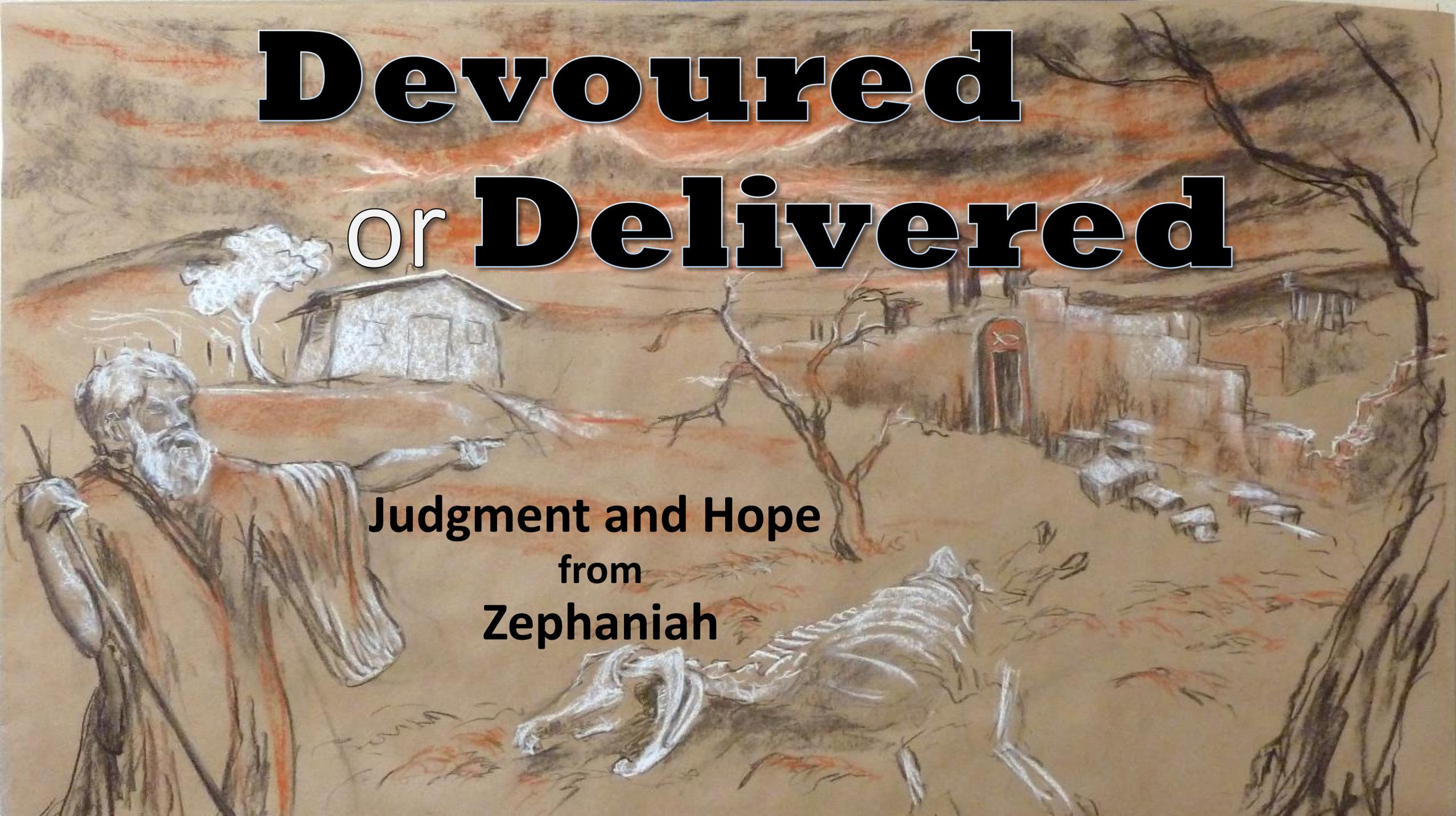
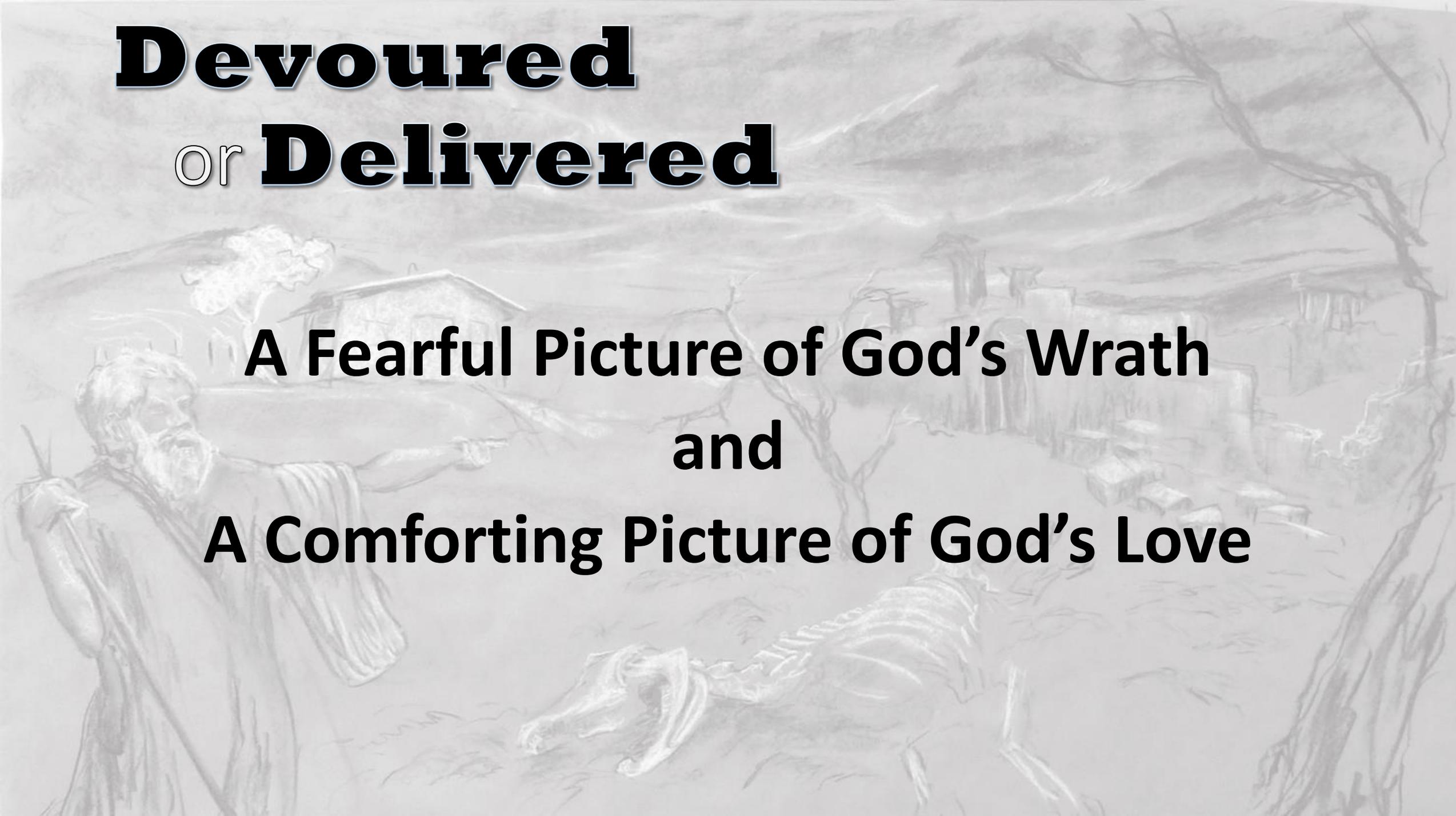




# Devoured or Delivered

Judgment and Hope  
from  
Zephaniah





# **Devoured** or **Delivered**

**A Fearful Picture of God's Wrath  
and**

**A Comforting Picture of God's Love**

# Devoured or Delivered

## Background of Zephaniah

- ❑ Name means “Jehovah hides” or “Jehovah has hidden”
- ❑ A descendant of King Hezekiah (1:1)
- ❑ During reign of Josiah
  - ❑ The last good king in Judah
- ❑ Captivity has already been decreed (2 Kings 21:10-15)  
*“I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.” (v. 13)*

# Devoured or Delivered

## God's Wrath is Directed Against...

- ❑ A universal judgment (1:2-3)
  - 2:4-15—Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, and Assyria
- ❑ Even Judah and the city of Jerusalem (1:4-6)
  - ❑ *“Be silent... for the day of the Lord is near”* (7)
- ❑ Those who sinned (1:17)
- ❑ Those who refused correction (3:2, 7)
- ❑ Those who refused to repent (2:1-3)

# Devoured or Delivered

God's Wrath is Real...

- He does not make idle threats
- But, He does offer hope:

*“Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden in the day of the Lord’s anger” (2:3)*

- God offers refuge amid judgment
  - The righteous are not always spared physical destruction, but are spared eternal destruction.

# Devoured or Delivered

God's Love is Real Too...

- The prophet speaks of a **remnant** that will be gathered “in that day” or “at that time” (3:9-20)
  - “I will... **remove**... your proud (3:11); **exult** over you with **joy**... **quiet you in love**...rejoice over you with **shouts of joy** (3:17); **gather** (3:18); **save** (3:19); give you **praise** and **renown** (3:19-20); **bring you back**... **restore**” (3:20)
- Fulfilled in a ***physical*** remnant returned from Babylon
- Ultimately, fulfilled in a ***spiritual*** remnant

# Devoured or Delivered

God's Love is Real Too...

- ❑ The prophet speaks of a **remnant** that will be gathered “in that day” or “at that time”
- ❑ Peter preached what the prophets foretold:
  - *“And it shall be in the last days,”* (Acts 2:17)
- ❑ When the time was right, God sent the Savior
  - *“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son...”* (Gal. 4:4)

# **Devoured** or **Delivered**

## **God's Blessings Are Promised to...**

- People from all nations (3:9-10)
- Those devoted to the one true God (3:9-10)
- Those who “serve shoulder to shoulder” (3:9)
- The “humble and lowly” (3:12), in contrast to the arrogant sinners described earlier (2:8, 10; 3:4)
- Those who strive against sin (3:13)
- Ultimately, those who are in Christ.

# Devoured or Delivered

God's Blessings Are Promised to...

*“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the **fullness of the times** He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”*

*(Eph. 1:7-11)*

# Devoured or **Delivered**

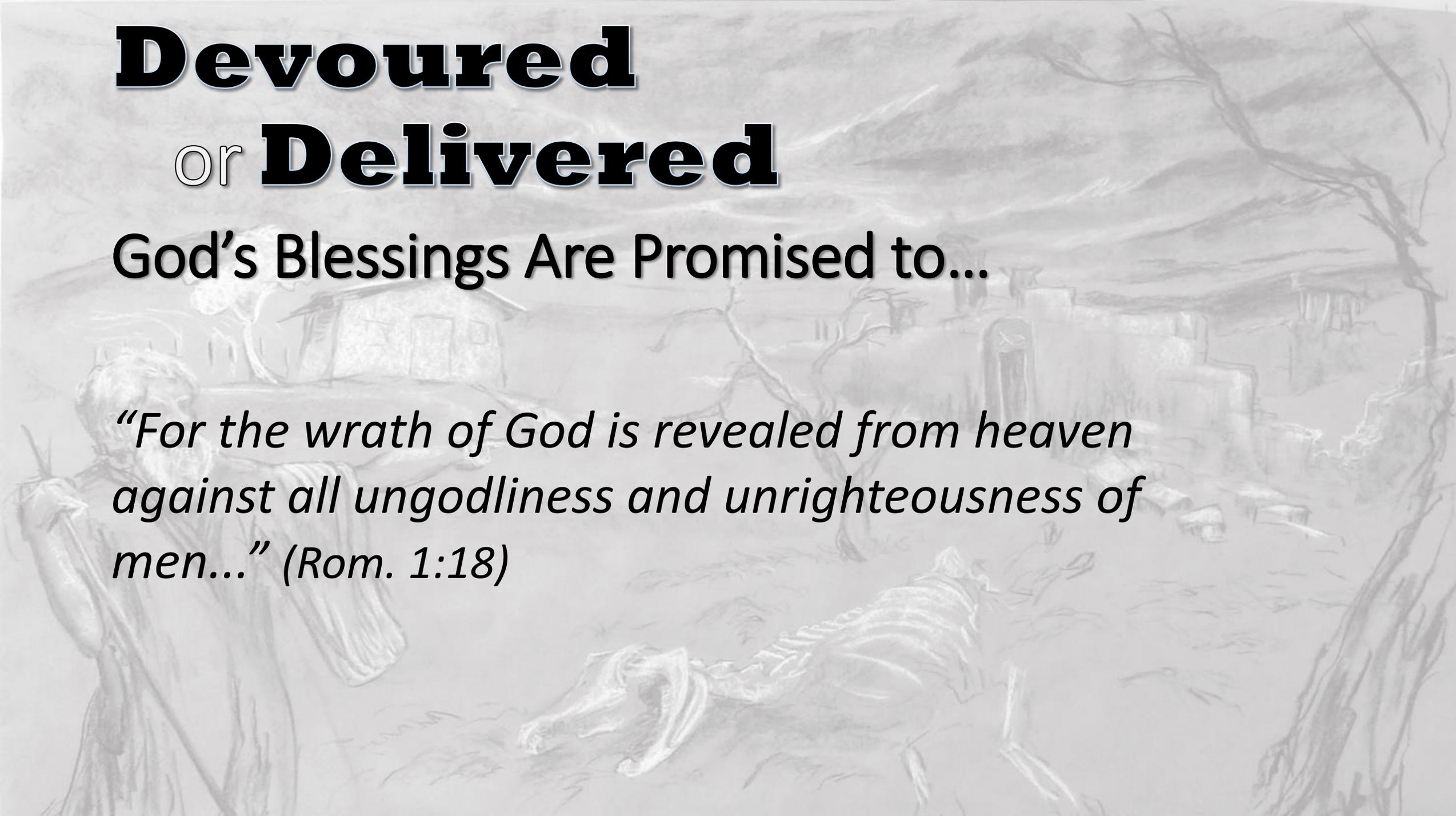
God's Blessings Are Promised to...

*“In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a **remnant** according to God's gracious choice..” (Rom. 11:5)*

# **Devoured** or **Delivered**

God's Blessings Are Promised to...

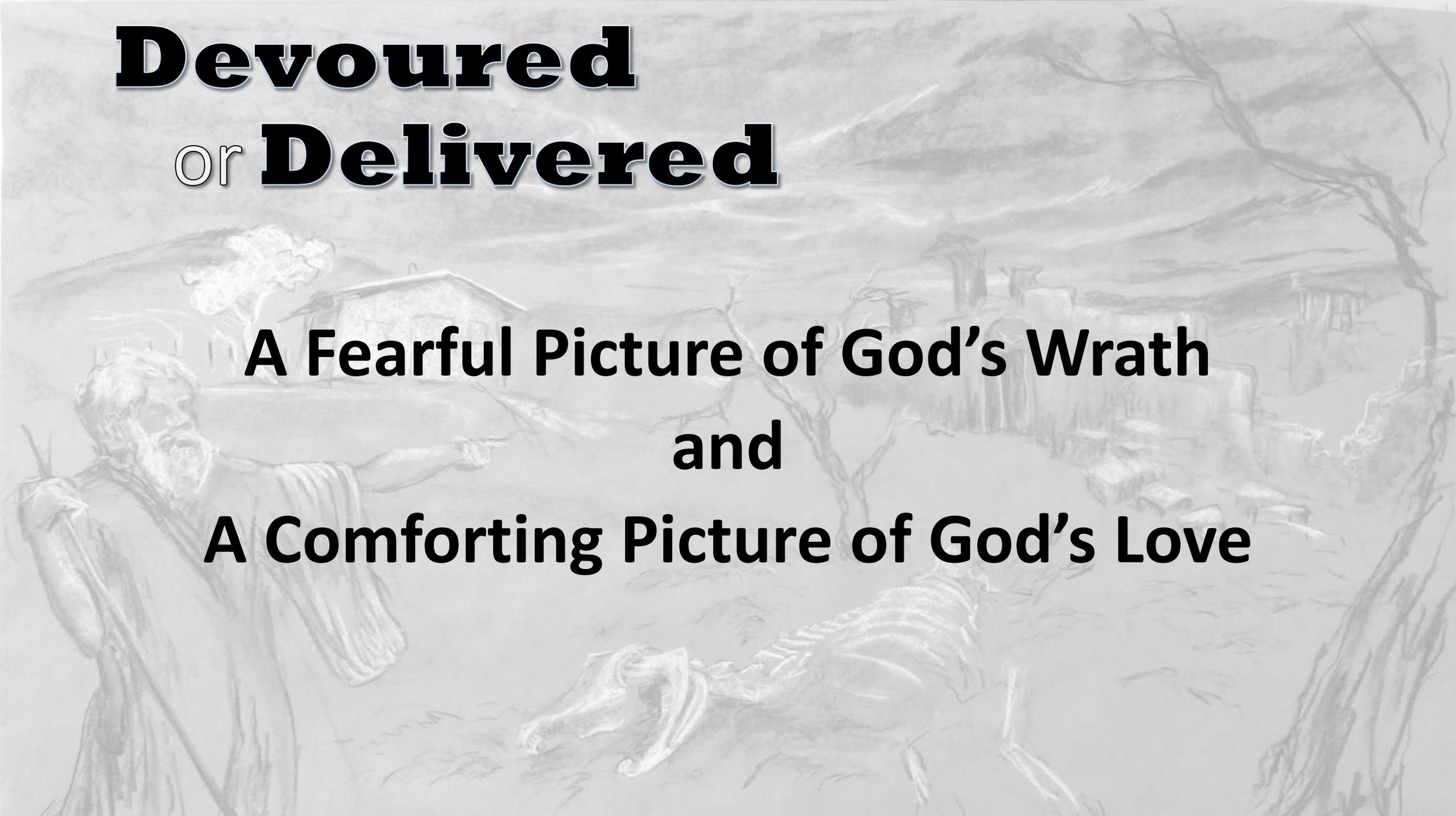
*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...” (Rom. 1:18)*



# **Devoured** or **Delivered**

**God's Blessings Are Promised to...**

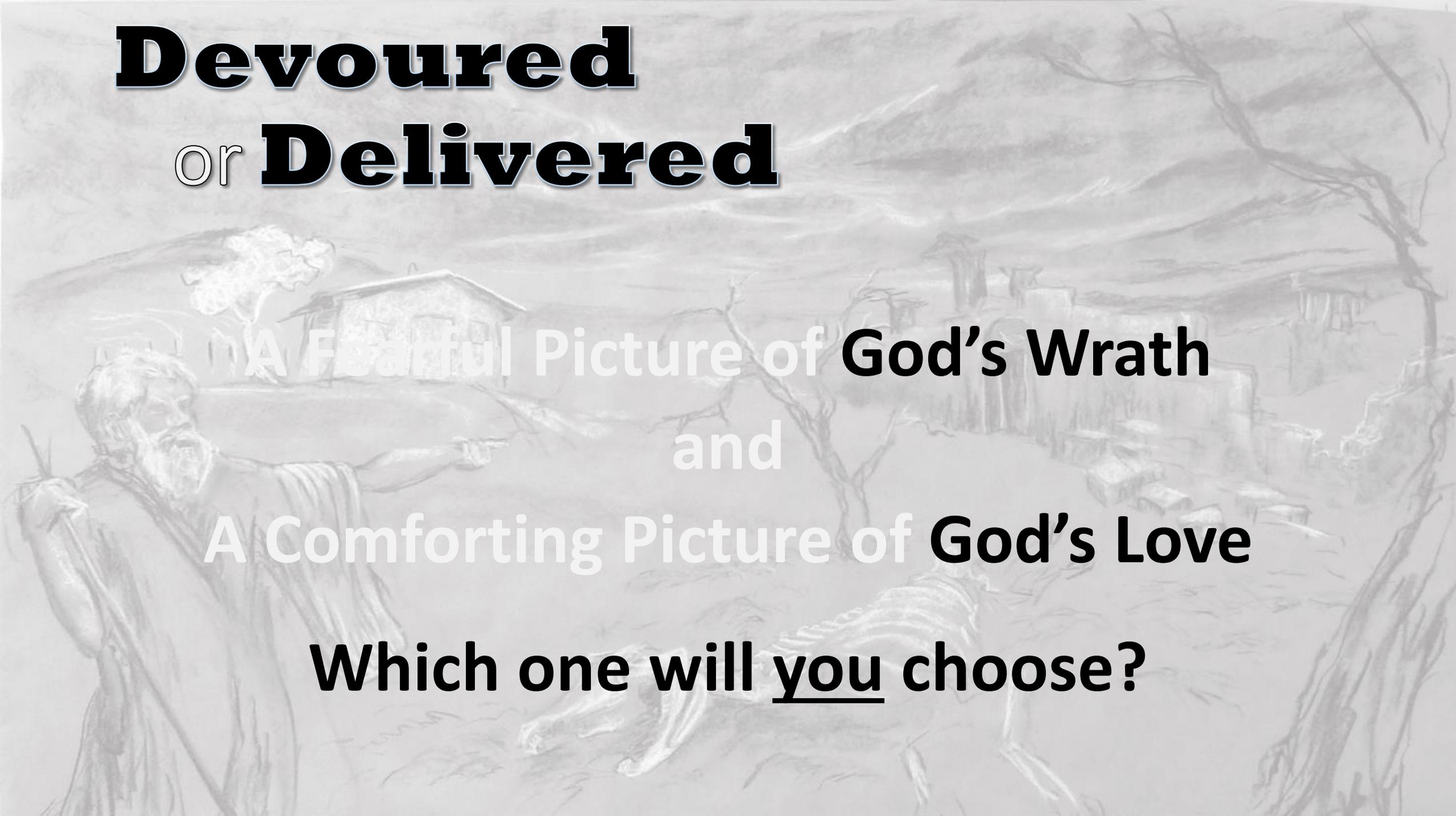
*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.” (Rom. 1:16-17)*



# **Devoured** or **Delivered**

**A Fearful Picture of God's Wrath  
and**

**A Comforting Picture of God's Love**



# **Devoured** or **Delivered**

A **Fearful Picture of God's Wrath**

and

A **Comforting Picture of God's Love**

**Which one will you choose?**

