聽見，卻不明白；  
看是要看見，卻不曉得。

10 要使這百姓心蒙脂油，耳朵發沉，眼睛  
昏迷



7 I would not have **known** what sin was  
had it not been for the **law**.  
For I would not have known  
what **coveting** really was  
if the law had not said, “**You shall not covet.**”

只是非因律法，我就不知何爲罪。  
非法說不可起貪心，我就不知何爲貪  
心。

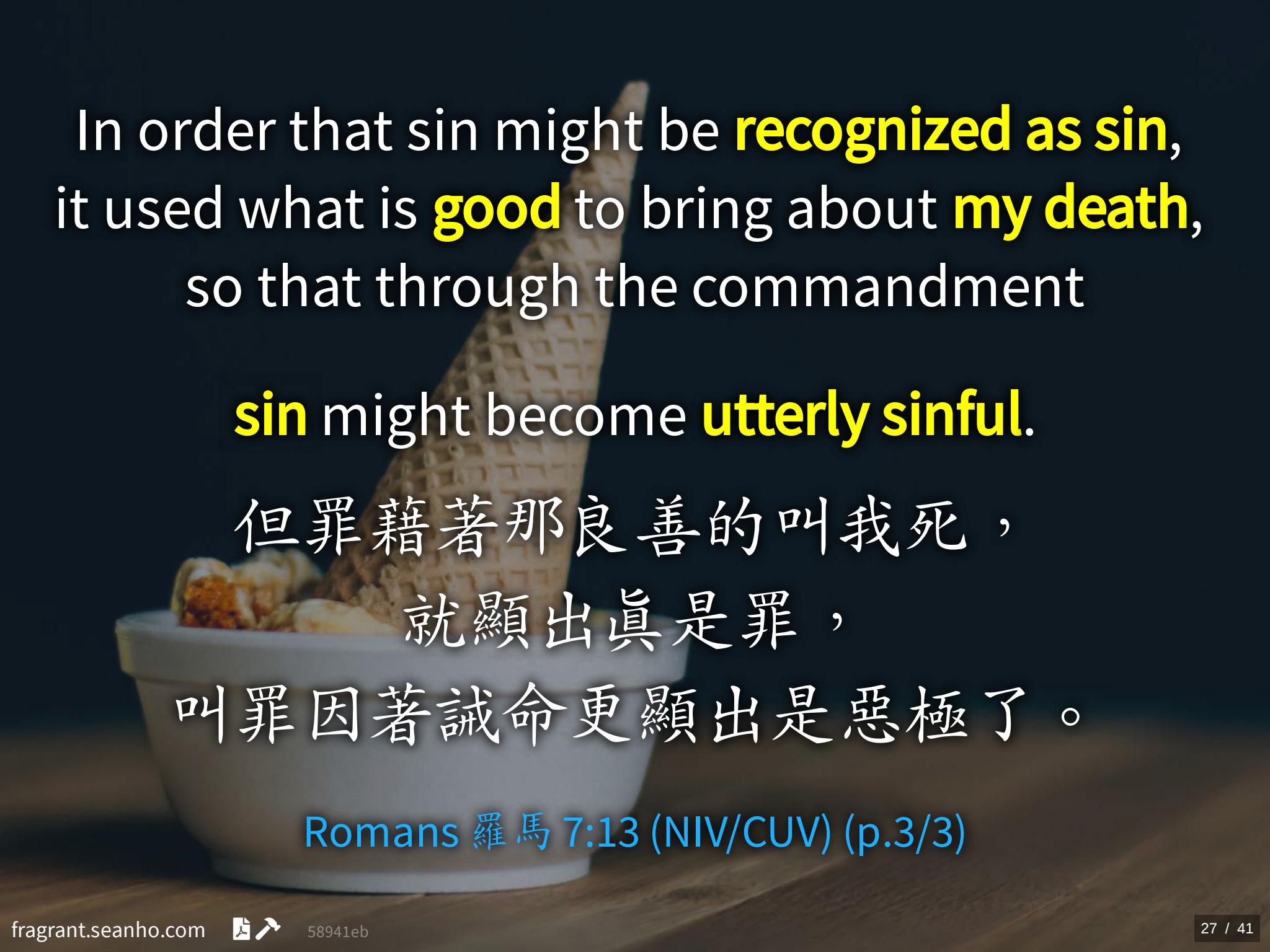
Romans 羅馬 7:7 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/3)



8 But **sin**, seizing the **opportunity**  
afforded by the commandment,  
produced in me every kind of coveting.

然而罪趁着機會，  
就藉著誡命叫諸般的貪心在我裡頭發動

Romans 羅馬 7:8 (NIV/CUV) (p.2/3)



In order that sin might be **recognized as sin**,  
it used what is **good** to bring about **my death**,  
so that through the commandment

**sin** might become **utterly sinful**.

但罪藉著那良善的叫我死，  
就顯出眞是罪，  
叫罪因著誠命更顯出是惡極了。

Romans 羅馬 7:13 (NIV/CUV) (p.3/3)

# A Partial Hardening

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## Romans 9-11

- Did God's Word **fail?** → 9:6
- Is God **unfair?** → 9:14
- Isn't it all God's **fault** anyway? → 9:19
- Can't I just be **moral** / ethical? → 9:32
- How then is **anyone** saved? → 10:8-10
- Are they lost **forever?** → 11:1-2
- Are we **better** than they are? → 11:18-21



lest they **understand** with their hearts,  
and **turn** and be **healed.**

恐怕眼睛看見，耳朵聽見，  
心裡明白，回轉過來，便得醫治。

Isaiah 以賽亞 6:10 (NIV/CUV)

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Then I said, “For **how long**, Lord?”

And he answered: “Until the cities lie **ruined**  
and without inhabitant

我就說：主啊，這到幾時爲止呢？

他說：直到城邑荒涼，無人居住

Isaiah 以賽亞 6:11,13 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/2)



But as the terebinth and **oak**  
leave **stumps** when they are cut down,  
so the **holy seed** will be the stump in the land.”

像栗樹、橡樹雖被砍伐，樹墩子卻仍存  
留。

這聖潔的種類在國中也是如此。

Isaiah 以賽亞 6:11,13 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/2)



So too, at the present time  
there is a **remnant** chosen by grace.

如今也是這樣，照著揀選的恩典，  
還有所留的餘數。

Romans 羅馬 11:5 (NIV/CUV)

How do I **react** to those who  
take **offense** at the gospel?

我如何回應那些對福音  
冒犯又生氣的人？

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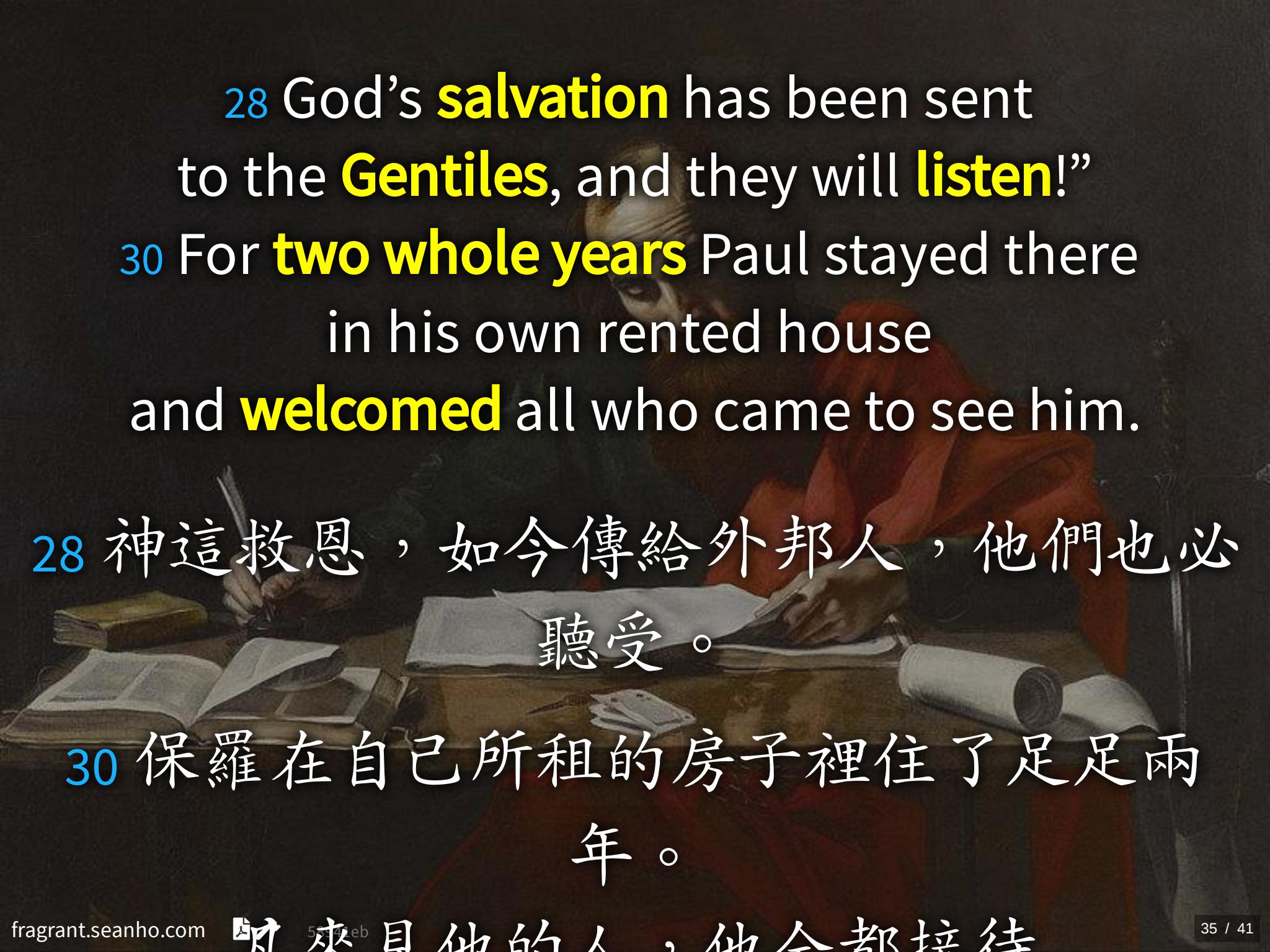
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28 God's **salvation** has been sent to the **Gentiles**, and they will **listen!**"  
30 For **two whole years** Paul stayed there in his own rented house and **welcomed** all who came to see him.

28 神這救恩，如今傳給外邦人，他們也必聽受。

30 保羅在自己所租的房子裡住了足足兩年。



31 He **proclaimed** the kingdom of God  
and **taught** about the Lord Jesus Christ -  
with all **boldness** and without **hindrance**.

放膽傳講神國的道，  
將主耶穌基督的事教導人，並沒有人禁止

Acts 使徒行傳 28:28,30-31 (NIV/CUV) (p.2/2)



14 Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in **triumphant procession**, and through us spreads the **fragrance** of the **knowledge of Him** everywhere.

感謝神！常帥領我們在基督裡誇勝，  
並藉著我們在各處顯揚  
那因認識基督而有的香氣。

2 Corinthians 歌林多後 2:14-16 (ESV/CUV) (p.1/2)

15 For we are the **aroma of Christ** to God  
among those who are being **saved**  
and among those who are **perishing**,  
16 to one a fragrance **from death to death**,  
to the other a fragrance **from life to life.**

因為我們在神面前，  
無論在得救的人身上或滅亡的人身上，  
都有基督馨香之氣。

16 在這等人，就作了死的香氣叫他死；  
在那等人，就作了活的香氣叫他活

**Do I exude the fragrance of  
Christ in my daily life?**

**我在日常生活中是否  
散發出基督的香氣？**

15 For we are the **aroma of Christ** to God  
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