calvary chapel portsmouth

OUR HOPE IN HIS RESURRECTION!



A topical study of the foundation of our faith

The Bedrock of Christianity

- Paul contends that basis of Christianity is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- If that event is not true, Christianity is not true!
- Christianity is not based on Christ's teaching, character, or the numerous miracles in His life...

The Bedrock of Christianity

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is
Christ not risen:
14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain,
and your faith is also vain.
15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because
we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom
he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

1 Corinthians 15:13-15

The Bedrock of Christianity

"1 Corinthians fixes belief in the historical resurrection of Jesus as the indispensable basis of salvation"

– B. L. Shelley,

Church history in plain language

The Bedrock of Christianity

"Everything that Jesus Christ taught, lived and died for depended upon His resurrection"

– Josh McDowell

Author of Evidence That Demands a Verdict

The Bedrock of Christianity

"Where you stand with regard to the fact of the Resurrection is, in my eyes, no longer Christian theology. To me Christianity stands of falls with the Resurrection"

– *Theodosus Harnack:*

Josh McDowell,

Evidence That Demands a Verdict


PROVE IT!

OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE

Lord Lyndhurst (1772-1863), recognised as one of the greatest legal minds in British history wrote:

“I know pretty well what evidence is; and I tell you, such evidence as that for the Resurrection has never broken down yet.”

“History records that two young men, Gilbert West and Lord Lyttleton, went up to Oxford. They were friends of Dr. Johnson and Alexander Pope, in the swim of society. They were determined to attack the very basis of the Christian faith.

So Lyttleton settled down to prove that Saul of Tarsus was never converted to Christianity, and West to demonstrate that Jesus never rose from the tomb”

“Some time later, they met to discuss their findings. Both were a little sheepish. For they had both come to similar and disturbing conclusions. Lyttleton found, on examination, that Saul of Tarsus did become a radically new man through his conversation to Christianity, and West found that the evidence pointed unmistakably to the fact that Jesus did rise from the dead.

– Observations on the History and Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ –

Published 1747

Frank Morison was a British journalist and skeptic who believed the Resurrection was a "myth" that needed to be stripped away from the life of Jesus. He set out to write a book entitled Who Moved the Stone? to provide a purely naturalistic explanation for the empty tomb. He found the evidence so compelling that the first chapter of his finished book is titled "The Book That Refused to Be Written."

Lee Strobel was an award-winning legal editor for the Chicago Tribune and a staunch atheist. When his wife converted to Christianity, he used his legal and journalistic training to systematically "dismantle" the faith by interviewing world-class scholars.

After two years of investigation, he concluded the evidence for the Resurrection was overwhelming. He wrote “The Case for Christ”

Simon Greenleaf was one of the founders of Harvard Law School and wrote the authoritative 19th-century text on the legal rules of evidence.
He was challenged by students to apply his own rules of legal evidence to the New Testament accounts of the Resurrection.
He concluded that the testimony of the Evangelists would be considered reliable and "true" in any unbiased court of law.
He published An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists in 1846.

C.S. Lewis is often remembered as a writer of fiction. He was a brilliant Oxford academic and a hardened atheist. He famously described himself as the "most dejected and reluctant convert in all England" when he finally gave in to the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus!

His work Mere Christianity remains one of the most influential defenses of the faith ever written.

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- Eyewitness accounts
  - Luke / Matthew / Peter / John / Paul etc.
- Written Testimony
  - Josephus / Pilate / Marcion / Roman officials
- Physical Evidence
  - The moved stone / The empty tomb / the Temple curtain
- Circumstantial Evidence

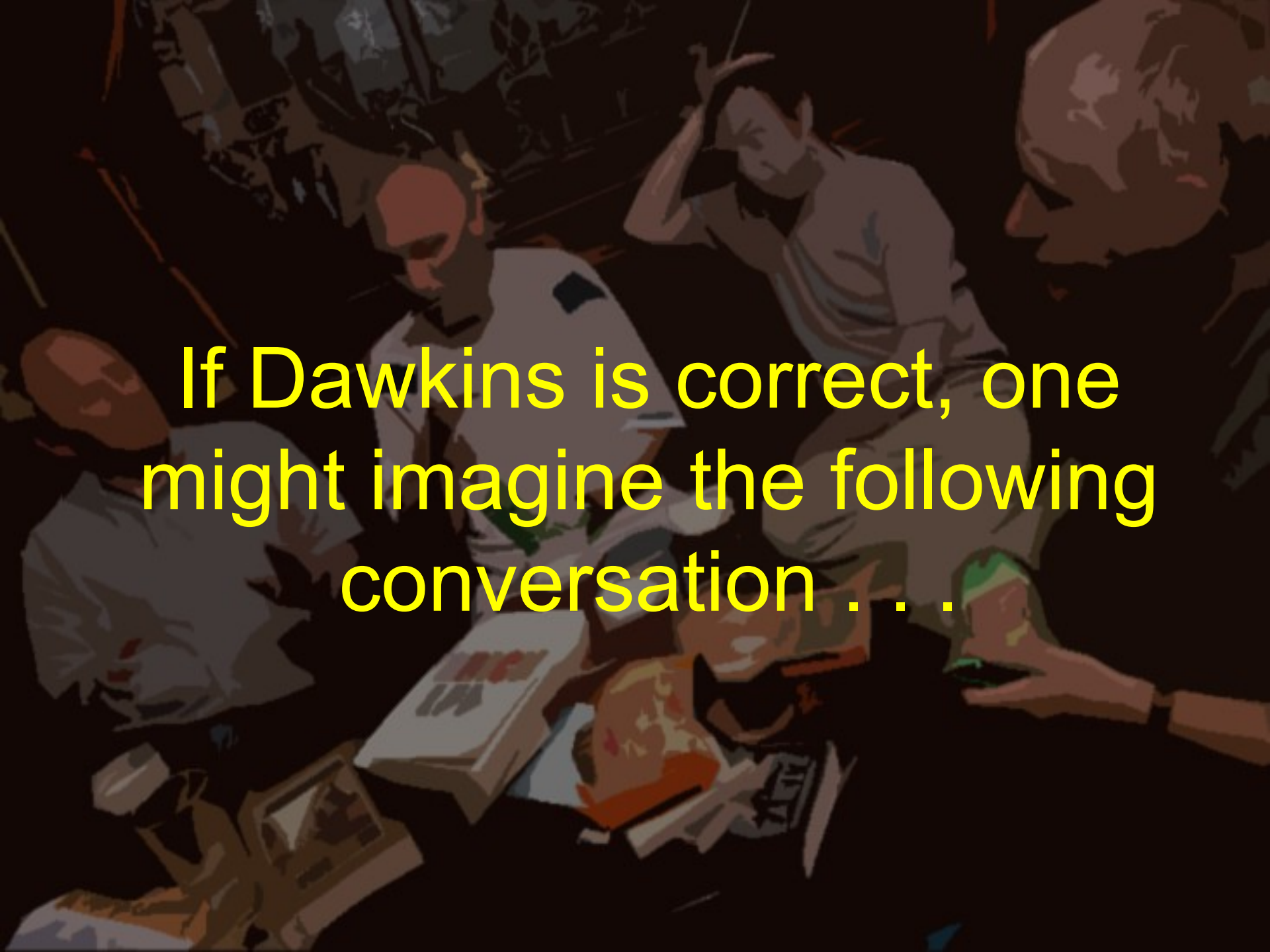
EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS

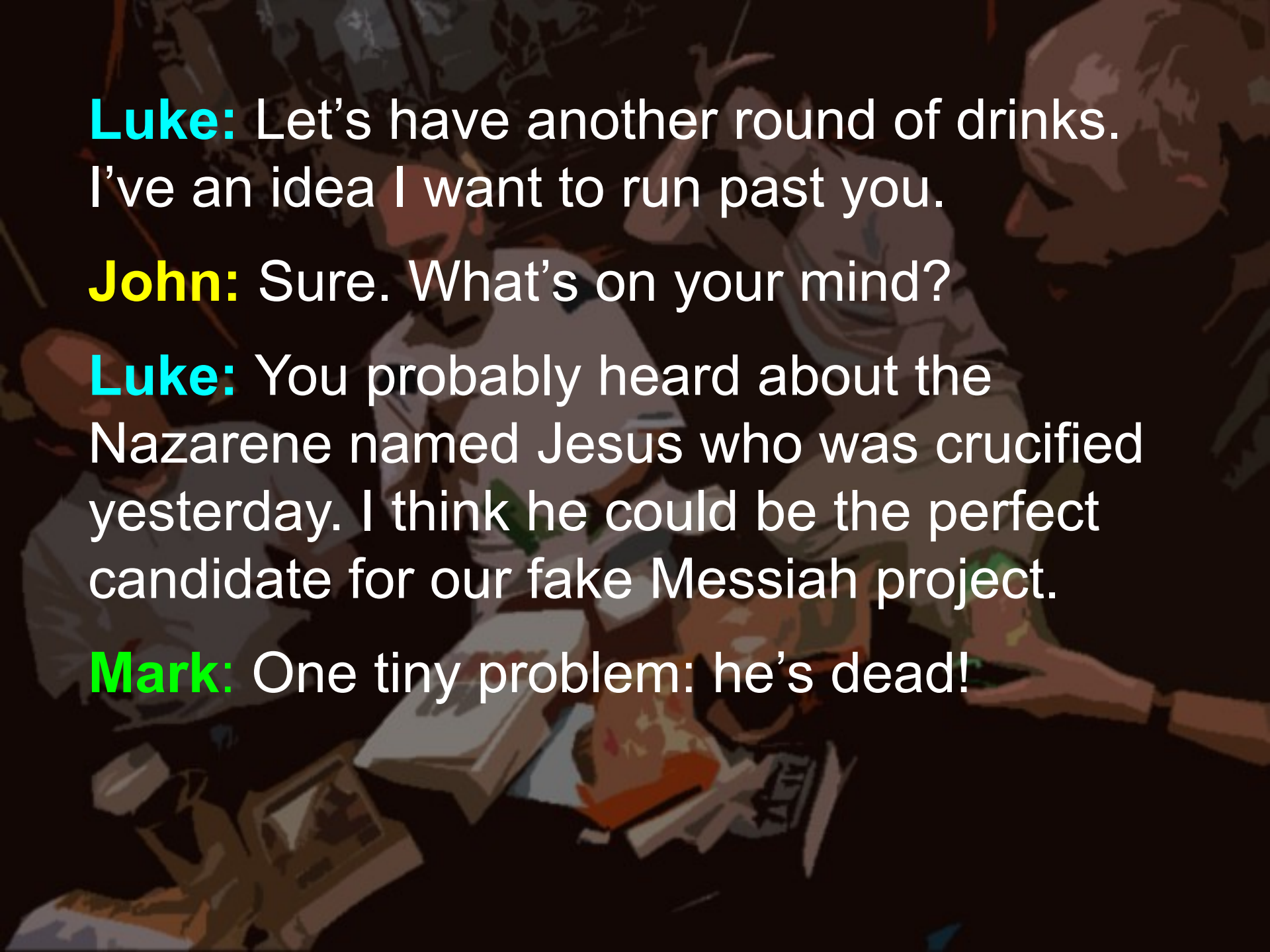
“eyewitness testimony is one of the most powerful tools in a courtroom…When multiple witnesses attest to the same facts, the evidence becomes significantly more powerful”

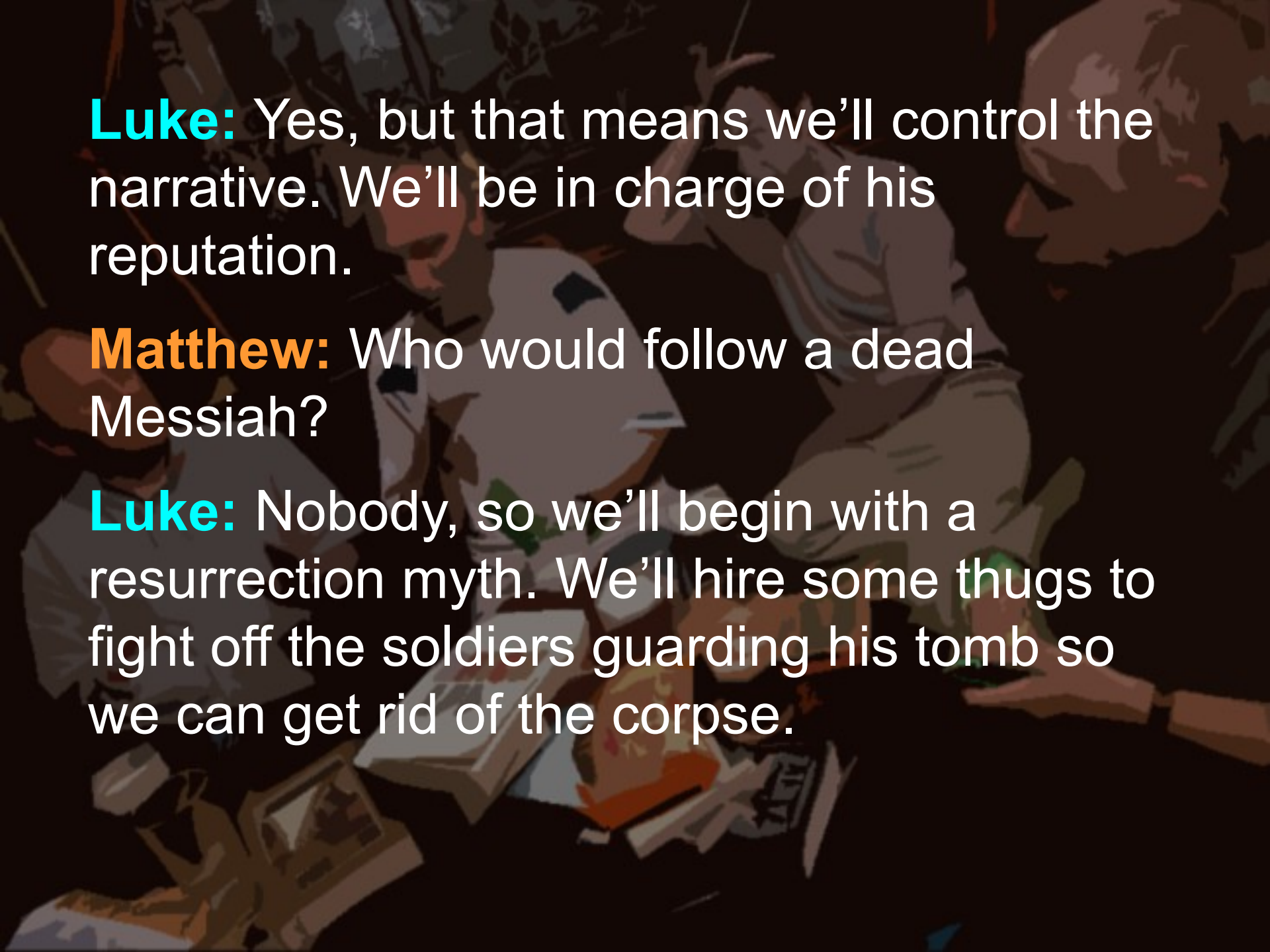
- *“Nobody knows who the four evangelists were, but they almost certainly never met Jesus personally. Much of what they wrote was in no sense an honest attempt at history. . . . The gospels are ancient fiction.”*

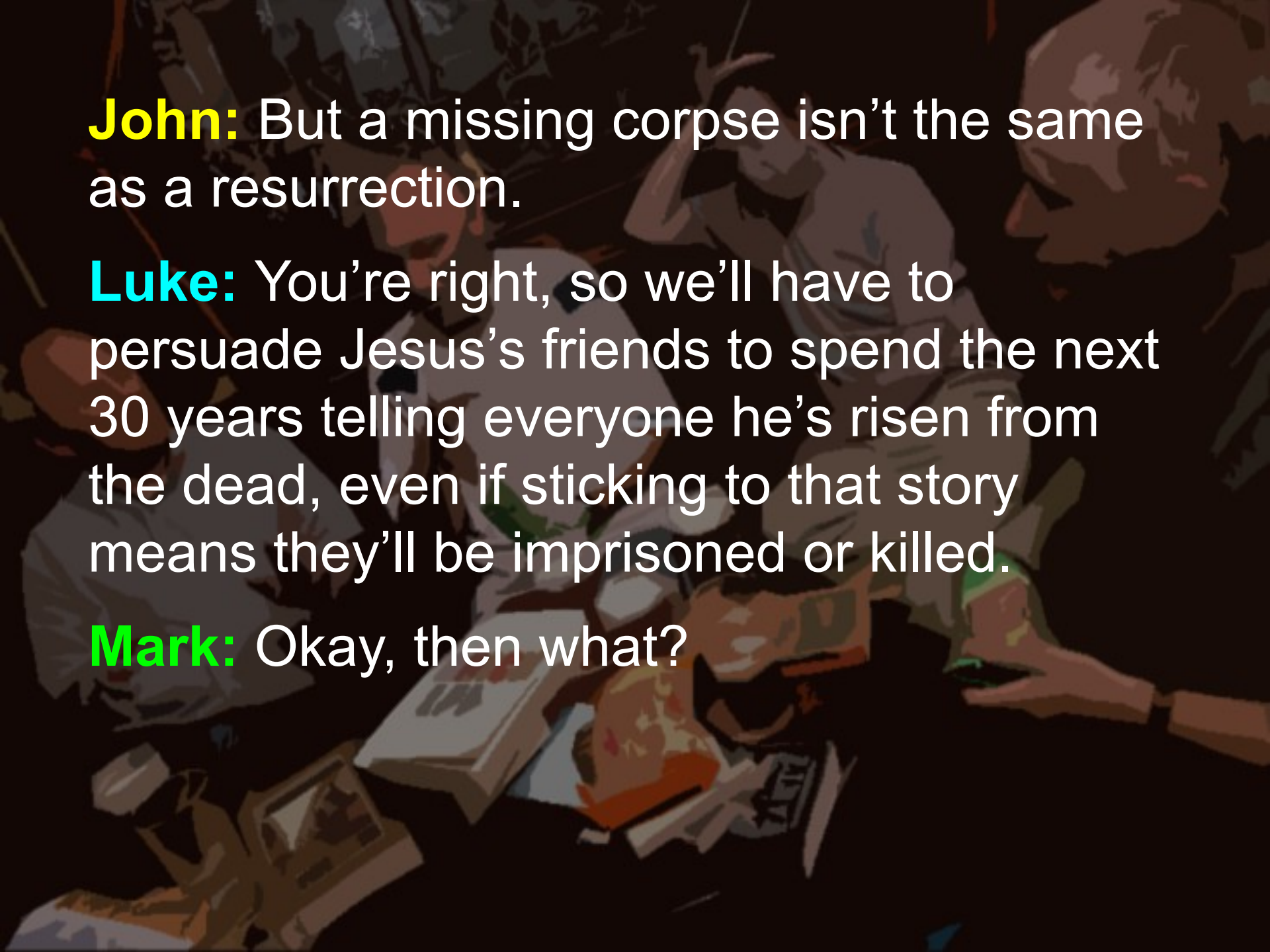
– Richard Dawkins, *“The God Delusion”*

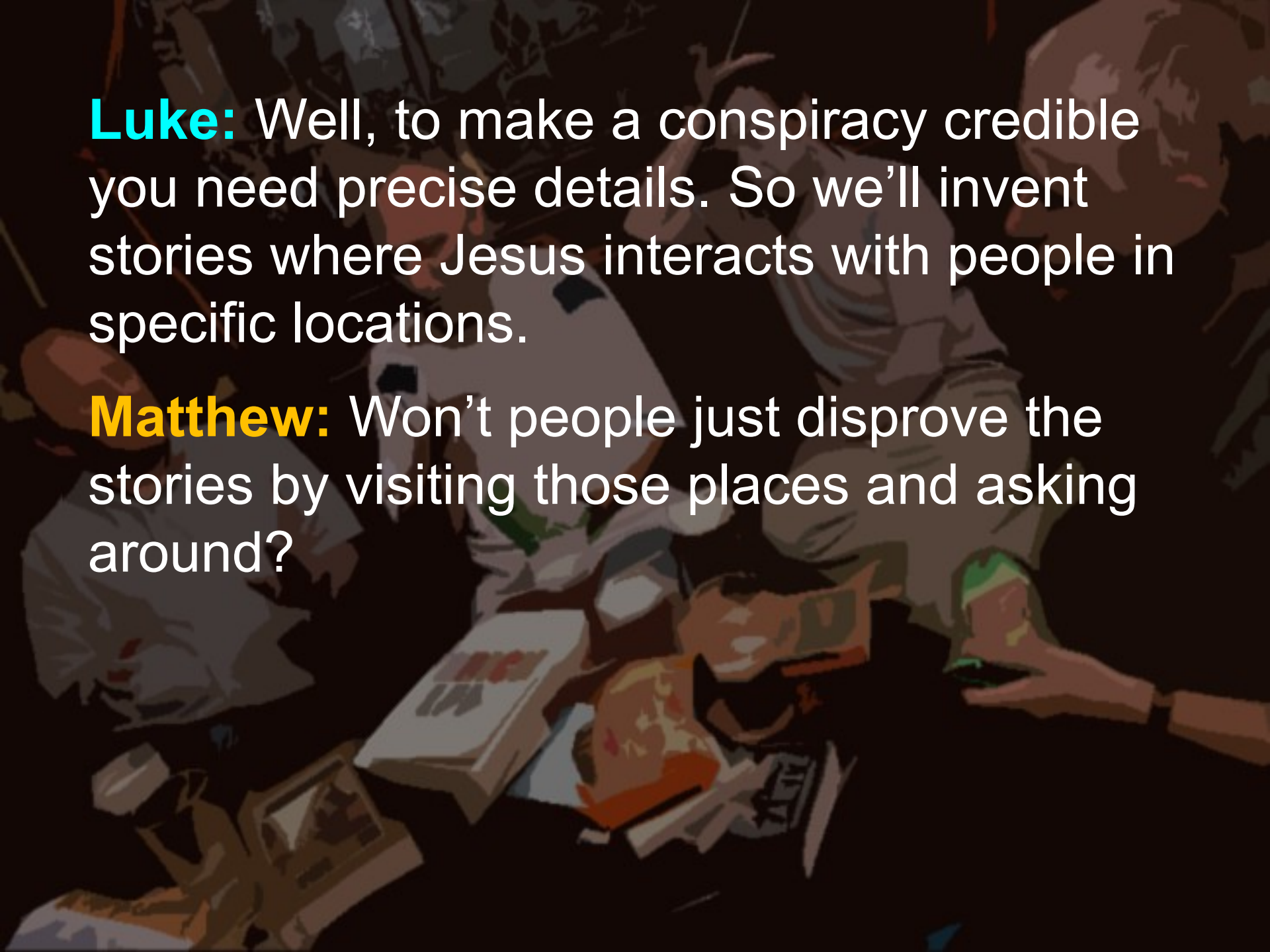


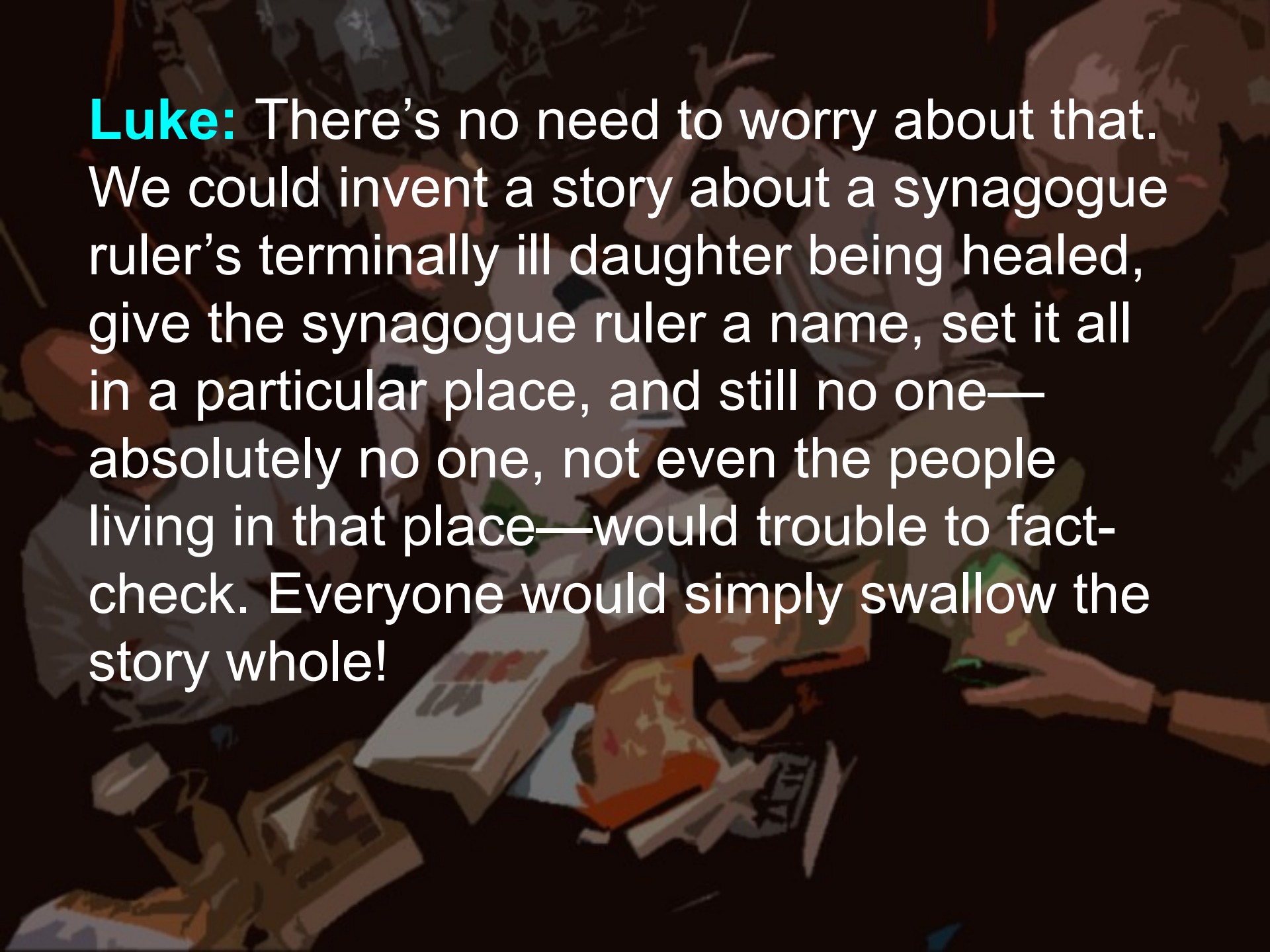

If Dawkins is correct, one might imagine the following conversation . . .

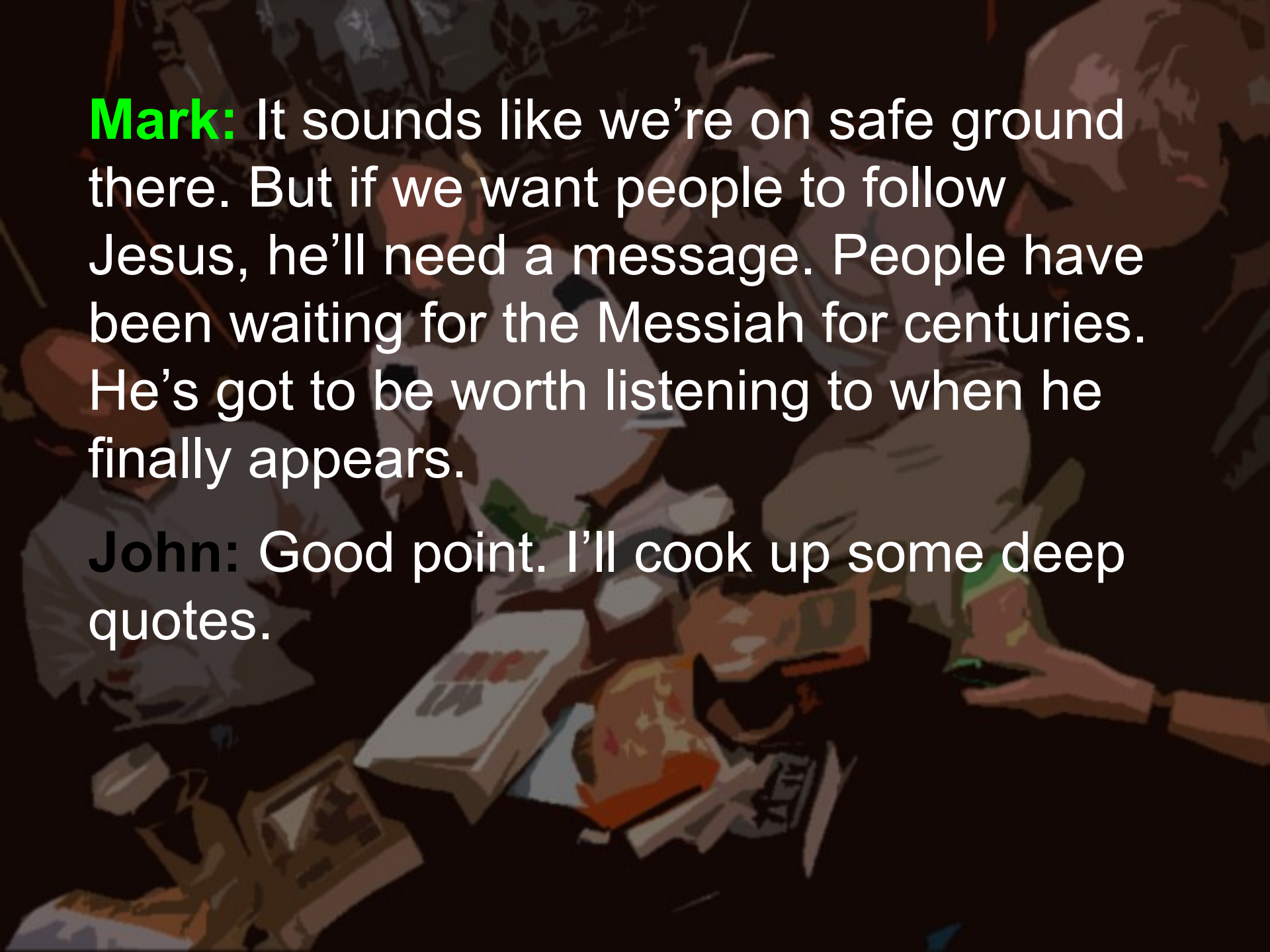

Luke: Let's have another round of drinks. I've an idea I want to run past you.
John: Sure. What's on your mind?
Luke: You probably heard about the Nazarene named Jesus who was crucified yesterday. I think he could be the perfect candidate for our fake Messiah project.
Mark: One tiny problem: he's dead!


Luke: Yes, but that means we'll control the narrative. We'll be in charge of his reputation.
Matthew: Who would follow a dead Messiah?
Luke: Nobody, so we'll begin with a resurrection myth. We'll hire some thugs to fight off the soldiers guarding his tomb so we can get rid of the corpse.


John: But a missing corpse isn't the same as a resurrection.
Luke: You're right, so we'll have to persuade Jesus's friends to spend the next 30 years telling everyone he's risen from the dead, even if sticking to that story means they'll be imprisoned or killed.
Mark: Okay, then what?

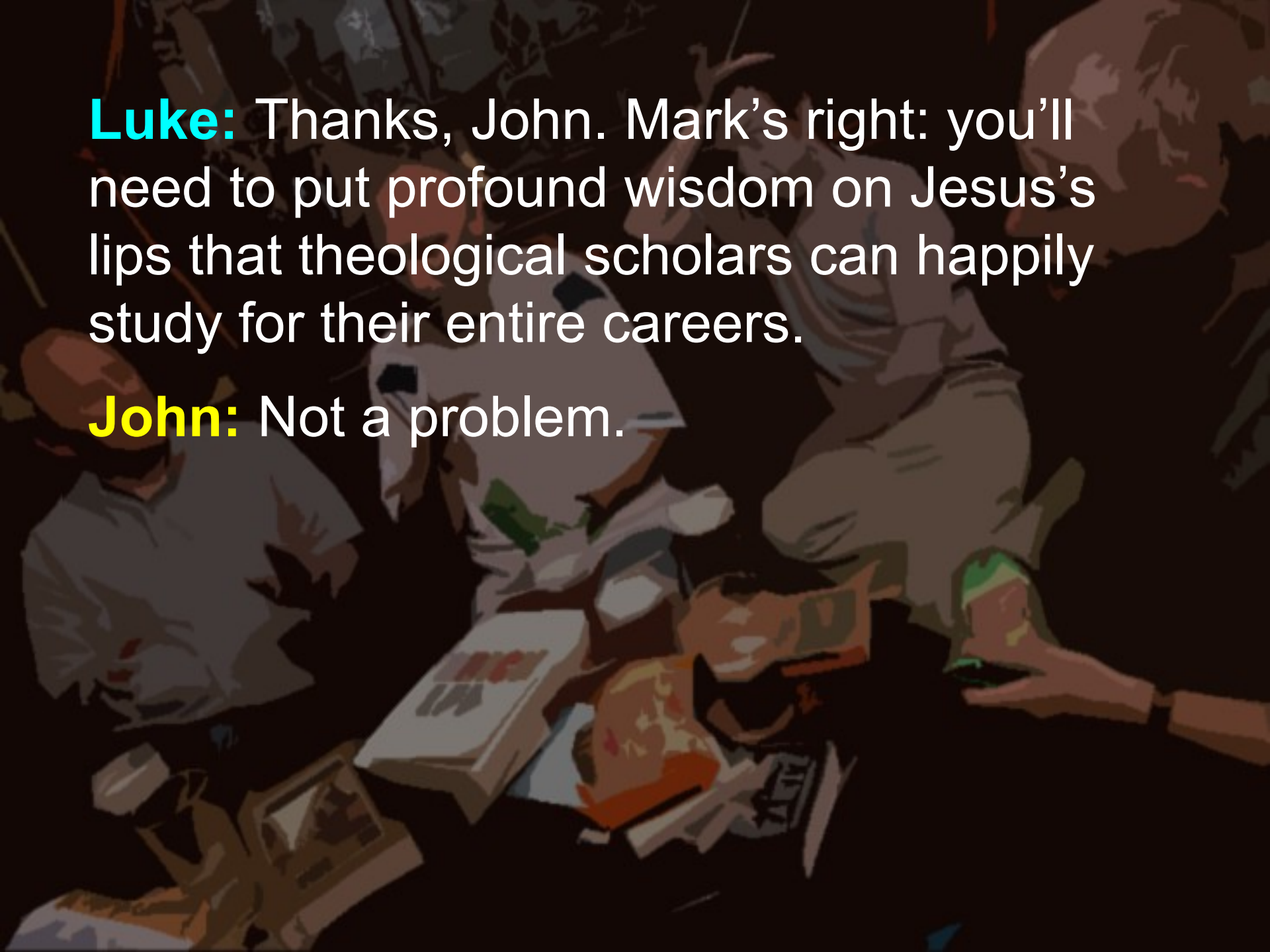

Luke: Well, to make a conspiracy credible you need precise details. So we'll invent stories where Jesus interacts with people in specific locations.
Matthew: Won't people just disprove the stories by visiting those places and asking around?

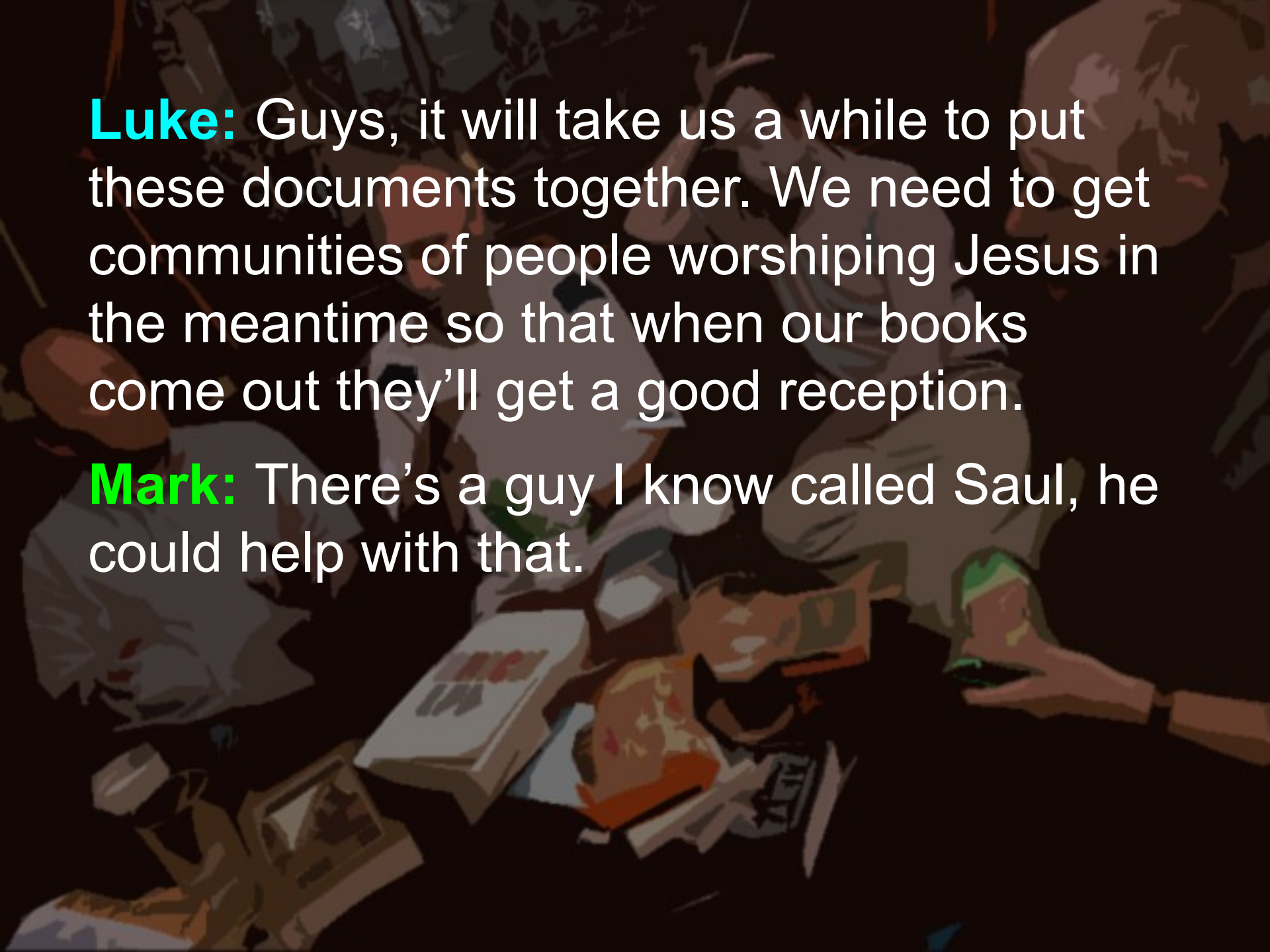

Luke: There's no need to worry about that. We could invent a story about a synagogue ruler's terminally ill daughter being healed, give the synagogue ruler a name, set it all in a particular place, and still no one—absolutely no one, not even the people living in that place—would trouble to fact-check. Everyone would simply swallow the story whole!

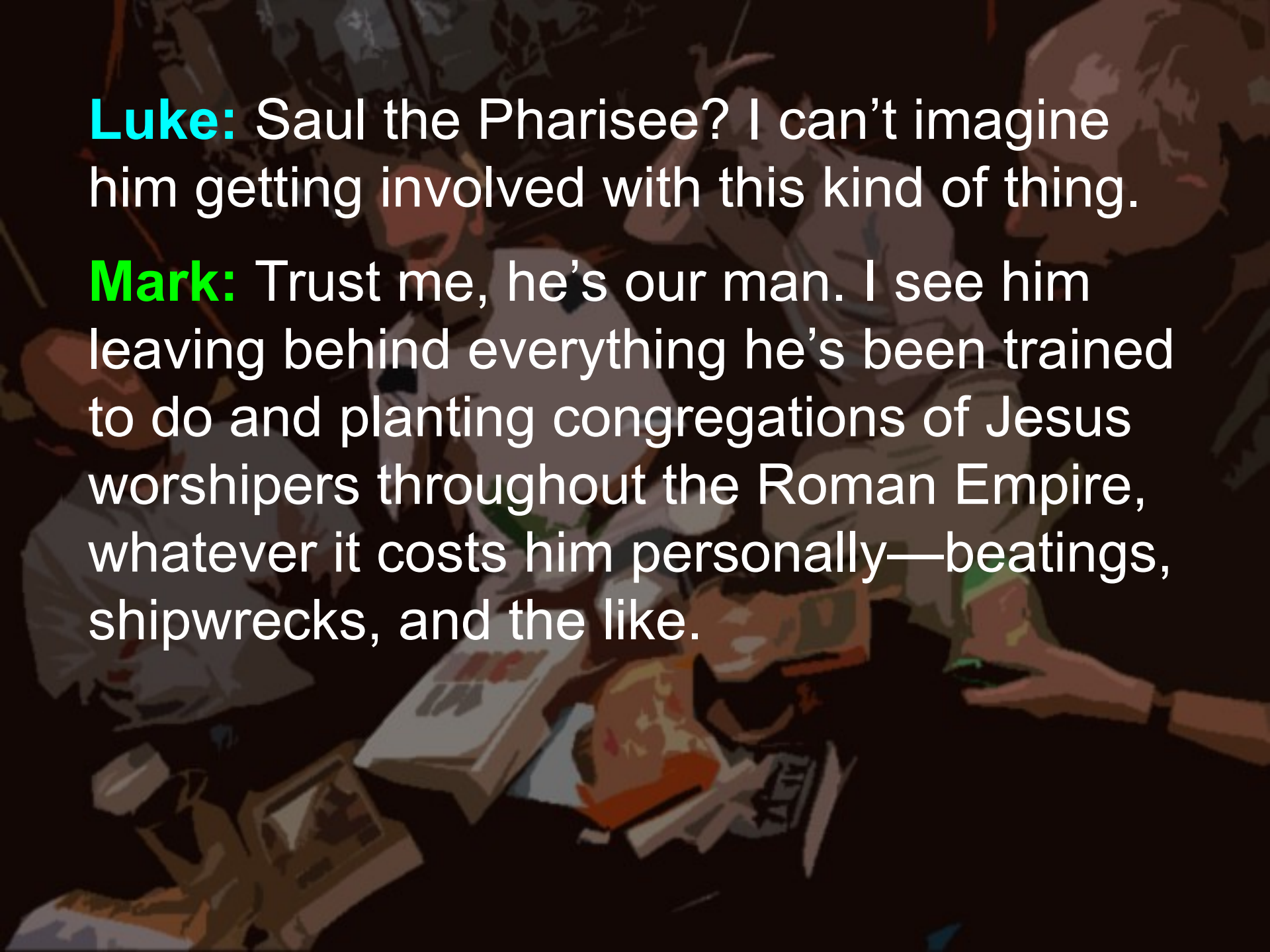


Mark: It sounds like we're on safe ground there. But if we want people to follow Jesus, he'll need a message. People have been waiting for the Messiah for centuries. He's got to be worth listening to when he finally appears.

John: Good point. I'll cook up some deep quotes.

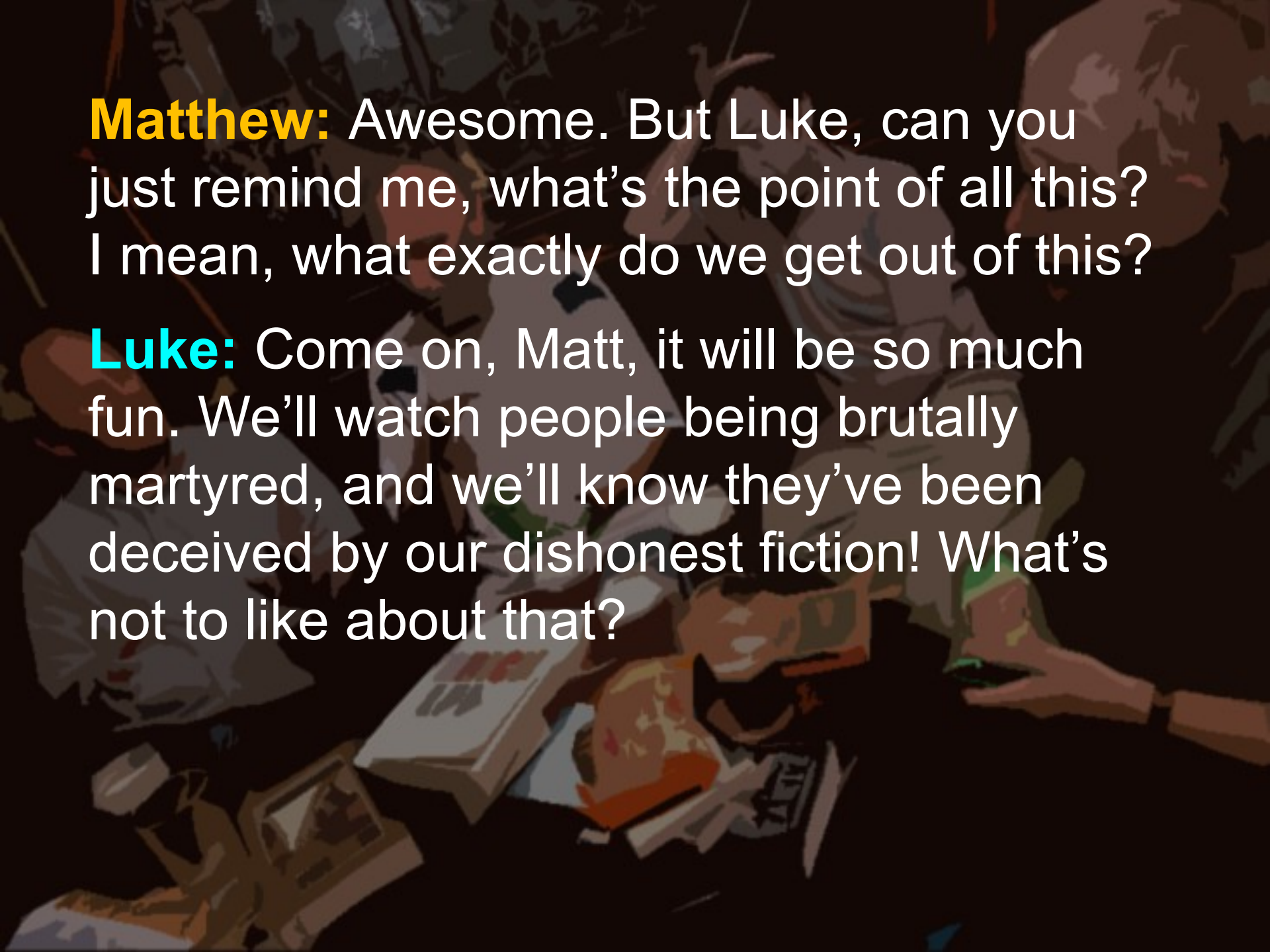

Luke: Thanks, John. Mark's right: you'll need to put profound wisdom on Jesus's lips that theological scholars can happily study for their entire careers.
John: Not a problem.


Luke: Guys, it will take us a while to put these documents together. We need to get communities of people worshiping Jesus in the meantime so that when our books come out they'll get a good reception.
Mark: There's a guy I know called Saul, he could help with that.



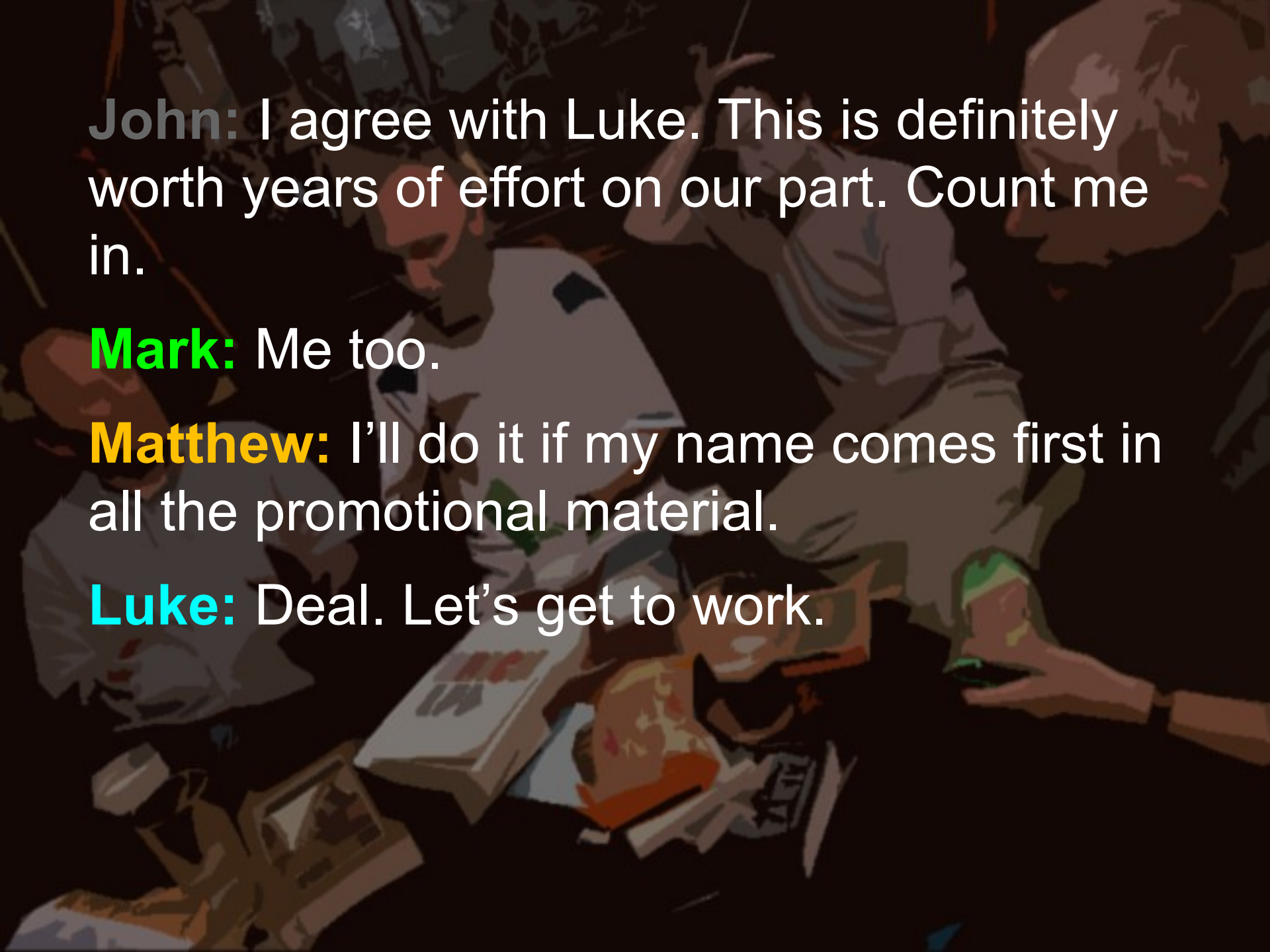
Luke: Saul the Pharisee? I can't imagine him getting involved with this kind of thing.

Mark: Trust me, he's our man. I see him leaving behind everything he's been trained to do and planting congregations of Jesus worshipers throughout the Roman Empire, whatever it costs him personally—beatings, shipwrecks, and the like.



Matthew: Awesome. But Luke, can you just remind me, what's the point of all this? I mean, what exactly do we get out of this?

Luke: Come on, Matt, it will be so much fun. We'll watch people being brutally martyred, and we'll know they've been deceived by our dishonest fiction! What's not to like about that?


John: I agree with Luke. This is definitely worth years of effort on our part. Count me in.
Mark: Me too.
Matthew: I'll do it if my name comes first in all the promotional material.
Luke: Deal. Let's get to work.

“As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidence for the events of the first Easter Day. To me the evidence is conclusive, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling. Inference follows on evidence, and a truthful witness is always artless and distains effect. The Gospel evidence for the resurrection is of this class, and as a lawyer I accept it unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts they were able to substantiate”

Sir Edward Clarke:

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- Eyewitness accounts
  - Luke / Matthew / Peter / John / Paul etc.
- Written Testimony
  - Josephus / Pilate / Marcion / Roman officials
- Physical Evidence
  - The moved stone / The empty tomb / the Temple curtain
- Circumstantial Evidence

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

“a written document provides a permanent record of an individual's recollection…The primary value of written testimony is consistency. Because memory fades and changes over time, a statement written shortly after an event acts as an "anchor."”

The Acta Pilati

- *"Important testimony of Pontius Pilate, recently discovered, being his official report to the Emperor Tiberius, concerning the crucifixion of Christ"*

  - by George Sluter 1837-1908

- Original Manuscript is in the Vatican

  - https://archive.org/details/actapilatiiimport00slut

The Acta Pilati

Justin Martyr, in his first apology for the Christians, which was presented to the Emperor Antoninus Pius, in the year A. D., 138, having mentioned the Crucifixion of Jesus and some of its attendant circumstances, says:

"And that these things were so done, you may know from the Acts made in the time of Pontius Pilate." - by George Sluter 1837-1908

See also: "The Evidence of the Prophecies" (also known as *Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion*) by **Alexander Keith**, first published around **1823**.

The Acta Pilati

The learned Tertullian, in his Apology for Christianity, about the year 200, after speaking of our Savior's crucifixion and resurrection, and his appearance to the disciples, who were ordained by him to publish the Gospel over the world, thus proceeds:

"Of all these things relating to Christ, Pilate himself, in his conscience already a Christian, sent an account to Tiberius, then Emperor."

- by George Sluter 1837-1908

See also: "The Evidence of the Prophecies" (also known as *Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion*) by **Alexander Keith**, first published around **1823**.

The Acta Pilati

- It is Pilate's report to Emperor Caesar concerning the events of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
- He details:
  - What happened regarding the crucifixion
  - The kind of man Jesus was
  - That Jesus had been granted freedom to teach the people
  - That wealthy people didn't like Jesus on account of his support for the poor

The Acta Pilati

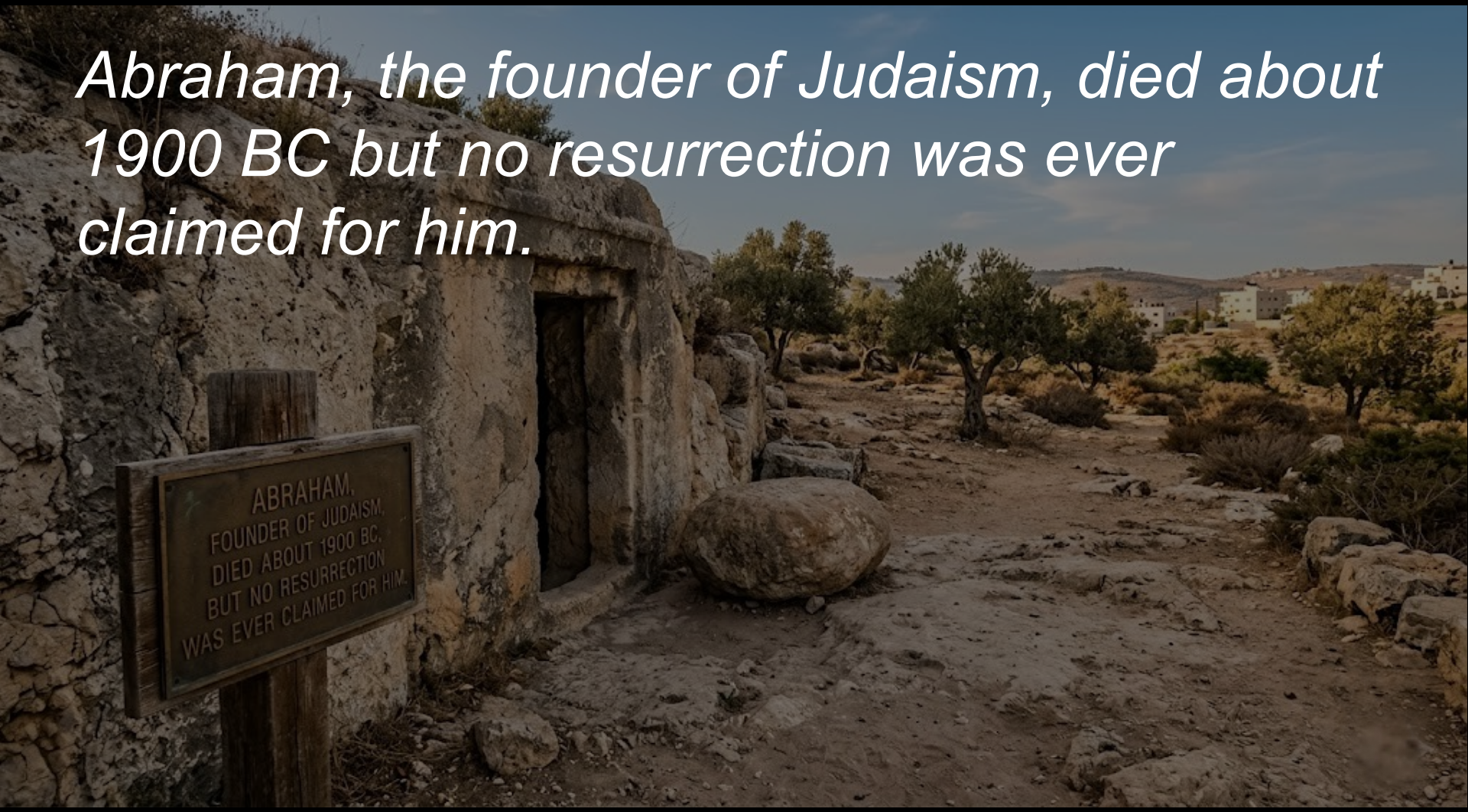
- It is Pilate's report to Emperor Caesar concerning the events of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
- He details:
  - Miraculous events at the tomb of Jesus
    - That a brilliant light was seen
    - That an angelic being appeared
    - That there was an earthquake
    - That trained Roman guards collapsed in terror
    - And that they actually saw Jesus risen from the dead
    - But that they were then given money to keep quiet

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

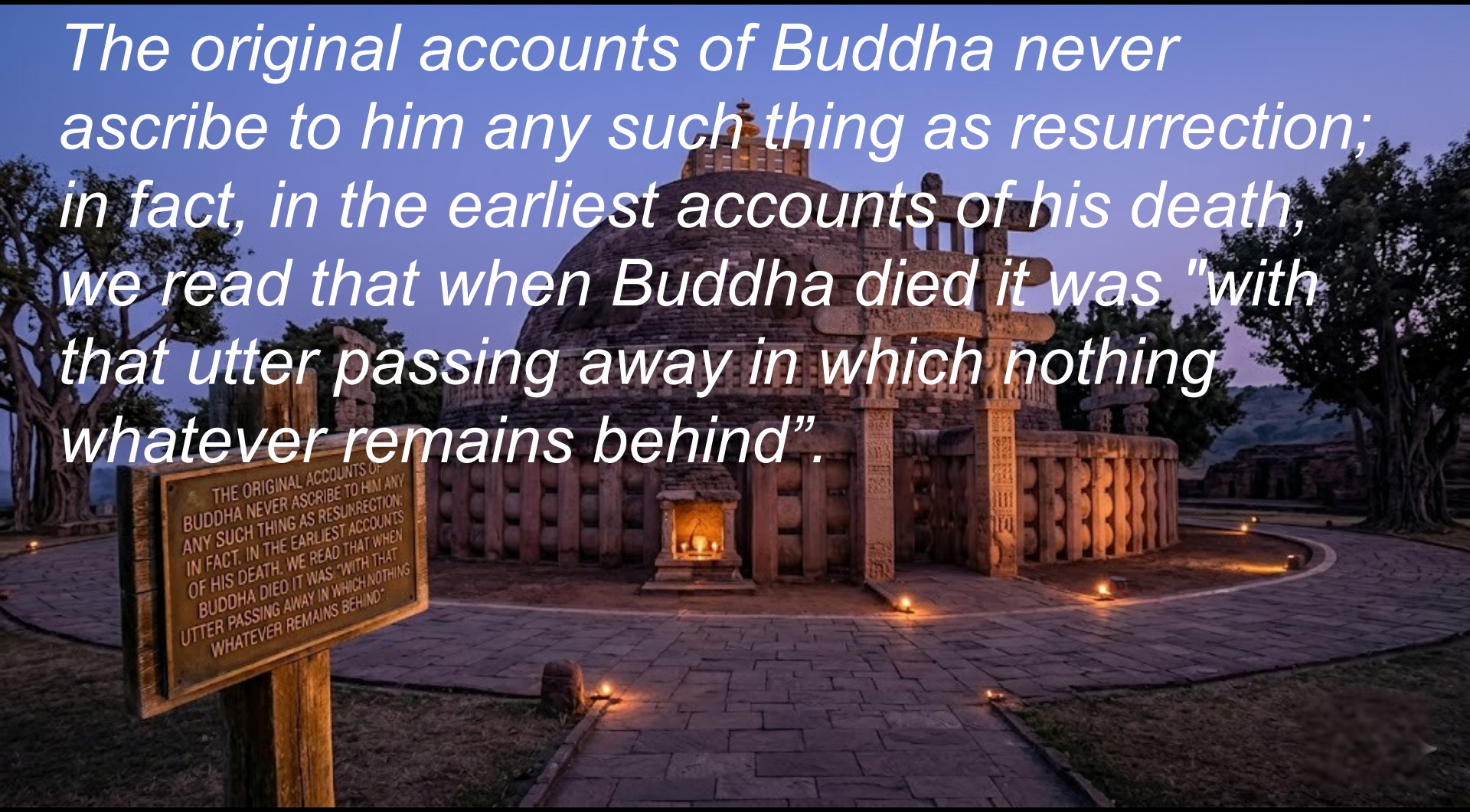
- Eyewitness accounts
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PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

All but four of the major world religions are based on mere philosophical propositions. Of the four that are based on personalities rather than a philosophical system, only Christianity claims an empty tomb for its founder

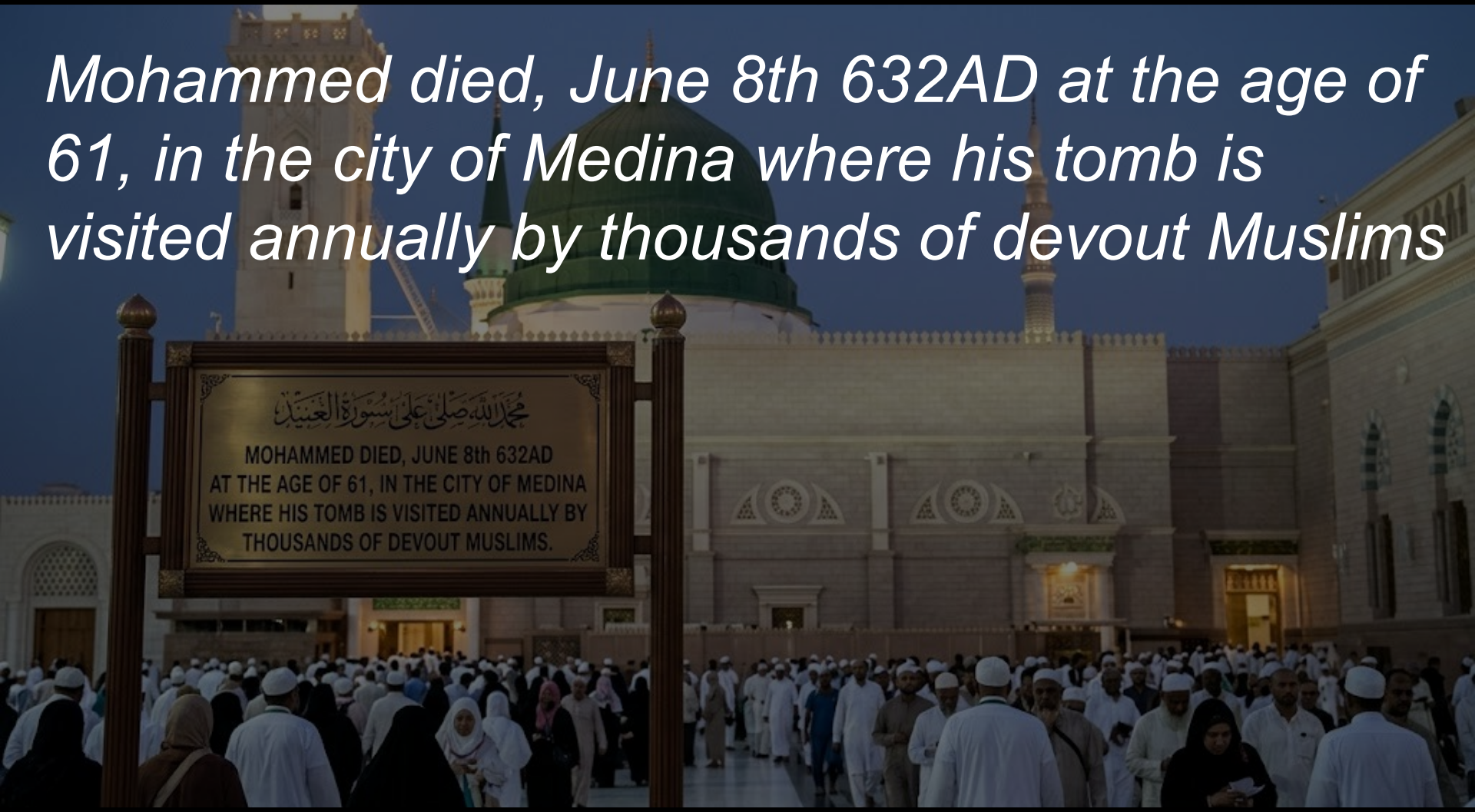


Abraham, the founder of Judaism, died about 1900 BC but no resurrection was ever claimed for him.

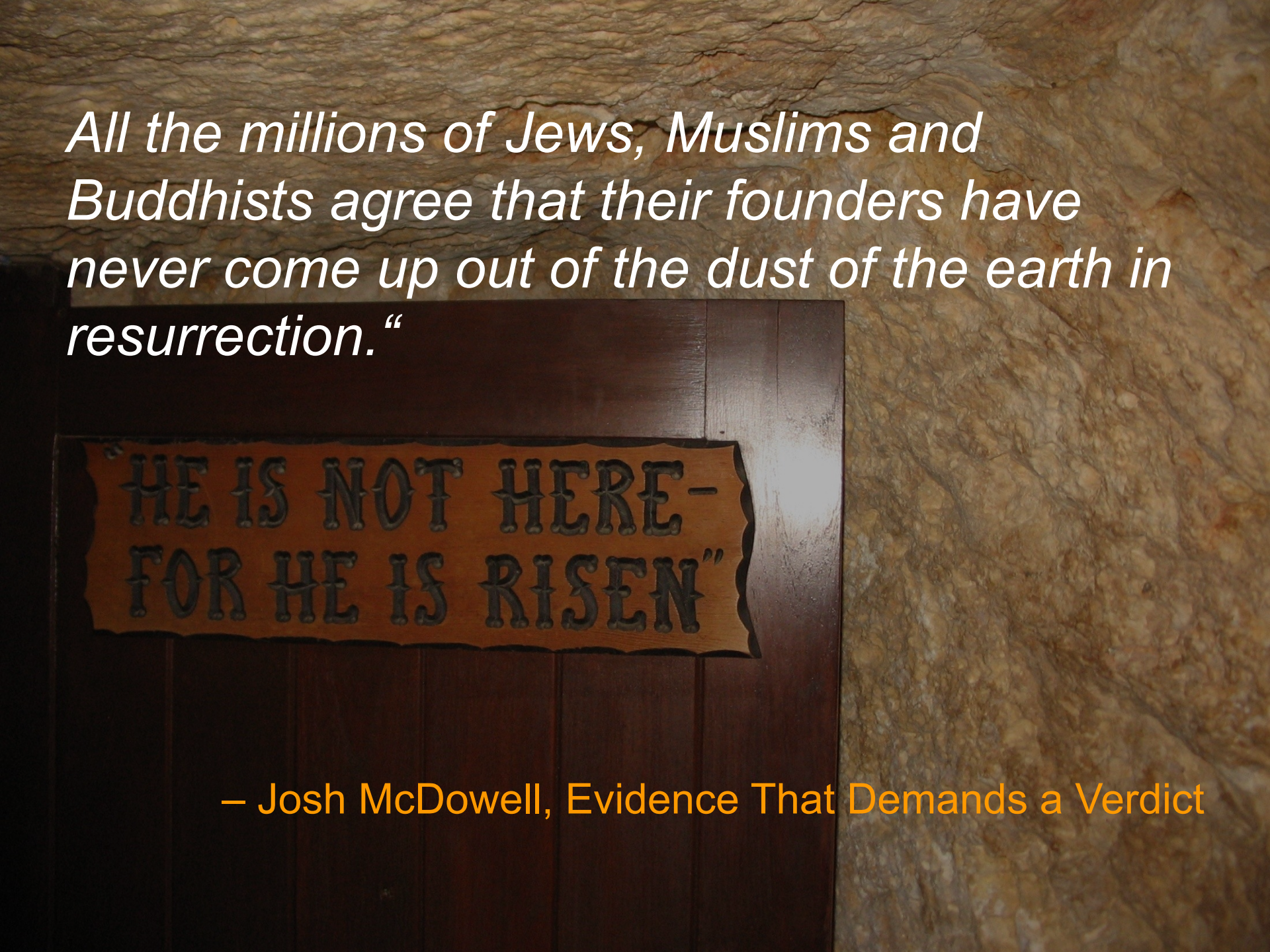


The original accounts of Buddha never ascribe to him any such thing as resurrection; in fact, in the earliest accounts of his death, we read that when Buddha died it was "with that utter passing away in which nothing whatever remains behind".

Mohammed died, June 8th 632AD at the age of 61, in the city of Medina where his tomb is visited annually by thousands of devout Muslims



All the millions of Jews, Muslims and Buddhists agree that their founders have never come up out of the dust of the earth in resurrection.“



– Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict


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Jesus' Tomb

was either....

Occupied or Empty

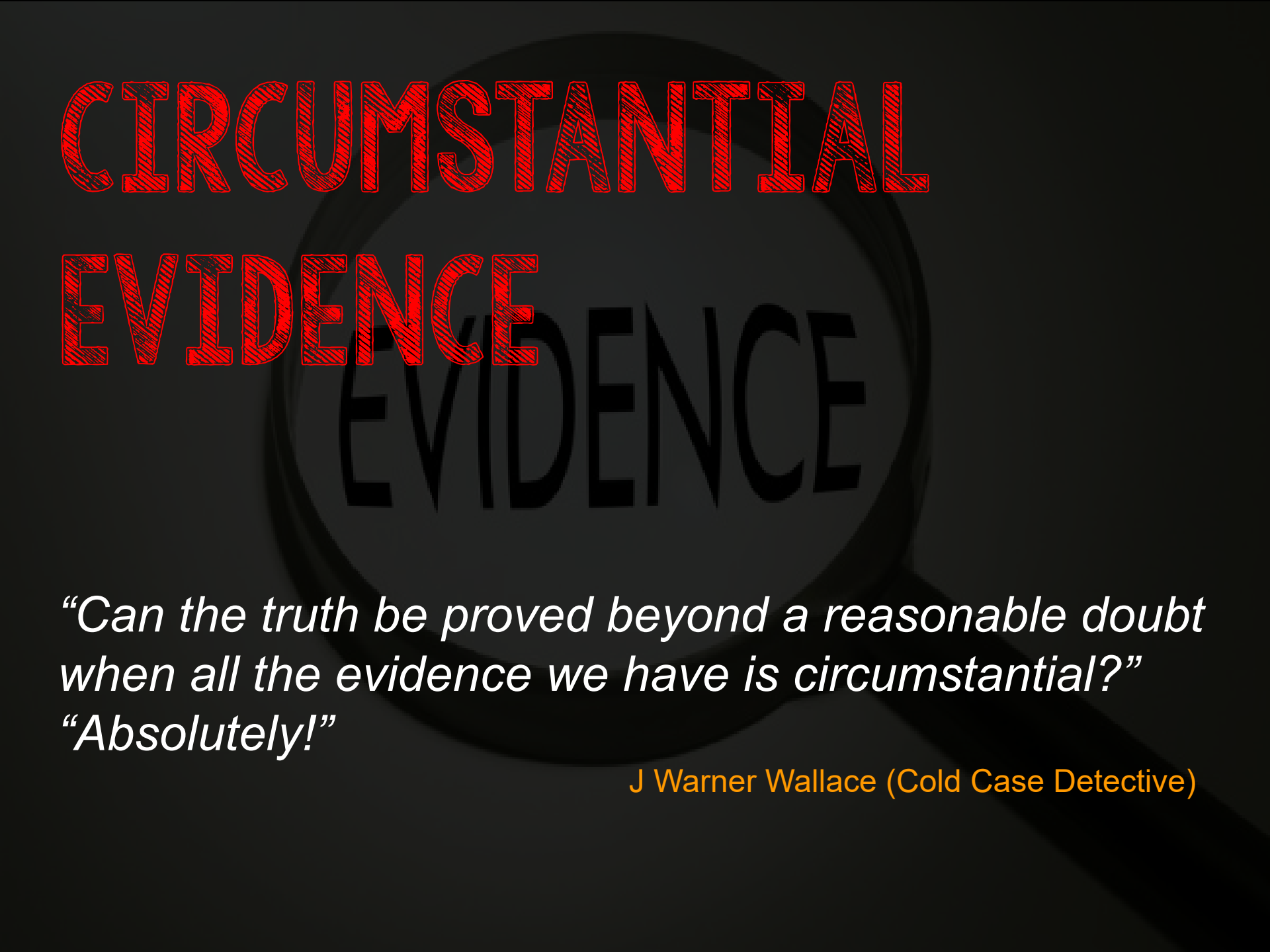
- Occupied
  - Unknown tomb
  - Wrong tomb
  - Legend
  - 'Spiritual' resurrection
  - Hallucinations
- Empty
  - Natural
    - Stolen by disciples
    - Moved by authorities
    - Jesus just fainted
    - The Passover Plot
  - Supernatural
    - Jesus rose from the dead!
      - He Is God!

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TYPES OF EVIDENCE

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CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE



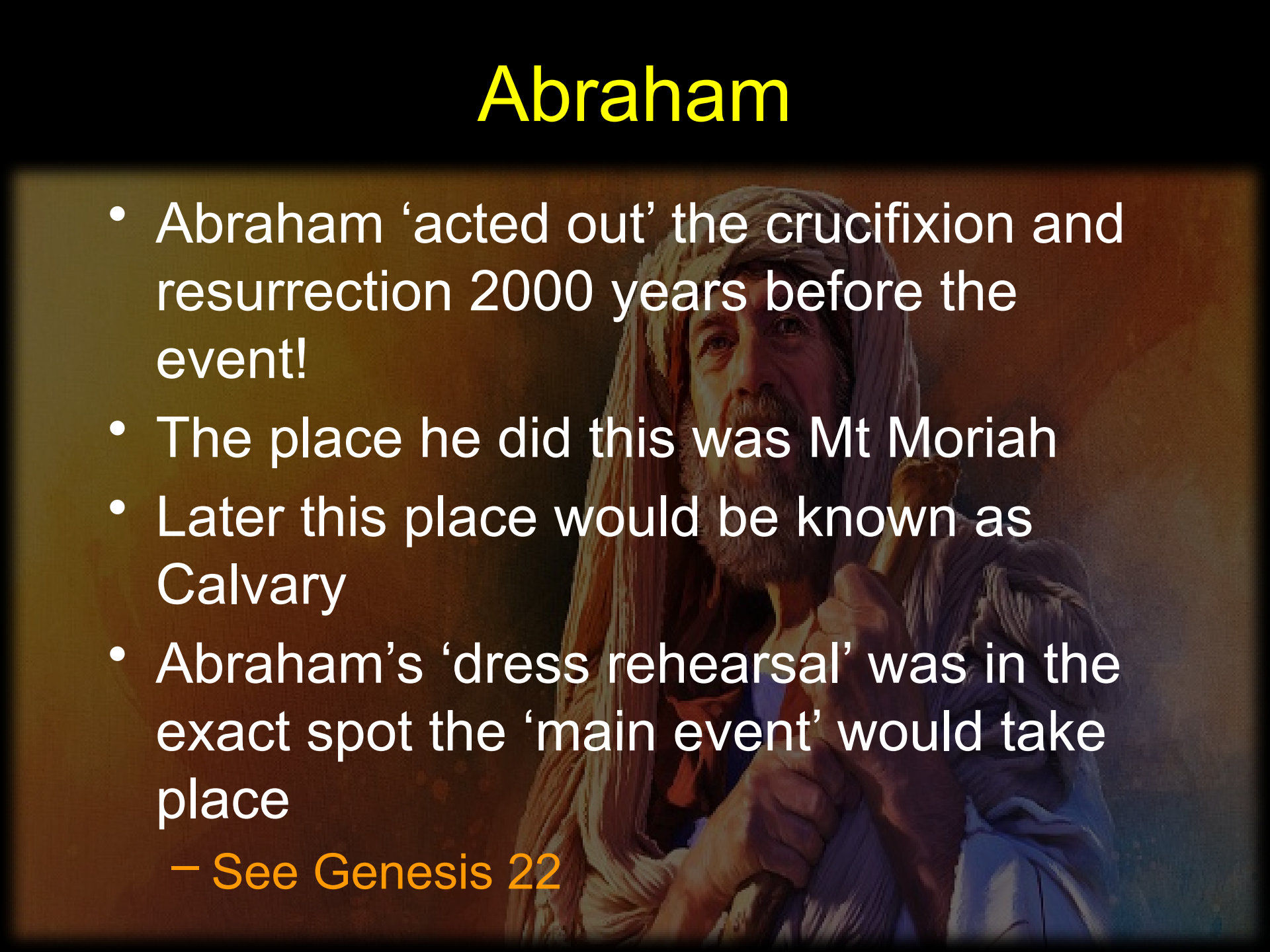
"Can the truth be proved beyond a reasonable doubt when all the evidence we have is circumstantial?"
"Absolutely!"

J Warner Wallace (Cold Case Detective)

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
- The testimony of the Roman guards
- The transformation of the disciples
- The Gospel

Abraham



- Abraham ‘acted out’ the crucifixion and resurrection 2000 years before the event!
- The place he did this was Mt Moriah
- Later this place would be known as Calvary
- Abraham’s ‘dress rehearsal’ was in the exact spot the ‘main event’ would take place
  - See Genesis 22

David

- David recorded 1000 years in advance the very words Jesus would speak on the Cross…
- …and declares that Jesus' body would not remain in the grave
  - See Psalm 22

Isaiah

- 700 years before Jesus came, Isaiah records many specific details of Jesus arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial and the specific reason for His death.
- Isaiah also prophesies that the resurrected Messiah will rule the whole earth.
  - See Isaiah 53 / 60-61 / 9:6-7

Daniel

- 500 years before Jesus was born, Daniel records the very day Jesus would enter Jerusalem as king (Palm Sunday)
- He records that the Messiah would be killed for the sake of others
- He then records that after His death He will one day return to rule the whole earth!
  - See Daniel Ch2 / Ch9

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
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Caesarea Philippi

c.Autumn/Winter A.D. 31

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matthew 16:21

At Galilee...

22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them,
The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:
23 And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be
raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Matt 17:22-23

To Jerusalem…

18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man
shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the
scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,
19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to
scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall
rise again.

Matt 20:18-19

C.S. Lewis stated:

- *"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg —or else he would be the Devil of Hell.*

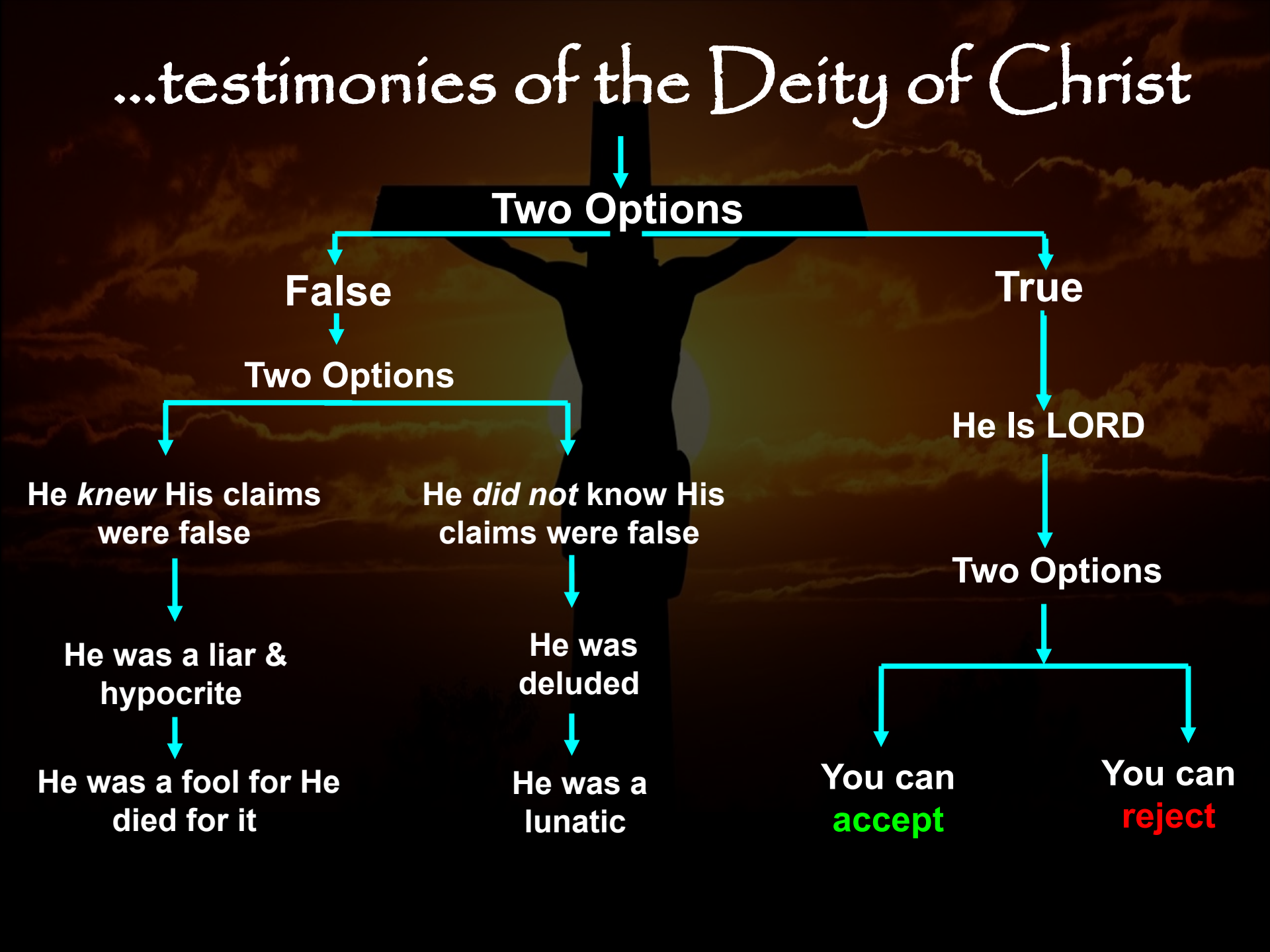
- *You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. . . .*
- *Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God".*

(Mere Christianity, 55-56)

...testimonies of the Deity of Christ

- Jesus claimed to be God's Son
- He claimed He was one with God
- He claimed to be the Messiah
- He claimed to be the only way to God
- He claimed all judgment was committed to Him
- He claimed He would rise again from the Dead

...testimonies of the Deity of Christ



CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
- The testimony of the Roman guards
- The transformation of the disciples
- The Gospel

57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of
Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was
Jesus' disciple:
58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then
Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

Matthew 27:57-58

- Some victims of crucifixion would last days
  - The longest recorded was 13 days
  - The shortest was 32 hours
- To fulfil prophecy not a bone of Jesus was broken

Joseph of Arimathaea

- This man was notably wealthy
- He was held in very high regard
- He is called ‘honourable counsellor’ Mk 15:43
- Only 14 such men in the history of the nation!
- He & Nichodemus are granted Jesus body
- This very act would cause them to be ‘excommunicated’ and lose their office
- They take Jesus, anoint Him, and put Him in Joseph’s tomb

62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Matthew 27:62-63

64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure
until the third day, lest his disciples come by night,
and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is
risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse
than the first.

65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way,
make it as sure as ye can.

66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing
the stone, and setting a watch.

Matthew 27:64-66

Resurrection Morning

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene,
and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had
bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint
him.
2 And very early in the morning the first day of the
week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of
the sun.
3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us
away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

Mark 16:1-3

Resurrection Morning

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the
angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came
and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon
it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment
white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became
as dead men.

Matt 28:2-4

The Official Story

11 ...behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

Matt 28:11-15

The Official Story

14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will
persuade him, and secure you.
15 So they took the money, and did as they were
taught: and this saying is commonly reported
among the Jews until this day.

Matt 28:11-15

The Royal Guard

- This “watch”, was a royal roman guard made up of 16 highly trained roman soldiers
- Each would have a spear, a short sword, and a dagger,
- Each man also had 5 javelins inside of a curved shield
- Their primary weapon however was a sling
- They were trained to hit a target 70 ft. away
- They were the special forces of their day

The Royal Guard

- And if a commanding officer came and found just one of those guards asleep all 16 men in the guard would be killed
- So if one fell asleep the other guards would set their tunic on fire!
- In 390 A.D. as Rome was beginning to fall apart, the then Caesar commanded Flavius Viratus Ronitus (historian) to search the archives for military and tactical inspiration
- As a result he reconstructed this elite unit

The Royal Guard

- The tomb was sealed - either with wax/clay
- Ropes would have been put across the stone, with the seal or Rome in the centre
- If anyone broke the seal, the punishment was to be crucified upside down,
- If they couldn't catch you, they would crucify upside down every man, woman and child in your village ,
- That tomb was sealed and secure!

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and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had
bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint
him.
2 And very early in the morning the first day of the
week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of
the sun.
3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us
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Mark 16:1-3

- The women didn't know about the Roman guard! – or they may well not have gone!

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Matthew 28:2-4

- How do we know this?
- Whose eyewitness testimony is this!

The Inside Story!

- In Israel there were tax collectors who would stay in their office and do the paperwork…
- And others who would go out and about and collect taxes from the public
- Matthew was the latter, called ‘publicans’
  - Because they collected from the public,
- As a servant of Rome he would always have had a roman soldier with him
  - With his shield and his spear to signify the authority of Rome,

The Inside Story!

- Matthew is the only Gospel writer to tell us what happened at the tomb…
- …that an angel came down, and rolled the stone away,
- …and what happened in the discussion with Pilate…
- …and that the soldiers didn't go to Pilate when they fled the tomb, but to the priests,
- …and that the priests paid the soldiers to keep quiet!

11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the
watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief
priests all the things that were done.

12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and
had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the
soldiers,

13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole
him away while we slept.

14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will
persuade him, and secure you.

Matthew 28:11-14

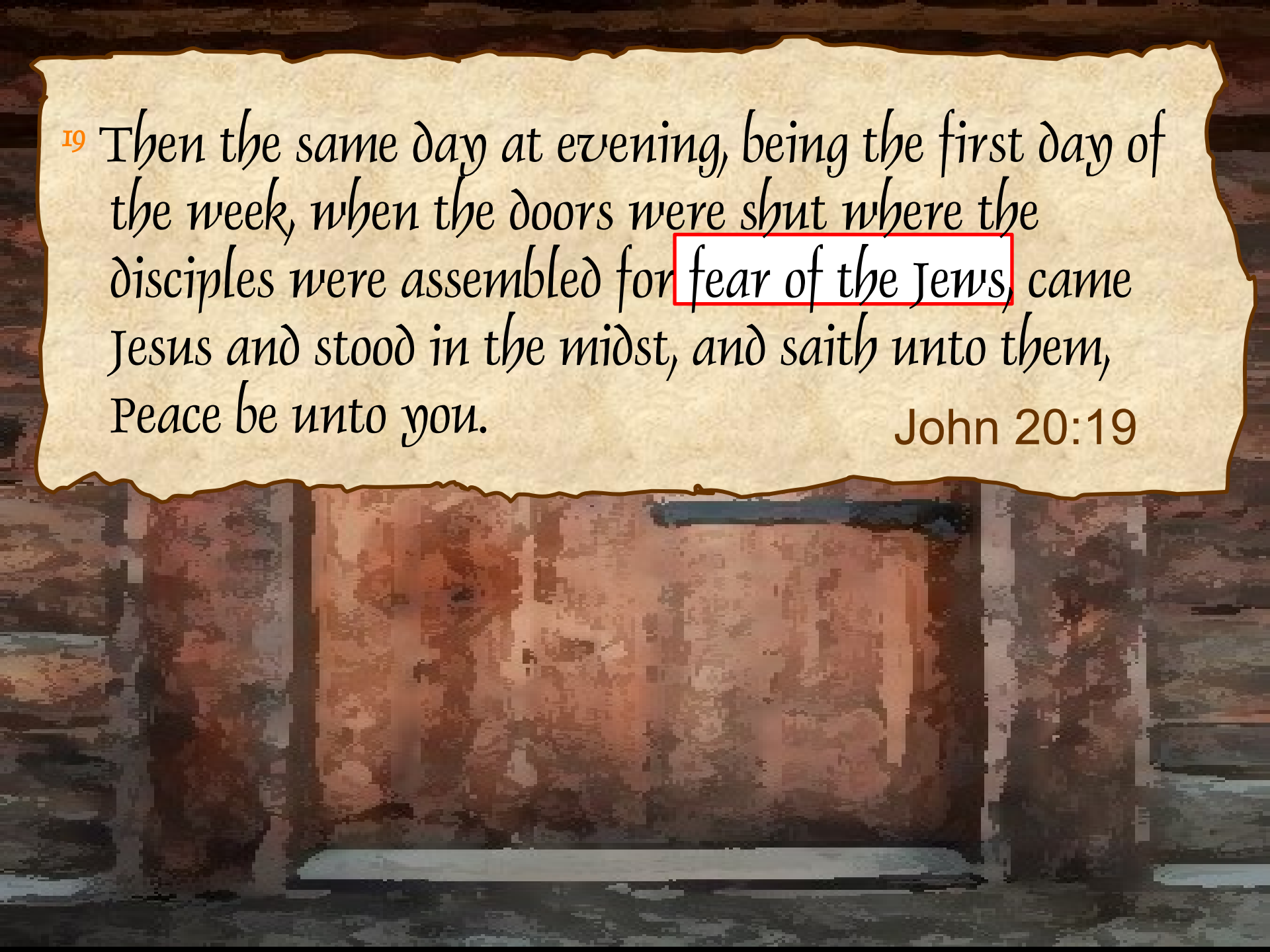
15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Matthew 28:15

- Imagine saying that as a witness in a court room,
- “Your honor, it was the disciples”,
- “How do you know?”
- “Well, err, I was sound asleep when they came, that’s how I know!”

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
- The testimony of the Roman guards
- The transformation of the disciples
- The Gospel


19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.
John 20:19

Before the Jews....

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John,
and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant
men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them,
that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

Before the Jews....

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:19

The Transformation of Paul

1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter
against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high
priest,
2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the
synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether
they were men or women, he might bring them bound
unto Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1

The Transformation of Paul



13 But Barnabas took [Paul], and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:13

The Transformation of Paul

8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for
the space of three months, disputing and persuading the
things concerning the kingdom of God. Acts 19:8

At Rome…

30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,
Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Acts 28:30

The Power to Change Lives

- Stephen – stoned to death
- James – beheaded
- Matthias – tied down & vultures eat him alive
- Jude (Thaddeus) – crucified & shot with arrows
- Nathaniel – skinned alive & crucified
- Philip – hanged
- Andrew – crucified in Egypt
- Mark – dragged behind chariots

The Power to Change Lives

- Matthew – flayed & beheaded
- Luke – Crucified
- James (Alpheus) – thrown from the temple
- Thomas – Impaled in India
- Simon Zelotes – Sawn in pieces
- Peter – Crucified upside down
- Paul – Beheaded in Rome

The Power of the Resurrection

- *“There is no one truth that will have greater power over us, when properly believed, than the truth that Christ has risen from the dead”*.
  - Albert Barnes

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
- The testimony of the Roman guards
- The transformation of the disciples
- The Gospel

The Gospel
– according to the scriptures –

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel that Christ died for our sins... according to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day... according to the scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The Gospel
– according to the scriptures –

- The Feast of Passover (instituted c.1400 years before) foreshadows Christ's sacrificial death
  - On the 14th day of the month (Nisan)
  - Jesus was able to both celebrate the Passover with His disciples & become the Passover Lamb, dying on the 14th because of Exodus 12:6
    - The lamb's must be killed 'Beyn' 'BETWEEN' the evenings – thus a 24 hour window
  - Paul states that *"Christ became our Passover"* 1 Corinthians 5:7

The Gospel
– according to the scriptures –

- The Feast of Unleavened Bread, His burial
  - As Jesus body was placed in the tomb it became the 15th by the Jewish reckoning
  - *"Unless a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit"* – John 12:24

The Gospel
– according to the scriptures –

- The Feast of Firstfruits, His resurrection
  - On the 17th Jesus rose from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits
  - Thus becoming “the Firstfruits of all that slept” 1 Corinthians 15:20

The Gospel

– according to the scriptures –

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel

that Christ died f[illegible] our sins...

PASSOVER

[illegible]ng to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the

third d[illegible] cording to

UNLEAVENED BREAD

FIRSTFRUITS

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

A New Beginning!

- Christ's offer of salvation is available to all who will accept
- *"if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved!"*

  – *Romans 10:9-11*


calvary
chapel
portsmouth
OUR HOPE IN
HIS RESURRECTION!
A topical study of the foundation of our faith

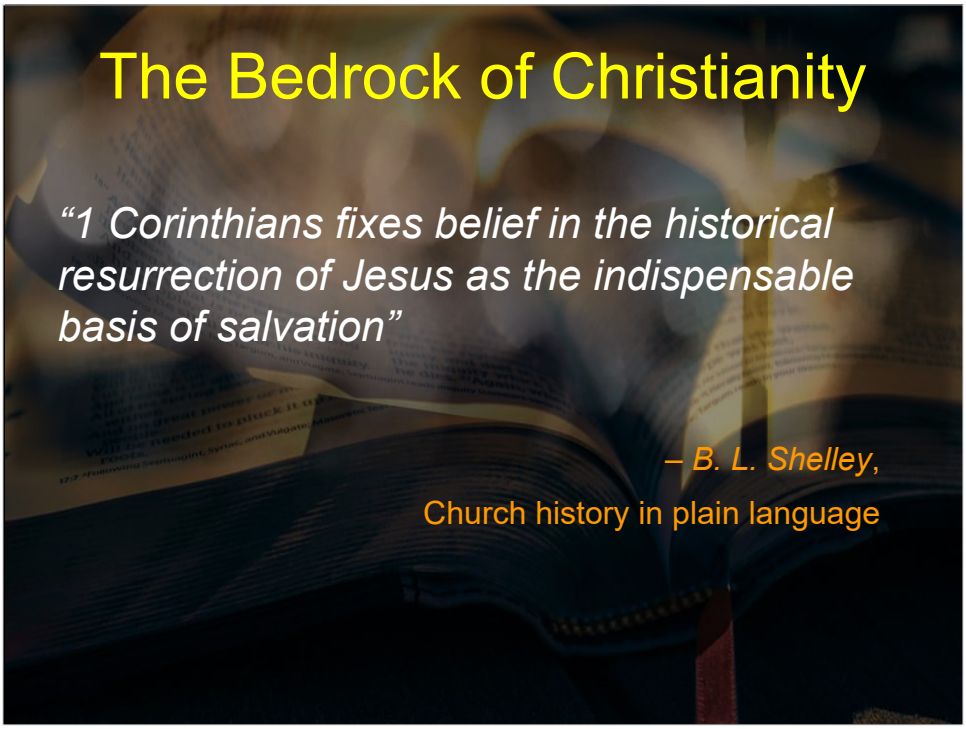
The Bedrock of Christianity

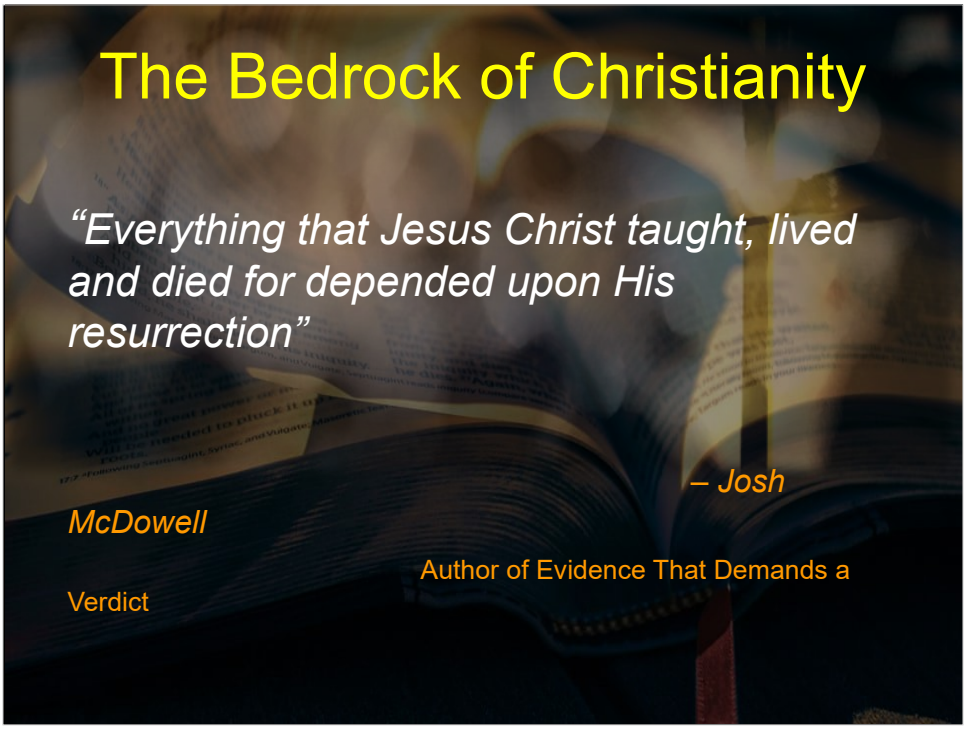
- Paul contends that basis of Christianity is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- If that event is not true, Christianity is not true!
- Christianity is not based on Christ's teaching, character, or the numerous miracles in His life...

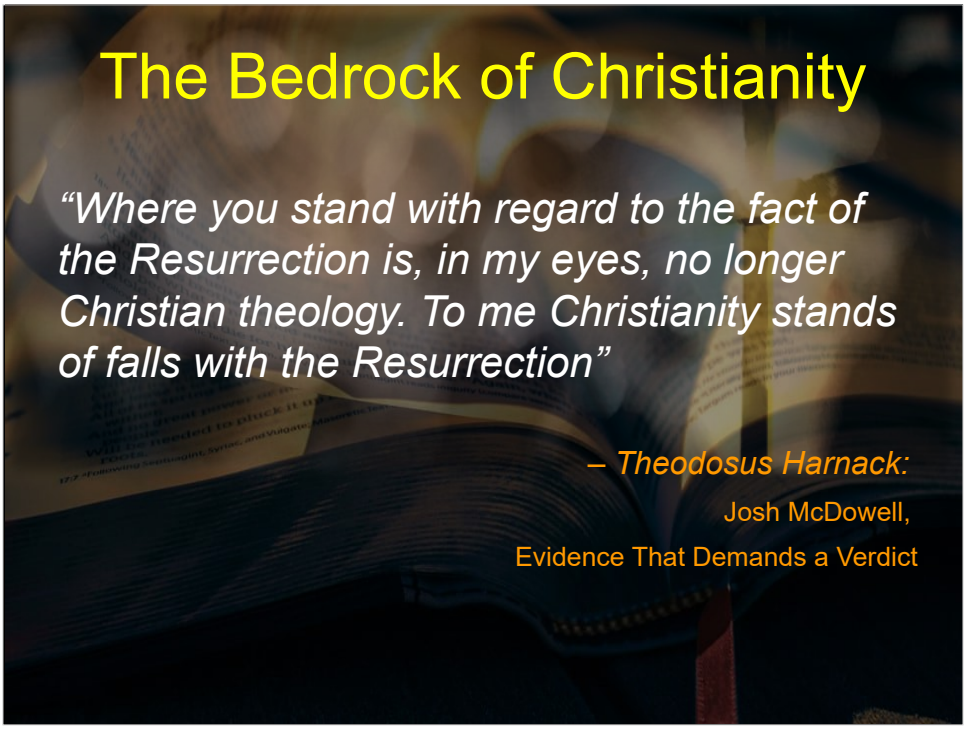
The Bedrock of Christianity

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is
Christ not risen:
14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain,
and your faith is also vain.
15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because
we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom
he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

1 Corinthians 15:13-15


The Bedrock of Christianity
"1 Corinthians fixes belief in the historical resurrection of Jesus as the indispensable basis of salvation"
– B. L. Shelley,
Church history in plain language


The Bedrock of Christianity
"Everything that Jesus Christ taught, lived and died for depended upon His resurrection"
– Josh McDowell
Author of Evidence That Demands a Verdict


The Bedrock of Christianity
"Where you stand with regard to the fact of the Resurrection is, in my eyes, no longer Christian theology. To me Christianity stands of falls with the Resurrection"
– Theodosus Harnack:
Josh McDowell,
Evidence That Demands a Verdict


PROVE IT!

OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE

Lord Lyndhurst (1772-1863), recognised as one of the greatest legal minds in British history wrote:

“I know pretty well what evidence is; and I tell you, such evidence as that for the Resurrection has never broken down yet.”

“History records that two young men, Gilbert West and Lord Lyttleton, went up to Oxford. They were friends of Dr. Johnson and Alexander Pope, in the swim of society. They were determined to attack the very basis of the Christian faith.

So Lyttleton settled down to prove that Saul of Tarsus was never converted to Christianity, and West to demonstrate that Jesus never rose from the tomb”

“Some time later, they met to discuss their findings. Both were a little sheepish. For they had both come to similar and disturbing conclusions. Lyttleton found, on examination, that Saul of Tarsus did become a radically new man through his conversation to Christianity, and West found that the evidence pointed unmistakably to the fact that Jesus did rise from the dead.

– Observations on the History and Evidence
of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ –
Published 1747

Frank Morison was a British journalist and skeptic who believed the Resurrection was a "myth" that needed to be stripped away from the life of Jesus. He set out to write a book entitled Who Moved the Stone? to provide a purely naturalistic explanation for the empty tomb. He found the evidence so compelling that the first chapter of his finished book is titled "The Book That Refused to Be Written."

Lee Strobel was an award-winning legal editor for the Chicago Tribune and a staunch atheist. When his wife converted to Christianity, he used his legal and journalistic training to systematically "dismantle" the faith by interviewing world-class scholars.

After two years of investigation, he concluded the evidence for the Resurrection was overwhelming. He wrote “The Case for Christ”

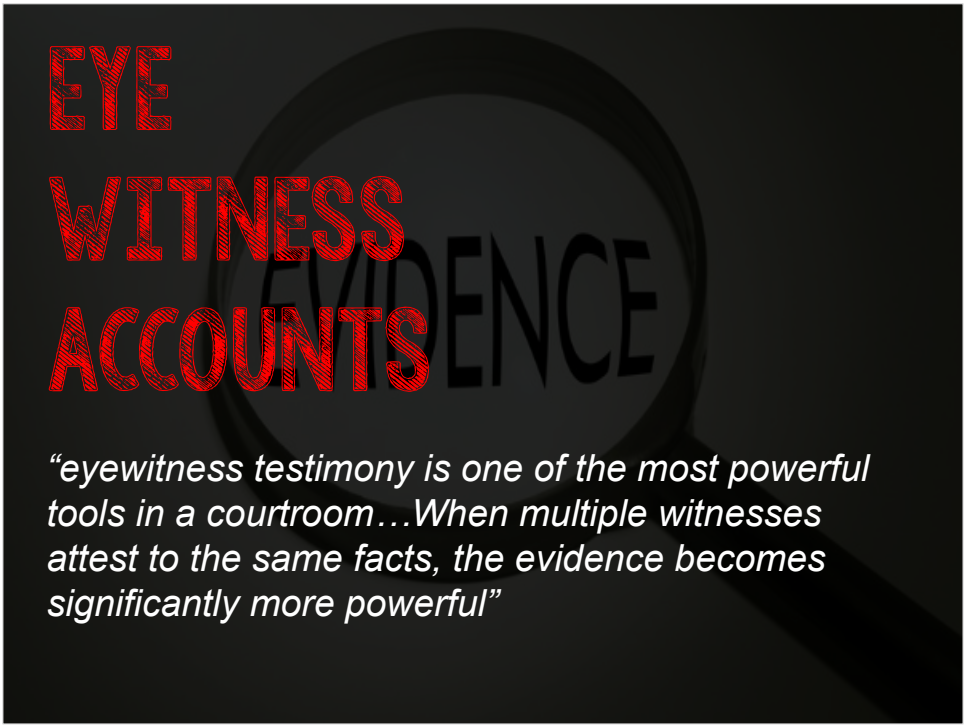
Simon Greenleaf was one of the founders of Harvard Law School and wrote the authoritative 19th-century text on the legal rules of evidence.
He was challenged by students to apply his own rules of legal evidence to the New Testament accounts of the Resurrection.
He concluded that the testimony of the Evangelists would be considered reliable and "true" in any unbiased court of law.
He published An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists in 1846.

C.S. Lewis is often remembered as a writer of fiction. He was a brilliant Oxford academic and a hardened atheist. He famously described himself as the "most dejected and reluctant convert in all England" when he finally gave in to the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus!

His work Mere Christianity remains one of the most influential defenses of the faith ever written.

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- Eyewitness accounts
  - Luke / Matthew / Peter / John / Paul etc.
- Written Testimony
  - Josephus / Pilate / Marcion / Roman officials
- Physical Evidence
  - The moved stone / The empty tomb / the Temple curtain
- Circumstantial Evidence

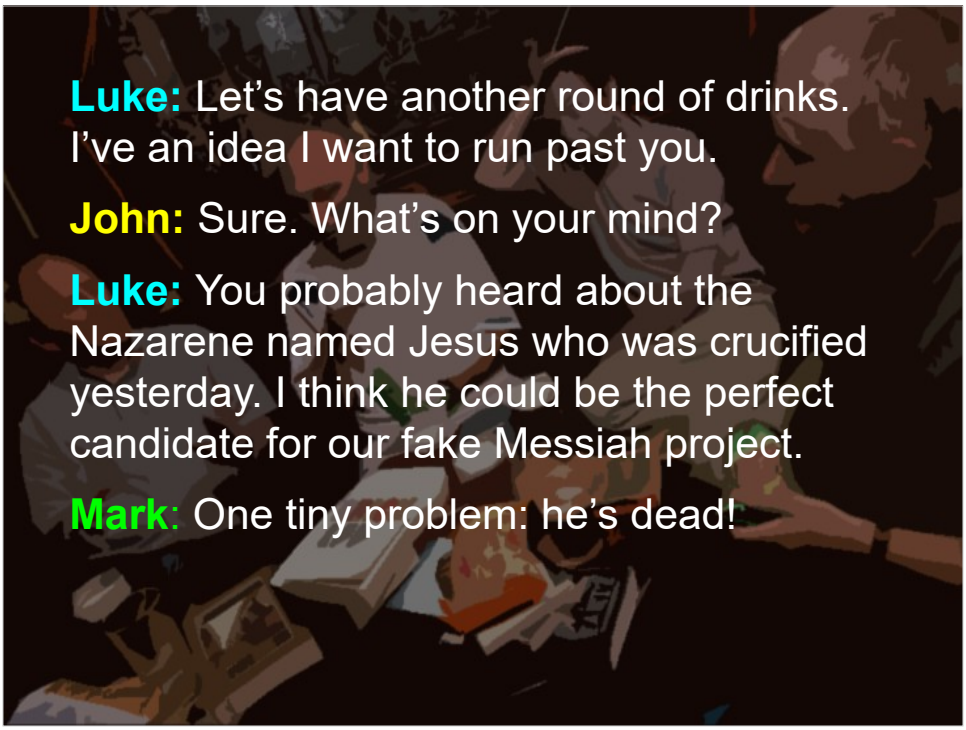

EYE
WITNESS
ACCOUNTS
EVIDENCE
“eyewitness testimony is one of the most powerful tools in a courtroom…When multiple witnesses attest to the same facts, the evidence becomes significantly more powerful”

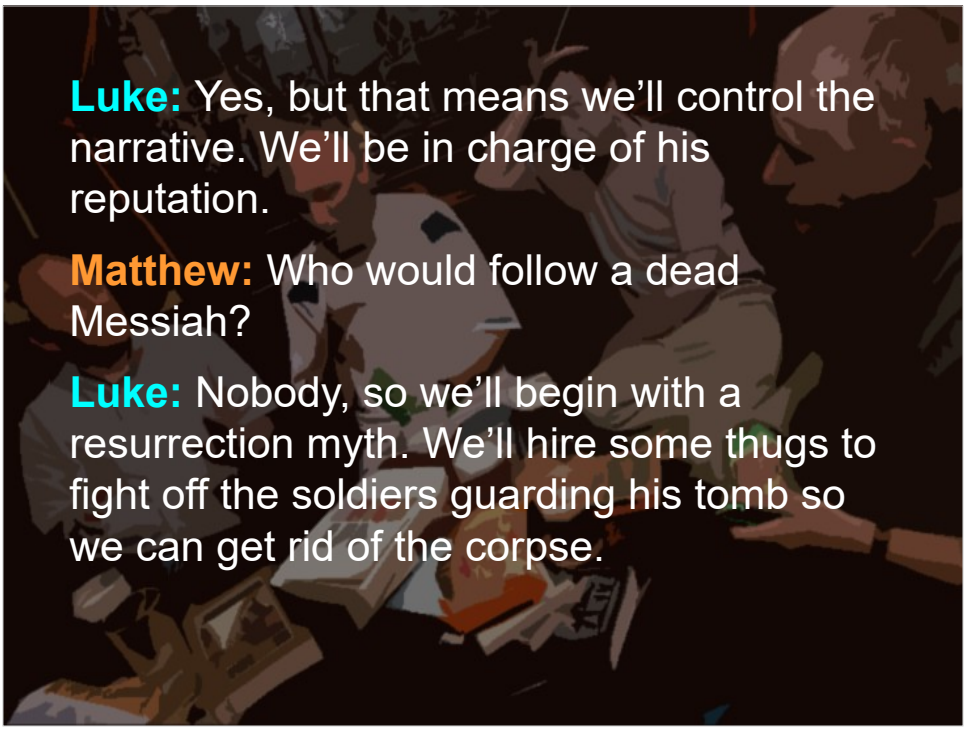
- *“Nobody knows who the four evangelists were, but they almost certainly never met Jesus personally. Much of what they wrote was in no sense an honest attempt at history. . . . The gospels are ancient fiction.”*

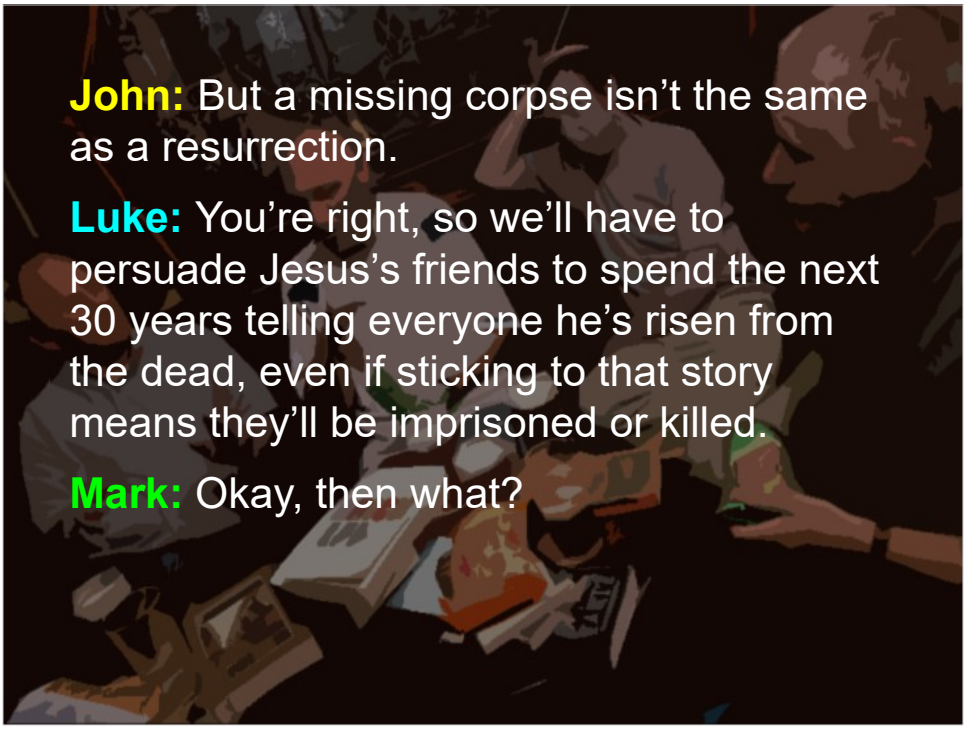
– Richard Dawkins, *“The God Delusion”*

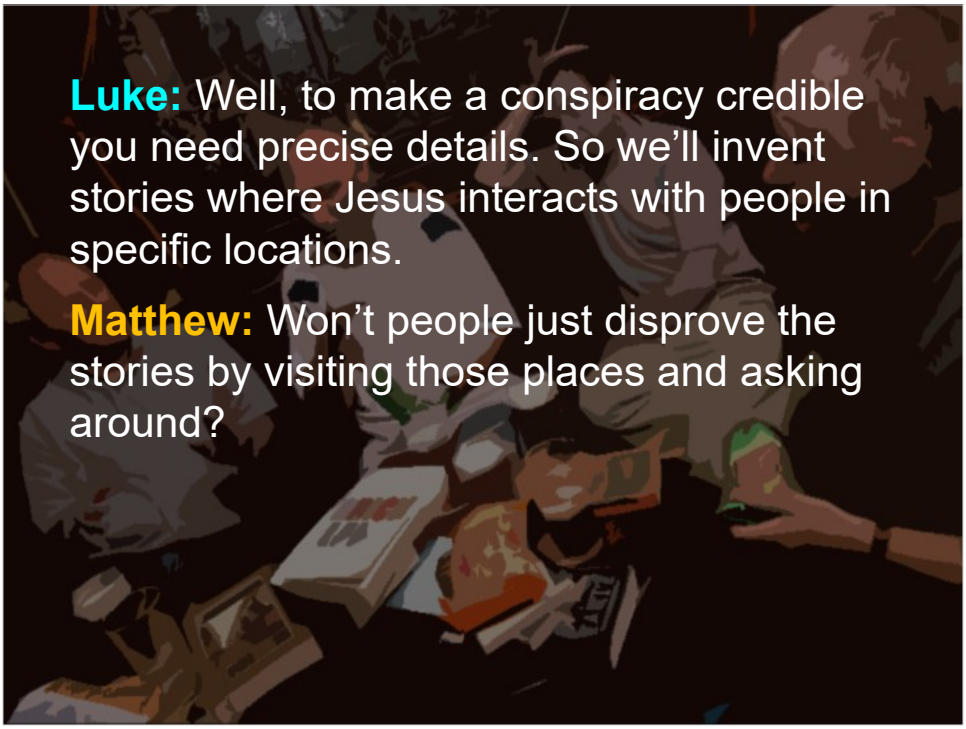


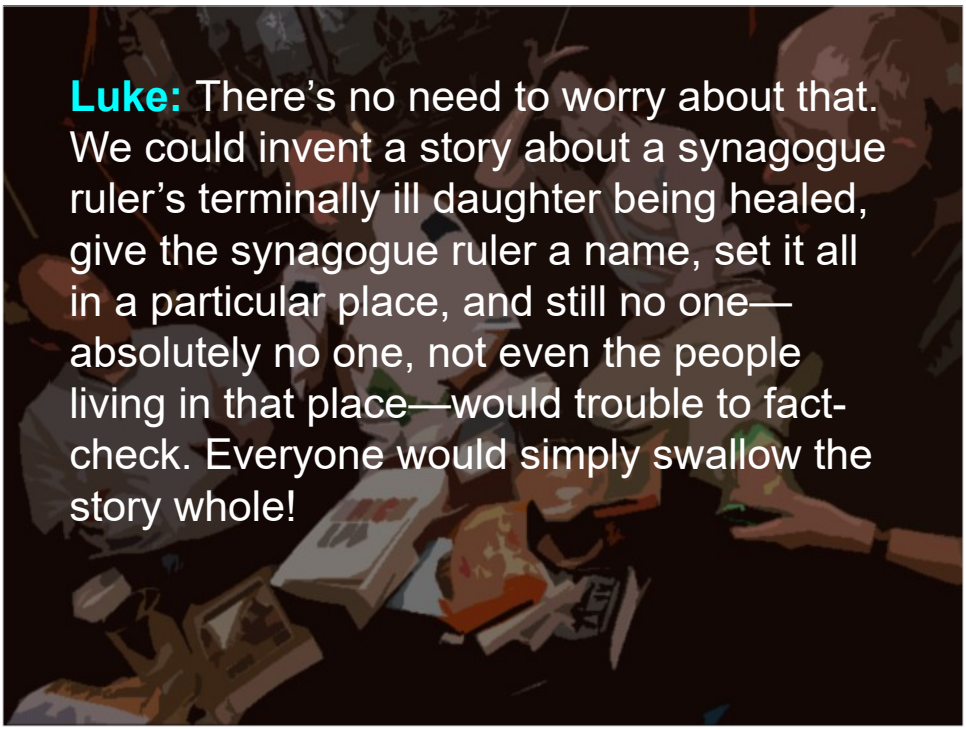

If Dawkins is correct, one might imagine the following conversation . . .

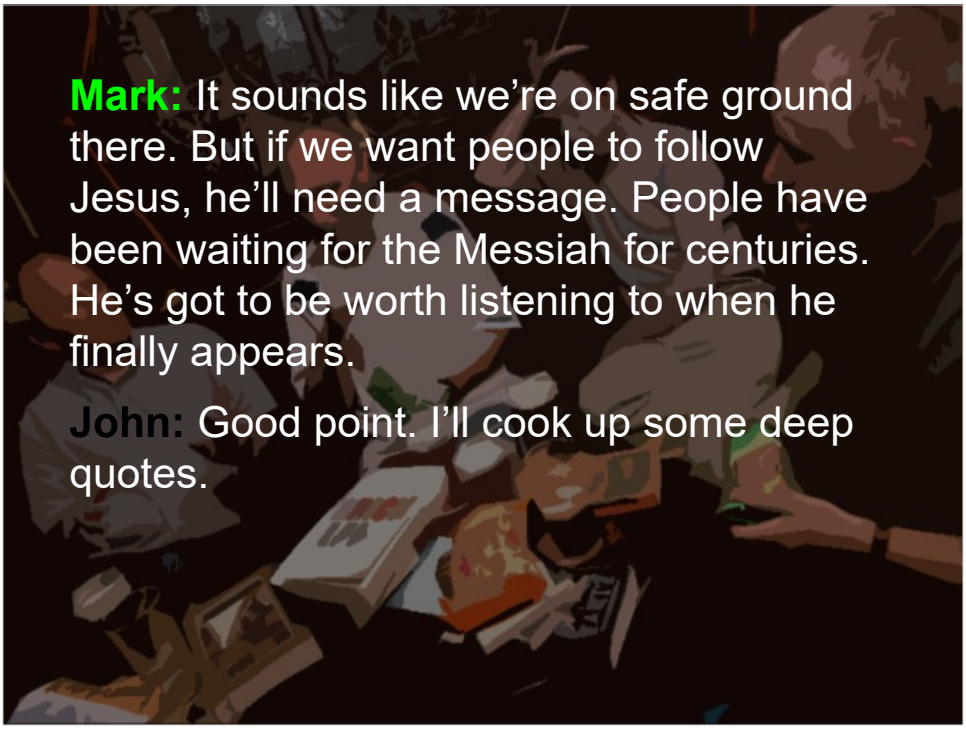

Luke: Let's have another round of drinks. I've an idea I want to run past you.
John: Sure. What's on your mind?
Luke: You probably heard about the Nazarene named Jesus who was crucified yesterday. I think he could be the perfect candidate for our fake Messiah project.
Mark: One tiny problem: he's dead!

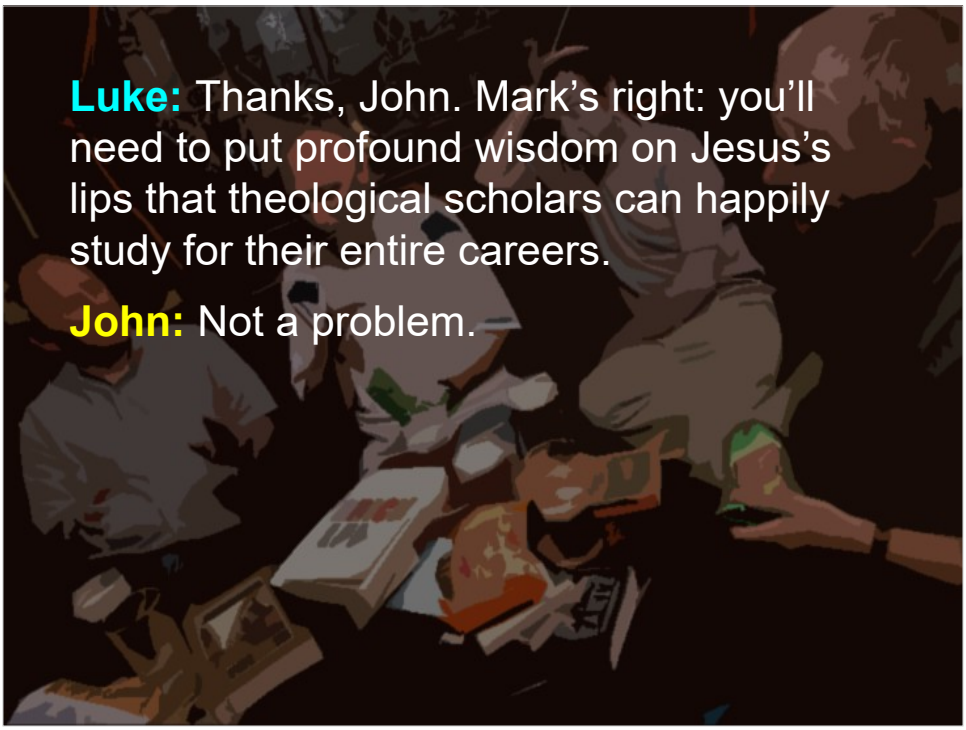

Luke: Yes, but that means we'll control the narrative. We'll be in charge of his reputation.
Matthew: Who would follow a dead Messiah?
Luke: Nobody, so we'll begin with a resurrection myth. We'll hire some thugs to fight off the soldiers guarding his tomb so we can get rid of the corpse.

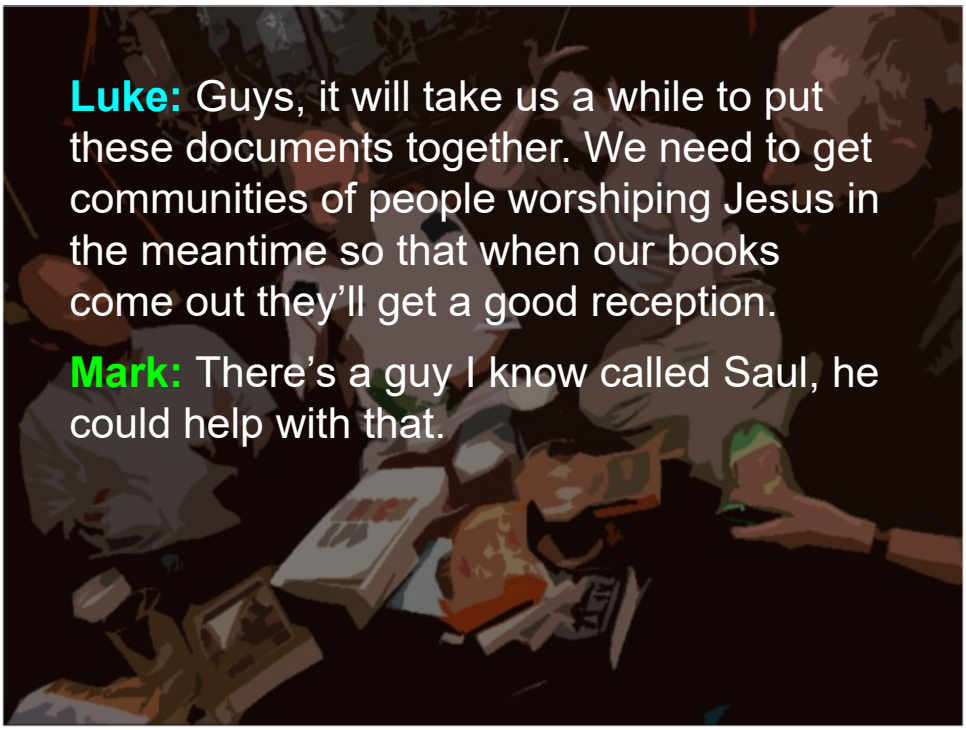

John: But a missing corpse isn't the same as a resurrection.
Luke: You're right, so we'll have to persuade Jesus's friends to spend the next 30 years telling everyone he's risen from the dead, even if sticking to that story means they'll be imprisoned or killed.
Mark: Okay, then what?

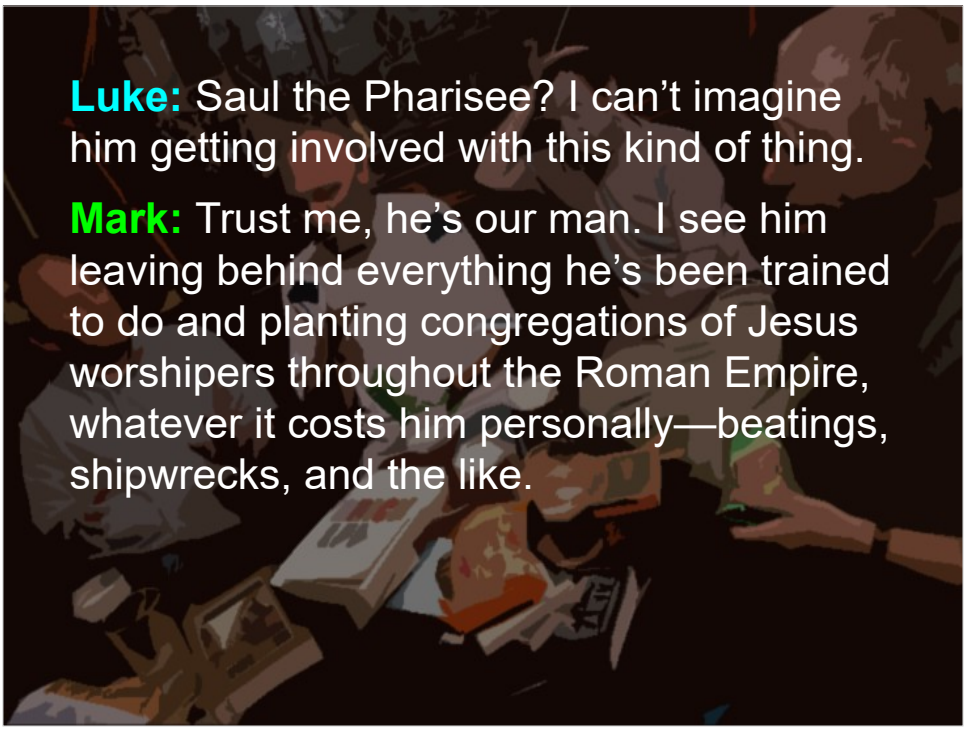

Luke: Well, to make a conspiracy credible you need precise details. So we'll invent stories where Jesus interacts with people in specific locations.
Matthew: Won't people just disprove the stories by visiting those places and asking around?

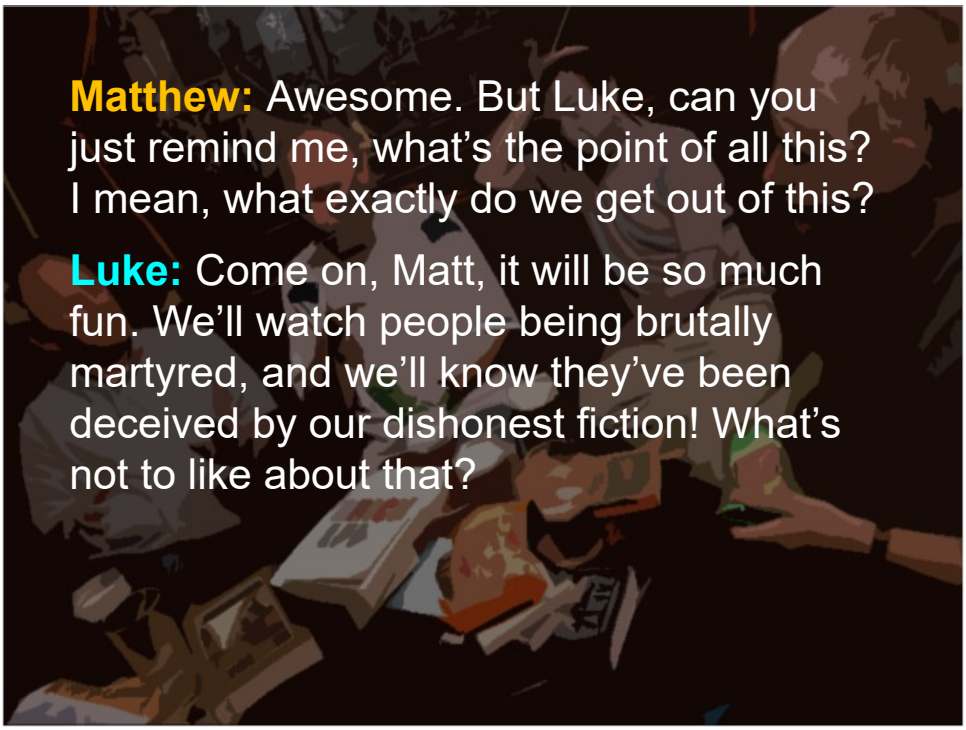

Luke: There's no need to worry about that. We could invent a story about a synagogue ruler's terminally ill daughter being healed, give the synagogue ruler a name, set it all in a particular place, and still no one—absolutely no one, not even the people living in that place—would trouble to fact-check. Everyone would simply swallow the story whole!

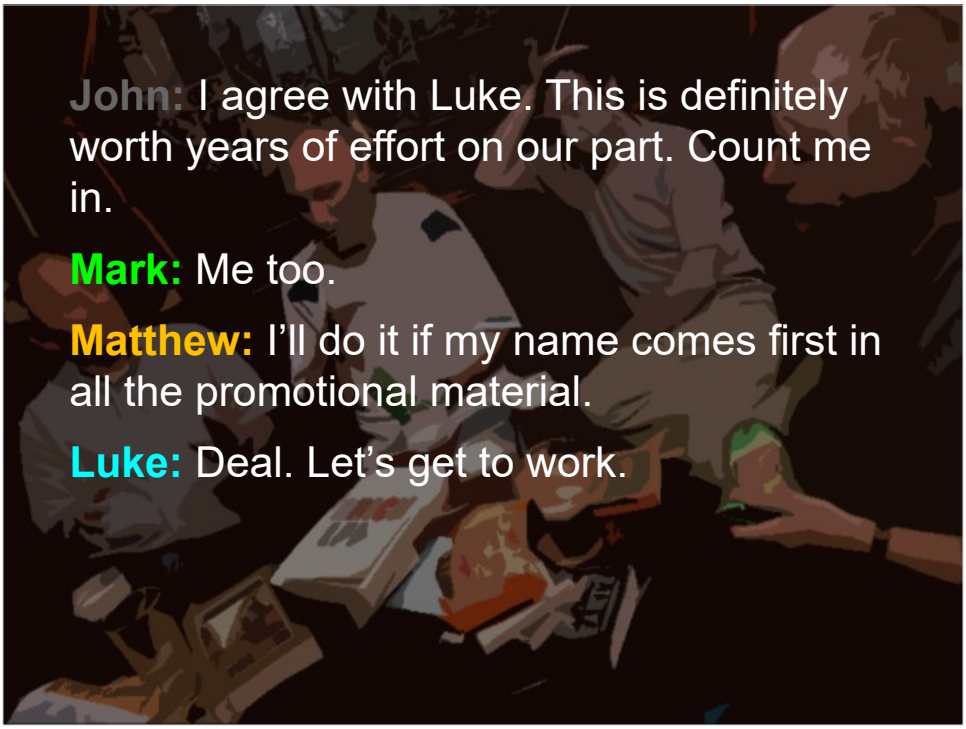

Mark: It sounds like we're on safe ground there. But if we want people to follow Jesus, he'll need a message. People have been waiting for the Messiah for centuries. He's got to be worth listening to when he finally appears.
John: Good point. I'll cook up some deep quotes.


Luke: Thanks, John. Mark's right: you'll need to put profound wisdom on Jesus's lips that theological scholars can happily study for their entire careers.
John: Not a problem.


Luke: Guys, it will take us a while to put these documents together. We need to get communities of people worshiping Jesus in the meantime so that when our books come out they'll get a good reception.
Mark: There's a guy I know called Saul, he could help with that.


Luke: Saul the Pharisee? I can't imagine him getting involved with this kind of thing.
Mark: Trust me, he's our man. I see him leaving behind everything he's been trained to do and planting congregations of Jesus worshipers throughout the Roman Empire, whatever it costs him personally—beatings, shipwrecks, and the like.


Matthew: Awesome. But Luke, can you just remind me, what's the point of all this? I mean, what exactly do we get out of this?
Luke: Come on, Matt, it will be so much fun. We'll watch people being brutally martyred, and we'll know they've been deceived by our dishonest fiction! What's not to like about that?


John: I agree with Luke. This is definitely worth years of effort on our part. Count me in.
Mark: Me too.
Matthew: I'll do it if my name comes first in all the promotional material.
Luke: Deal. Let's get to work.

“As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidence for the events of the first Easter Day. To me the evidence is conclusive, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling. Inference follows on evidence, and a truthful witness is always artless and distains effect. The Gospel evidence for the resurrection is of this class, and as a lawyer I accept it unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts they were able to substantiate”

Sir Edward Clarke:

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- Eyewitness accounts
  - Luke / Matthew / Peter / John / Paul etc.
- Written Testimony
  - Josephus / Pilate / Marcion / Roman officials
- Physical Evidence
  - The moved stone / The empty tomb / the Temple curtain
- Circumstantial Evidence

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

“a written document provides a permanent record of an individual's recollection…The primary value of written testimony is consistency. Because memory fades and changes over time, a statement written shortly after an event acts as an "anchor.""

The Acta Pilati

- *"Important testimony of Pontius Pilate, recently discovered, being his official report to the Emperor Tiberius, concerning the crucifixion of Christ"*

  - by George Sluter 1837-1908

- Original Manuscript is in the Vatican

  - https://archive.org/details/actapilatiiimport00slut

The Acta Pilati

Justin Martyr, in his first apology for the Christians, which was presented to the Emperor Antoninus Pius, in the year A. D., 138, having mentioned the Crucifixion of Jesus and some of its attendant circumstances, says:

" And that these things were so done, you may know from the Acts made in the time of Pontius Pilate." - by George Sluter 1837-1908

See also: "The Evidence of the Prophecies" (also known as *Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion*) by **Alexander Keith**, first published around **1823**.

The Acta Pilati

The learned Tertullian, in his Apology for Christianity, about the year 200, after speaking of our Savior's crucifixion and resurrection, and his appearance to the disciples, who were ordained by him to publish the Gospel over the world, thus proceeds:

"Of all these things relating to Christ, Pilate himself, in his conscience already a Christian, sent an account to Tiberius, then Emperor."

- by George Sluter 1837-1908

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The Acta Pilati

- It is Pilate's report to Emperor Caesar concerning the events of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
- He details:
  - What happened regarding the crucifixion
  - The kind of man Jesus was
  - That Jesus had been granted freedom to teach the people
  - That wealthy people didn't like Jesus on account of his support for the poor

The Acta Pilati

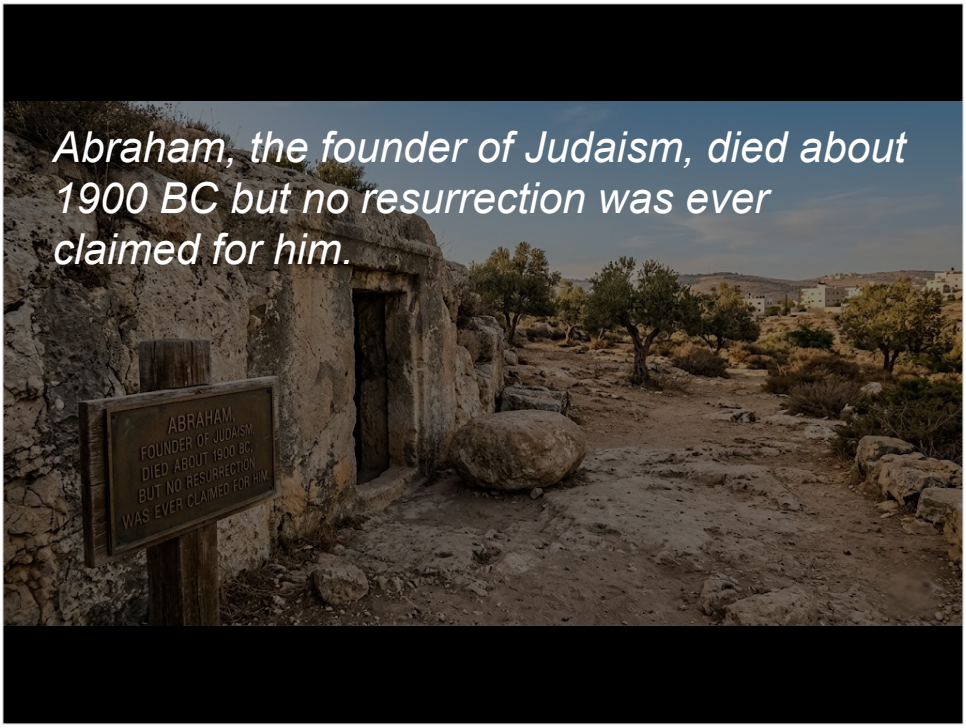
- It is Pilate's report to Emperor Caesar concerning the events of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
- He details:
  - Miraculous events at the tomb of Jesus
    - That a brilliant light was seen
    - That an angelic being appeared
    - That there was an earthquake
    - That trained Roman guards collapsed in terror
    - And that they actually saw Jesus risen from the dead
    - But that they were then given money to keep quiet

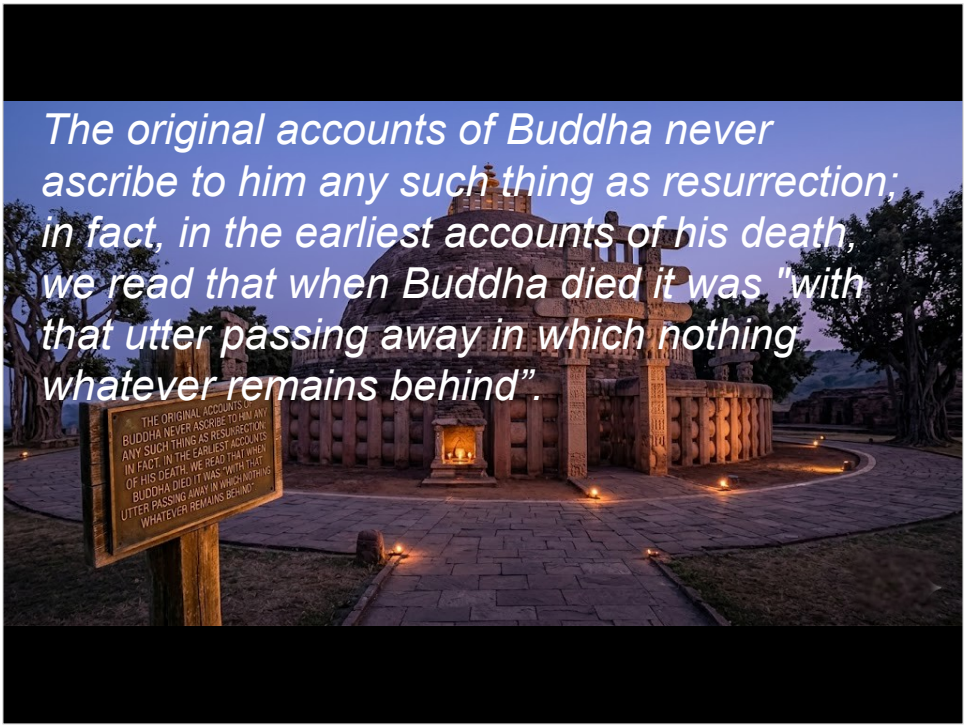
TYPES OF EVIDENCE

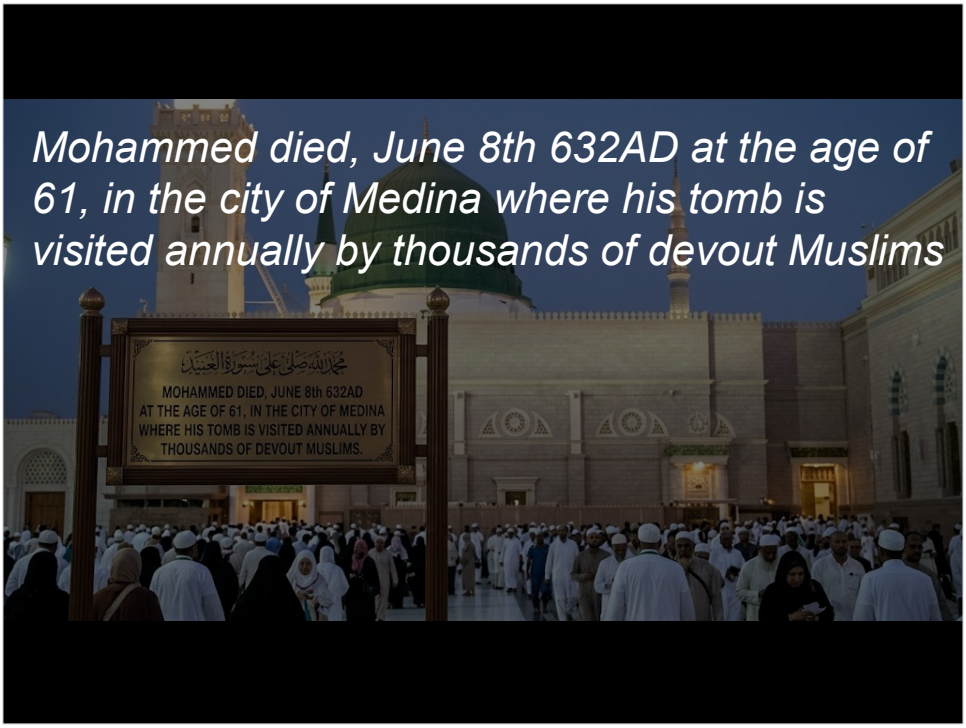
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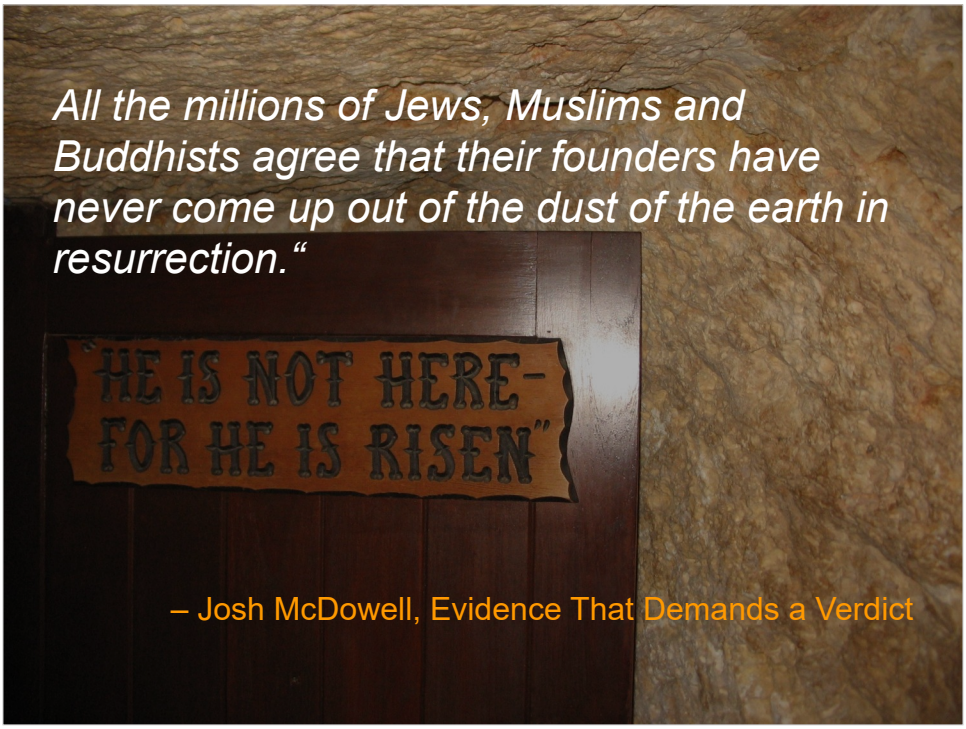
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

All but four of the major world religions are based on mere philosophical propositions. Of the four that are based on personalities rather than a philosophical system, only Christianity claims an empty tomb for its founder

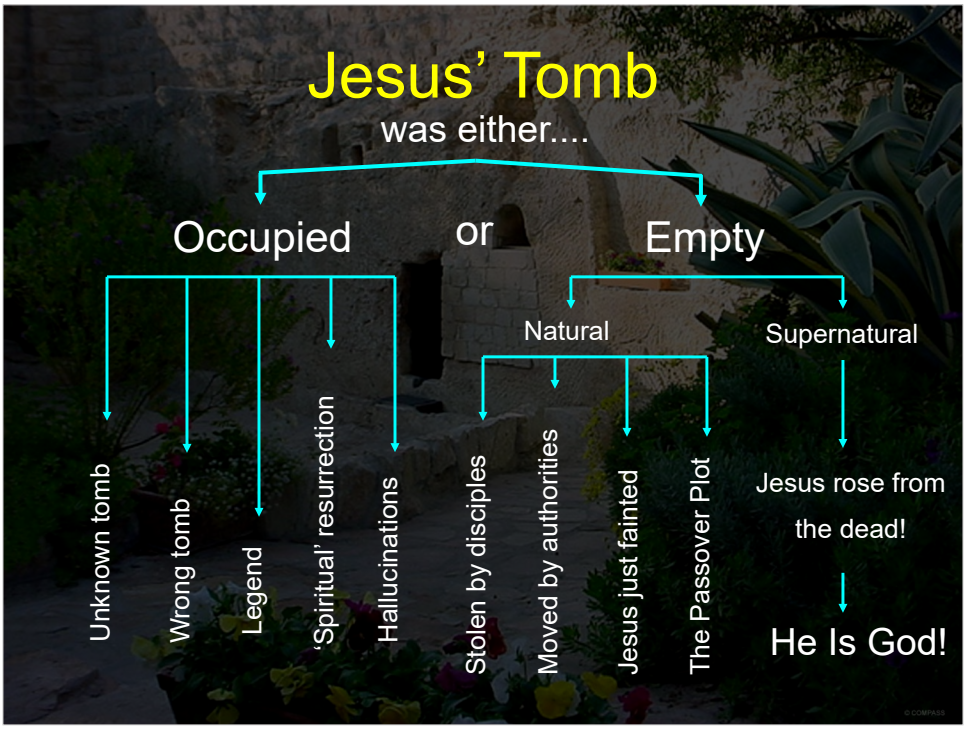

Abraham, the founder of Judaism, died about 1900 BC but no resurrection was ever claimed for him.
ABRAHAM,
FOUNDER OF JUDAISM
DIED ABOUT 1900 BC,
BUT NO RESURRECTION
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The original accounts of Buddha never ascribe to him any such thing as resurrection; in fact, in the earliest accounts of his death, we read that when Buddha died it was "with that utter passing away in which nothing whatever remains behind".
THE ORIGINAL ACCOUNTS OF BUDDHA NEVER ASCRIBE TO HIM ANY ANY SUCH THING AS RESURRECTION; IN FACT, IN THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS OF HIS DEATH, WE READ THAT WHEN BUDDHA DIED IT WAS "WITH THAT UTTER PASSING AWAY IN WHICH NOTHING WHATEVER REMAINS BEHIND"


Mohammed died, June 8th 632AD at the age of 61, in the city of Medina where his tomb is visited annually by thousands of devout Muslims
MOHAMMED DIED, JUNE 8th 632AD
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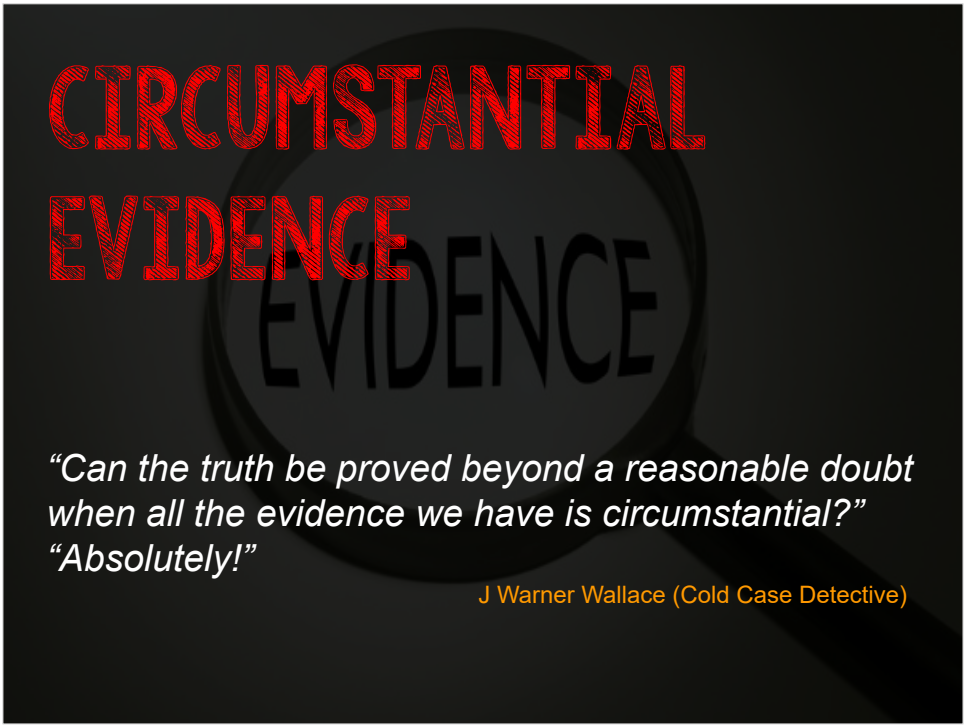

All the millions of Jews, Muslims and Buddhists agree that their founders have never come up out of the dust of the earth in resurrection.“
"HE IS NOT HERE-
FOR HE IS RISEN"
– Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict


© COMPASS


Jesus' Tomb
was either....
Occupied
or
Empty
Unknown tomb
Wrong tomb
Legend
'Spiritual' resurrection
Hallucinations
Natural
Supernatural
Stolen by disciples
Moved by authorities
Jesus just fainted
The Passover Plot
Jesus rose from the dead!
He Is God!

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

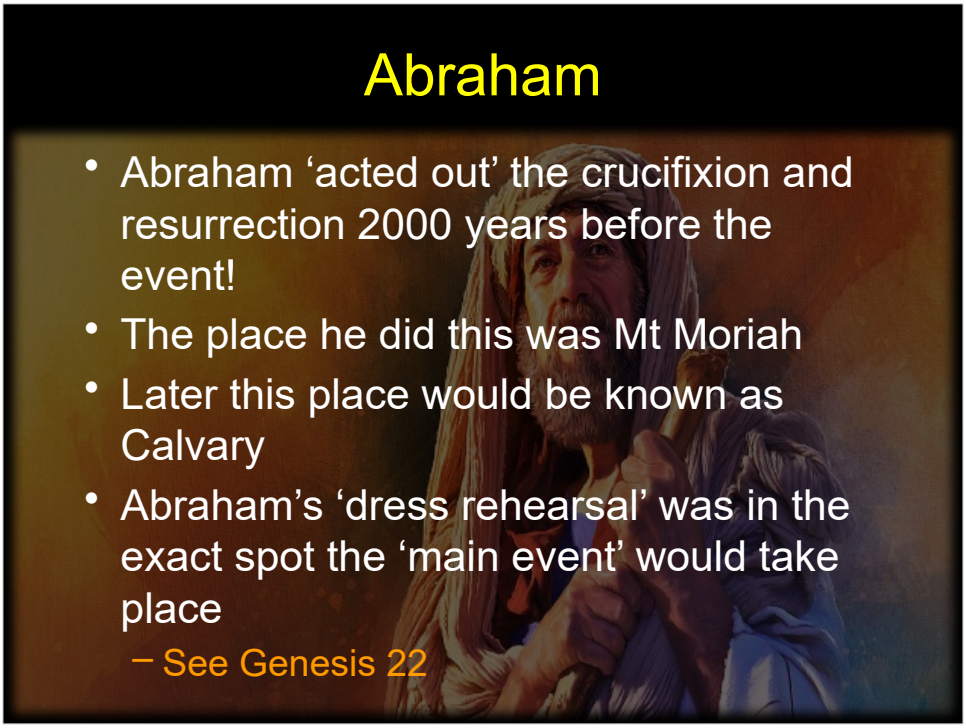
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  - Luke / Matthew / Peter / John / Paul etc.
- Written Testimony
  - Josephus / Pilate / Marcion / Roman officials
- Physical Evidence
  - The moved stone / The empty tomb / the Temple curtain
- Circumstantial Evidence


CIRCUMSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE
EVIDENCE
“Can the truth be proved beyond a reasonable doubt when all the evidence we have is circumstantial?”
“Absolutely!”
J Warner Wallace (Cold Case Detective)

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
- The testimony of the Roman guards
- The transformation of the disciples
- The Gospel

Abraham

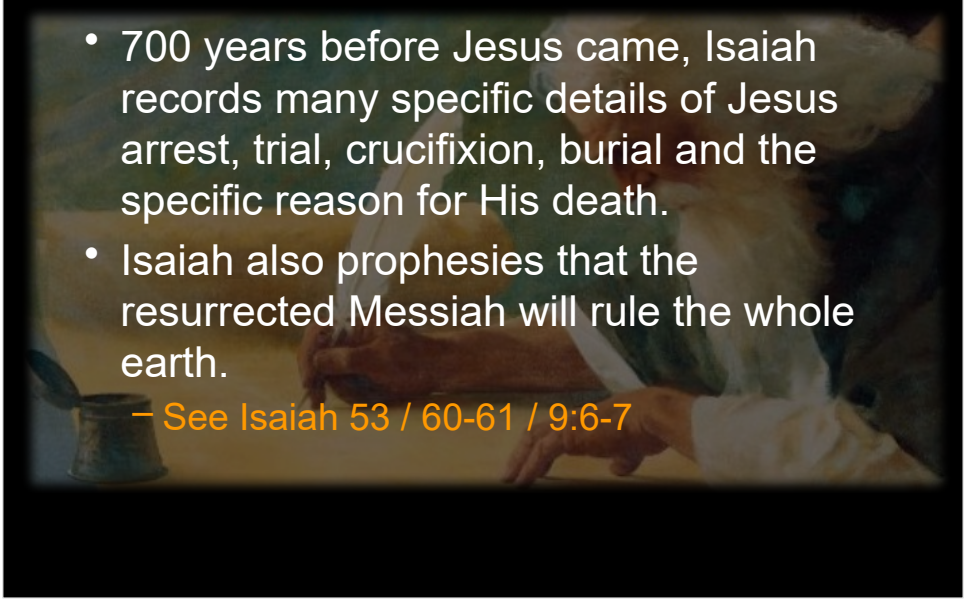


- Abraham ‘acted out’ the crucifixion and resurrection 2000 years before the event!
- The place he did this was Mt Moriah
- Later this place would be known as Calvary
- Abraham’s ‘dress rehearsal’ was in the exact spot the ‘main event’ would take place
  - See Genesis 22

David

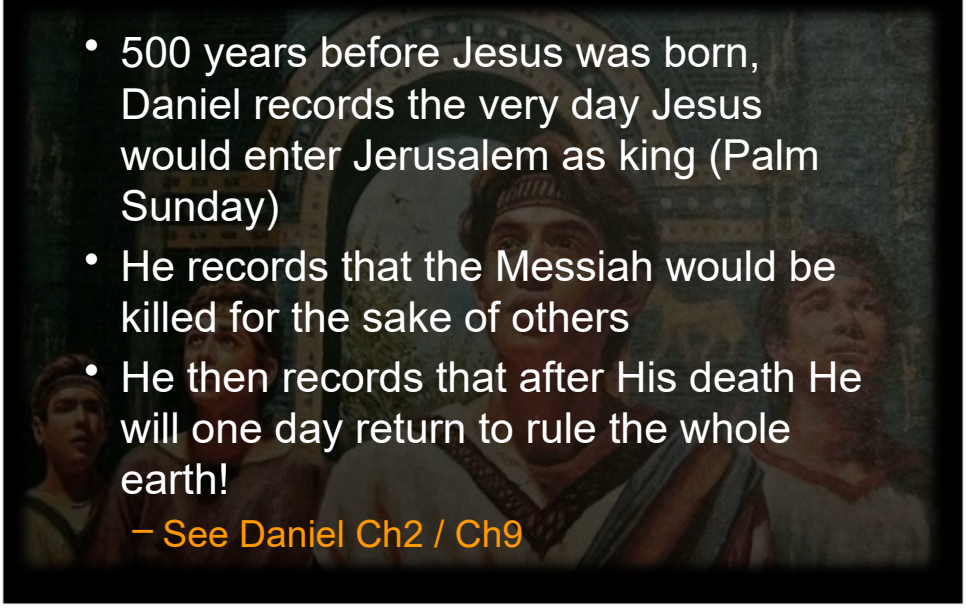
- David recorded 1000 years in advance the very words Jesus would speak on the Cross…
- …and declares that Jesus' body would not remain in the grave
  - See Psalm 22

Isaiah



- 700 years before Jesus came, Isaiah records many specific details of Jesus arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial and the specific reason for His death.
- Isaiah also prophesies that the resurrected Messiah will rule the whole earth.
  - See Isaiah 53 / 60-61 / 9:6-7

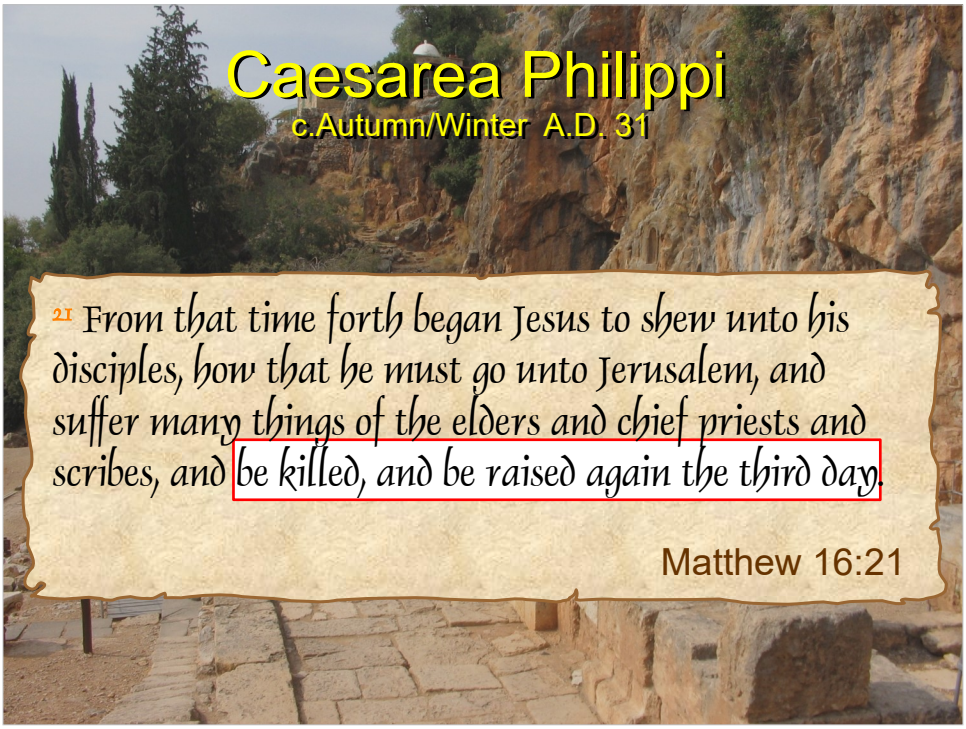
Daniel

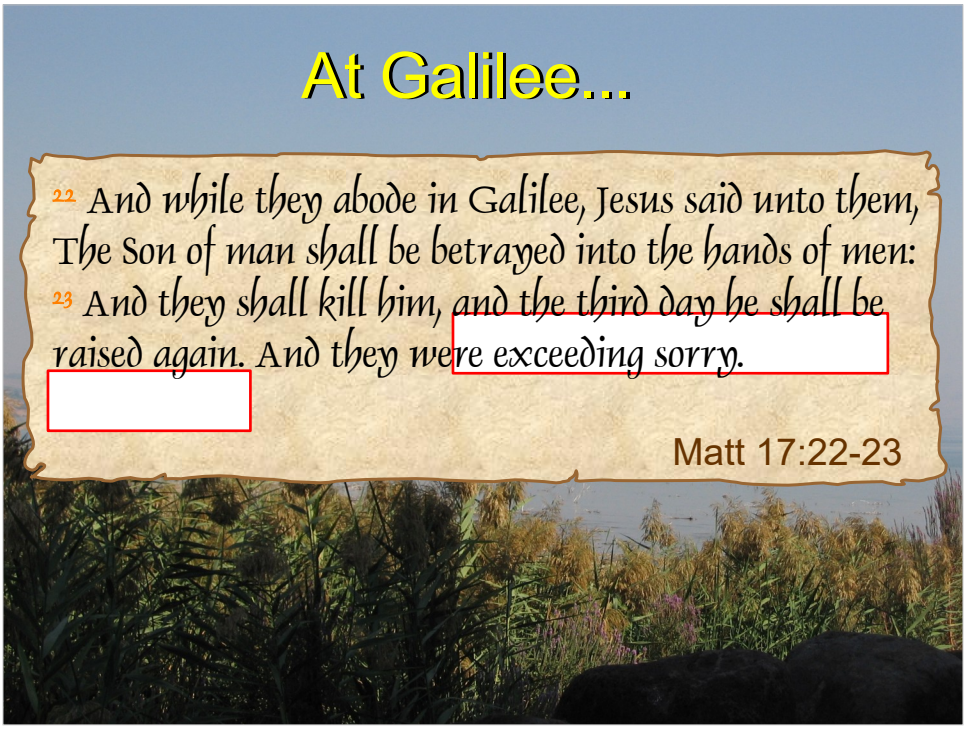


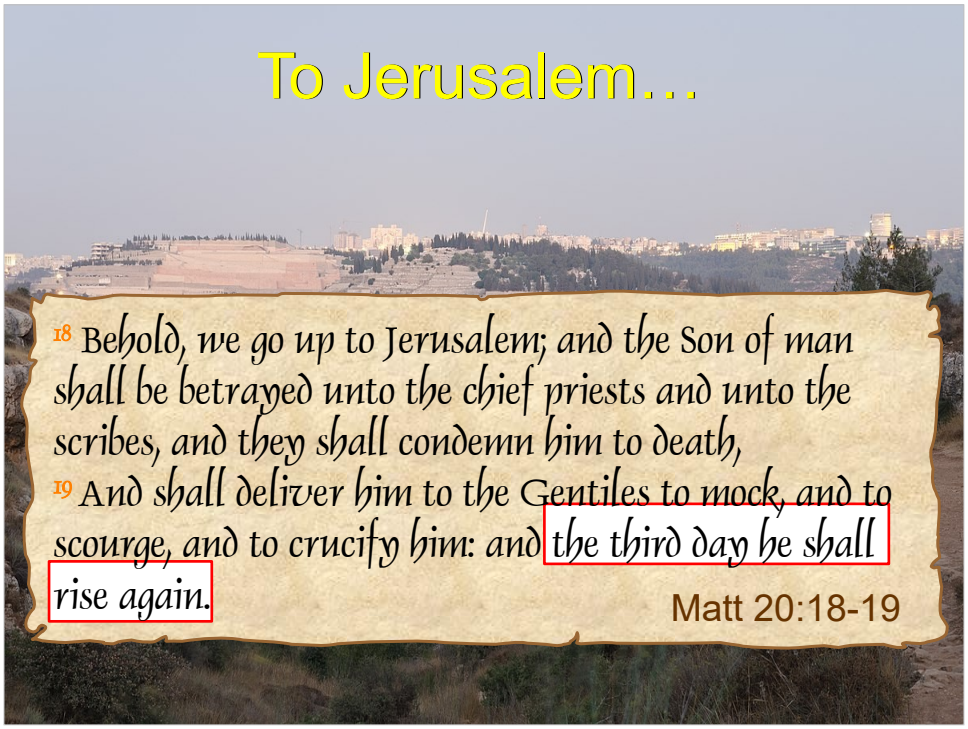
- 500 years before Jesus was born, Daniel records the very day Jesus would enter Jerusalem as king (Palm Sunday)
- He records that the Messiah would be killed for the sake of others
- He then records that after His death He will one day return to rule the whole earth!
  - See Daniel Ch2 / Ch9

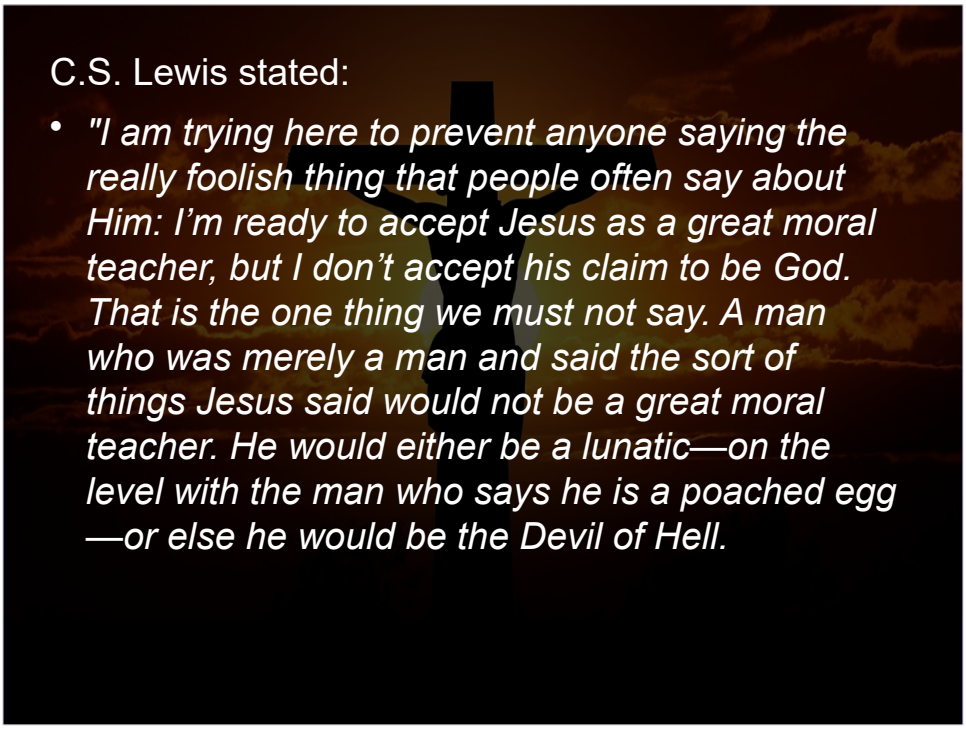
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
- The testimony of the Roman guards
- The transformation of the disciples
- The Gospel


Caesarea Philippi
c.Autumn/Winter A.D. 31
21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.
Matthew 16:21

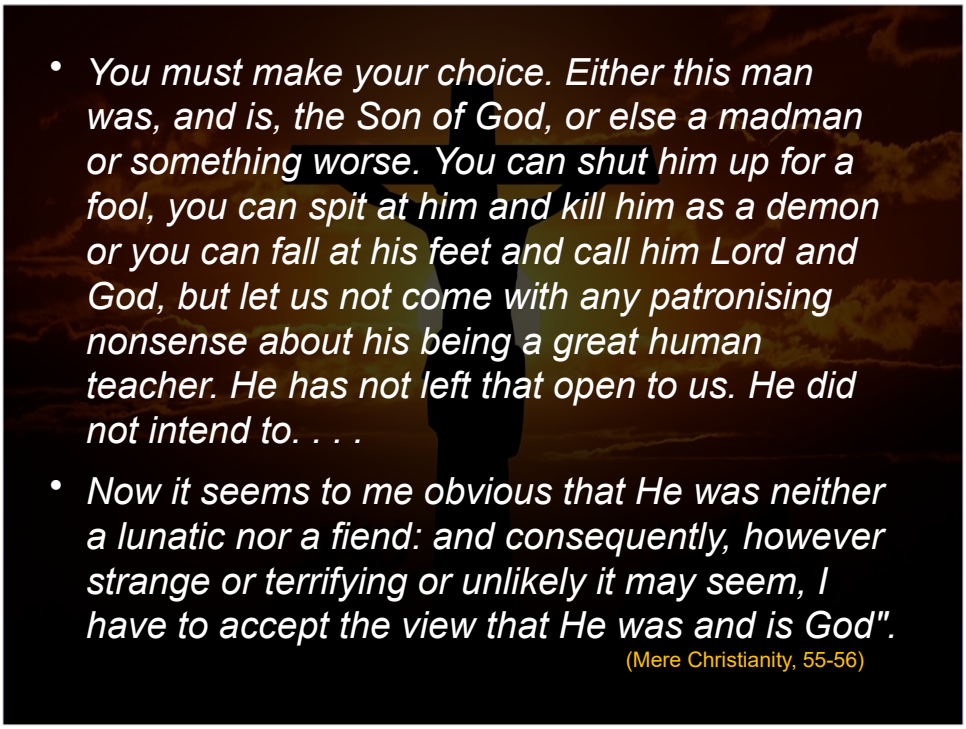

At Galilee...
22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them,
The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:
23 And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be
raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.
Matt 17:22-23

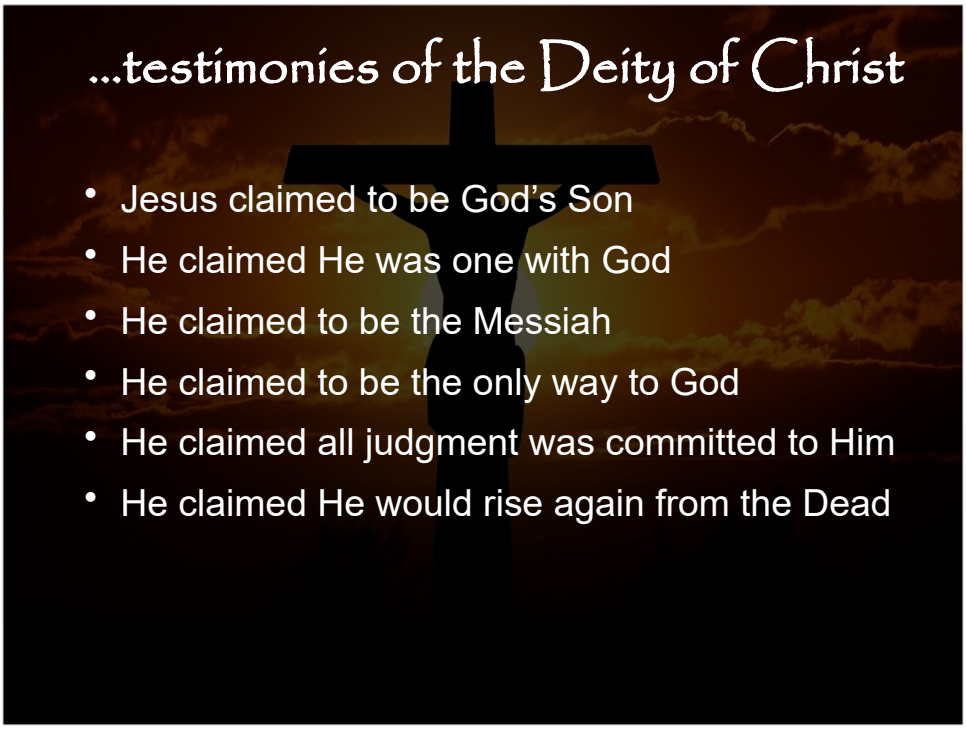

To Jerusalem…
18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,
19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.
Matt 20:18-19

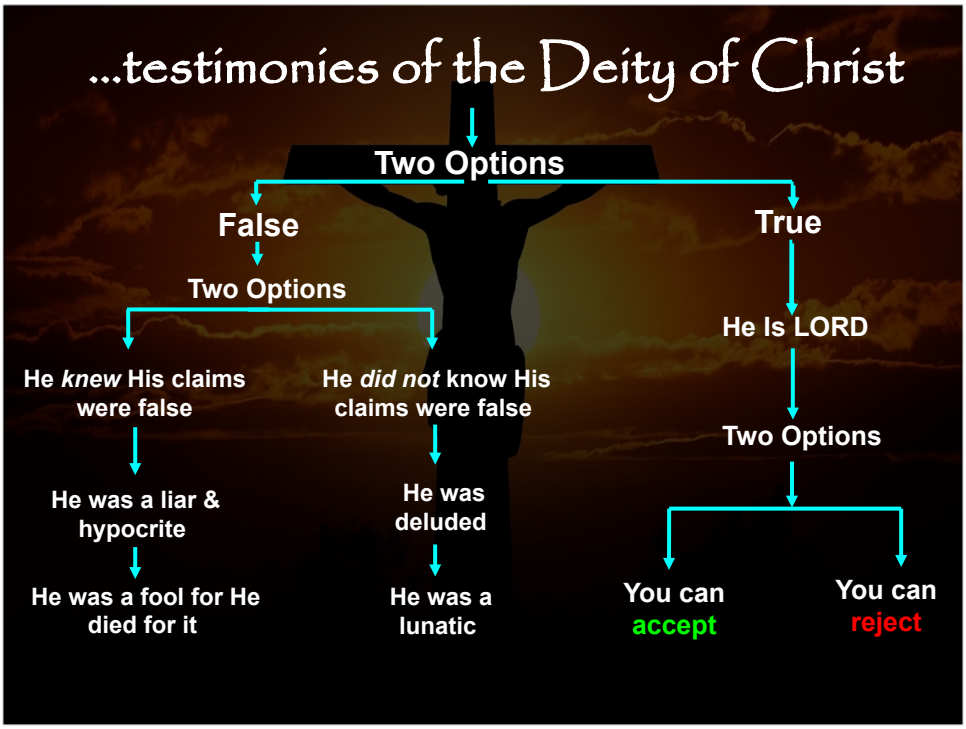


C.S. Lewis stated:

- *"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg —or else he would be the Devil of Hell.*


• You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. . . .
• Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God".
(Mere Christianity, 55-56)


...testimonies of the Deity of Christ
• Jesus claimed to be God's Son
• He claimed He was one with God
• He claimed to be the Messiah
• He claimed to be the only way to God
• He claimed all judgment was committed to Him
• He claimed He would rise again from the Dead


...testimonies of the Deity of Christ
Two Options
False
Two Options
He *knew* His claims were false
He was a liar & hypocrite
He was a fool for He died for it
He *did not* know His claims were false
He was deluded
He was a lunatic
True
He Is LORD
Two Options
You can accept
You can reject

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
- The testimony of the Roman guards
- The transformation of the disciples
- The Gospel

57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

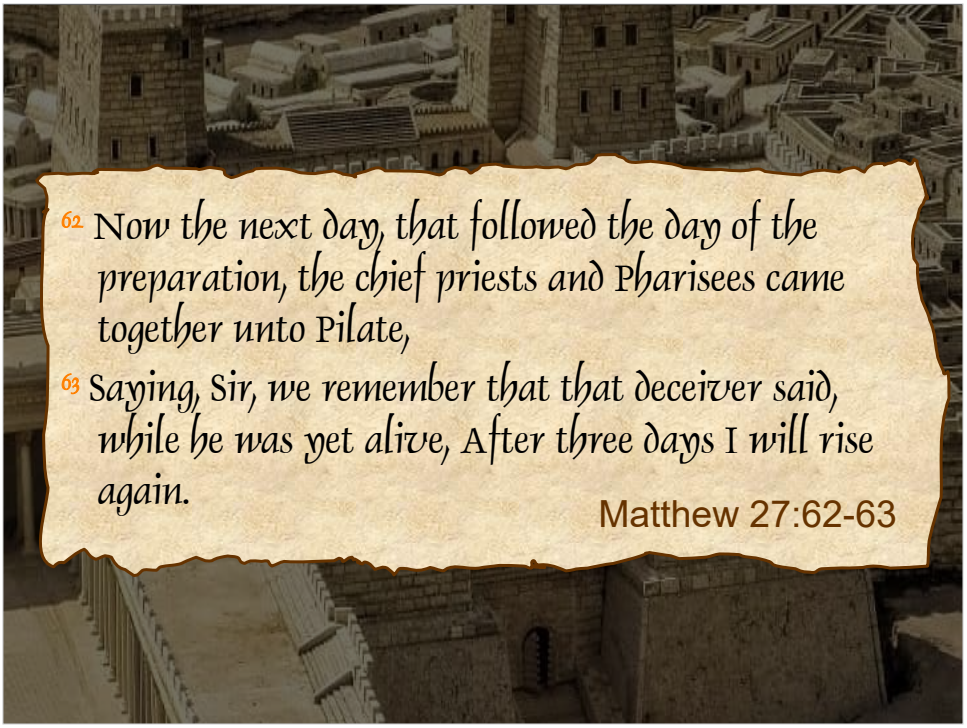
58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

Matthew 27:57-58

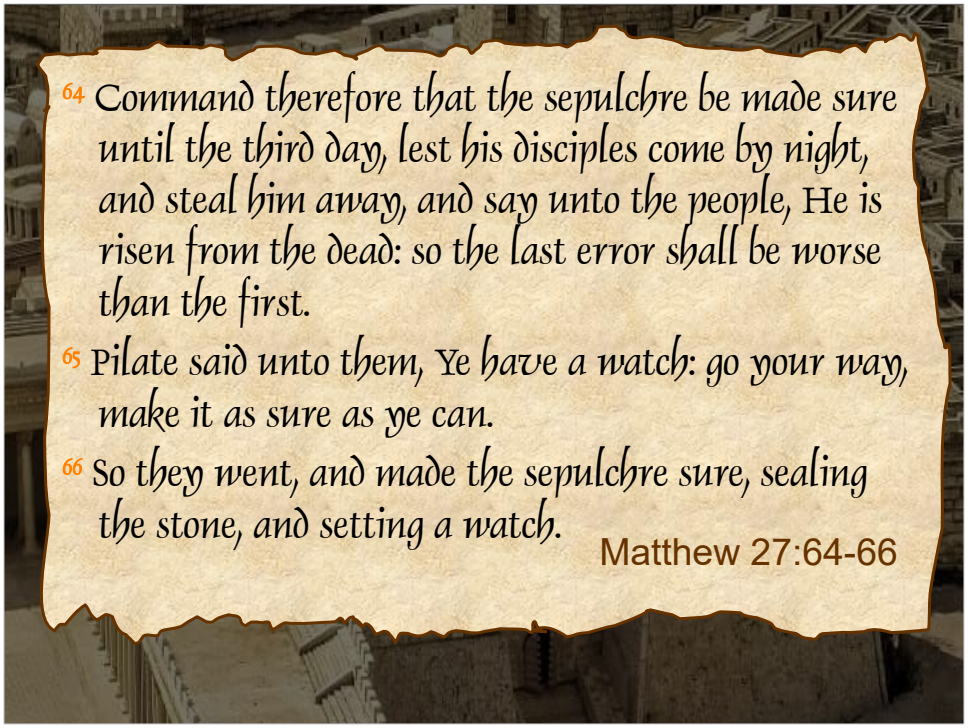
- Some victims of crucifixion would last days
  - The longest recorded was 13 days
  - The shortest was 32 hours
- To fulfil prophecy not a bone of Jesus was broken

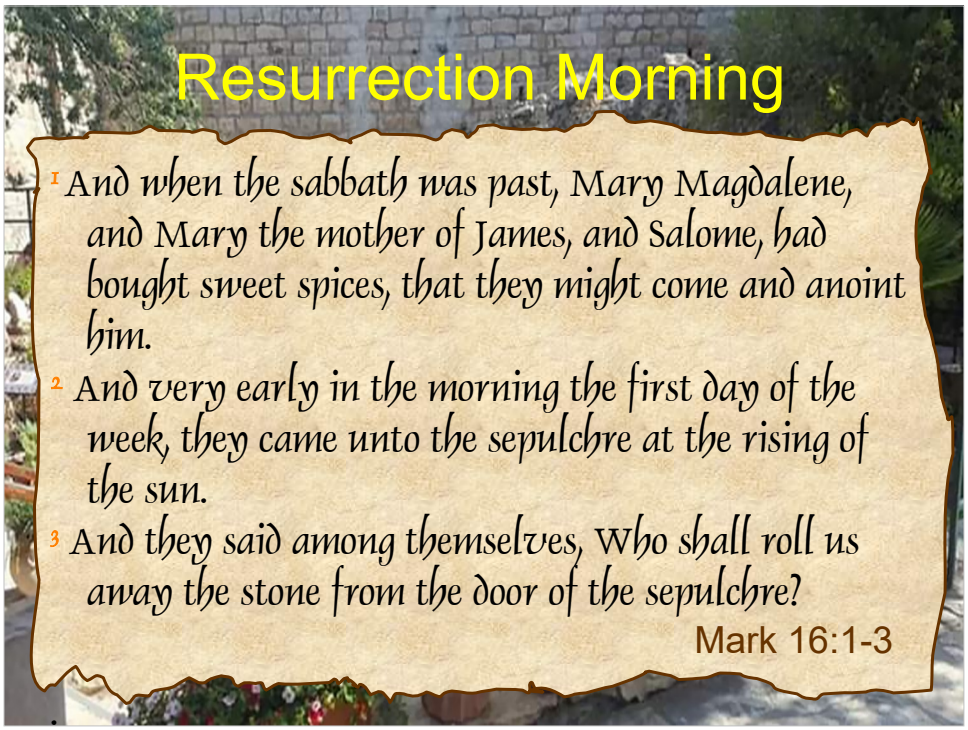
Joseph of Arimathaea

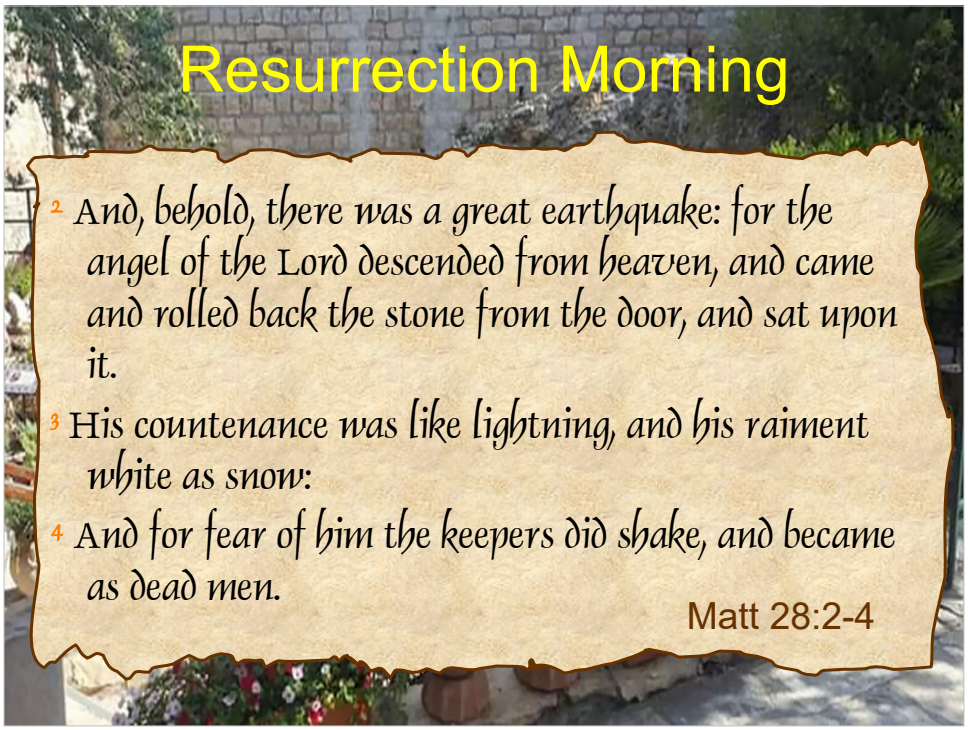
- This man was notably wealthy
- He was held in very high regard
- He is called ‘honourable counsellor’ Mk 15:43
- Only 14 such men in the history of the nation!
- He & Nichodemus are granted Jesus body
- This very act would cause them to be ‘excommunicated’ and lose their office
- They take Jesus, anoint Him, and put Him in Joseph’s tomb

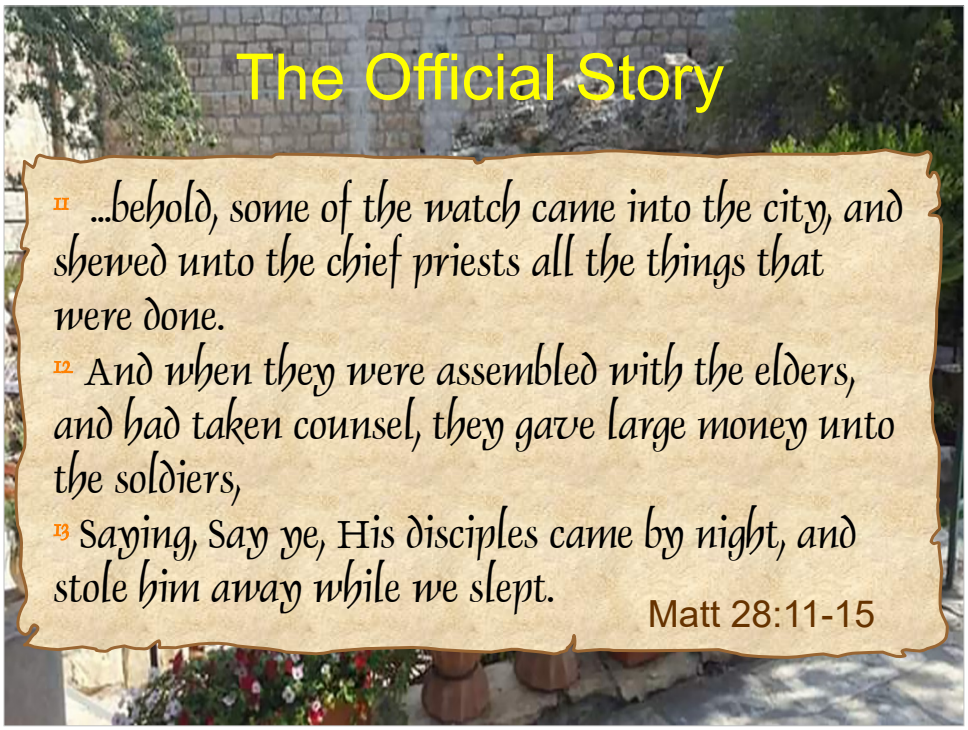


Jesus' enemies remembered what the disciples forgot! His enemies worried that His body would not be there on the third day!


64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure
until the third day, lest his disciples come by night,
and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is
risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse
than the first.
65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way,
make it as sure as ye can.
66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing
the stone, and setting a watch.
Matthew 27:64-66


Resurrection Morning
1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.
2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.
3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?
Mark 16:1-3

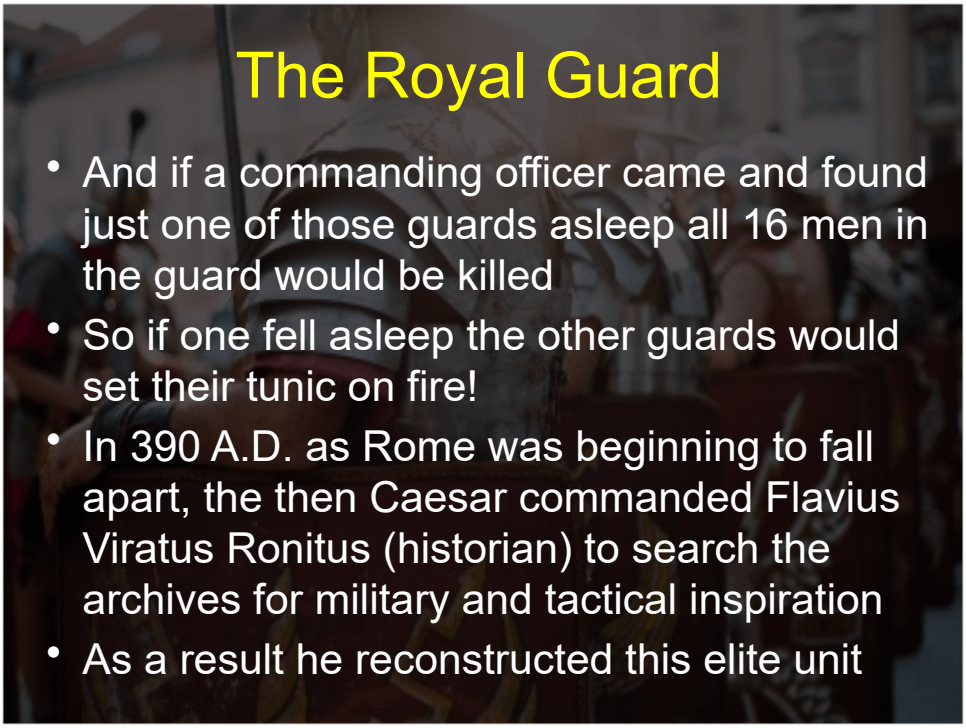

Resurrection Morning
2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.
3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:
4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.
Matt 28:2-4


The Official Story
11 ...behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.
12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,
13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.
Matt 28:11-15


The Official Story
14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.
15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.
Matt 28:11-15

The Royal Guard

- This “watch”, was a royal roman guard made up of 16 highly trained roman soldiers
- Each would have a spear, a short sword, and a dagger,
- Each man also had 5 javelins inside of a curved shield
- Their primary weapon however was a sling
- They were trained to hit a target 70 ft. away
- They were the special forces of their day



The Royal Guard

- And if a commanding officer came and found just one of those guards asleep all 16 men in the guard would be killed
- So if one fell asleep the other guards would set their tunic on fire!
- In 390 A.D. as Rome was beginning to fall apart, the then Caesar commanded Flavius Viratus Ronitus (historian) to search the archives for military and tactical inspiration
- As a result he reconstructed this elite unit

IT WAS CALLED THE MILITARY INSTITUTIONS OF THE ROMAN LEGION

AMERICAN SPECIAL FORCES, & THE NAVY SEALS, STILL READ THROUGH SOME OF THOSE DOCUMENTS,
AVAILABLE TODAY FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
ITS THE STRICTEST MILITARY CODE THERE IS

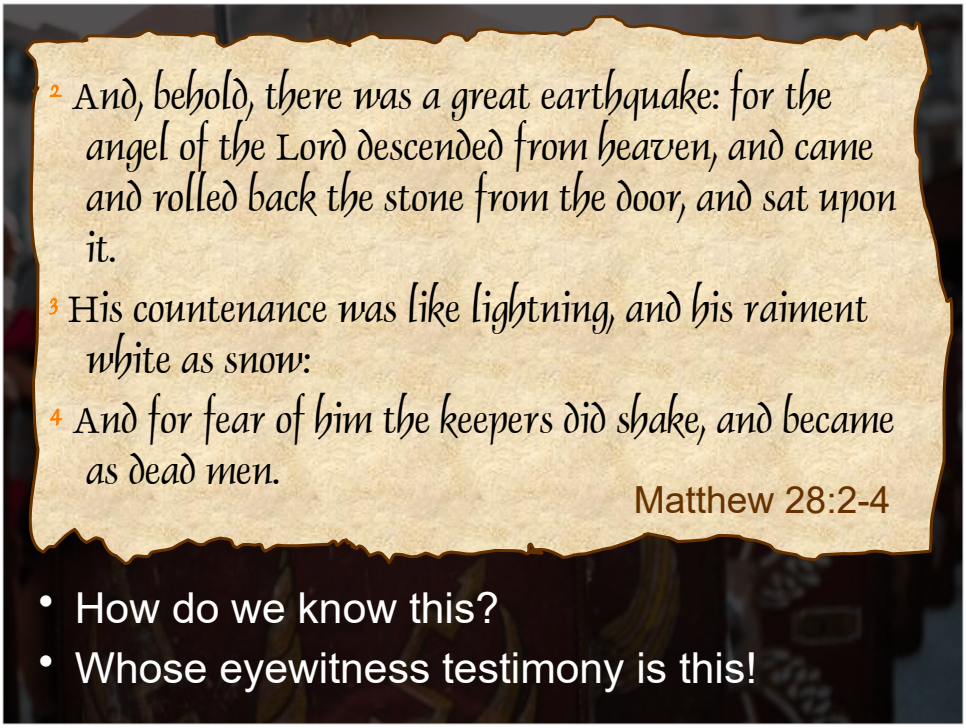
The Royal Guard

- The tomb was sealed - either with wax/clay
- Ropes would have been put across the stone, with the seal or Rome in the centre
- If anyone broke the seal, the punishment was to be crucified upside down,
- If they couldn't catch you, they would crucify upside down every man, woman and child in your village ,
- That tomb was sealed and secure!

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene,
and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had
bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint
him.
2 And very early in the morning the first day of the
week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of
the sun.
3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us
away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

Mark 16:1-3

- The women didn't know about the Roman guard! – or they may well not have gone!

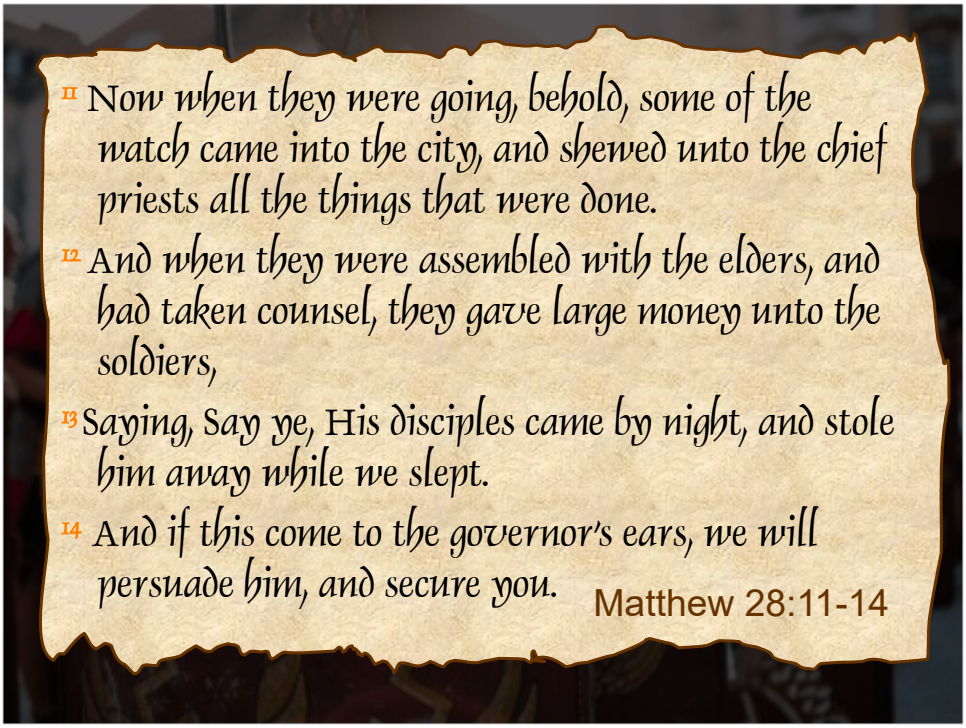

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.
3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:
4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.
Matthew 28:2-4
• How do we know this?
• Whose eyewitness testimony is this!

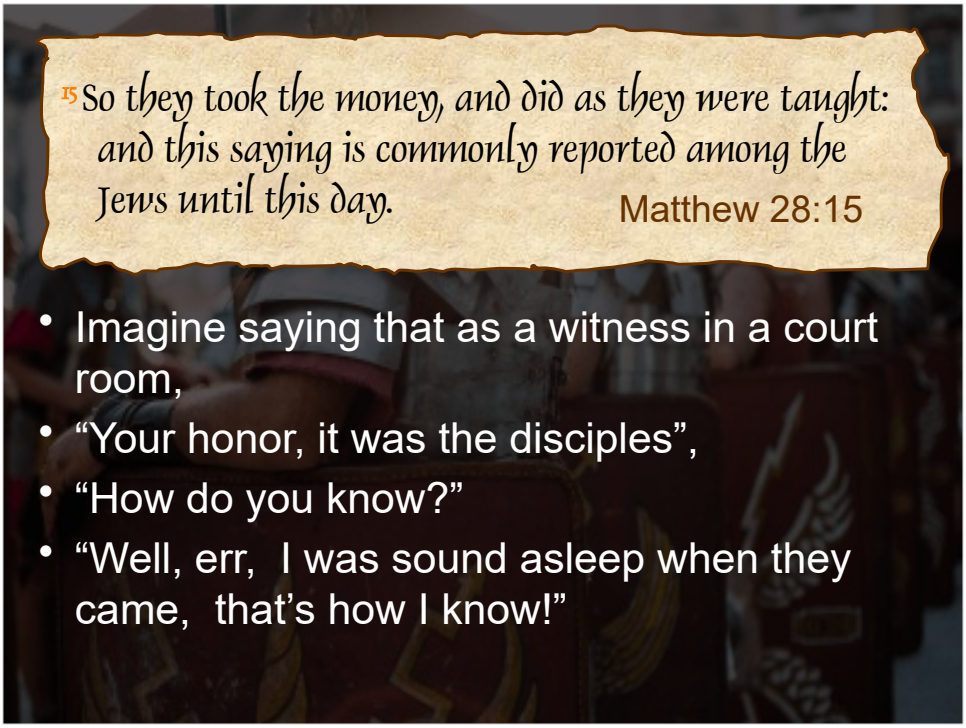
The Inside Story!

- In Israel there were tax collectors who would stay in their office and do the paperwork…
- And others who would go out and about and collect taxes from the public
- Matthew was the latter, called ‘publicans’
  - Because they collected from the public,
- As a servant of Rome he would always have had a roman soldier with him
  - With his shield and his spear to signify the authority of Rome,

The Inside Story!

- Matthew is the only Gospel writer to tell us what happened at the tomb…
- …that an angel came down, and rolled the stone away,
- …and what happened in the discussion with Pilate…
- …and that the soldiers didn't go to Pilate when they fled the tomb, but to the priests,
- …and that the priests paid the soldiers to keep quiet!


11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.
12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,
13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.
14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.
Matthew 28:11-14



Imagine saying that as a witness in a court room,

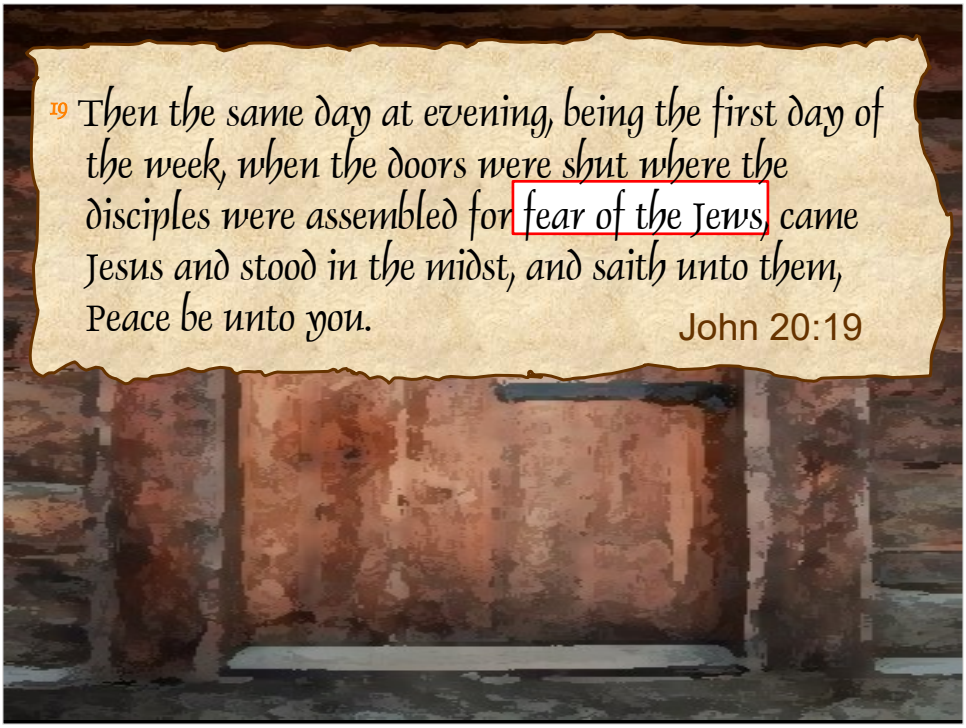
Your honor, it was the disciples,

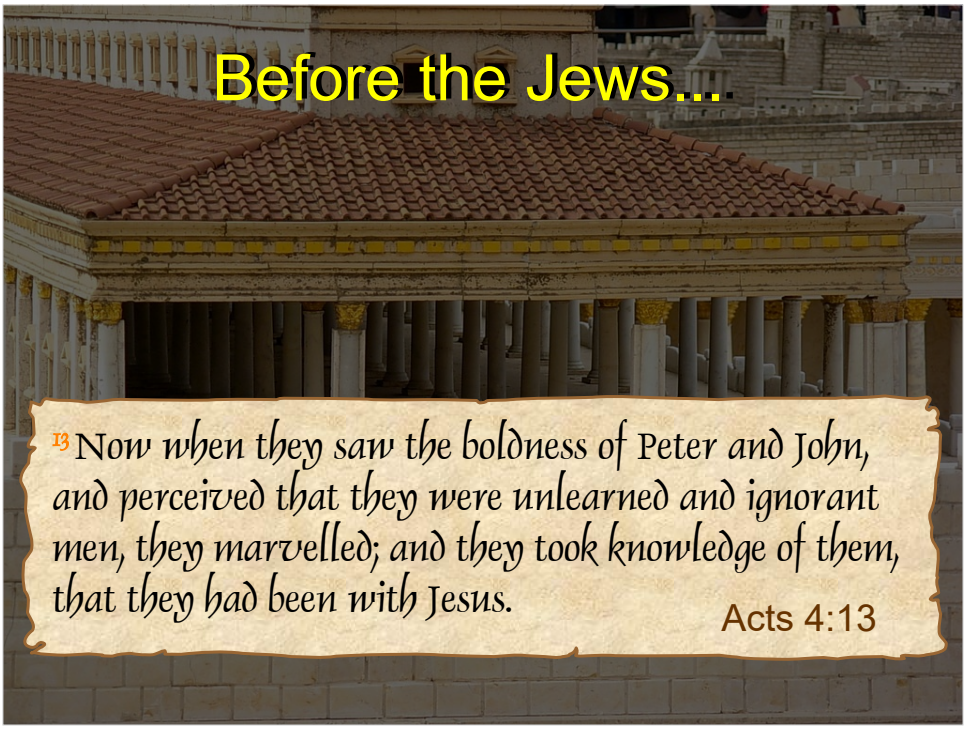
How do you know?

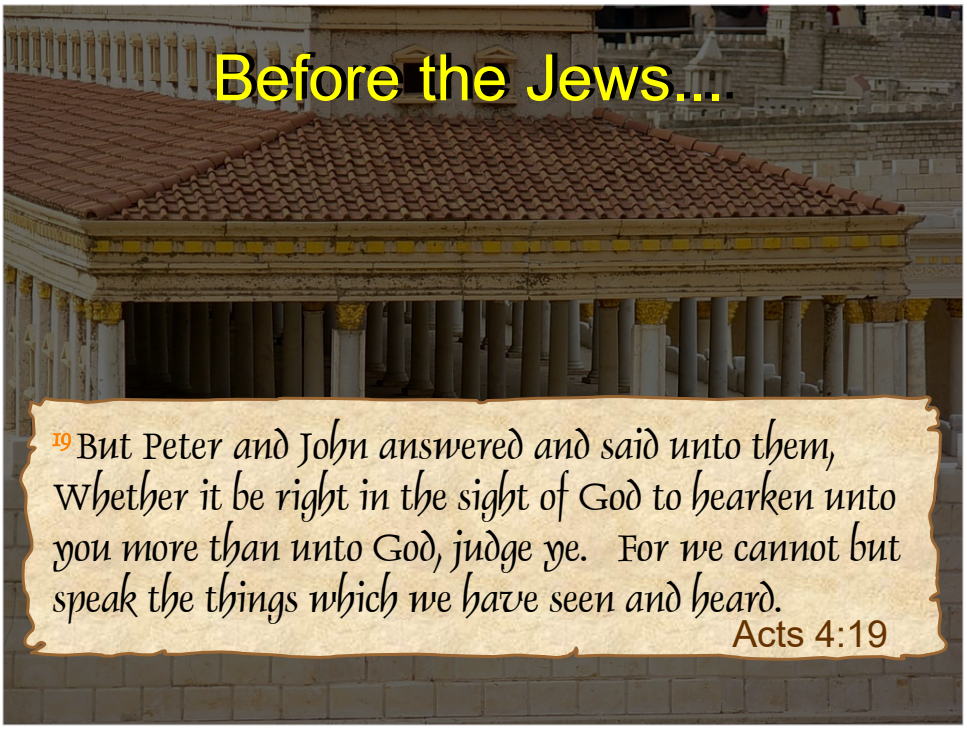
Well, err, I was sound asleep when they came, that’s how i know!

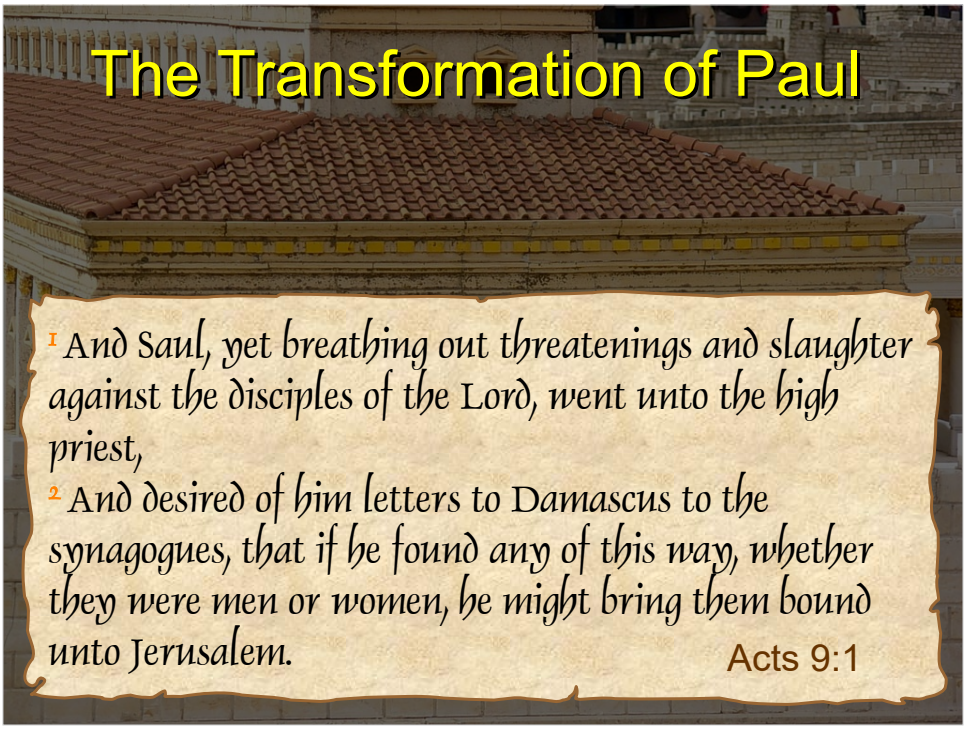
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

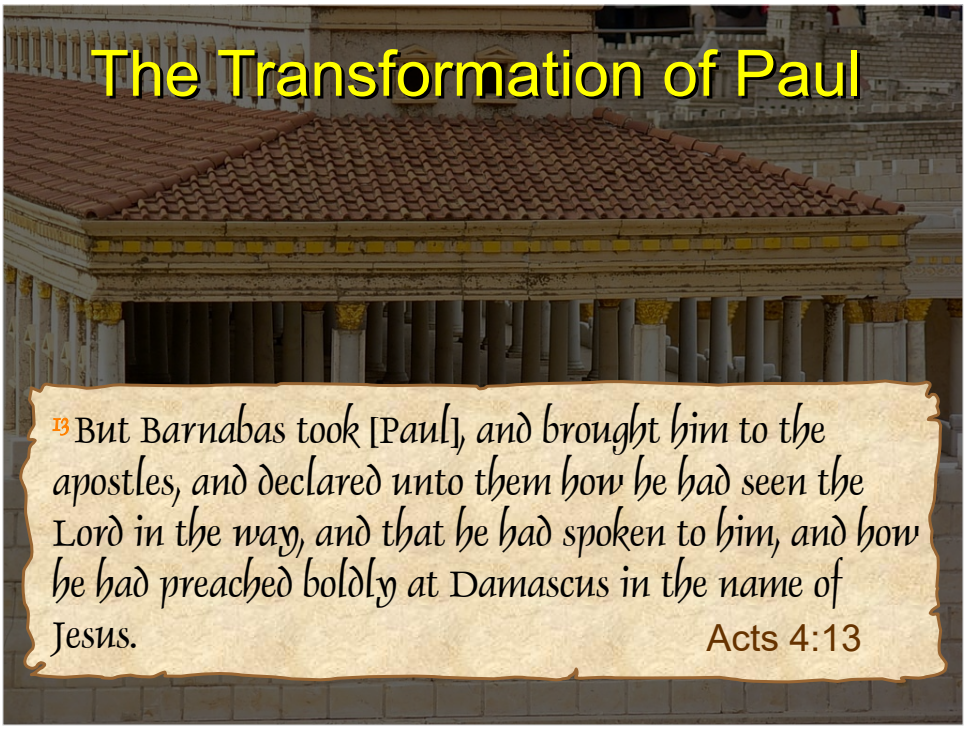
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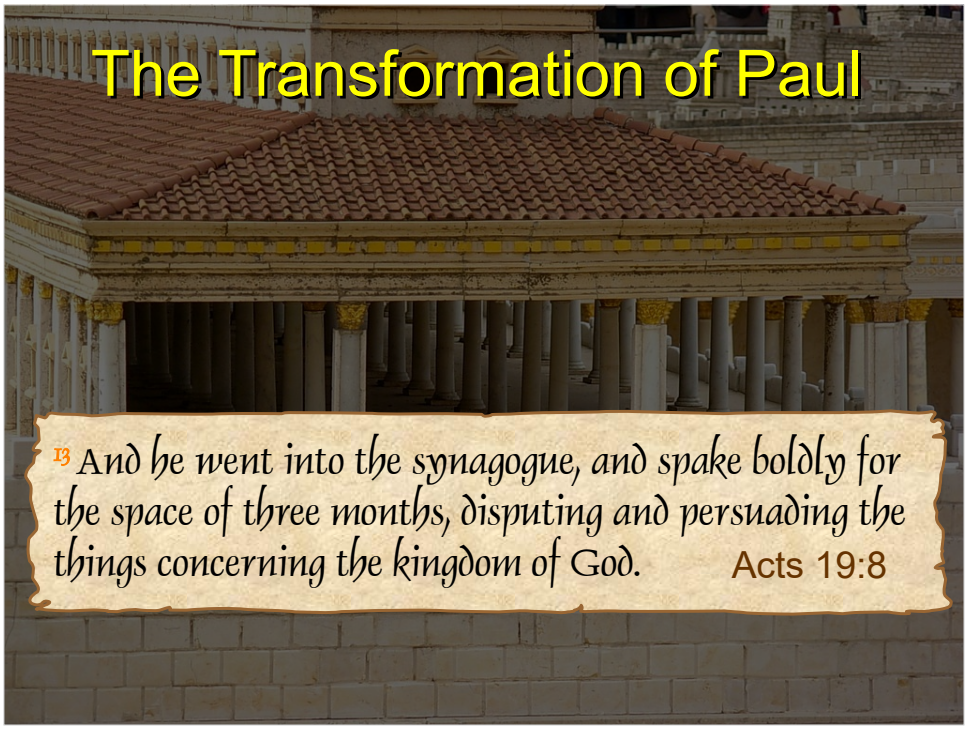

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.
John 20:19


Before the Jews...
13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.
Acts 4:13


Before the Jews...
19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
Acts 4:19


The Transformation of Paul
1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,
2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.
Acts 9:1


The Transformation of Paul
13 But Barnabas took [Paul], and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.
Acts 4:13


The Transformation of Paul
13 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.
Acts 19:8

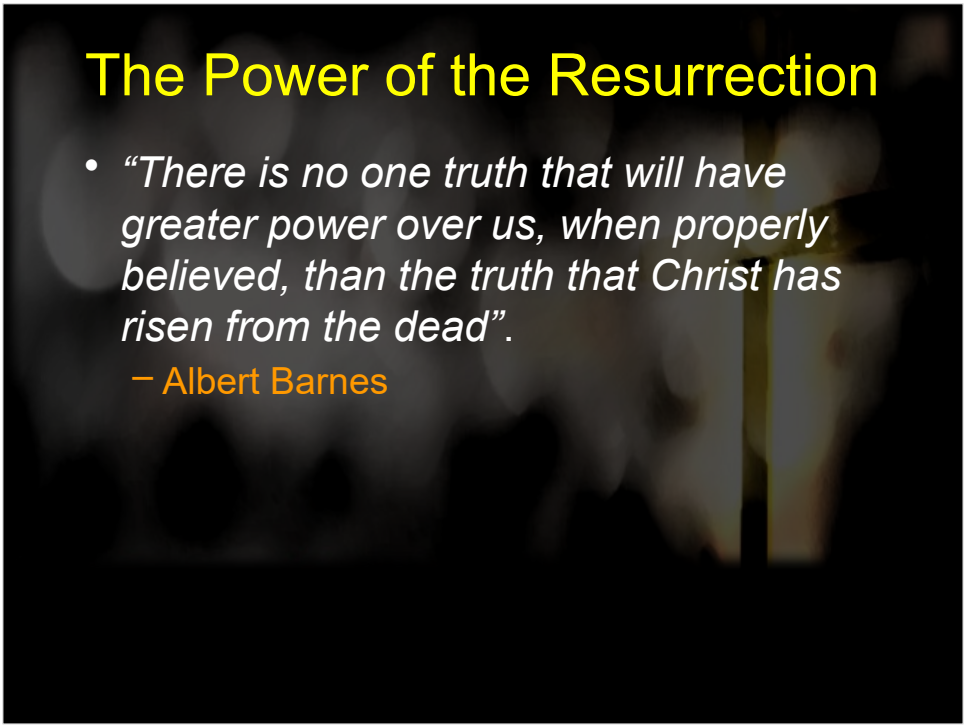

At Rome…
30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,
Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.
Acts 28:30

The Power to Change Lives

- Stephen – stoned to death
- James – beheaded
- Matthias – tied down & vultures eat him alive
- Jude (Thaddeus) – crucified & shot with arrows
- Nathaniel – skinned alive & crucified
- Philip – hanged
- Andrew – crucified in Egypt
- Mark – dragged behind chariots

The Power to Change Lives

- Matthew – flayed & beheaded
- Luke – Crucified
- James (Alpheus) – thrown from the temple
- Thomas – Impaled in India
- Simon Zelotes – Sawn in pieces
- Peter – Crucified upside down
- Paul – Beheaded in Rome


The Power of the Resurrection
• *“There is no one truth that will have greater power over us, when properly believed, than the truth that Christ has risen from the dead”.*
– Albert Barnes

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

- The Resurrection Foretold
- Jesus' own testimony
- The testimony of the Roman guards
- The transformation of the disciples
- The Gospel

The Gospel

– according to the scriptures –

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel that Christ died for our sins... according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day... according to the scriptures

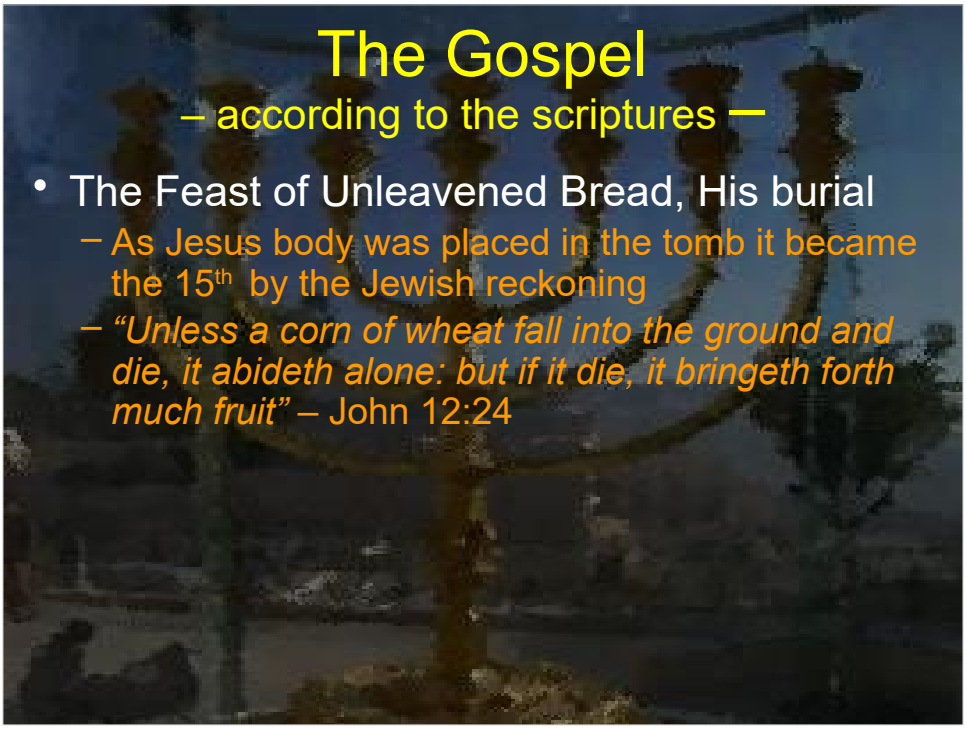
1 Corinthians 15:1-4



The Gospel

– according to the scriptures –

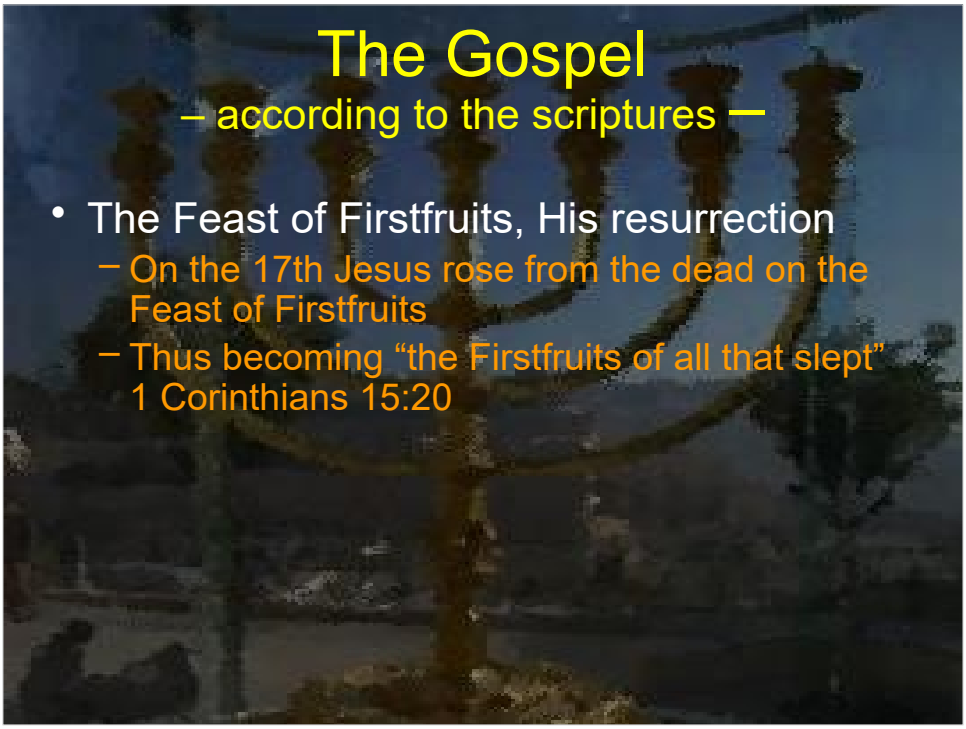
- The Feast of Passover (instituted c.1400 years before) foreshadows Christ's sacrificial death
  - On the 14th day of the month (Nisan)
  - Jesus was able to both celebrate the Passover with His disciples & become the Passover Lamb, dying on the 14th because of Exodus 12:6
    - The lamb's must be killed 'Beyn' 'BETWEEN' the evenings – thus a 24 hour window
  - Paul states that *"Christ became our Passover"* 1 Corinthians 5:7



The Gospel

– according to the scriptures –

- The Feast of Unleavened Bread, His burial
  - As Jesus body was placed in the tomb it became the 15th by the Jewish reckoning
  - *"Unless a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit"* – John 12:24



The Gospel

– according to the scriptures –

- The Feast of Firstfruits, His resurrection
  - On the 17th Jesus rose from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits
  - Thus becoming “the Firstfruits of all that slept” 1 Corinthians 15:20

The Gospel

– according to the scriptures –

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel

that Christ died f our sins...

PASSOVER

to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the

third

UNLEAVENED BREAD

cording to

FIRSTFRUITS

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

A New Beginning!

- Christ's offer of salvation is available to all who will accept
- *"if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved!"*
  – *Romans 10:9-11*