

# 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

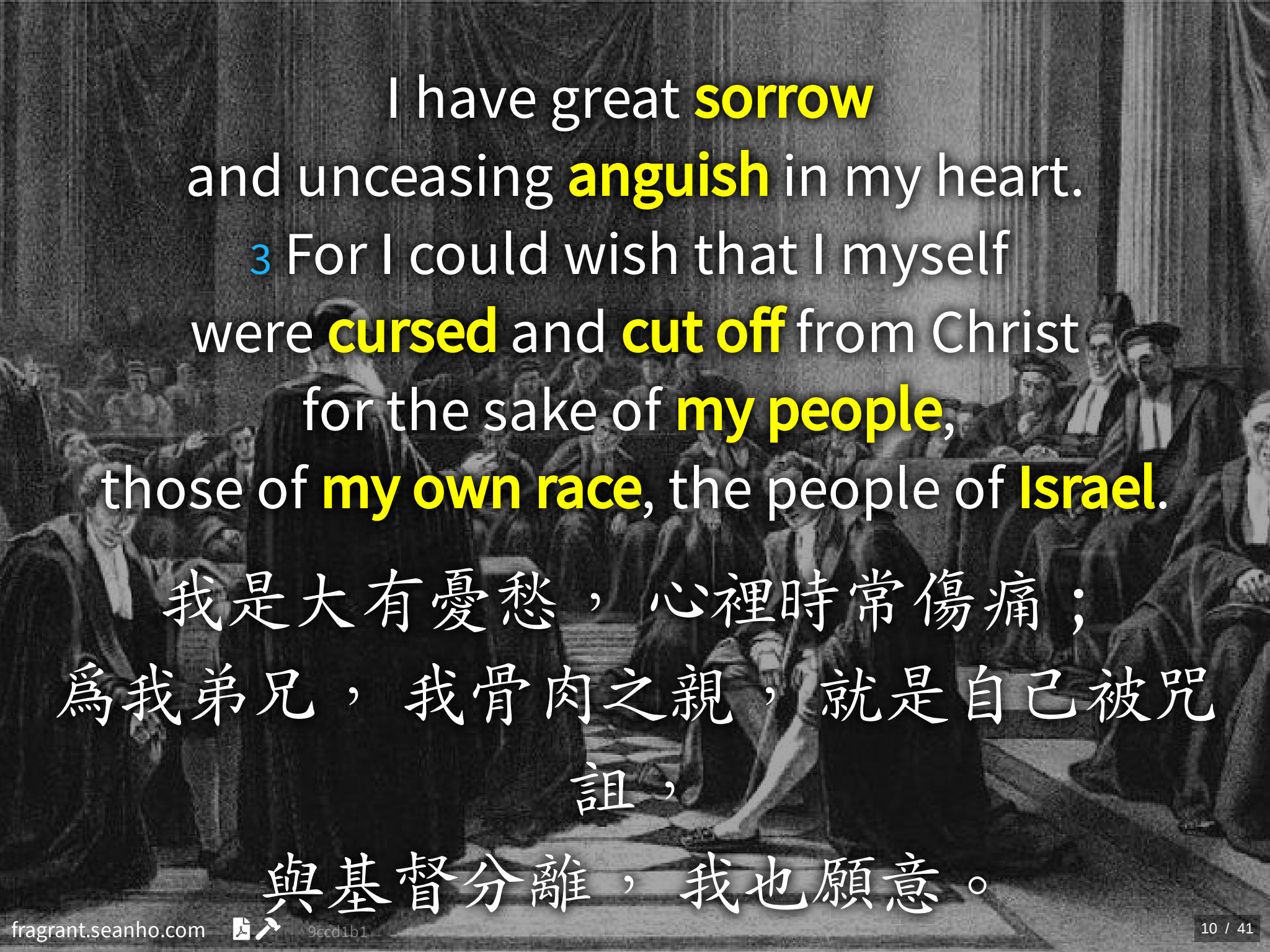
- **Persecution:**

Acts 13-14, 17-18,  
21

- **Heart** for  
Jews:

Romans 9-11



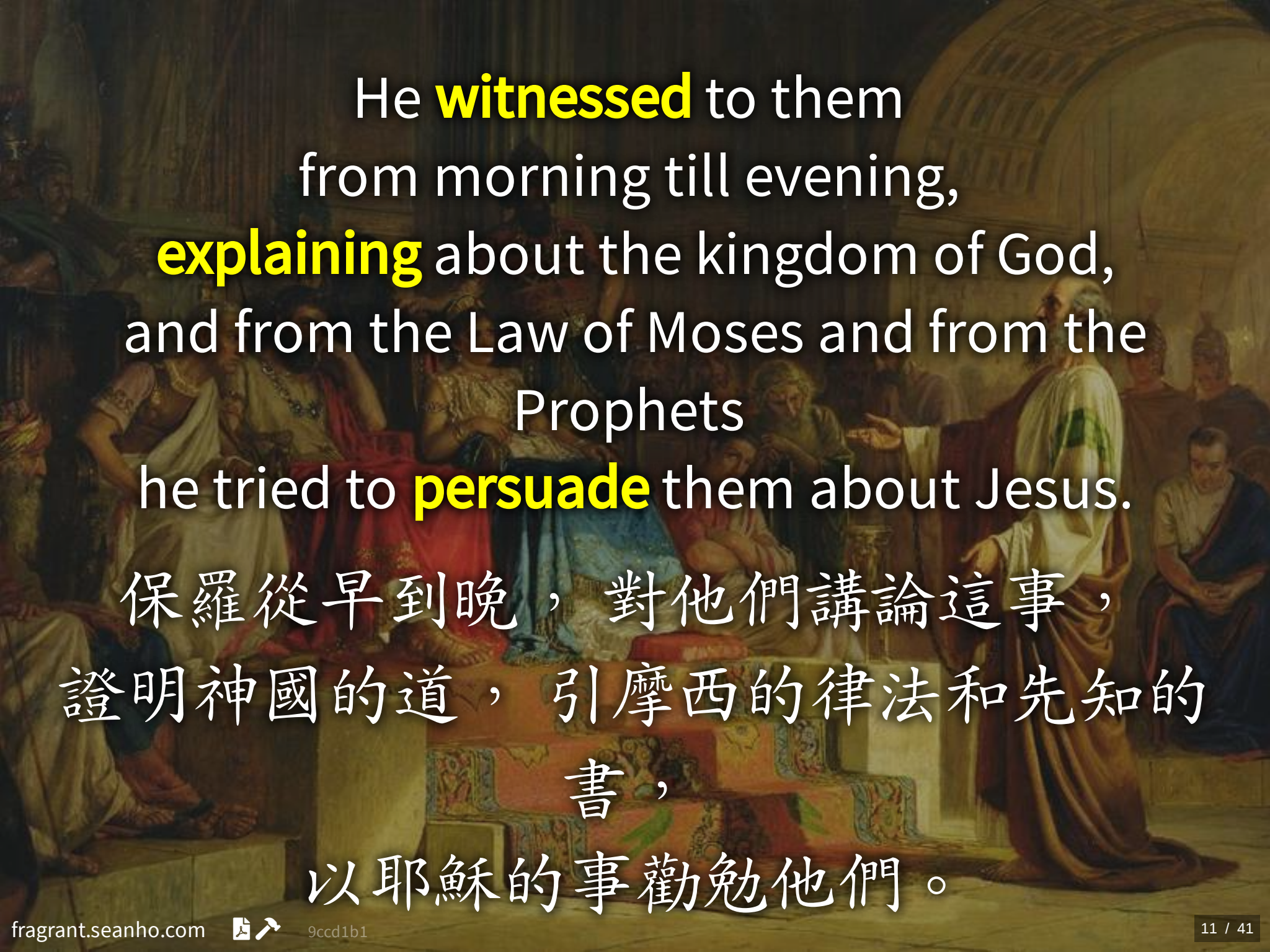


I have great **sorrow**  
and unceasing **anguish** in my heart.  
**3** For I could wish that I myself  
were **cursed** and **cut off** from Christ  
for the sake of **my people**,  
those of **my own race**, the people of **Israel**.

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。

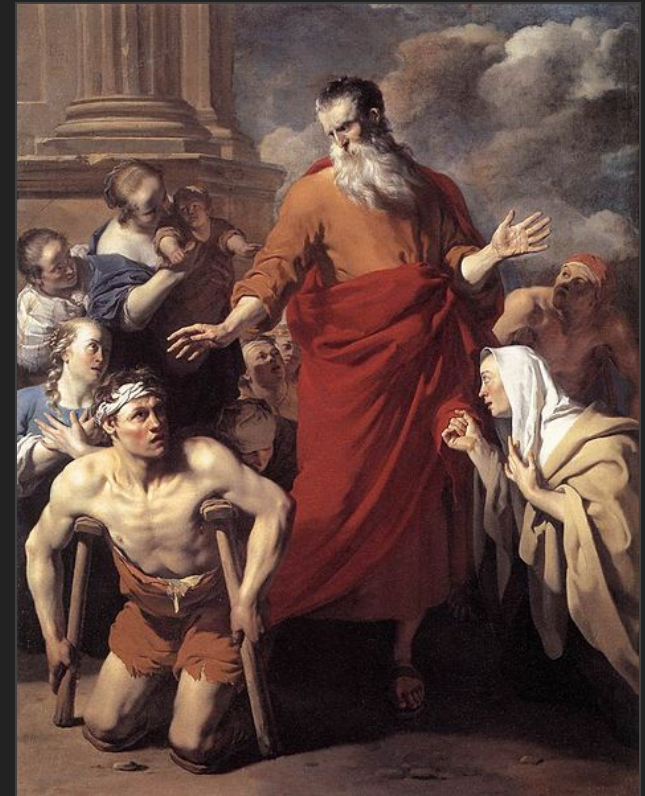




He **witnessed** to them  
from morning till evening,  
**explaining** about the kingdom of God,  
and from the Law of Moses and from the  
Prophets  
he tried to **persuade** them about Jesus.

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。

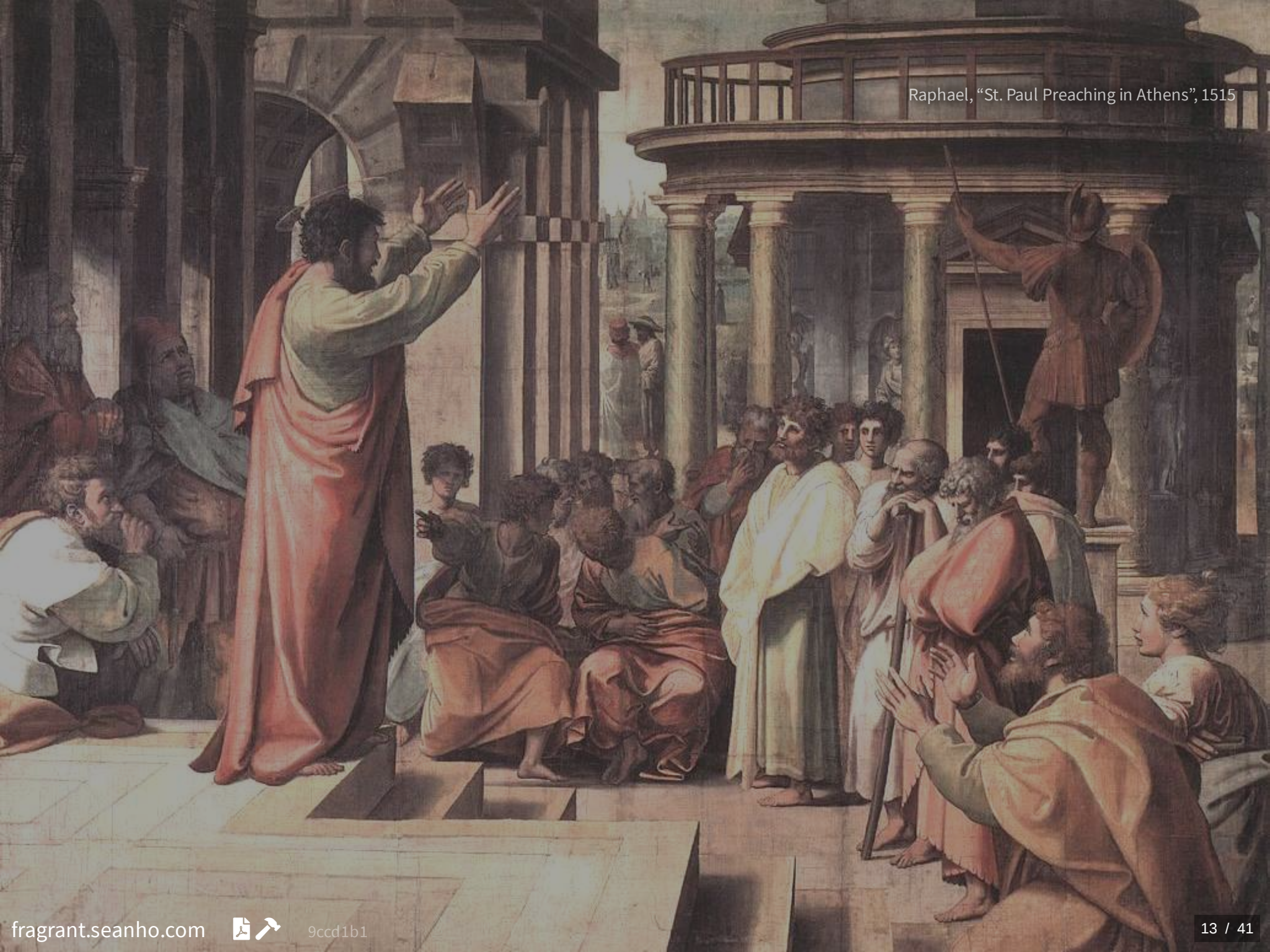
My **message** and preaching  
were  
not in **persuasive** words of  
wisdom,  
but in demonstration of the  
**Spirit** and  
of **power**, <sup>5</sup> so that your **faith**  
would  
not rest on the **wisdom of men**,  
but on the **power of God**.



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.”

### 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?*



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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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

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



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**聽眾的回應：劃分**

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

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

保羅的生活：傳揚



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)

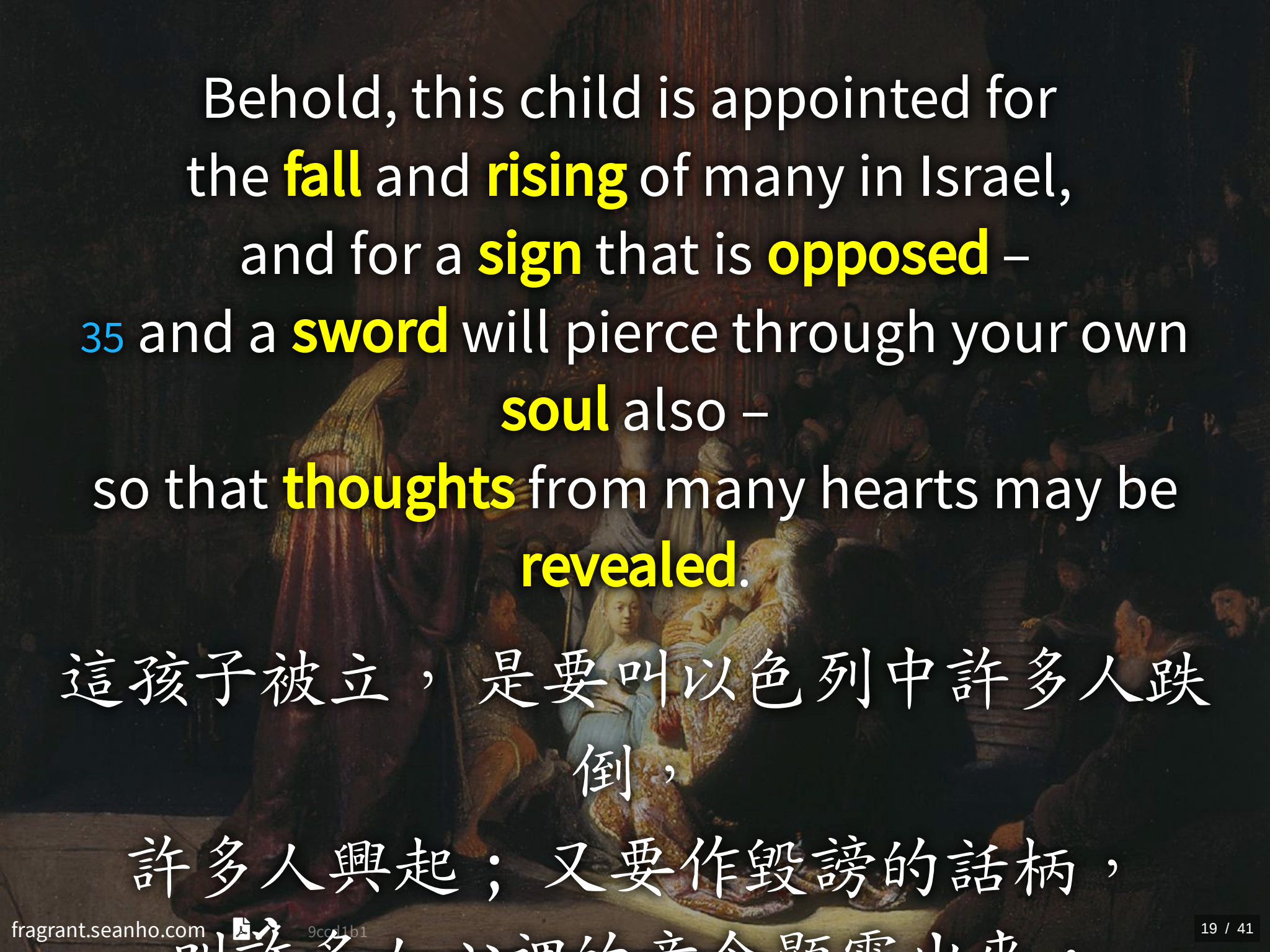


# The Sign of Contradiction

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，



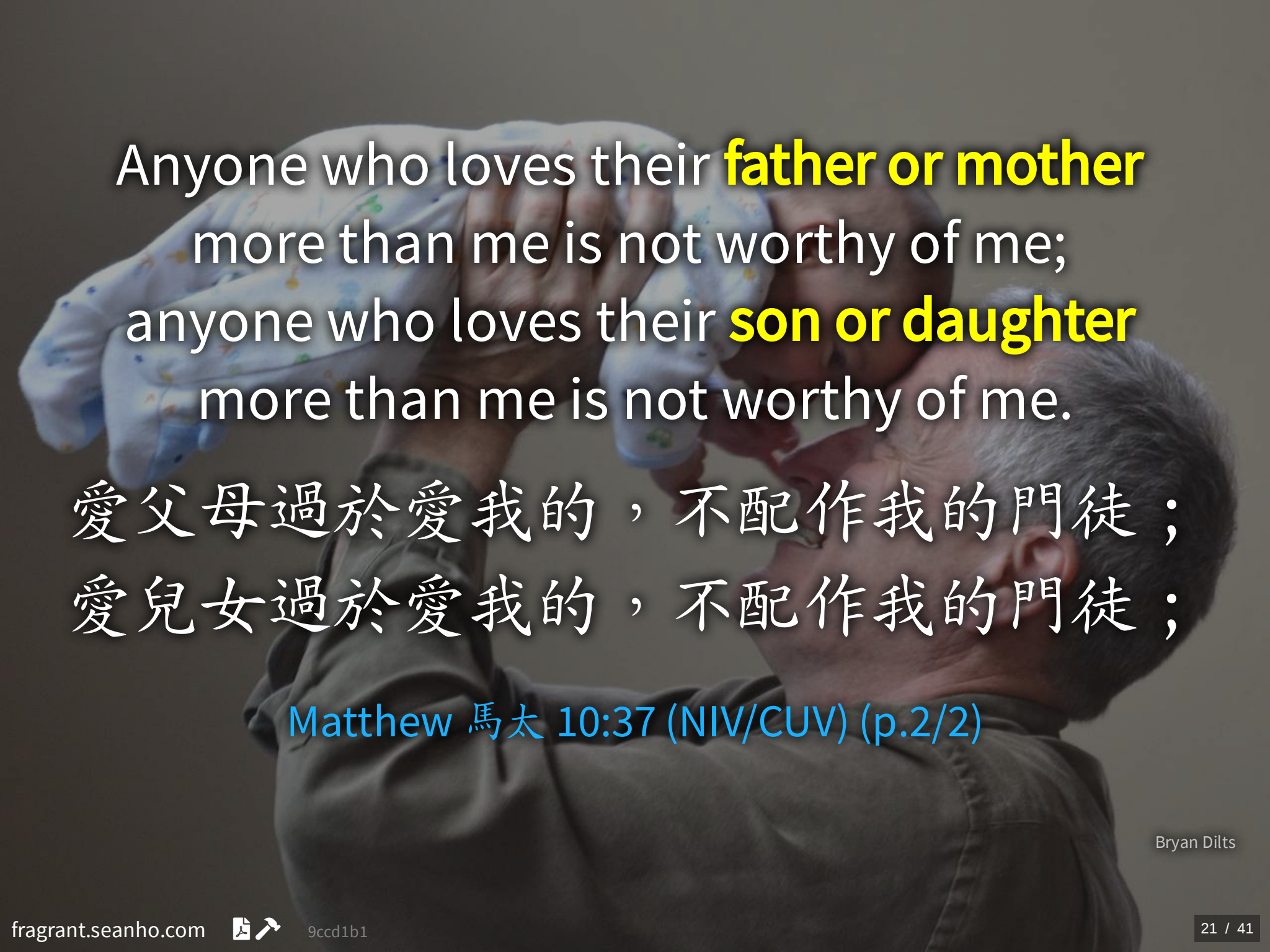
Do not suppose that I have come  
to bring **peace** to the earth.  
I did not come to bring peace, but a **sword**.

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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A photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a dark jacket, holding a baby wrapped in a white blanket with colorful patterns. The man is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

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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**聖靈的預言：應許**

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

保羅的生活：傳揚



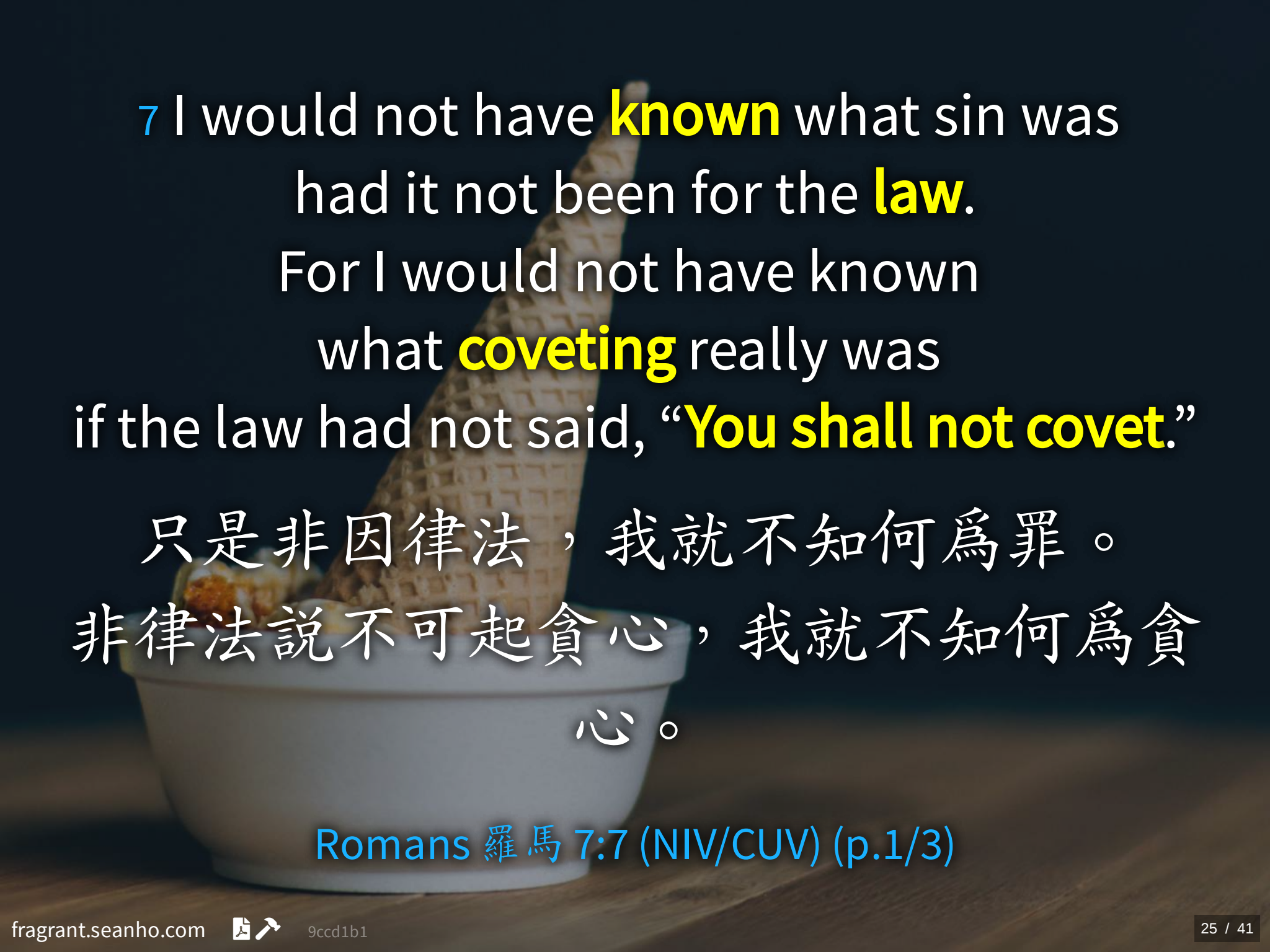
Go, and say to this people:  
“Keep on **hearing**, but do not understand;  
keep on **seeing**, but do not perceive.”

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，我就不知何為罪。  
非律法說不可起貪心，我就不知何為貪  
心。

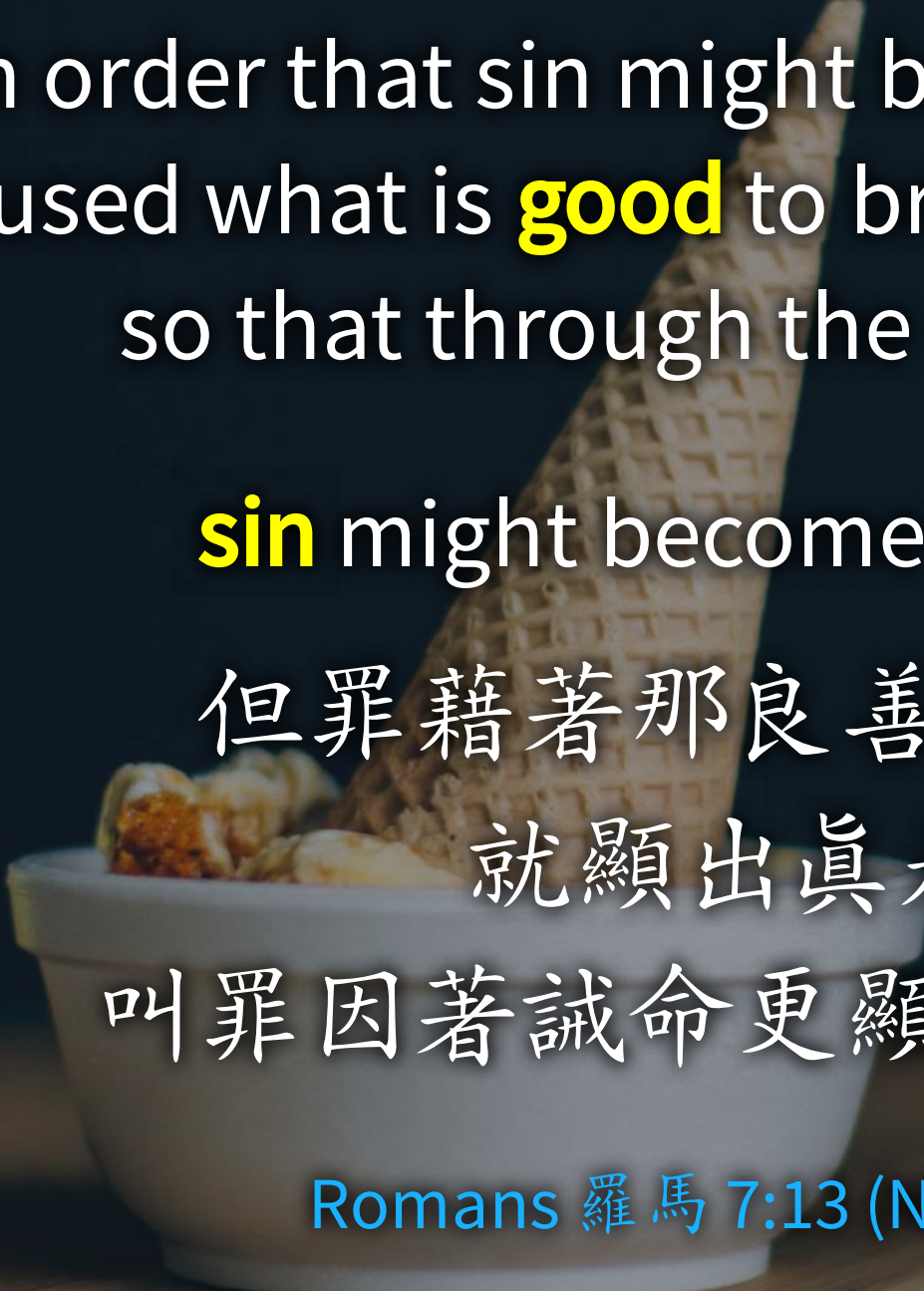
Romans 羅馬 7:7 (NIV/CUV) (p.1/3)



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

然而罪趁著機會，  
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)

A white bowl filled with ice cream, topped with a wafer cone and various toppings like nuts and chocolate chips. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

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，

就顯出真是罪，

叫罪因著誡命更顯出是惡極了。

Romans 羅馬 7:13 (NIV/CUV) (p.3/3)



# A Partial Hardening

## 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

A young child with dark hair, wearing a red patterned top and blue shorts, is sitting on a dark floor. The child has a tearful expression, looking upwards. The background is dark and out of focus.


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，這到幾時為止呢？

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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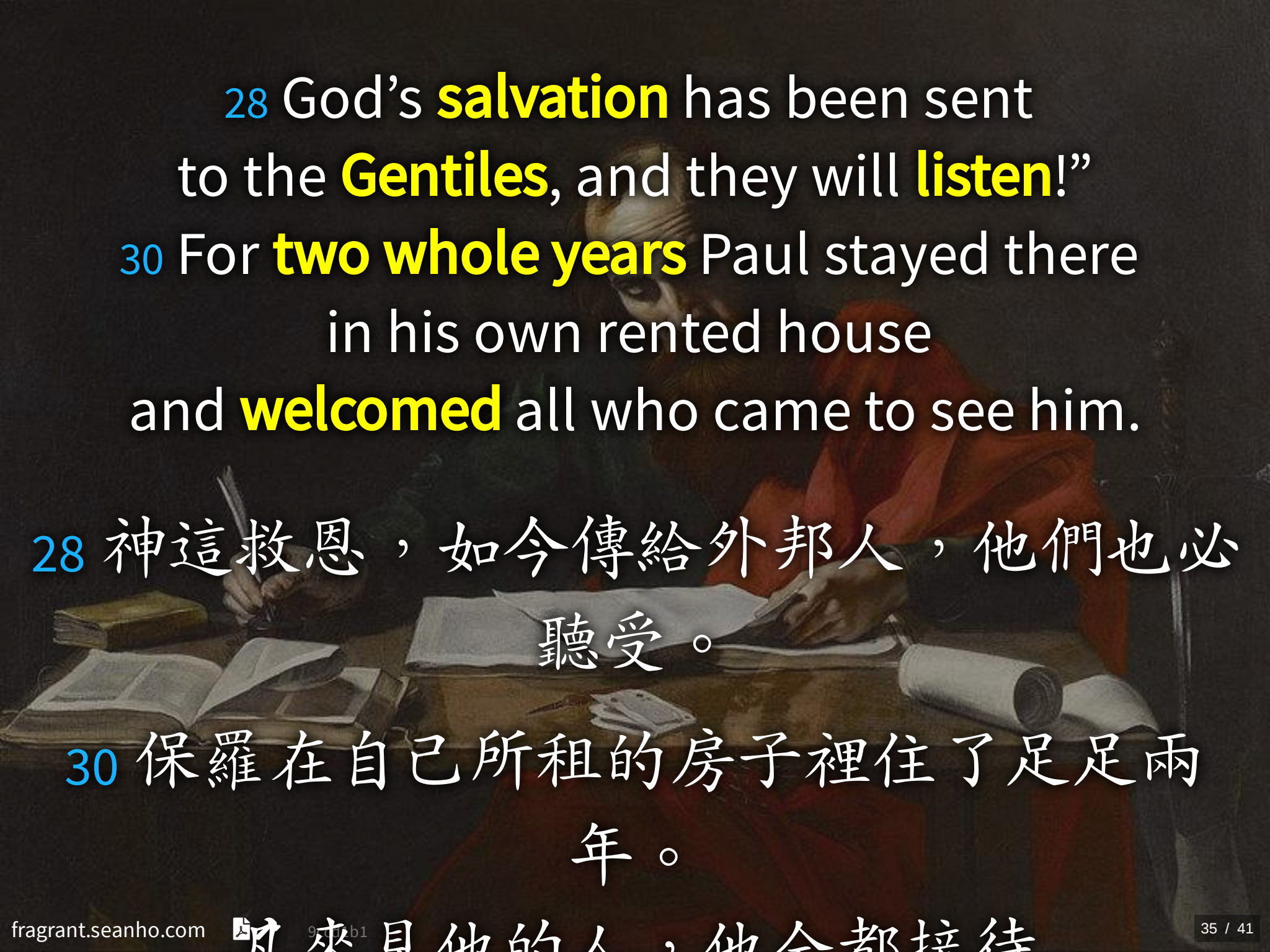
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**保羅的生活：傳揚**






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 **triumphal 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？



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