

The background image shows a scenic landscape with a winding road along a coastline. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, with a bright, glowing area where the sun is partially hidden behind them.

Vessels of Mercy

Romans 9:19-24

Does God
predestine
who is saved?

You will say to me then,
“Why does he still find **fault**?
For who can **resist** his will?”

But who are **you**, O man,
to answer back to **God**?

Romans 9:19-20 (ESV) (p.1/4)

Will what is **molded** say to its molder,
“**Why** have you made me like this?”

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?

Romans 9:20-21 (ESV) (p.2/4)

What if God, desiring to show his **wrath**
and to make known his **power**,

has endured with much **patience**
vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

Romans 9:22 (ESV) (p.3/4)

in order to make known
the riches of his glory for **vessels of mercy**,
which he has **prepared** beforehand for glory –

even us whom he has **called**,
not from the Jews only
but also from the Gentiles?

Romans 9:23-24 (ESV) (p.4/4)

Vessels of Mercy (Rom9)

1. God's **Election**: Jacob / Esau (v11-13)
2. God's **Justice**: Pharaoh (v14-18)
3. God's **Mercy**: Clay Pot (v19-24)

Though they were **not yet born**
and had **done nothing** either good or bad,

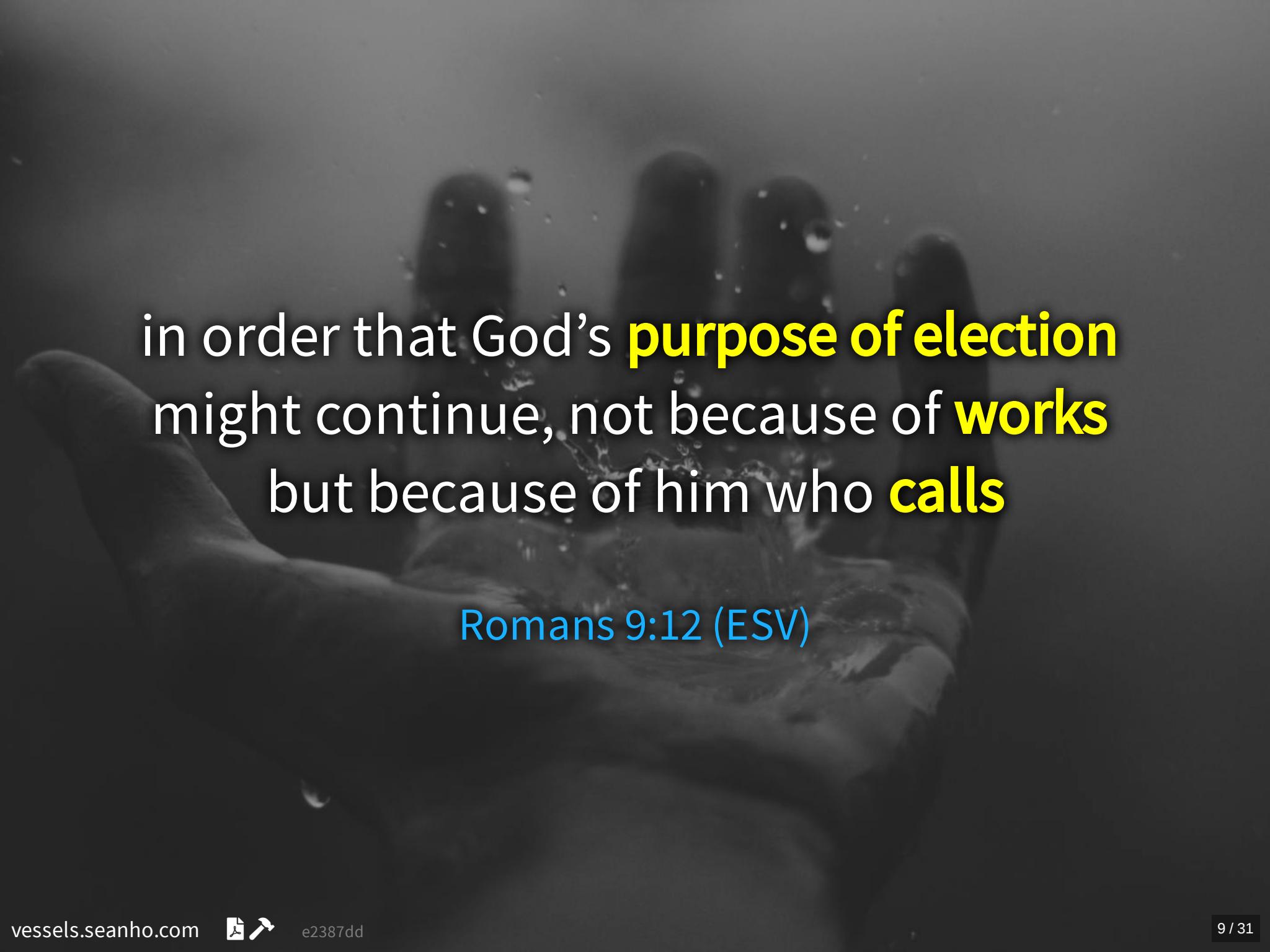
... [Rebekah] was told,
“The **older** will serve the **younger**.”

As it is written,
“Jacob I **loved**, but Esau I **hated**.”

Romans 9:11,13 (ESV)

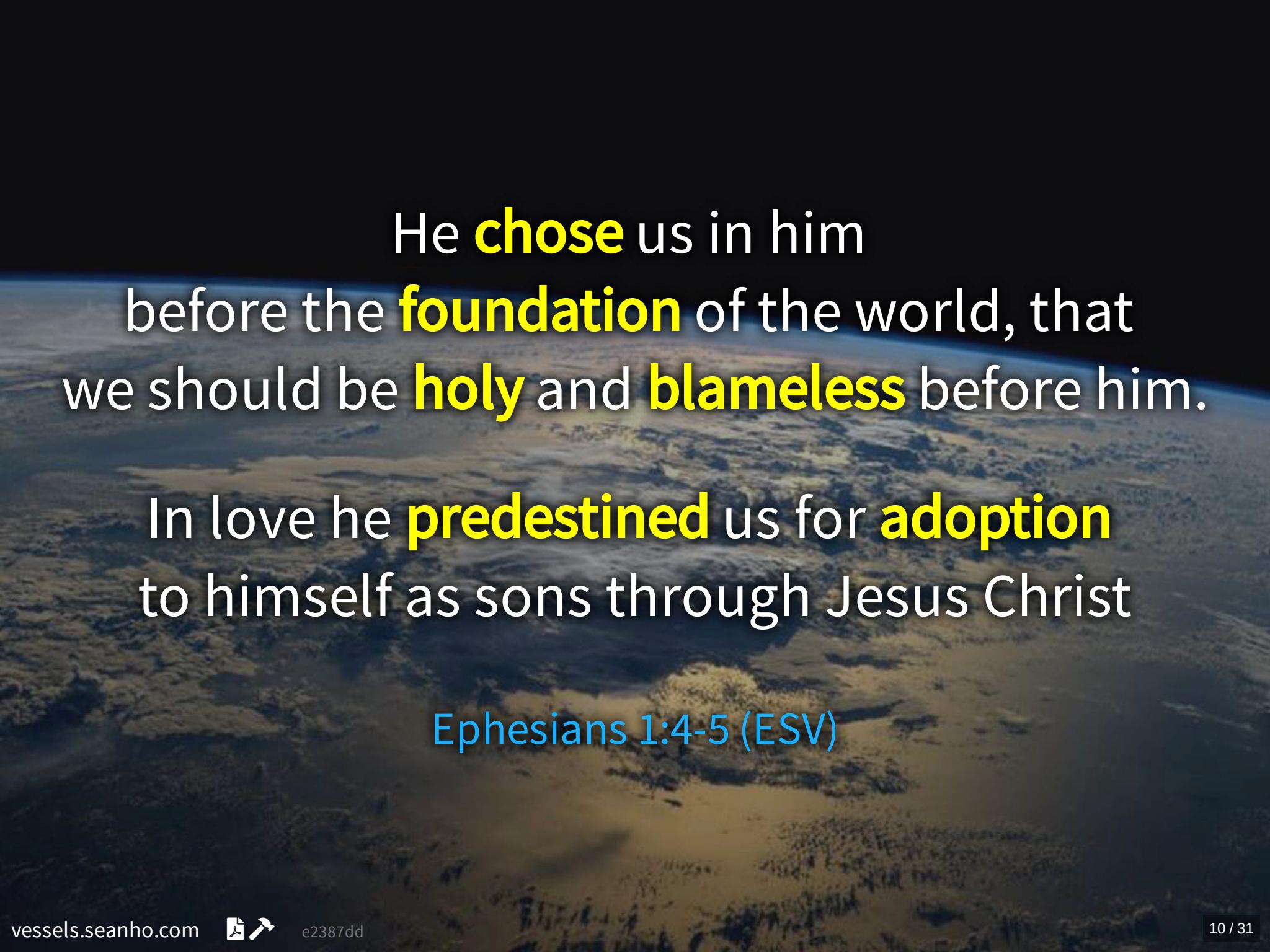
Jacob and Esau, Phillip Medhurst Bible 131.
Kidderminster, England
8 / 31





in order that God's **purpose of election**
might continue, not because of **works**
but because of him who **calls**

Romans 9:12 (ESV)

The background of the slide features a photograph of a rural landscape from an aerial perspective. The terrain consists of numerous small, rounded hills or fields, creating a textured pattern across the frame. The lighting suggests either early morning or late afternoon, with soft shadows and highlights that emphasize the depth of the terrain.

He **chose** us in him
before the **foundation** of the world, that
we should be **holy** and **blameless** before him.

In love he **predestined** us for **adoption**
to himself as sons through Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:4-5 (ESV)

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense forest. The path is surrounded by tall trees and lush green undergrowth. The lighting suggests a bright day.

Cast away from you all the **transgressions**
that you have committed,
and make yourselves a **new heart**
and a **new spirit!**

Why will you die, O house of Israel?
For I have **no pleasure** in the death of anyone,
declares the Lord God; so **turn**, and **live**.

Ezekiel 18:31-32 (ESV)

Q: God **desires** all to be saved, but **not** all will be. **Why?**

- **Calvinism** (John Calvin, ~1550s)
 - (Reformed, most Baptist: e.g., [John Piper](#))
 - **Limited Atonement**: only for the elect
 - **Irresistable Grace**: sovereignty of God
- **Arminianism** (Jacobus Arminius, ~1590s)
 - (Methodist, some Menno: e.g., [Keith Drury](#))
 - **Resistable Grace** (“synergistic”)
 - **Unlim Atonement**: eff. to all who believe

The Bible is clear on:

- God is sovereign in His **authority**:
 - “God’s purpose of **election** ...” (Rom 9:12)
- God’s **character** desires to show grace:
 - “No **pleasure** in death of any ...” (Ez18:32)
- Man must **respond**: repent + follow
 - “**Turn** and live!” (Ez18:32, Rom 10:9-10)
 - ⇒ **urgency** of evangelism (Rom 10:13-15)

Why has God
shown **mercy**
to me?

Vessels of Mercy (Rom9)

1. God's Election: Jacob / Esau (v11-13)
2. **God's Justice:** Pharaoh (v14-18)
3. God's Mercy: Clay Pot (v19-24)



What shall we say then?
Is there **injustice** on God's part?

Romans 9:14 (ESV)

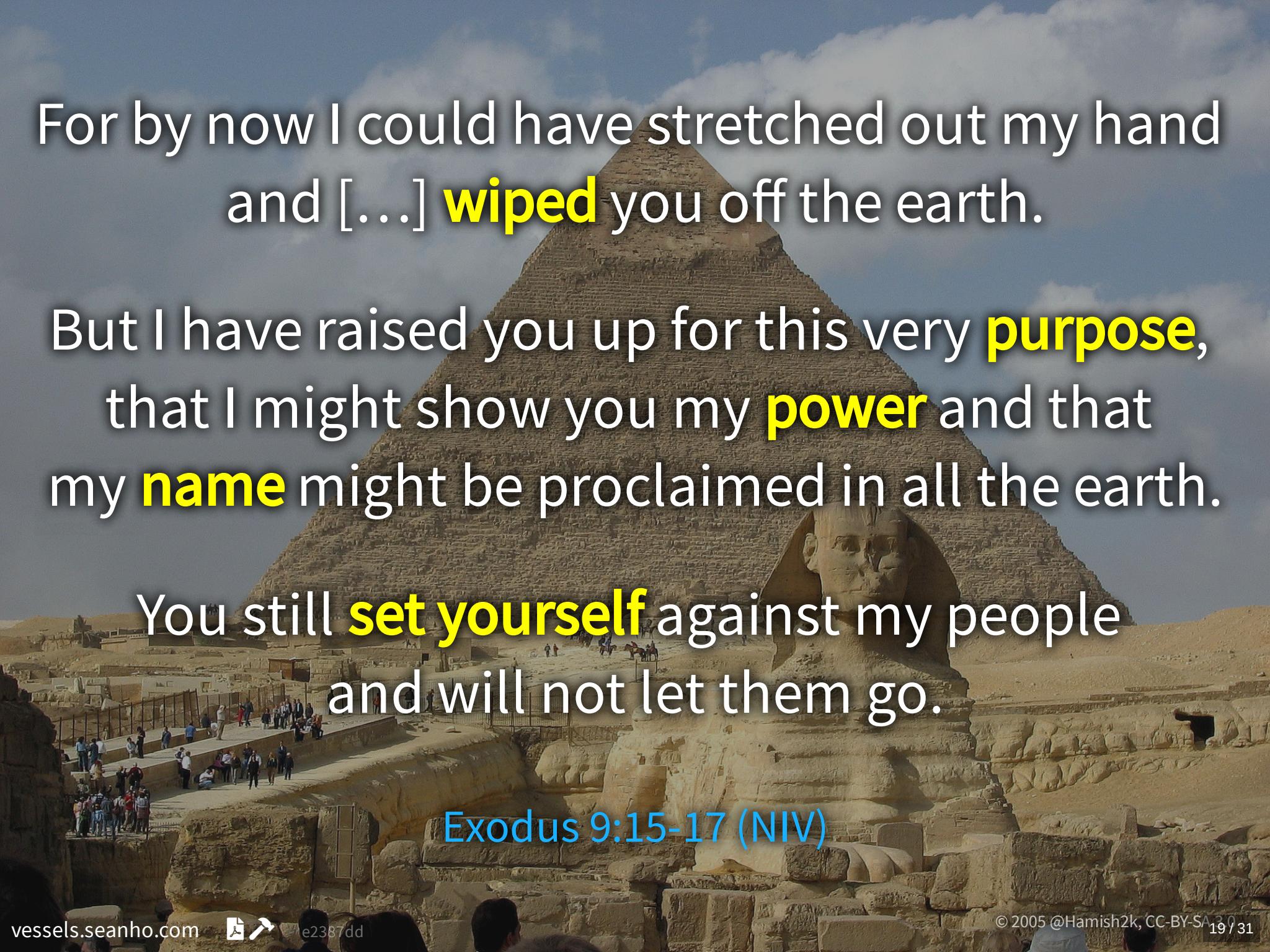
Theodicy (Is God Just?)

- Q (Mackie): If God is **omniscient**, **omnipotent**, and **omni-benevolent**, why is there **evil**?
- **Man's disobedience** (e.g., Augustine)
 - (Plantinga): free will defense
 - Omnipotent, need not make **contradictions**
 - Full **autonomy** $\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$ God's **sovereignty**
- **World is a school** (e.g., Irenaeus, Origien)
 - Suffering necessary for human **growth**
 - (Swinburne): free will \Rightarrow **learn** from mistakes
but see, e.g., *The Brothers Karamazov* (Dostoyevsky)

Certainly not! For He says to Moses,
“I will have **mercy** on whomever I will have
mercy, and I will have **compassion** on
whomever I will have compassion.”

So then it is not of him who **wills**, nor of him
who **runs**, but of God who shows **mercy**.

Romans 9:15-16 (NKJV)



For by now I could have stretched out my hand
and [...] **wiped** you off the earth.

But I have raised you up for this very **purpose**,
that I might show you my **power** and that
my **name** might be proclaimed in all the earth.

You still **set yourself** against my people
and will not let them go.

Exodus 9:15-17 (NIV)

Why does God
allow **evil** to
flourish?

Vessels of Mercy (Rom9)

1. God's Election: Jacob / Esau (v11-13)
2. God's Justice: Pharaoh (v14-18)
3. **God's Mercy: Clay Pot** (v19-24)

A photograph of a person from behind, standing in a field of tall, golden grass. They are wearing a dark t-shirt and have their arms raised wide, palms facing forward. In the background, there's a dense line of trees on a slight incline under a clear sky.

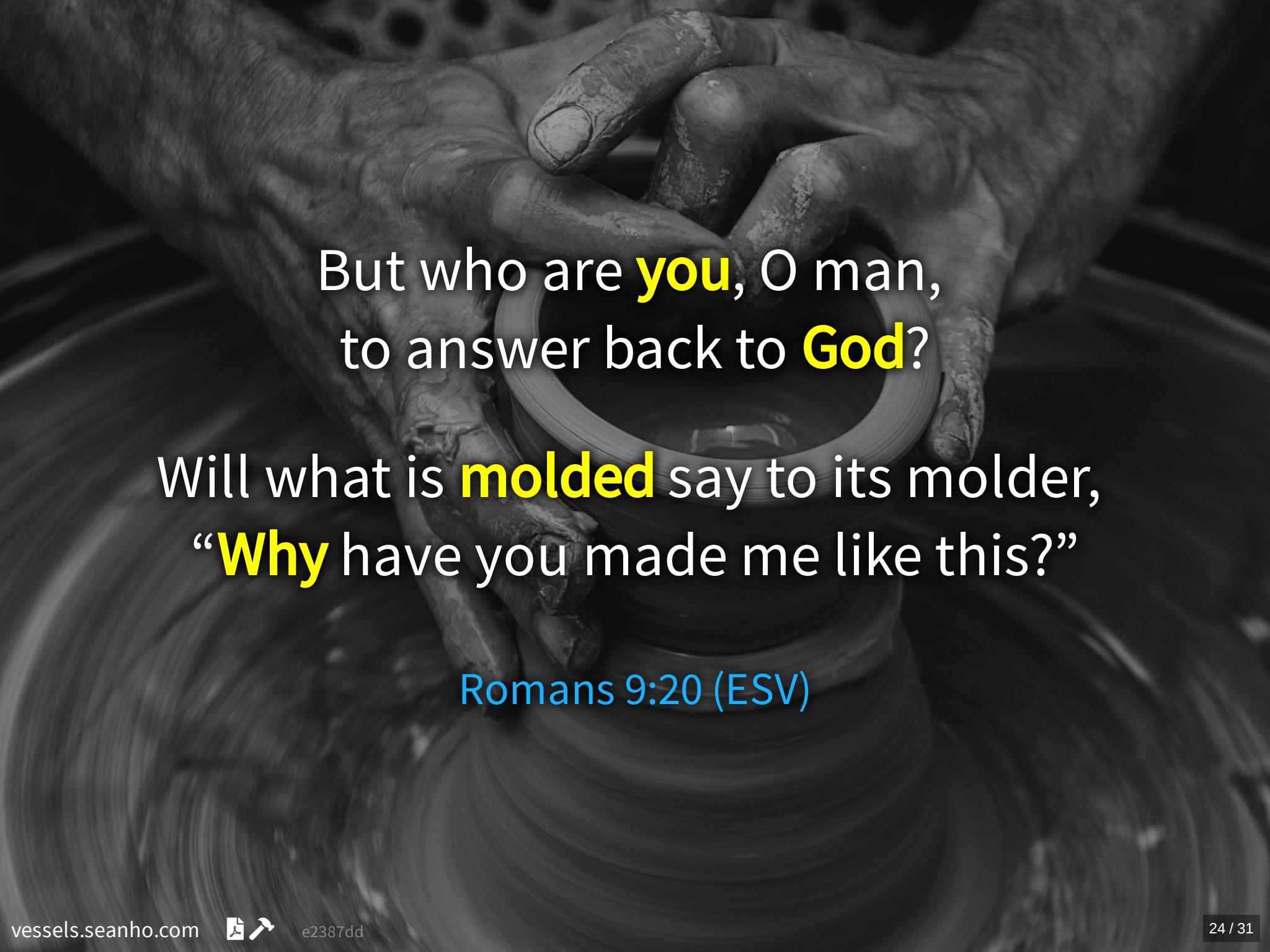
You will say to me then,
“Why does he still find **fault**?
For who can **resist** his will?”

Romans 9:19 (ESV)

Self-Actualisation vs. Self-Governance



Maslow's
Hierarchy

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of hands working on a pottery wheel. The hands are covered in clay, and they are shaping a large, roughly spherical piece of clay. The background is dark and out of focus.

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?”

Romans 9:20 (ESV)



For when you were **slaves** of **sin**,
you were **free** in regard to **righteousness**.

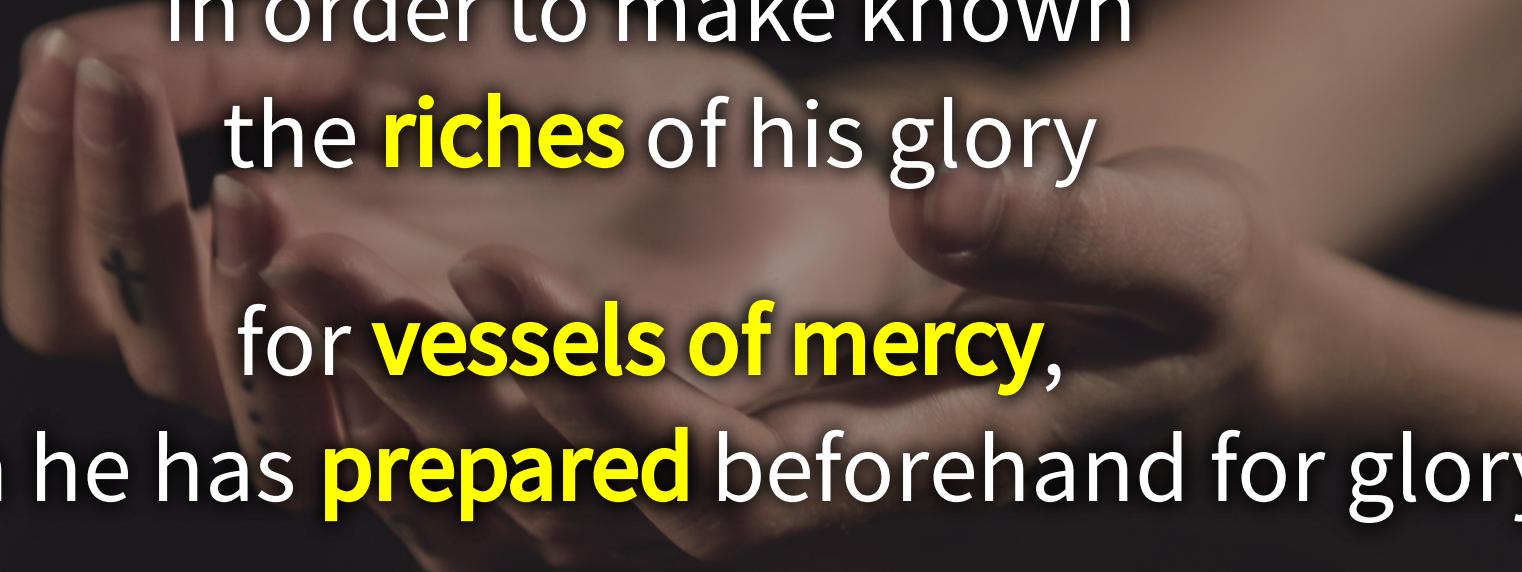
What **fruit** did you have then
in the things of which you are now **ashamed**?
For the end of those things is **death**.

Romans 6:20-21 (NKJV)

The background of the slide is a dark, moody landscape featuring a lighthouse on a small island in the distance. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, creating a somber and dramatic atmosphere.

[God] has endured with much **patience**
vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

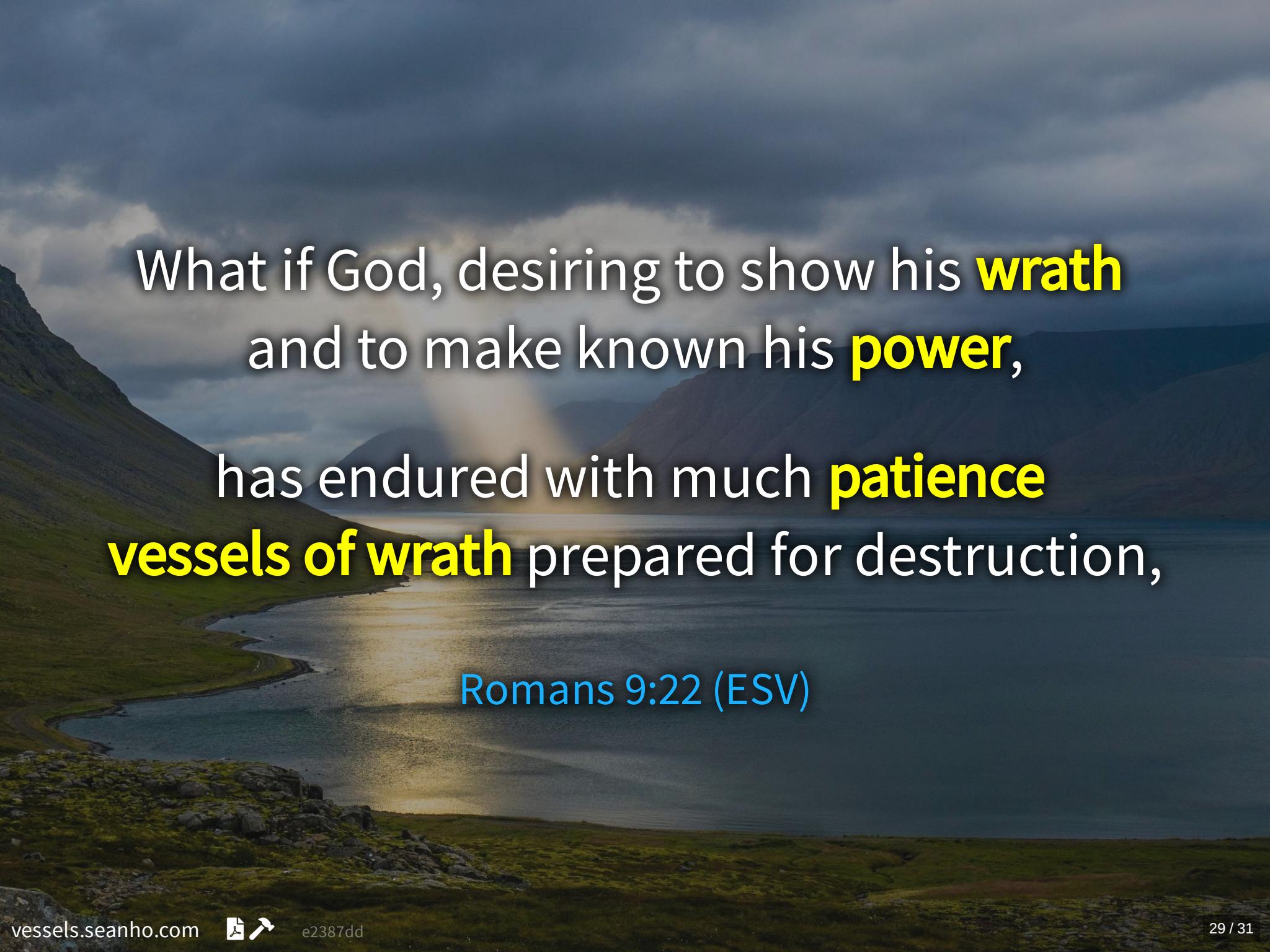
Romans 9:22 (ESV)



in order to make known
the **riches** of his glory
for **vessels of mercy**,
which he has **prepared** beforehand for glory

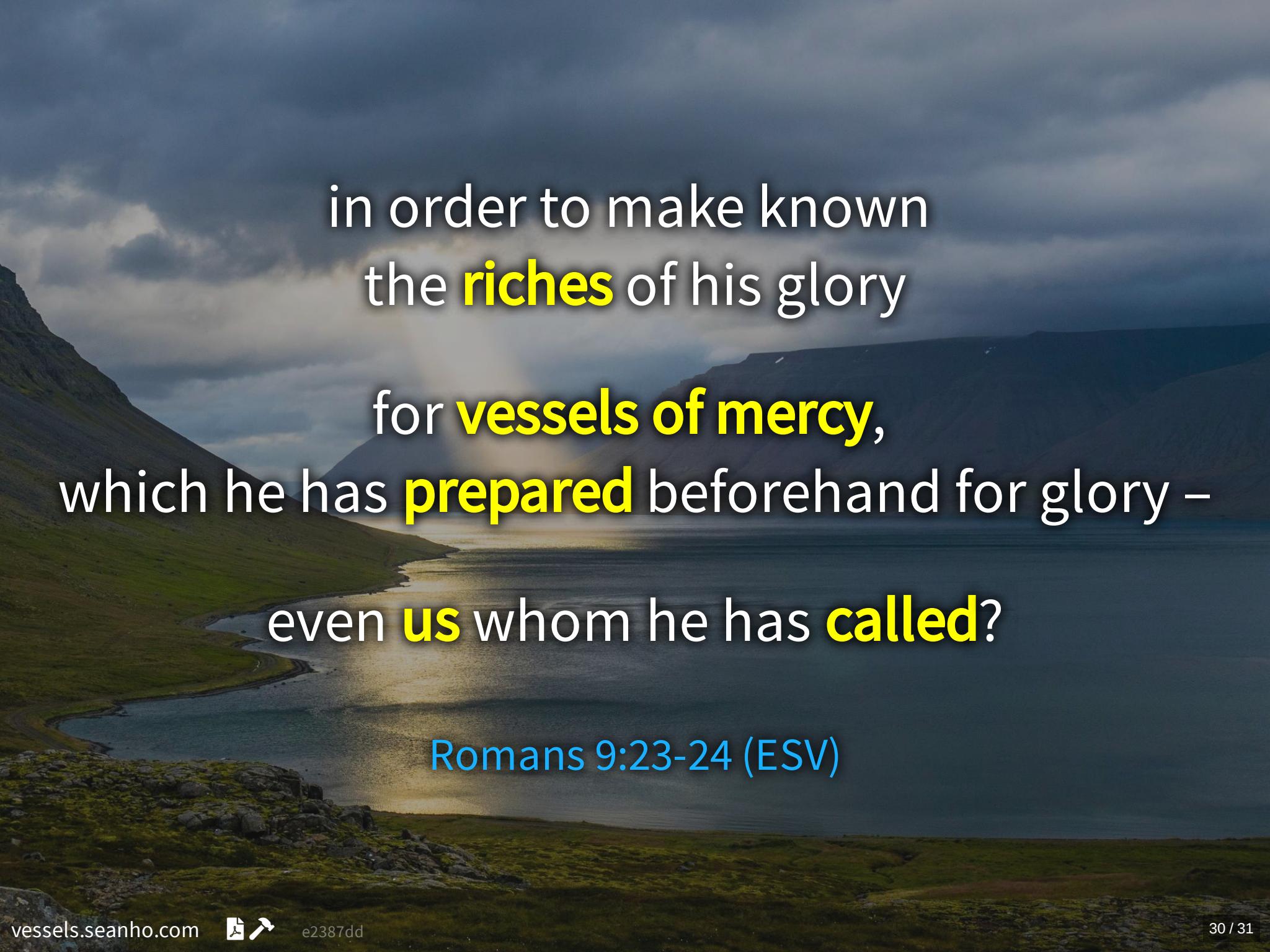
Romans 9:23 (ESV)

Can I choose
my own **purpose**
and **destiny**?

A wide-angle photograph of a rugged landscape under a heavy, dark sky. A river or fjord winds its way through the center of the frame, reflecting the light from a low sun. On either side are steep, rocky hills and mountains. The foreground is a mix of dark ground and patches of green grass.

What if God, desiring to show his **wrath**
and to make known his **power**,
has endured with much **patience**
vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

Romans 9:22 (ESV)

A wide-angle photograph of a natural landscape. In the foreground, there's a mix of dark, rocky ground and patches of bright green grass. A river or lake curves its way through the center of the frame, reflecting the light from a setting or rising sun. The background features a range of mountains, some with snow-capped peaks, under a sky filled with heavy, dark clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and tranquility.

in order to make known
the **riches** of his glory

for **vessels of mercy**,
which he has **prepared** beforehand for glory –

even **us** whom he has **called**?

Romans 9:23-24 (ESV)

