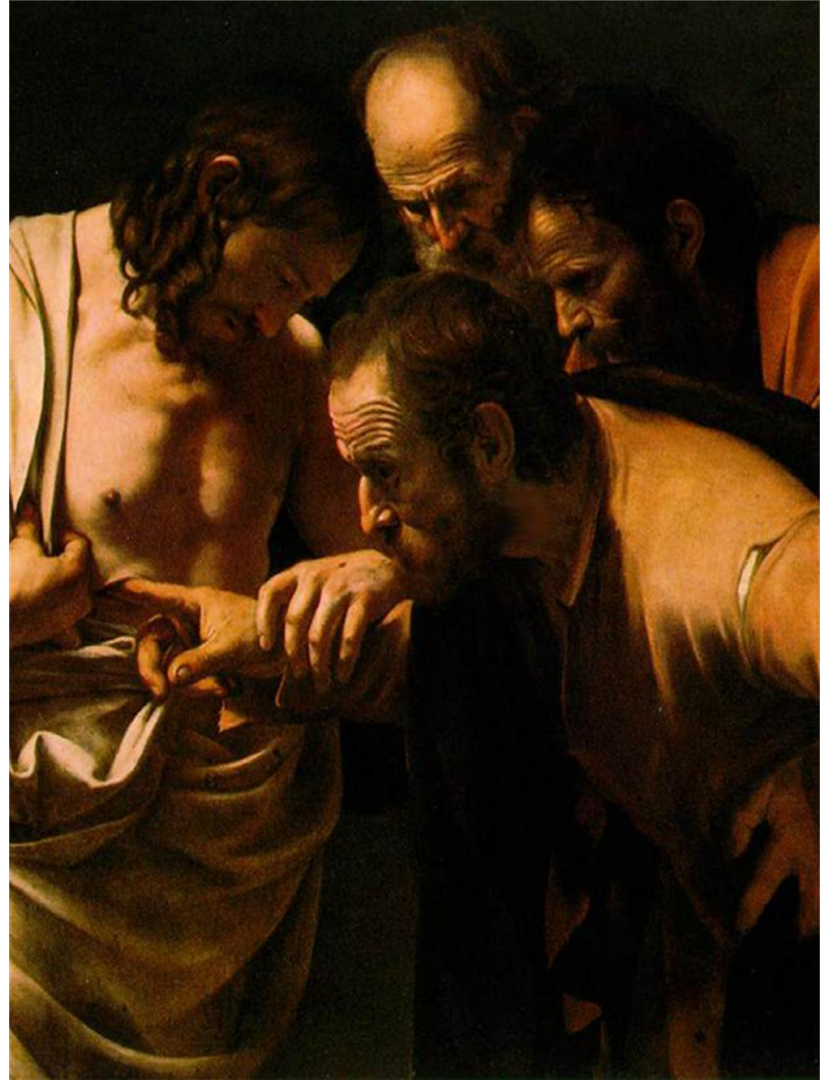


THE
EVIDENCE
FOR
EASTER
SERIES



Who am I?

- Sam
- 25 Years Old
- BA Theology & Research Student
- Ex-Atheist Agnostic
- I have a love for Apologetics

“Apologia”

-

**To make a defence,
give a reason for
something**



TESTIMONY



EVIDENCE

TESTIMONY



DID JESUS
EXIST?



CAN WE TRUST
THE NEW
TESTAMENT?

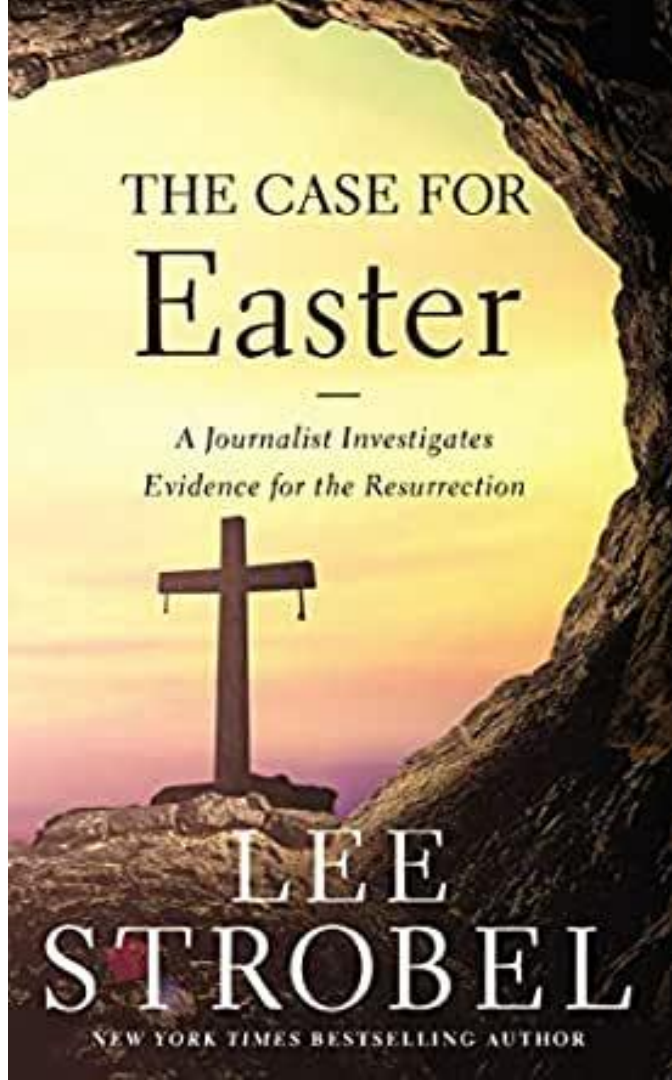


DID JESUS
RISE FROM
THE DEAD?

**DID JESUS
EXIST?**

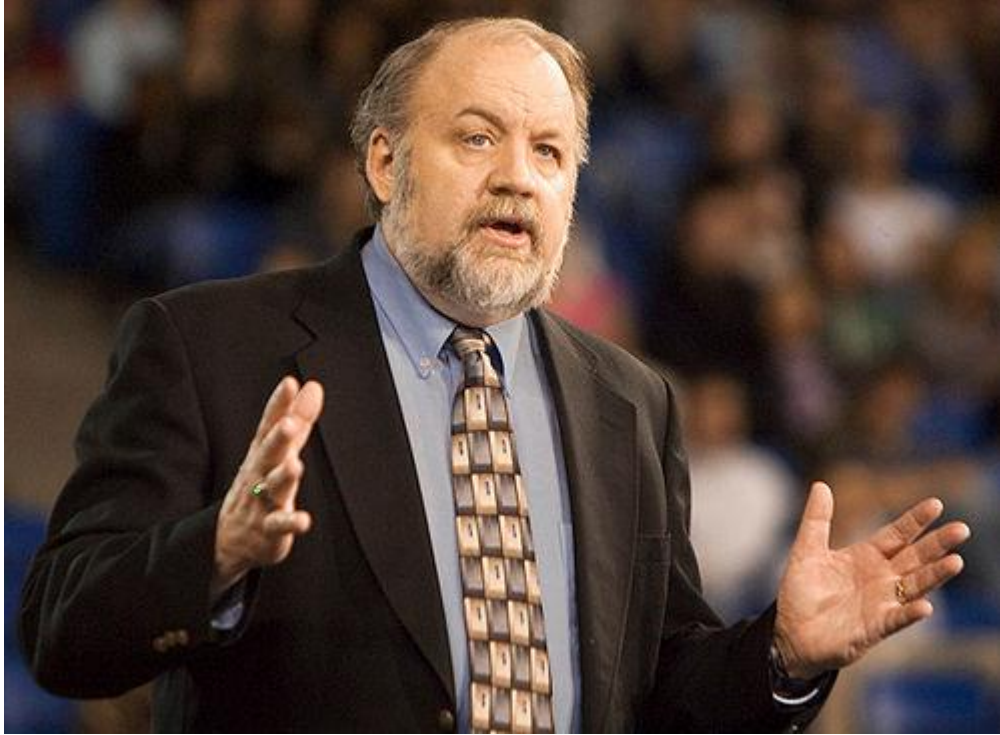
**CAN WE TRUST
THE NEW
TESTAMENT?**

**DID JESUS
RISE FROM
THE DEAD?**



Lee Strobel

Atheist Journalist,
converted to
Christianity
Renowned Author



Gary Habermas
PhD

Professor of
Apologetics and
Philosophy
Liberty University

What we're covering tonight



What is the case for
the resurrection?



What other
theories are there?



Answering
objections

SO WHAT?

**Why is the resurrection of
Jesus important?**



**“The resurrection
doesn’t really
impact
Christianity”**

“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be **misrepresenting God...**”

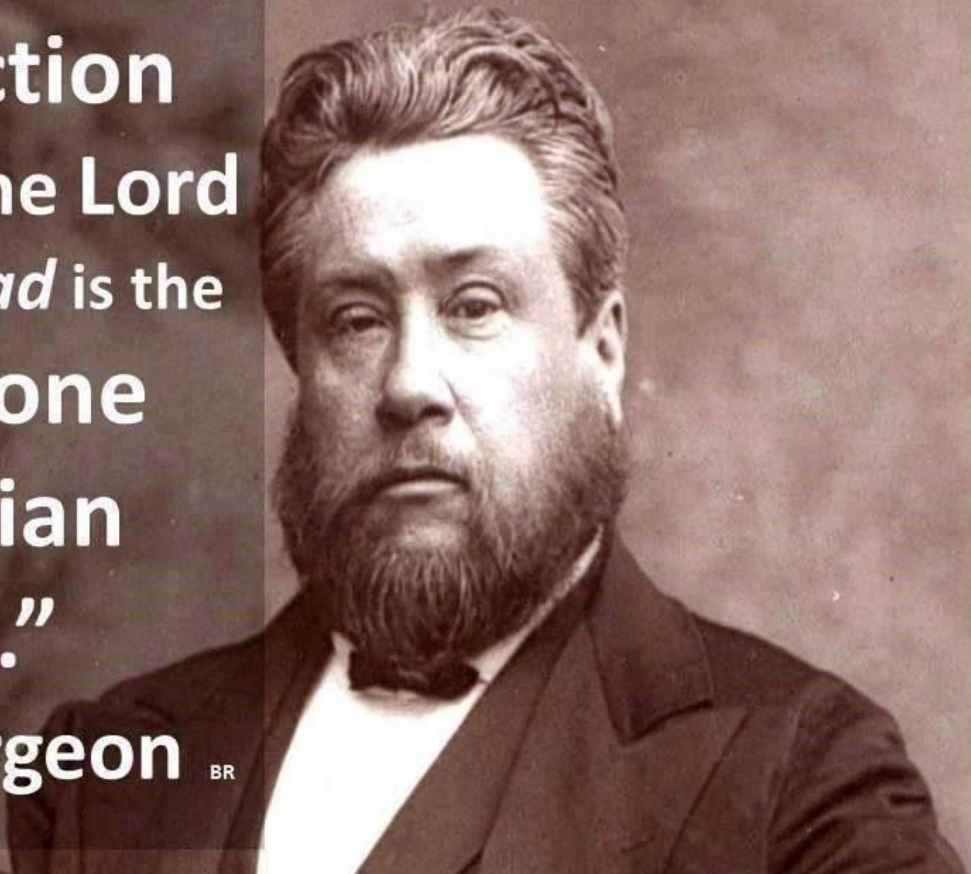
- 1 Corinthians 15:14-15

“... If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, **we are of all people most to be pitied.**” -
1 Corinthians 15:17-19



**“The
Resurrection
of our divine Lord
from the *dead* is the
cornerstone
of Christian
doctrine.”**

C. H. Spurgeon BR



“Jesus is just one way to heaven. It doesn't matter”



“I am the way,
and the truth, and
the life. No one
comes to the
Father except
through **me.**”

John 14:6



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.

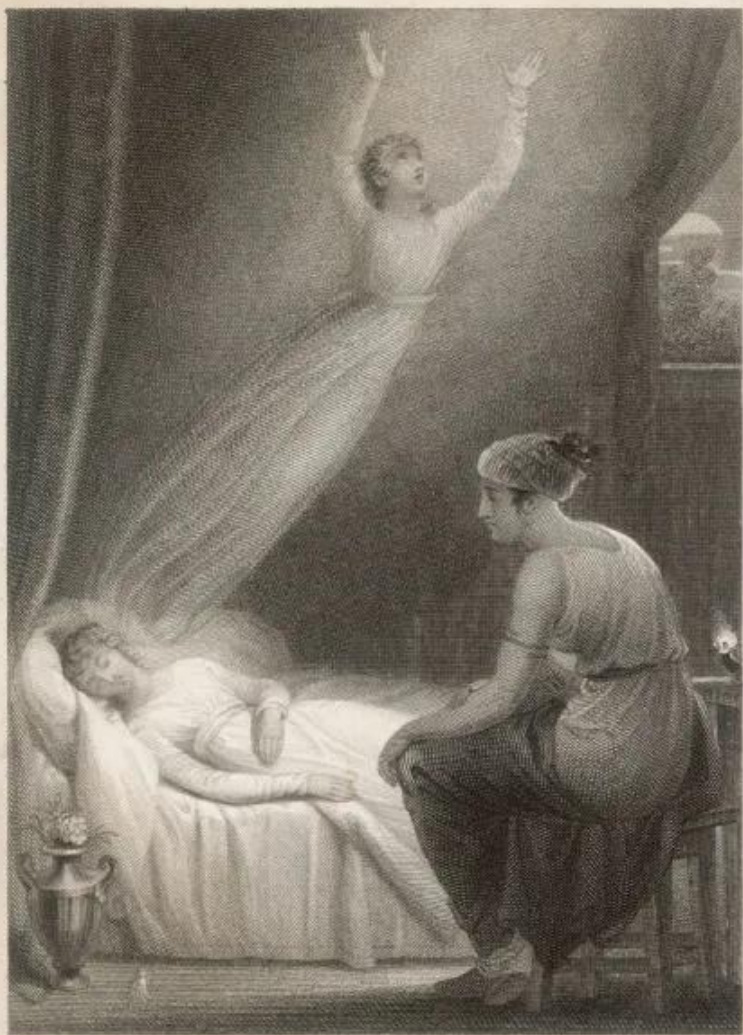
~ C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

**If Jesus rose from
the dead, we
should listen to
what He has to say**



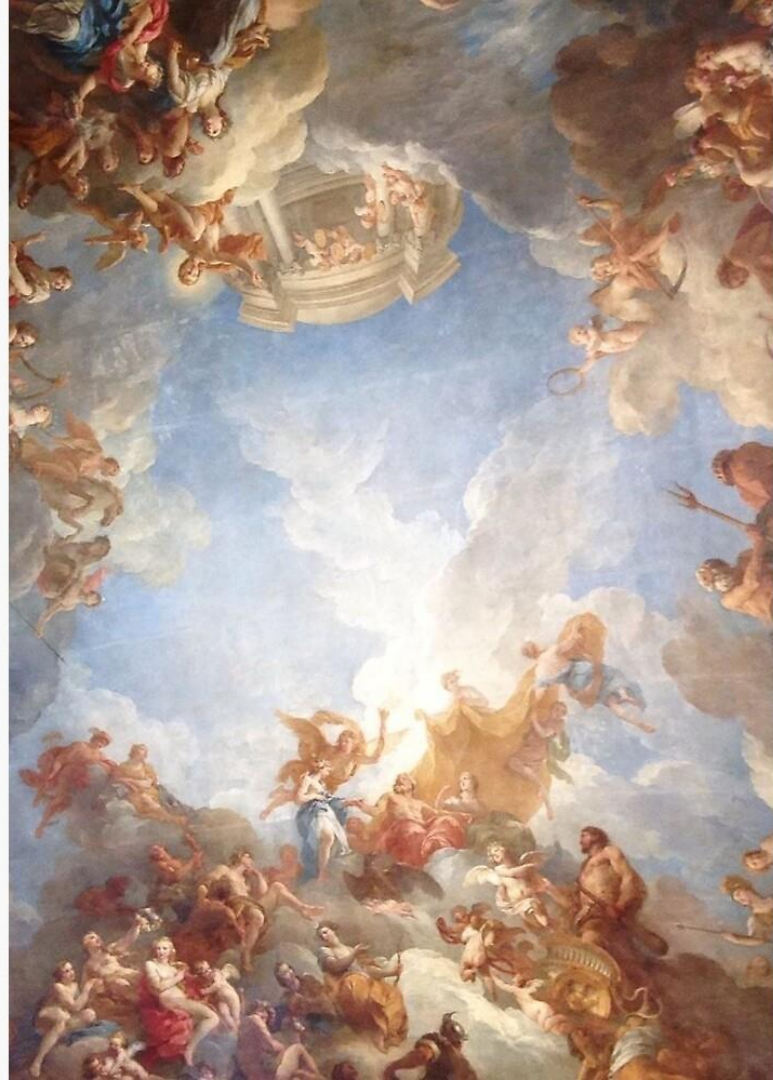
**“It was a
spiritual
resurrection.
He came
back as a
spirit”**



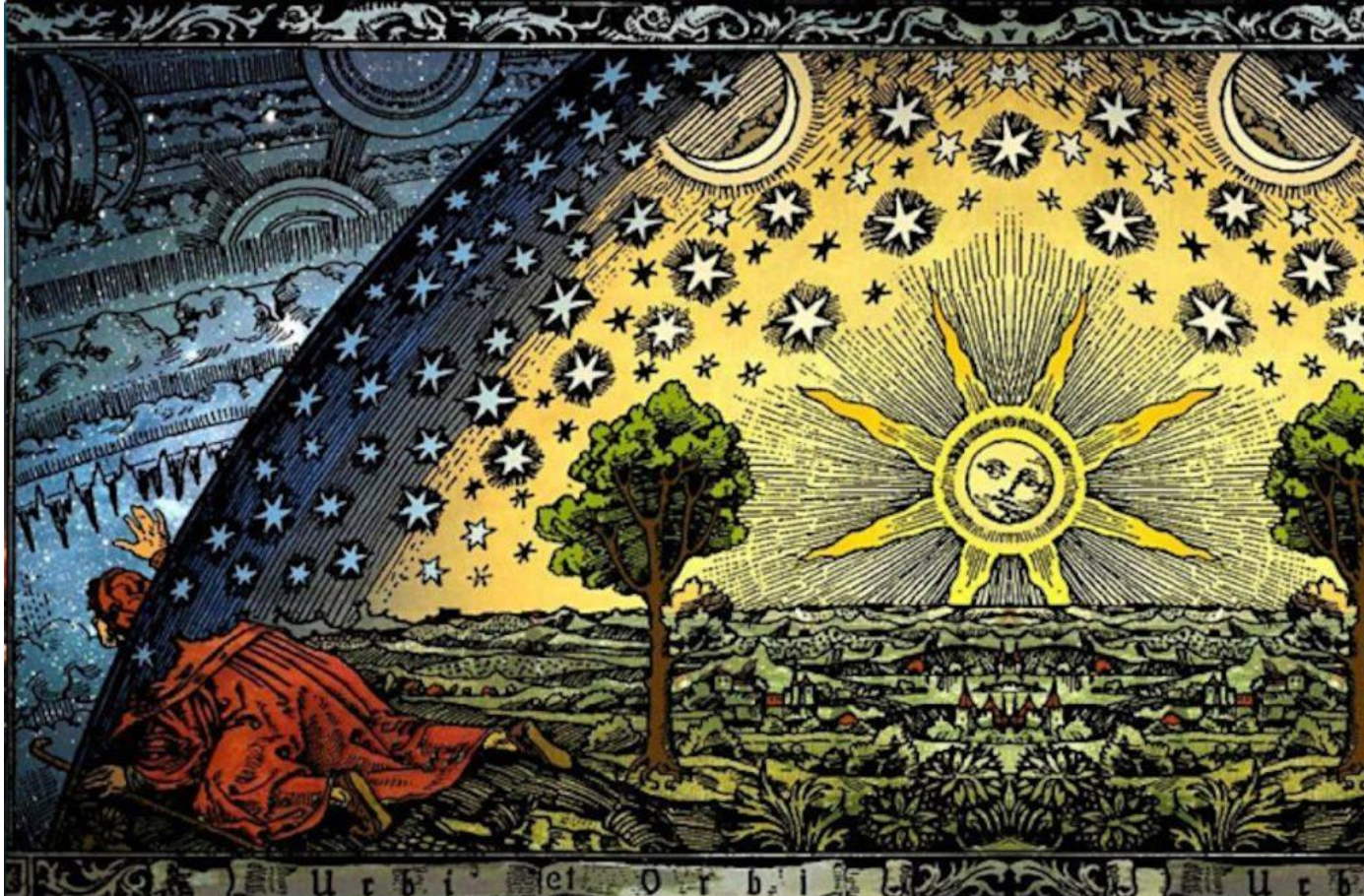


H. Corbeuld. pinx^t

S. Davonport. sculp^t



Gnosticism



Gnosticism

GOOD

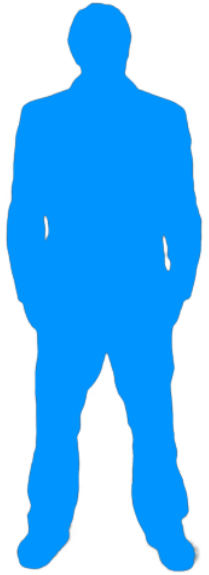
BAD

SPIRIT

BODY

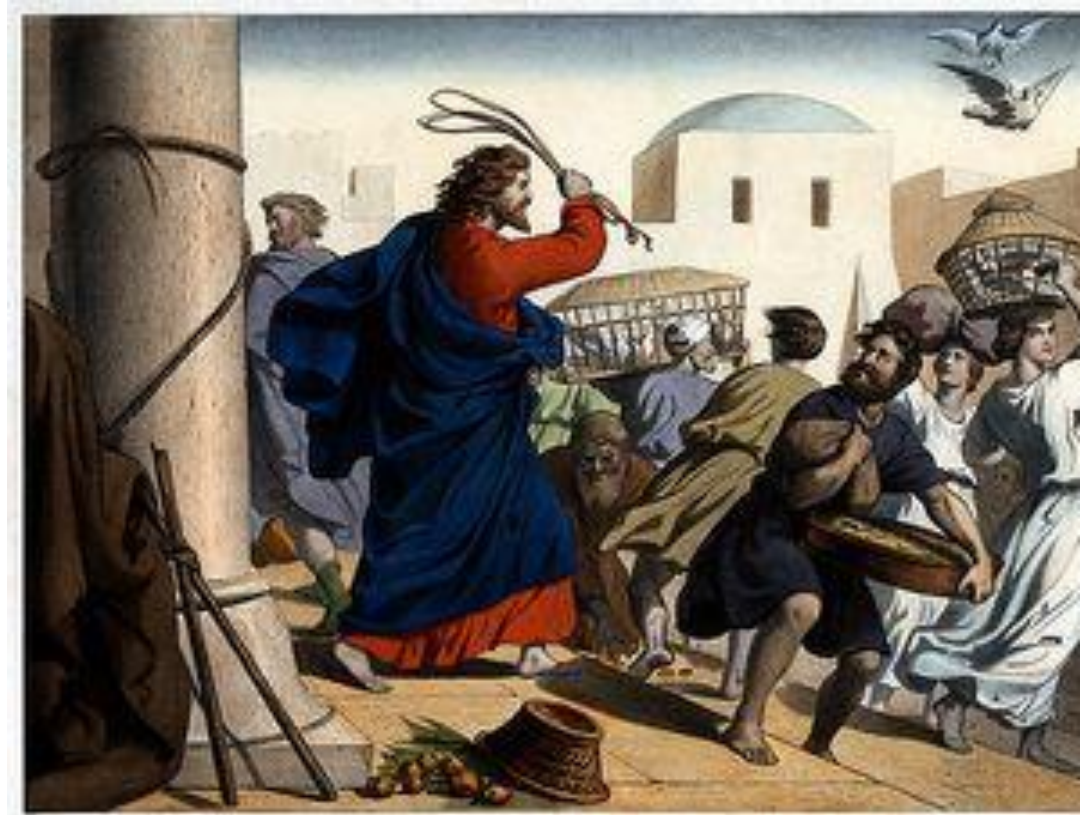
IMMATERIAL

MATERIAL



“Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple **of his body**. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.”

John 2:19-22



“While the disciples were still talking... Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; **a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.**”



Luke 24:36-39

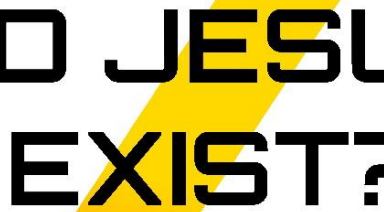
If the Resurrection is true, everything changes



“Christianity is just wishful thinking. You don’t have any evidence for Jesus rising from the dead”



DID JESUS EXIST?



20 Independent
sources:
Christian + Non-
Christian

Consensus among
modern historians



**CAN WE TRUST
THE NEW
TESTAMENT?**

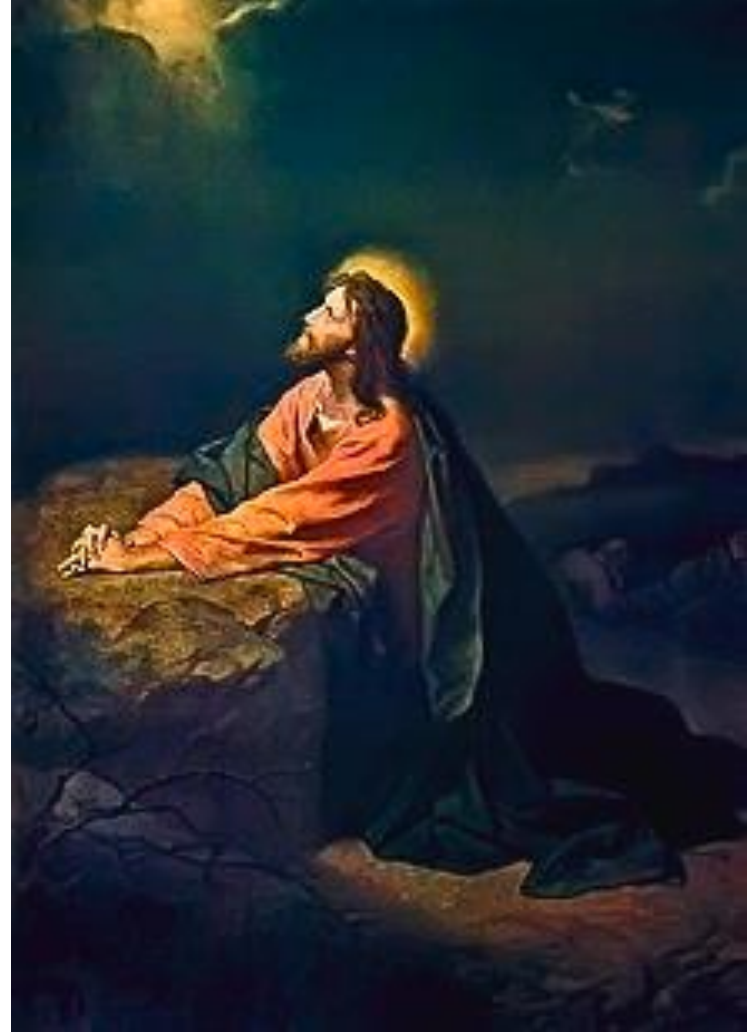
5,800+
manuscripts to
compare

The best attested
document of antiquity

Sourced from eyewitness
data

A recap of the story

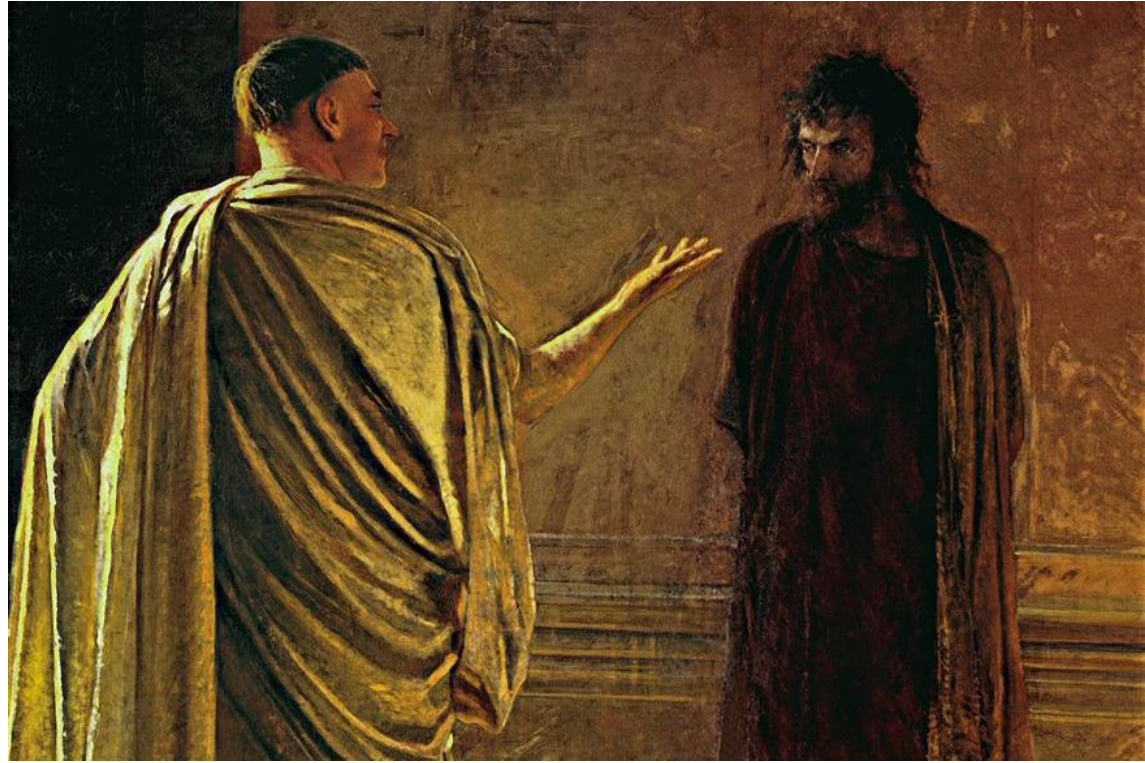
**Jesus is with his
disciples in the
Garden of
Gethsemane**



**Taken and
brought before
the Jewish
authorities**



**Brought
before the
Roman
governor
Pontius Pilate**



**After trial
he is
delivered
over to be
crucified**



He is
scourged
with a
'Flagellum'



**Simon of
Cyrene
chosen to
help Jesus
bear his
cross**



**Jesus is
crucified
and dies**

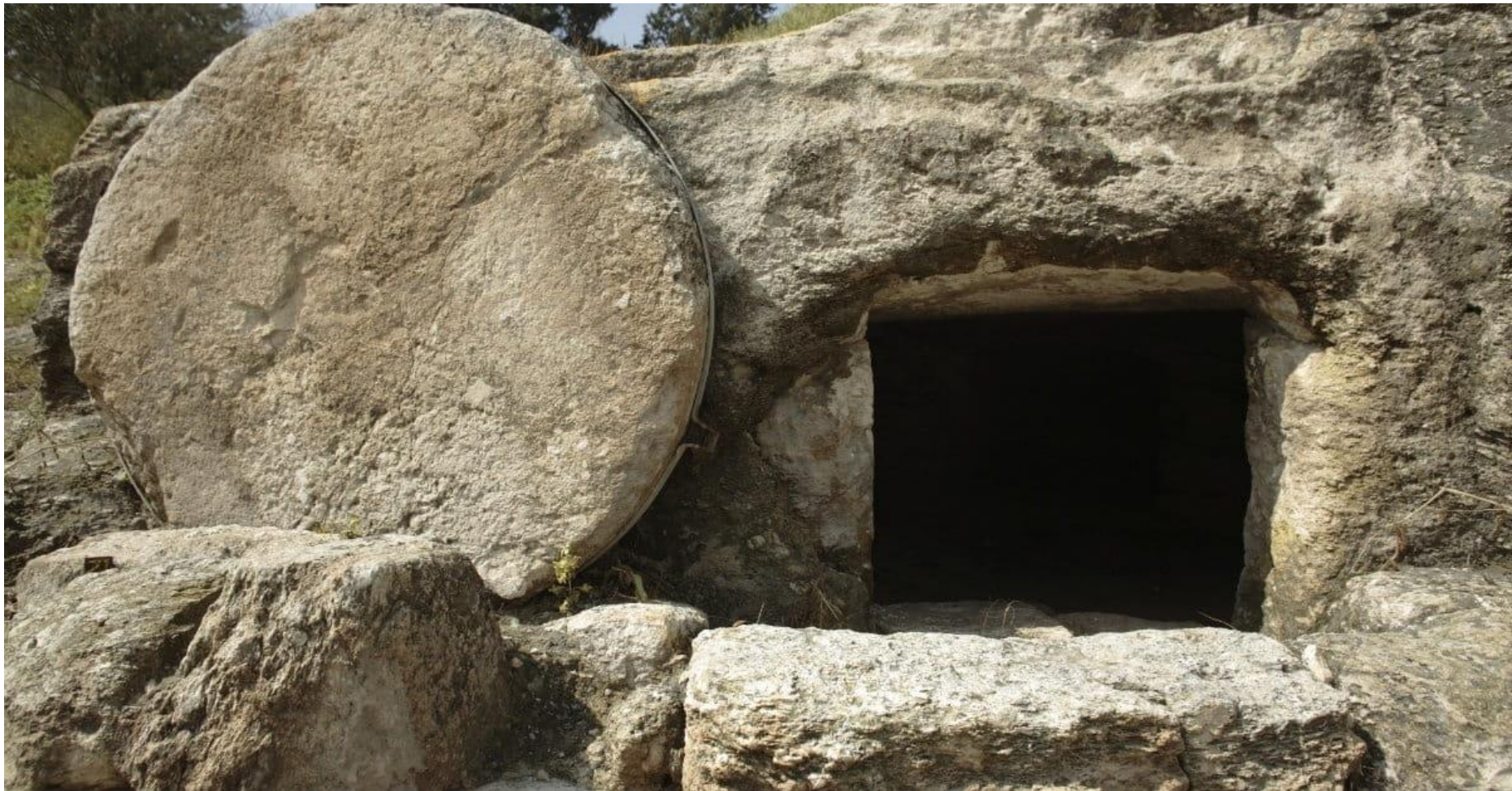


**His side is
pierced by
a Roman
soldier**

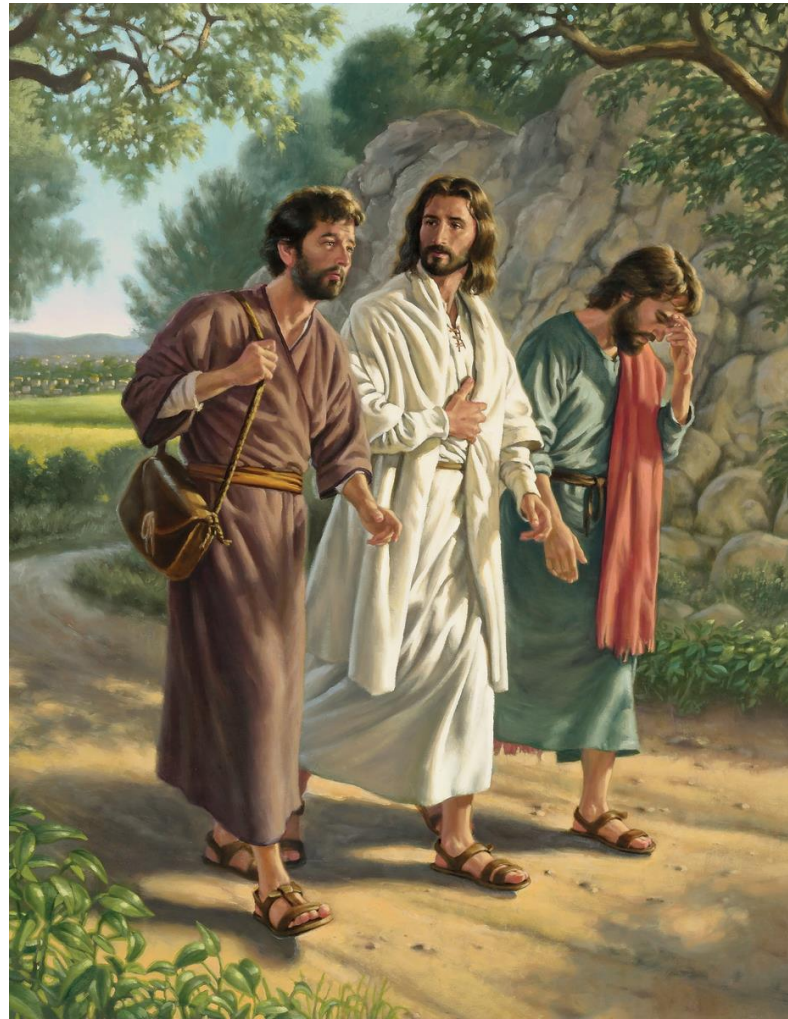


**Joseph of
Arimathea
gives
Jesus his
tomb**





**Many had
experiences
with the
risen Jesus**



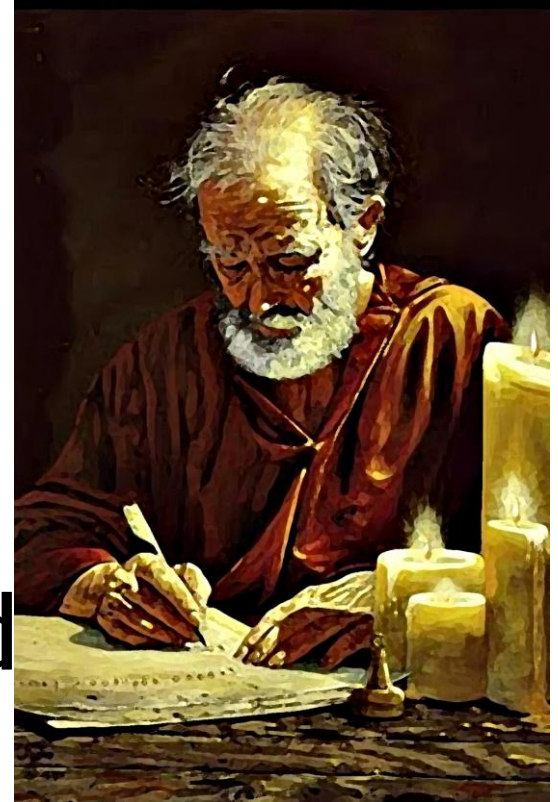
**What evidence can
we bring?**

Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians



1st Corinthians

- **Written 55AD +/- 2yrs**
- **25 Years after the Crucifixion**
- **Contains an early Christian creed**



**Why is 1 Corinthians
Chapter 15 relevant?**

1 Corinthians 15:3-11

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

6 mentions of witnesses

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he **appeared** to **Cephas**, then to **the twelve**. Then he appeared to more than **five hundred brothers** at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to **James**, then to **all the apostles**. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also **to me**. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

520+ witnesses

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he **appeared** to **Cephas**, then to **the twelve**. Then he appeared to more than **five hundred brothers** at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to **James**, then to **all the apostles**. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also **to me**. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on t

- Paul's first visit to Corinth

51AD



For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on t

35AD

- After 3 years in Arabia 32-35AD
- Galatians 1:18-19



For I delivered to you as of first importance **what I also received**: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on t

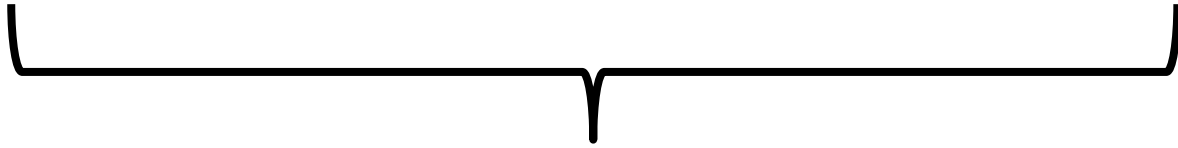
For I **delivered** to you as of first importance what I also **received**: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time most of whom

I delivered

Παρέδωκα - 'Paredoka'

Received

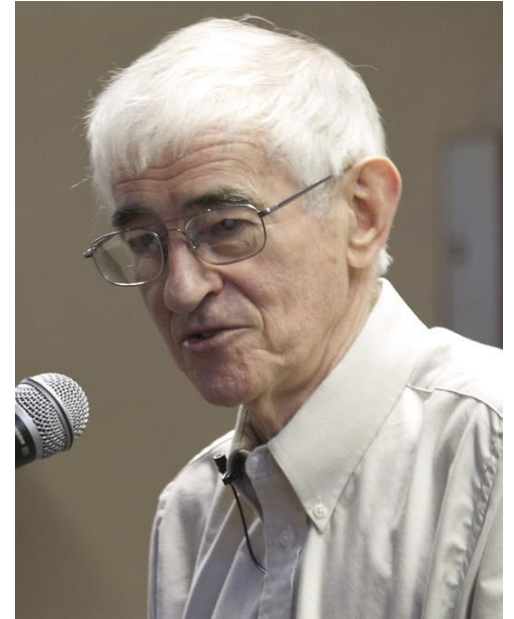
Παρέλαβον - 'Parelabon'



**Rabbinic terms for
traditions passed on**

“Paul wrote to the Corinthians from Ephesus in the early 50s C.E. But he says in 1 Corinthians 15:3 that “I handed on to you as of first importance which I in turn received.” The most likely source and time for his reception of that tradition would have been Jerusalem in **the early 30s** when, according to Galatians 1:18, he “went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas [Peter] and stayed with him fifteen days”

-Excavating Jesus: Beneath the Stones, Behind the Texts. Pages 254



John Dominic Crossan
Co-Chair of the Jesus Seminar
Revisionist Scholar

Other creeds found in the New Testament:

1 Corinthians 15:3-11

The witnesses of the resurrected Jesus

Acts 2:22-36

Resurrected and Glorified

Romans 1:3-4

Descendant from David

Philippians 2:6-11

Humbled and Glorified

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

The Lord's supper

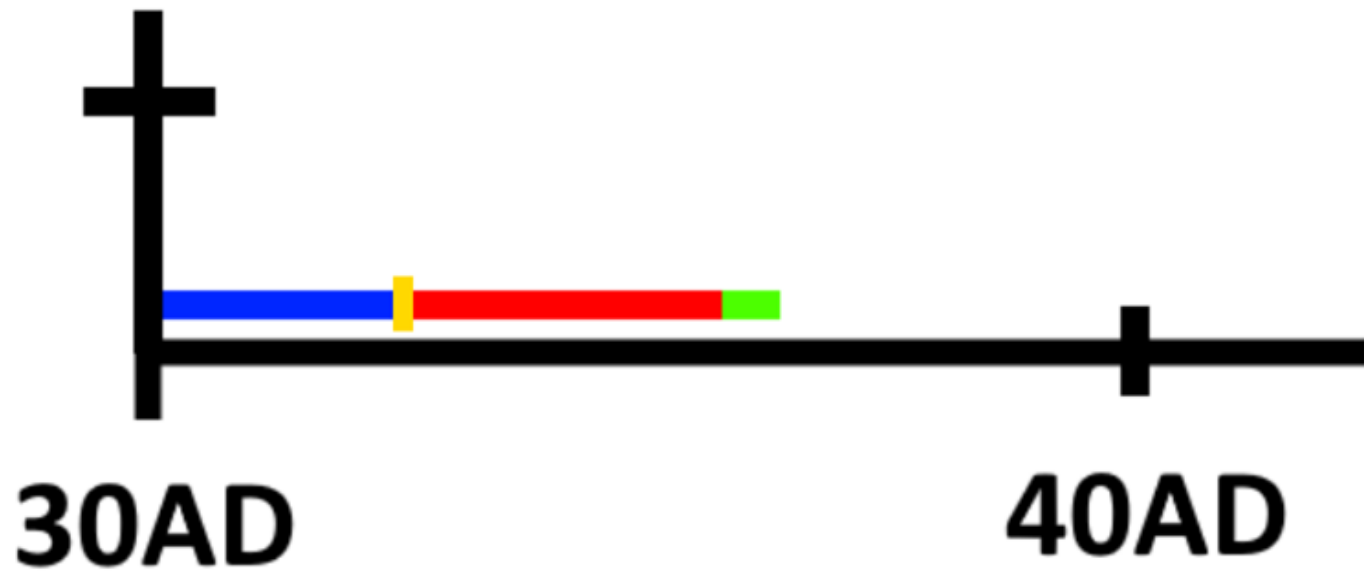
I delivered

Παρέδωκα - 'Paredoka'

Received

Παρέλαβον - 'Parelabon'

Traditions about witnesses that
can be dated to **several years** after
the cross

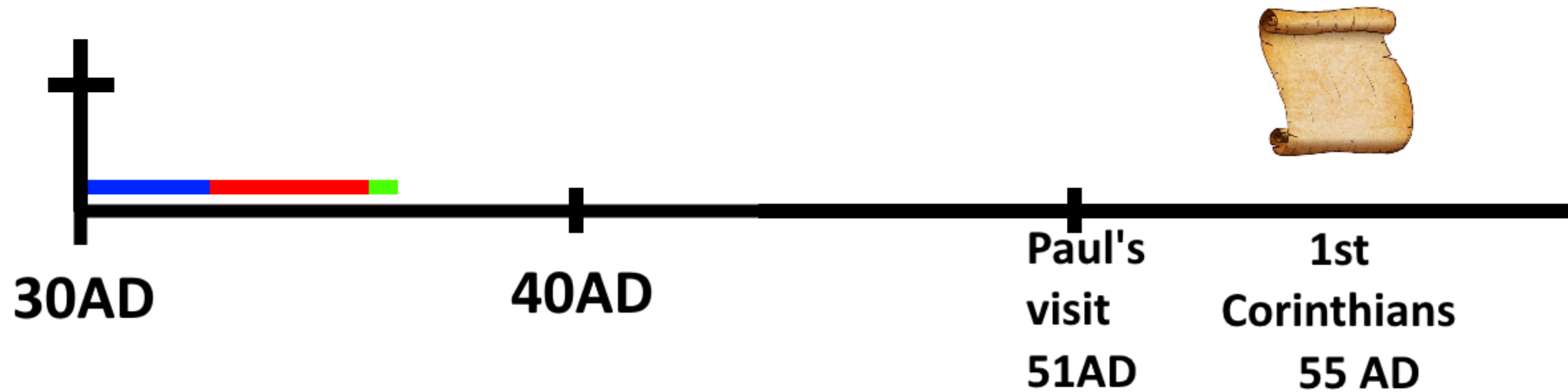


Christian message spreading

Paul's Conversion

Paul's trip to Arabia

Paul Receiving tradition



**What scholar in their
right mind would say
that the Christians
saw him risen?**



We may add here a short list of equally secure facts about the aftermath of Jesus' life:

- his disciples at first fled;
- they saw him (in what sense is not certain) after his death;
- as a consequence, they believed that he would return to found the kingdom;
- they formed a community to await his return and sought to win others to faith in him as God's Messiah.

The Historical Figure of Jesus - Page 13



EP Sanders ThD
Skeptical
Scholar

“Why, then, did some of the disciples claim to see Jesus alive after his crucifixion? I don’t doubt at all that some disciples claimed this... Paul, writing about twenty-five years later, indicates that this is what they claimed, and I don’t think he is making it up. And he knew at least a couple of them, whom he met just three years after the event”

**The New Testament: An Historical Introduction
to the Early Christian Writings - Page 282**



Bart D. Ehrman Ph.D.

Agnostic Atheist Scholar

“It may be taken as historically certain that Peter and the disciples had experiences after Jesus’ death in which Jesus appeared to them as the risen Christ”

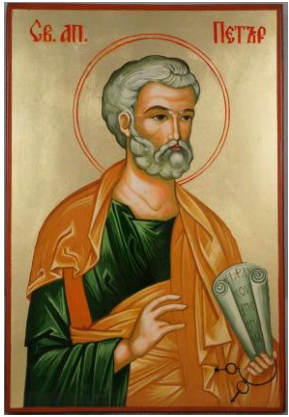
What really happened to Jesus - Page 80



Gerd Ludemann PhD

Non-Christian NT Scholar

**Eyewitnesses of Jesus
after the resurrection?**



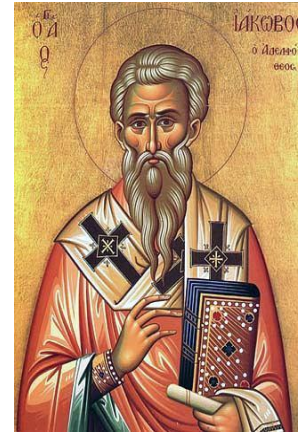
Peter



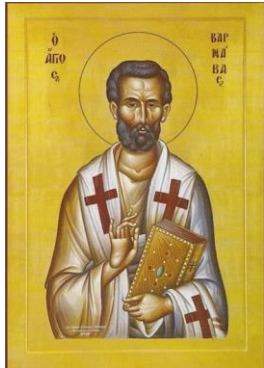
The Twelve



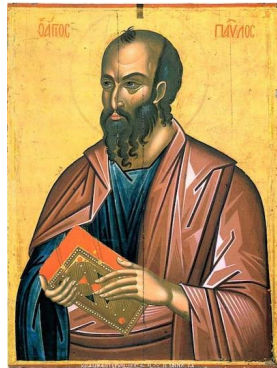
The 500



James

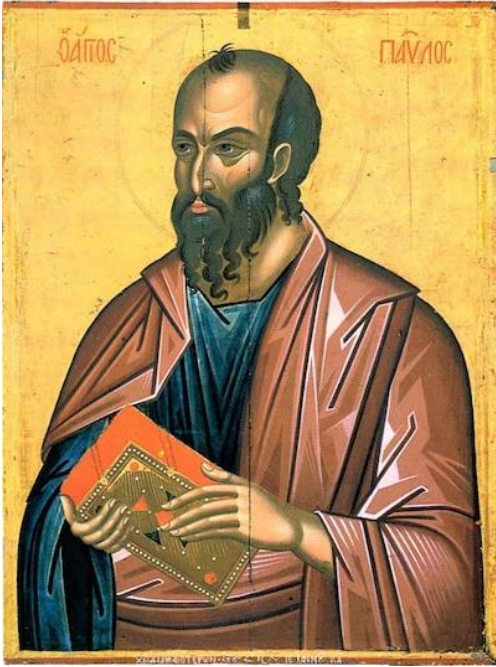


All the Apostles



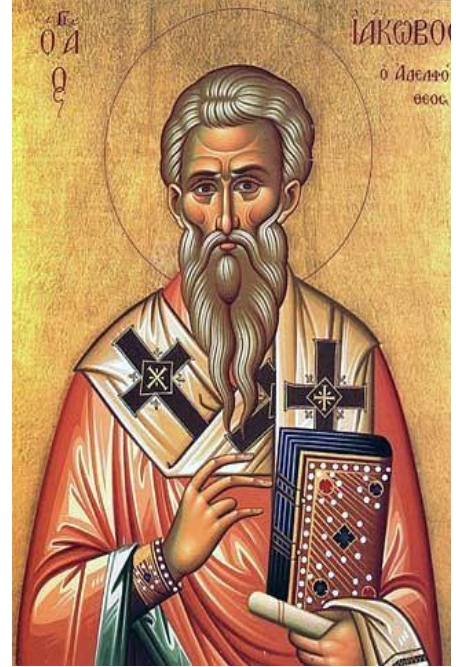
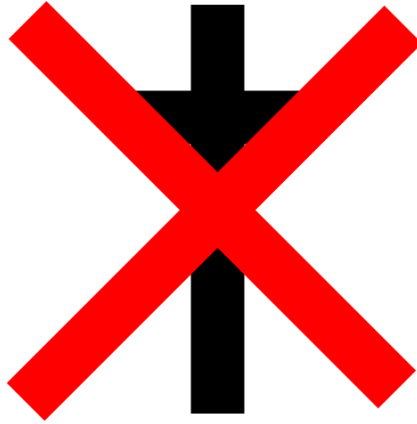
Paul

**Just from
1 Corinthians 15:3-11**



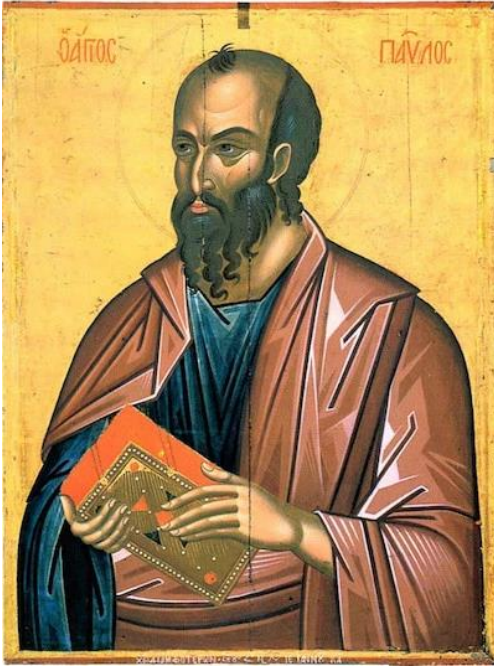
Saul

Pharisee
persecuting Christians



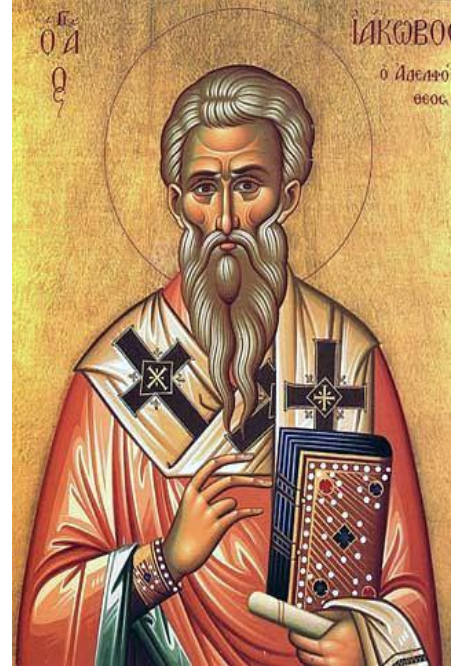
James

Unbelieving
Brother of Jesus



St. Paul

Apostle of Christ



St. James

Leader of the church

Paul before Christ

- Zealous Pharisee
- Strict adherence to Jewish Law
- Imprisoned Christians
- Trained under Gamaliel
- Bright future



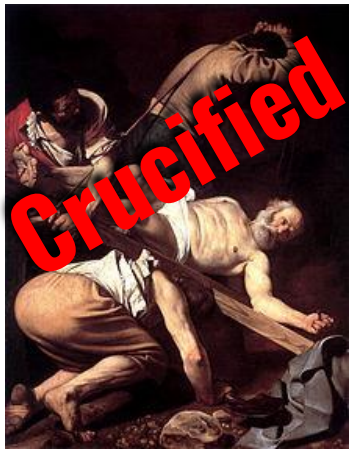
Acts 9:1-9



- 5 times whipped - 40 lashes
- 3 times beaten with rods
- 3 times shipwrecked
- House arrest
- Brought before courts
- Beheaded for his faith

Paul after Christ





Crucified

Peter



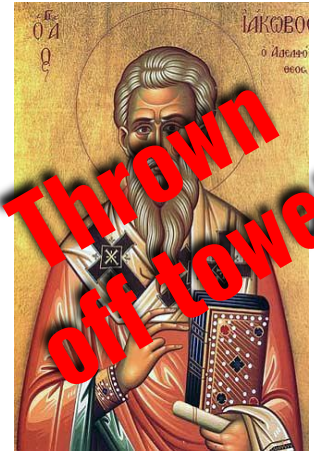
Beheaded

Paul



Various sufferings

The Twelve



Thrown off tower

James the brother of Jesus

Clement of Rome
96 AD

Acts 12 (James)
85 AD
Hippolytus/Pseudo-H
170-235 AD

Josephus
94AD
Clement of
Alexandria
200 AD

John's Gospel
90 AD

**Why would contemporaries of Jesus
who witnessed his death give up
everything and die for him?**

Liars make poor martyrs

“But Sam, people are martyred for a variety of faiths all the time. All that it shows is that they were sincere. It doesn’t prove the validity of their beliefs!”



Sincere about their faith 2000 years later



Claimed to witness an historical event within their lifetime!



**What other theories are
there?**

SWOON THEORY

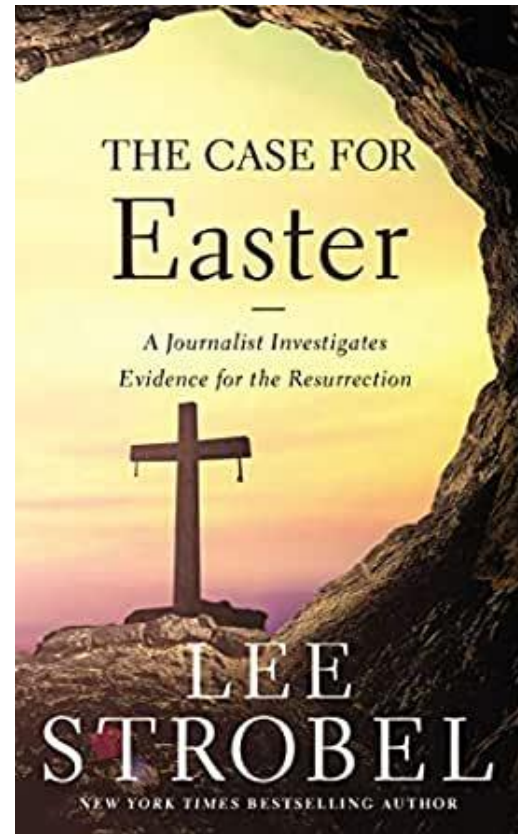
Did Jesus survive the cross and appear as though he rose from the dead?



SWOON THEORY

- **Jesus given pain relief on the cross with the 'sour wine'**
- **He only fainted**
- **Survived his wounds and appeared alive to those he knew**

More probable than a resurrection?



Alexander Metherell MD PhD



Flagellum



Alexander Metherell MD PhD

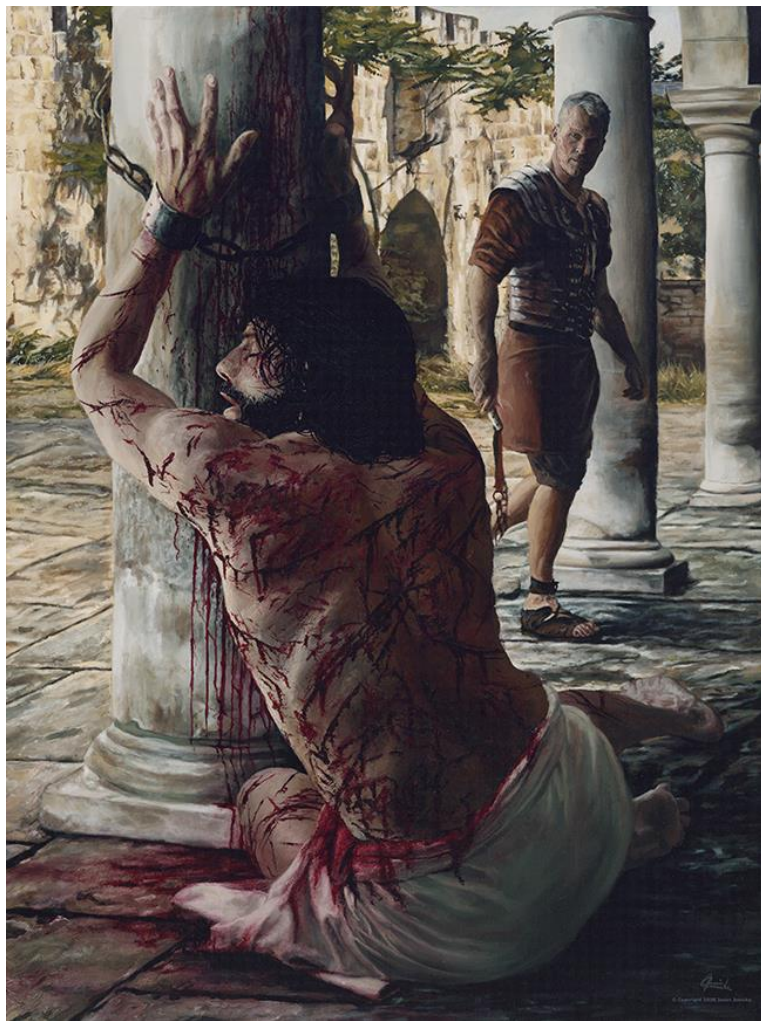
Interviewed by Lee Strobel,
“The case for Christ”/”...for
Easter”

Components

- Braided leather thongs
- Metal balls
- Sharp pieces of bone

Injuries

- Bruises
- Deep cuts
- Ribbons of flesh coming off
- Back laid bare
- Blood loss



The crucifixion

- Pressure on chest
- Feet pushed on nails to breath
- Slow death
- Death from asphyxiation



“A person of that kind of pathetic condition would never have inspired his disciples to go out and proclaim that he’s the Lord of life who had triumphed over the grave... After suffering that horrible abuse, with all the catastrophic blood loss and trauma, he would have looked so pitiful that the disciples would never have hailed him as a victorious conqueror of death; they would have felt sorry for him and tried to nurse him back to health”

The case for Easter - page 26



Alexander Metherell MD PhD

Interviewed by Lee Strobel,
“The case for Christ”/”...for
Easter”

Lee Strobel: “So, when someone suggests to you that Jesus merely swooned on the cross...?”

Metherell: “I tell them it’s impossible. It’s a fanciful theory without any possible basis in fact”

The Case for Easter - Page 25



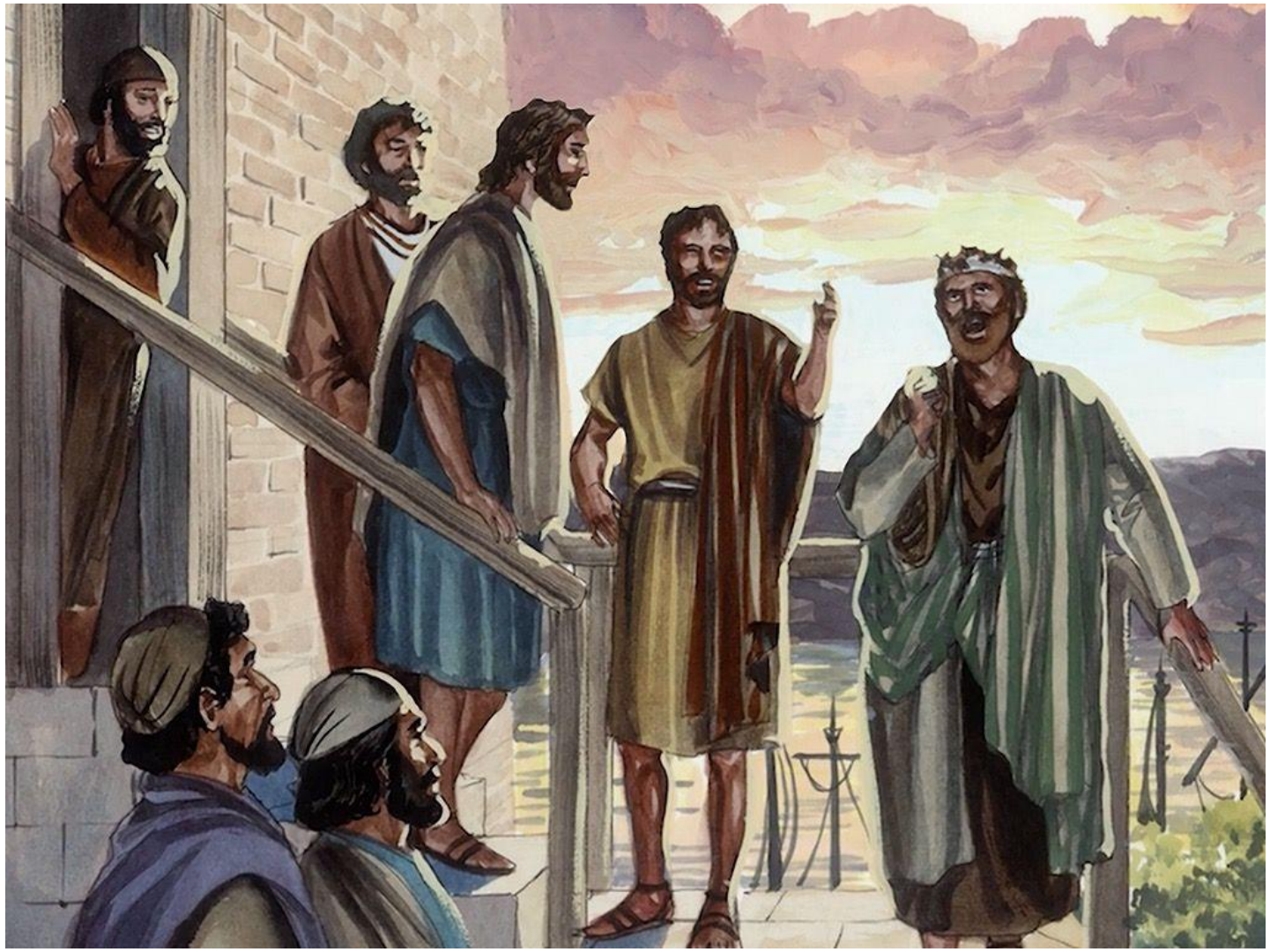
Alexander Metherell MD PhD

Interviewed by Lee Strobel,
“The case for Christ”/”...for
Easter”

Conspiracy Theory

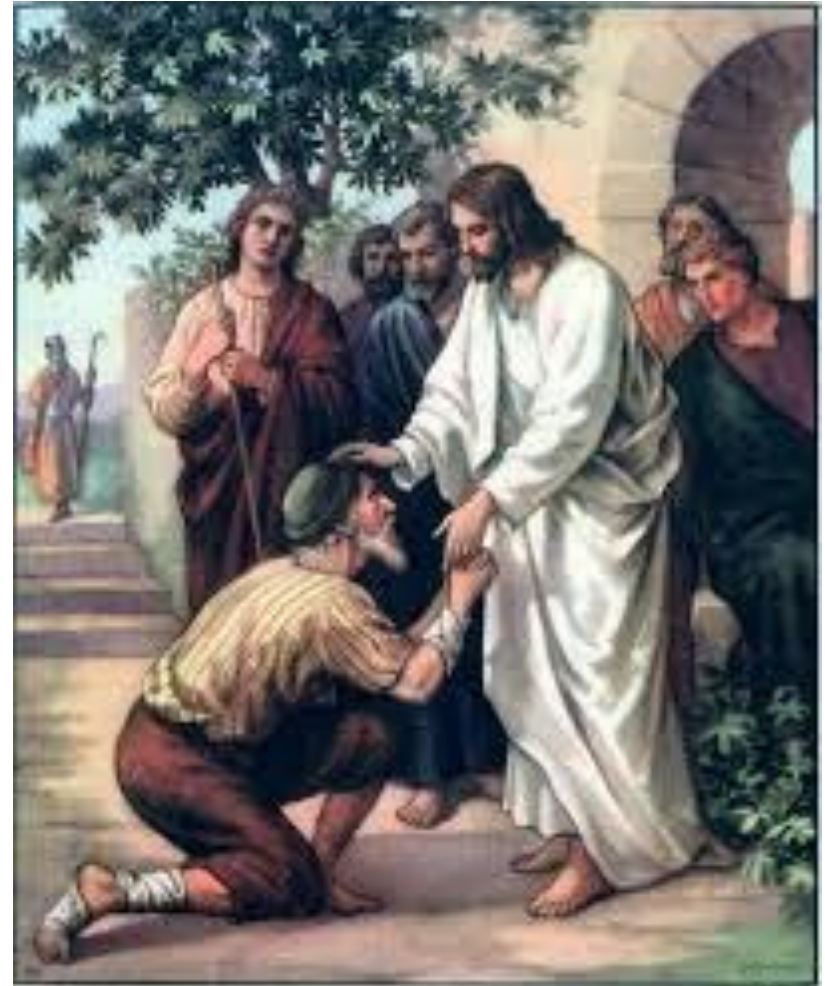
Did the disciples steal Jesus' body?





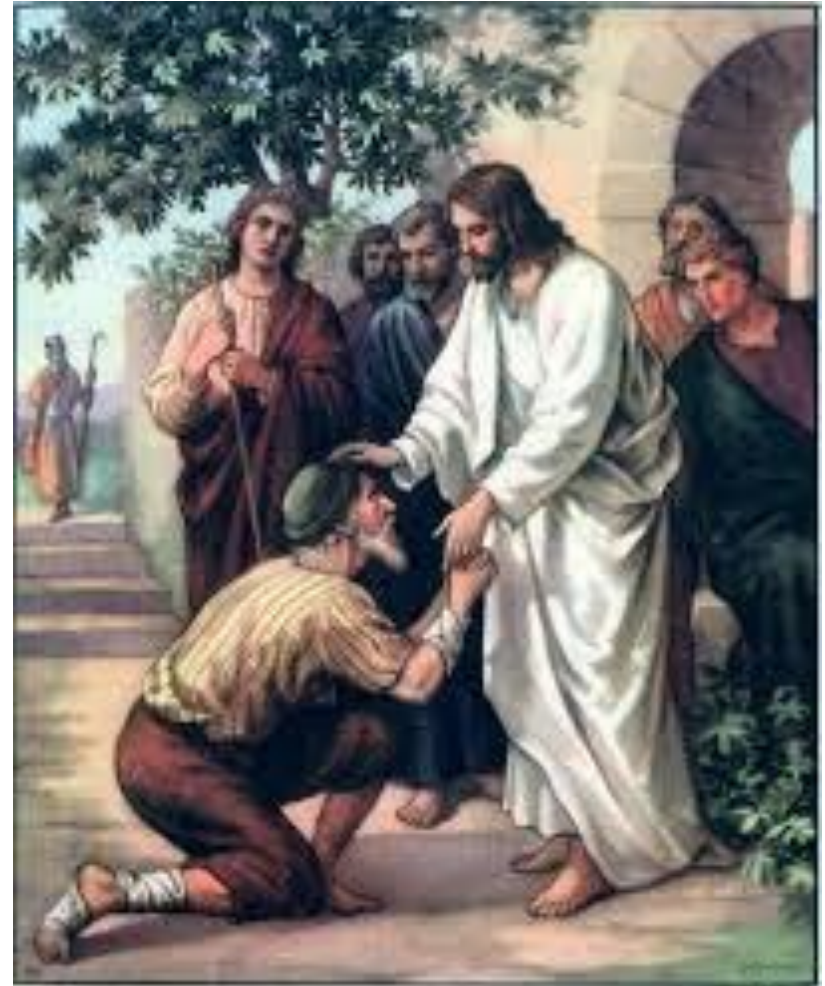


“Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”



If the disciples were so prosperous, they would surely create doctrines which allowed for abundant prosperity.

We find no early Christian teachings preaching the “prosperity Gospel





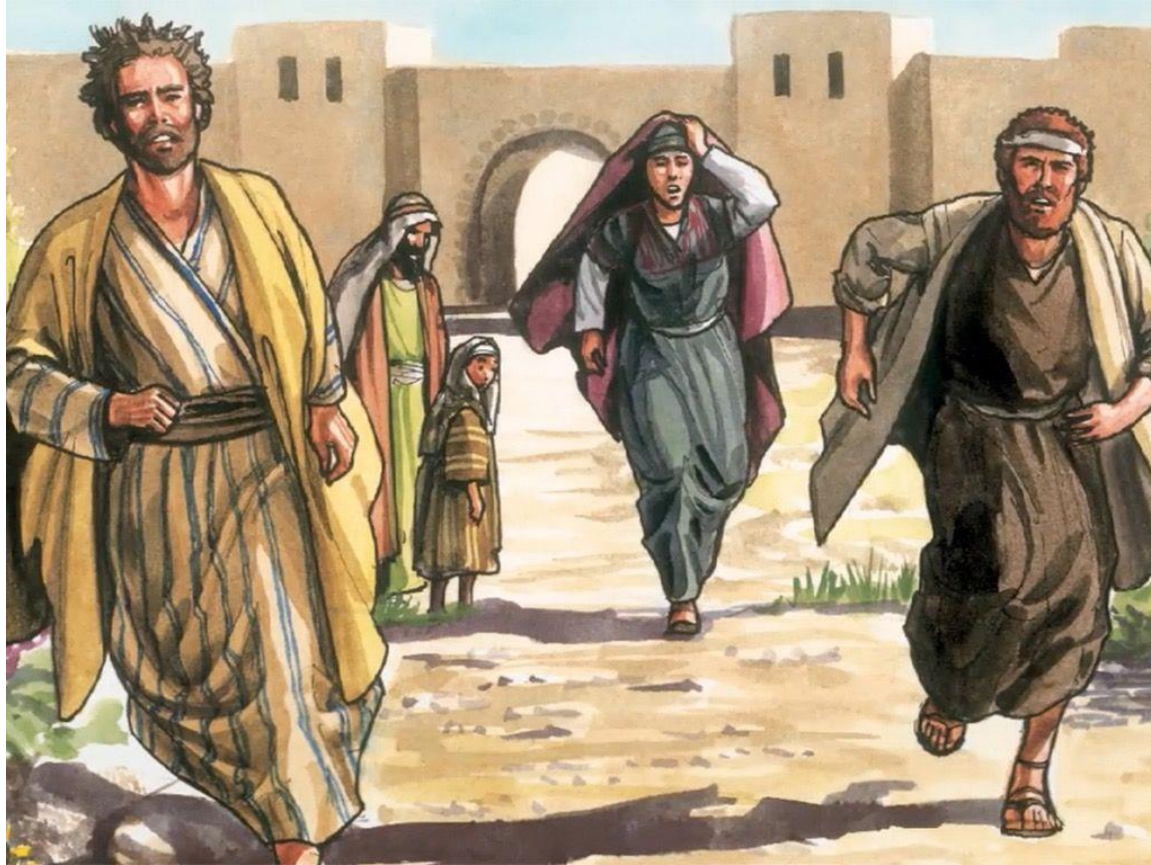
“Criterion of Embarrassment”

An account that is more embarrassing and goes against the author’s interest is likely to be true

Embarrassment #1 - An Apostle betrays Jesus



Embarrassment #2 - The disciples abandon Jesus



Embarrassment #3 - Peter denies Jesus



Embarrassment #4 - A stranger buries Jesus



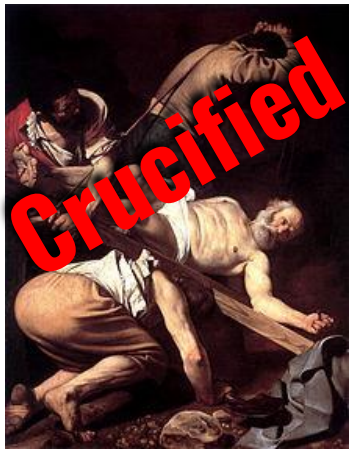
Embarrassment #5 - Women's testimony



A woman's testimony was not legally admitted

[219] But let not a single witness be credited, but three, or two at the least, and those such whose testimony is confirmed by their good lives. But let not the testimony of women be admitted, on account of the levity and boldness of their sex ¹ Nor let servants be admitted to give testimony, on account of the ignobility of their soul;

Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 4.8.15 (94 AD)



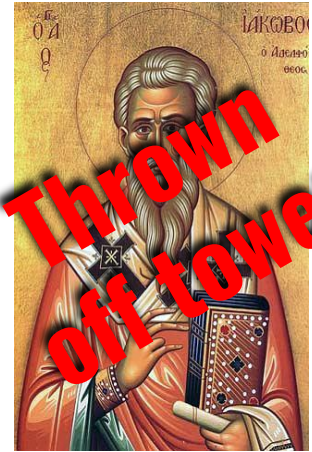
Peter



Paul



The Twelve



James brother of Jesus

The life of a Christian was one of hardship

Missing Body

Was Jesus' body disposed of and the disciples were mistaken in thinking he had risen?



The Jews took preventative measures to keep the body in the tomb

(Matthew 27:62-66)

No other appeals to a fake body

Witnesses of burial

Joseph of Arimathea

Several women followers



Hallucination Theory

Did the disciples of Jesus hallucinate Jesus speaking with them?

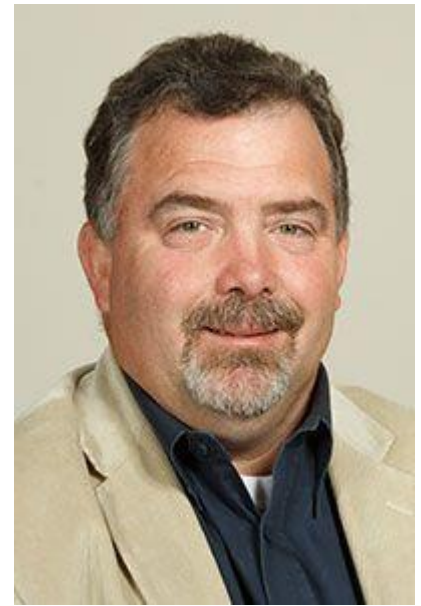


Grief hallucinations are very common! They sense or hear the deceased person with them. Clearly Jesus' disciples had a hallucination of him



“I have surveyed the professional literature (peer-reviewed journal articles and books) written by psychologists, psychiatrists, and other relevant healthcare professionals during the past two decades and have yet to find a single documented case of a group hallucination, that is, an event for which more than one person purportedly shared in a visual or other sensory perception where there was clearly no external referent.”

Quoted in “The resurrection of Jesus - Mike Licona” - Page 484



Gary Sibcy PhD

PhD in professional
psychology

MA in Counselling
psychology

BA Clinical psychology

Touch John 20:16-17, Luke 24:39

Hearing John 21:5, Luke 24:17,
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:7

Sight Luke 24:41, Matthew 28:10,
Mark 16:7, Acts 1:9

Multiple people Mark
16:7, Luke 24:36, John 20:19

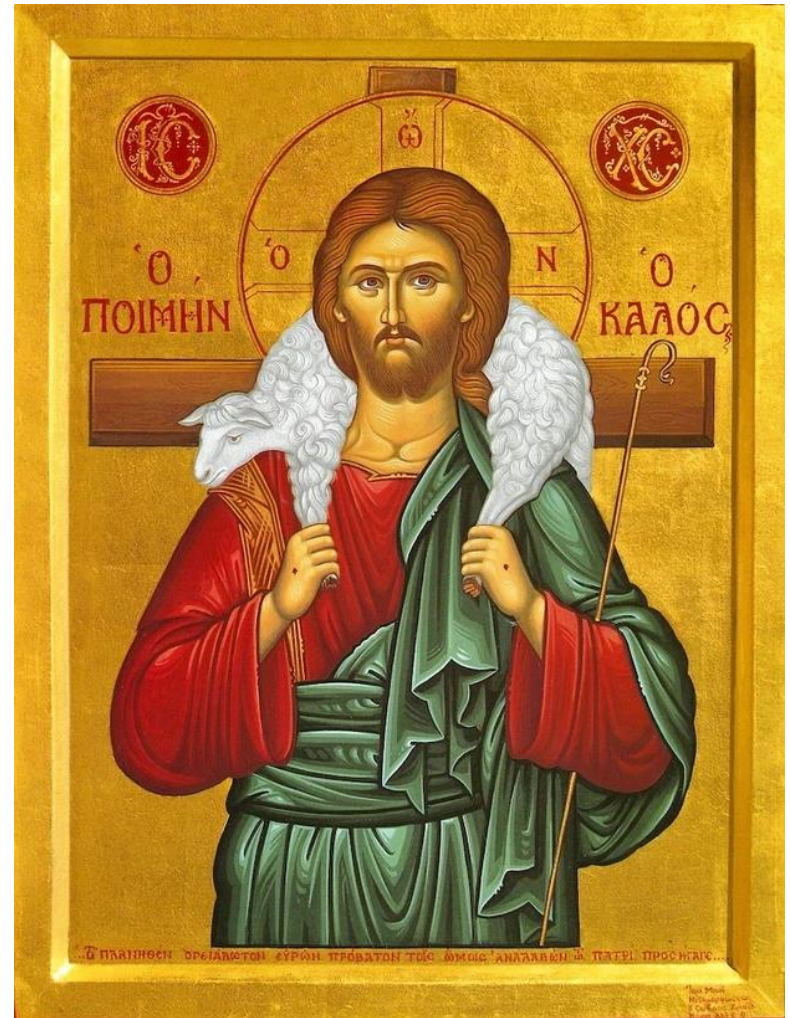


**A multisensory, multipersonal
hallucination being witnessed by
hundreds of believers would be
a miracle in itself**

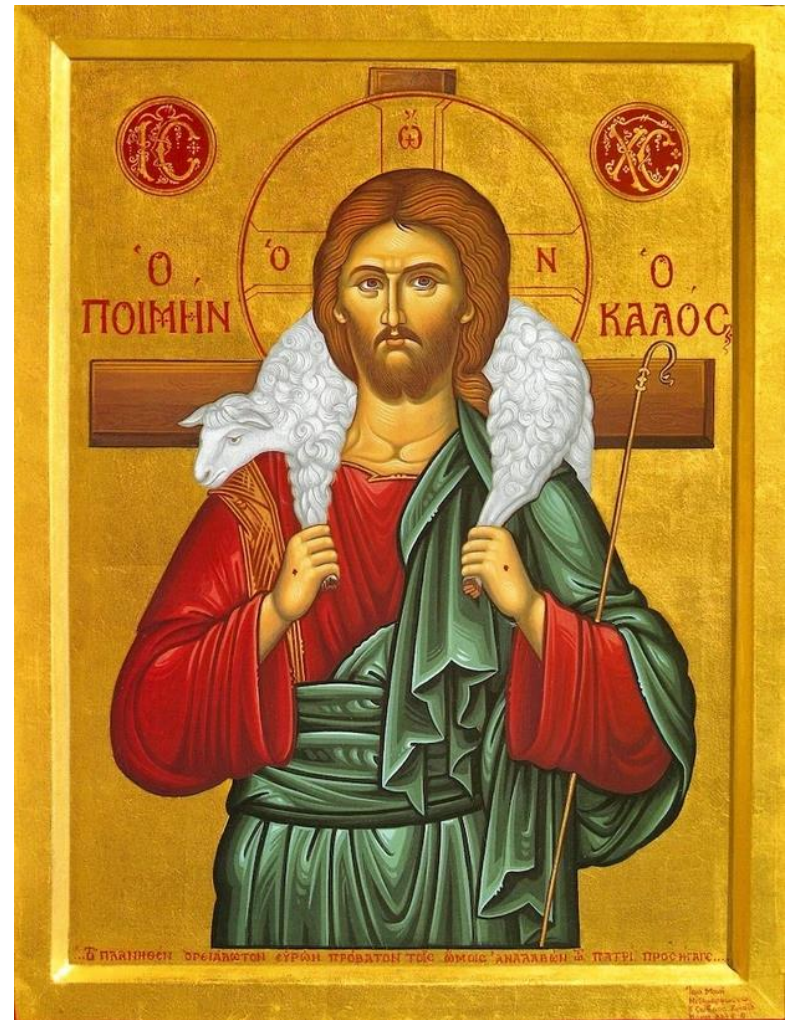
**The case for the
resurrection can
be made, and it
has good
historical
evidence**



**A historical man
reported to exist
by 20 independent
sources**

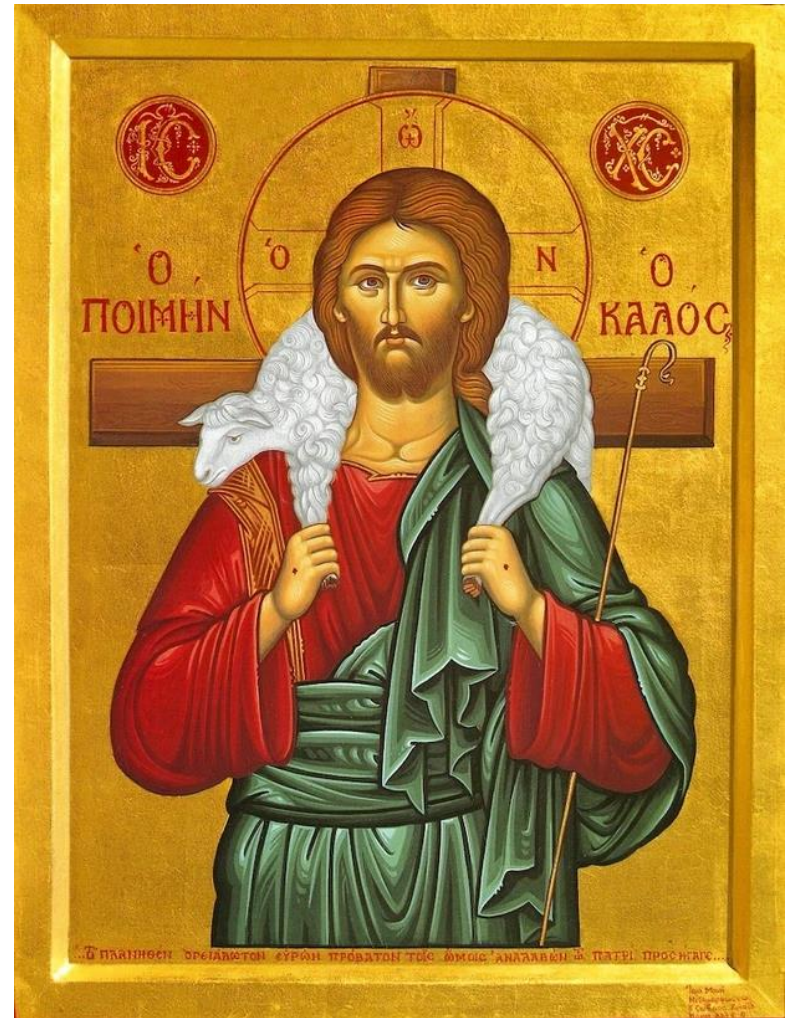


**A document
written about him
that is the best
attested book in
antiquity**

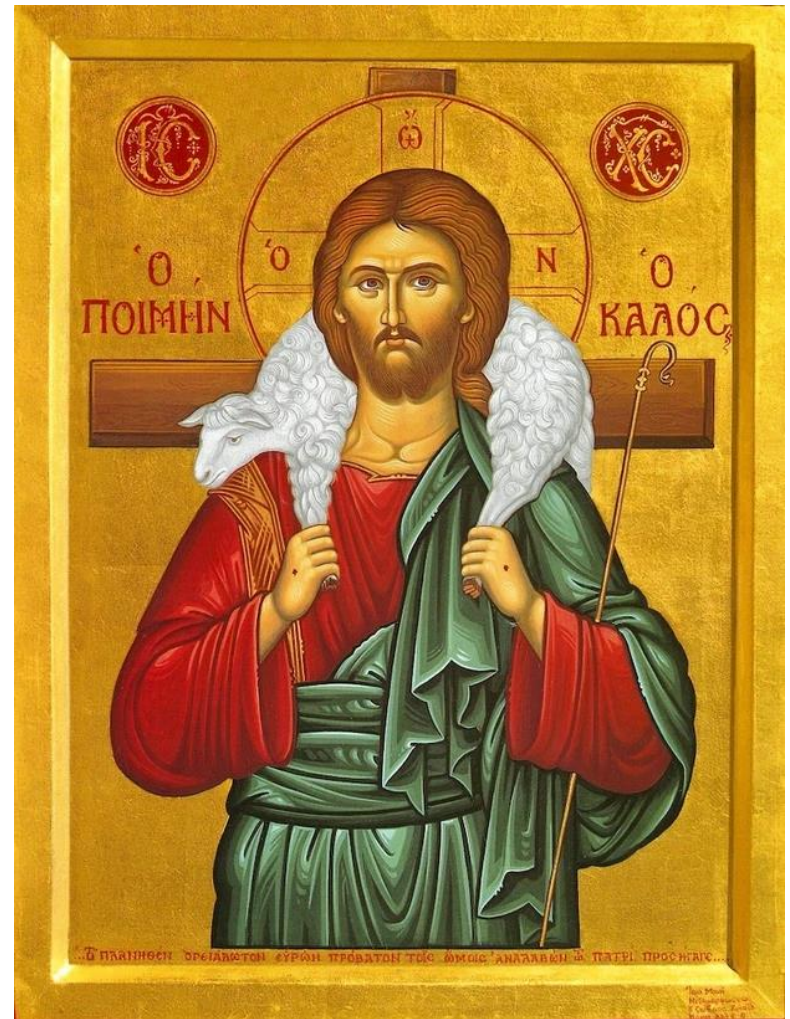


**Reported to heal
the sick and do
miracles**

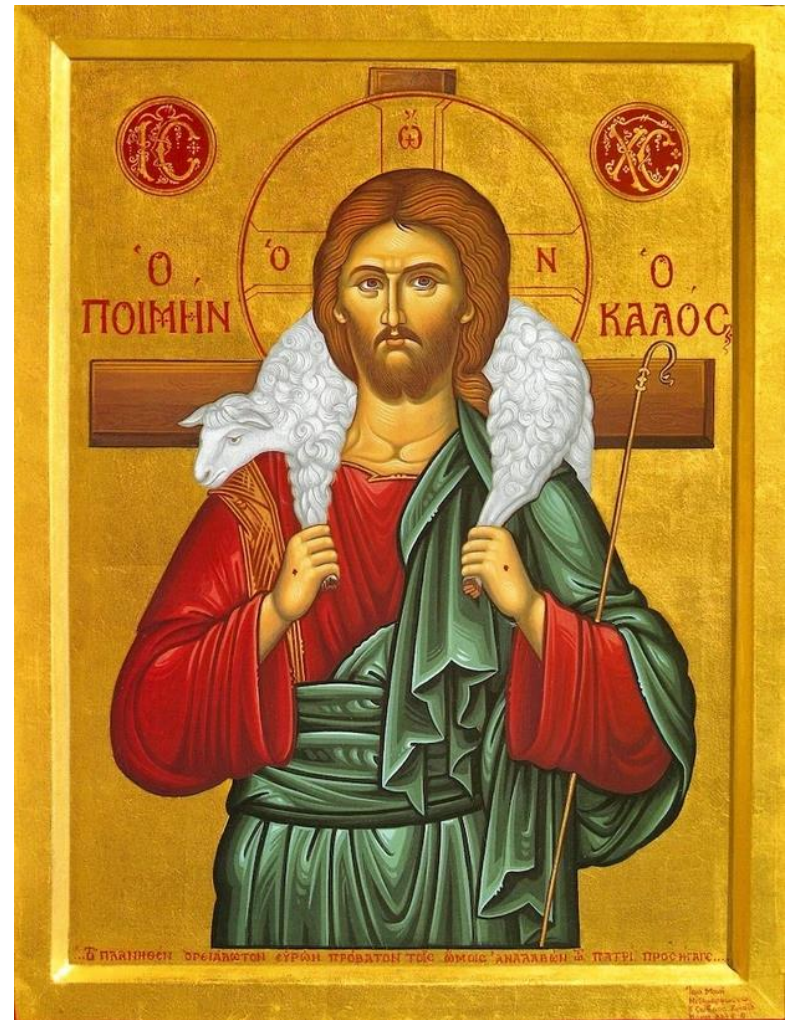
**Predicted his own death
and resurrection**



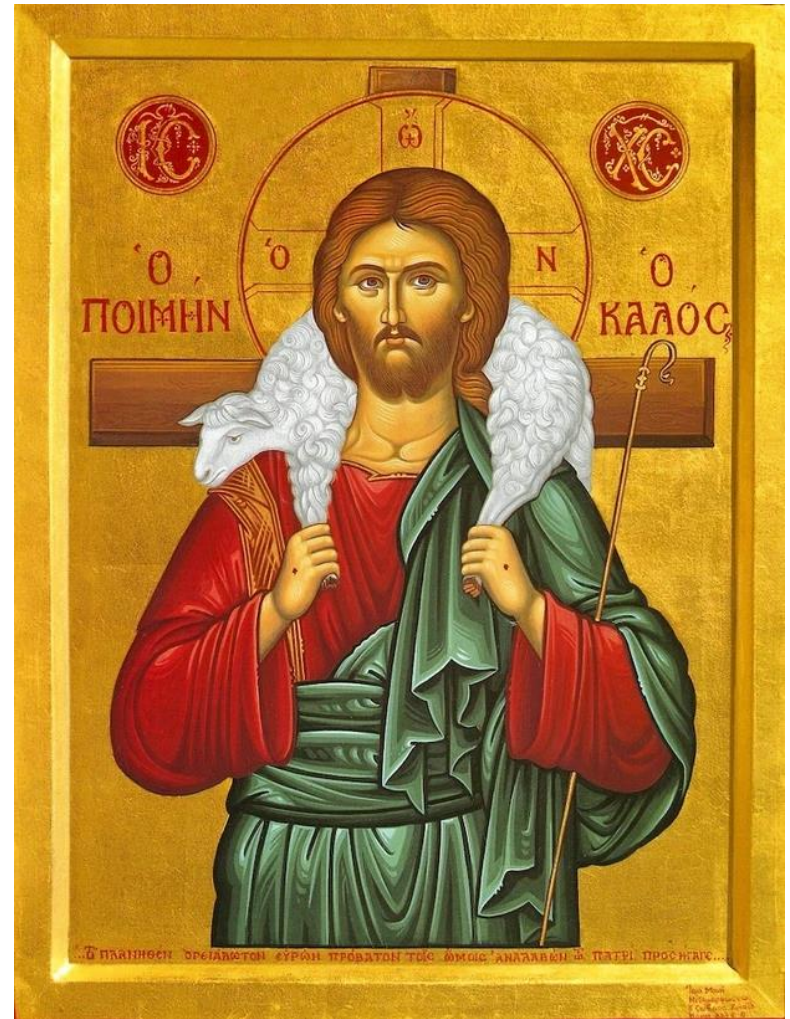
**Was crucified,
dead and buried**



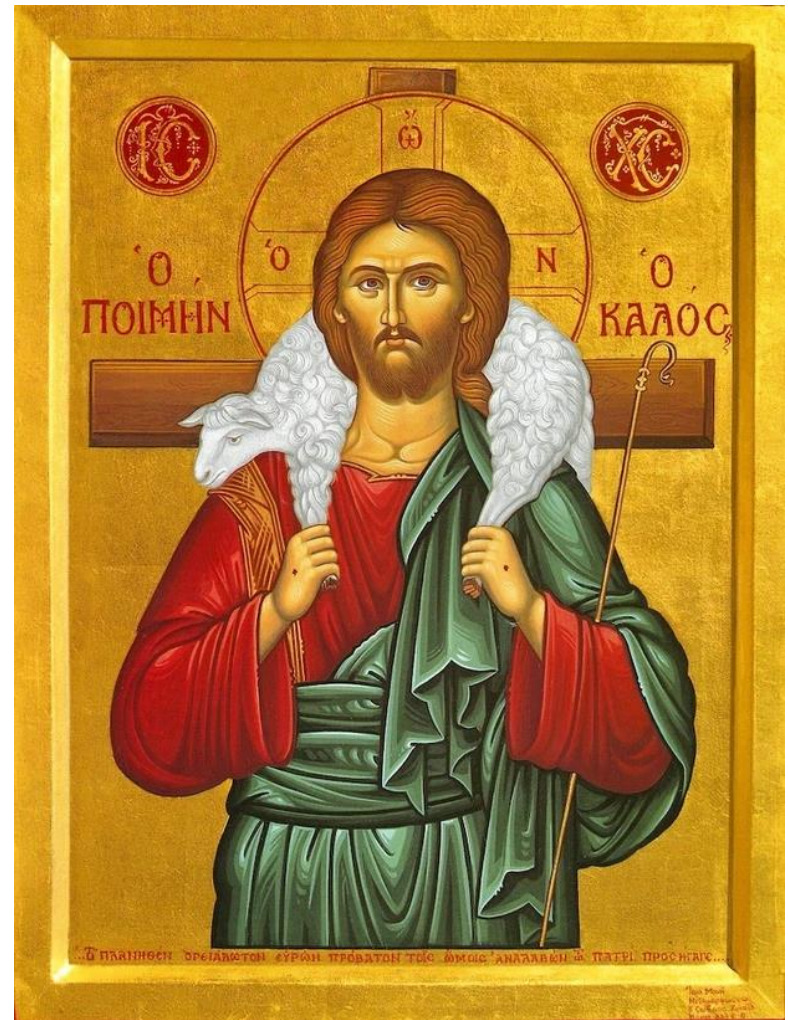
**His followers
reported to have
seen him after his
death**



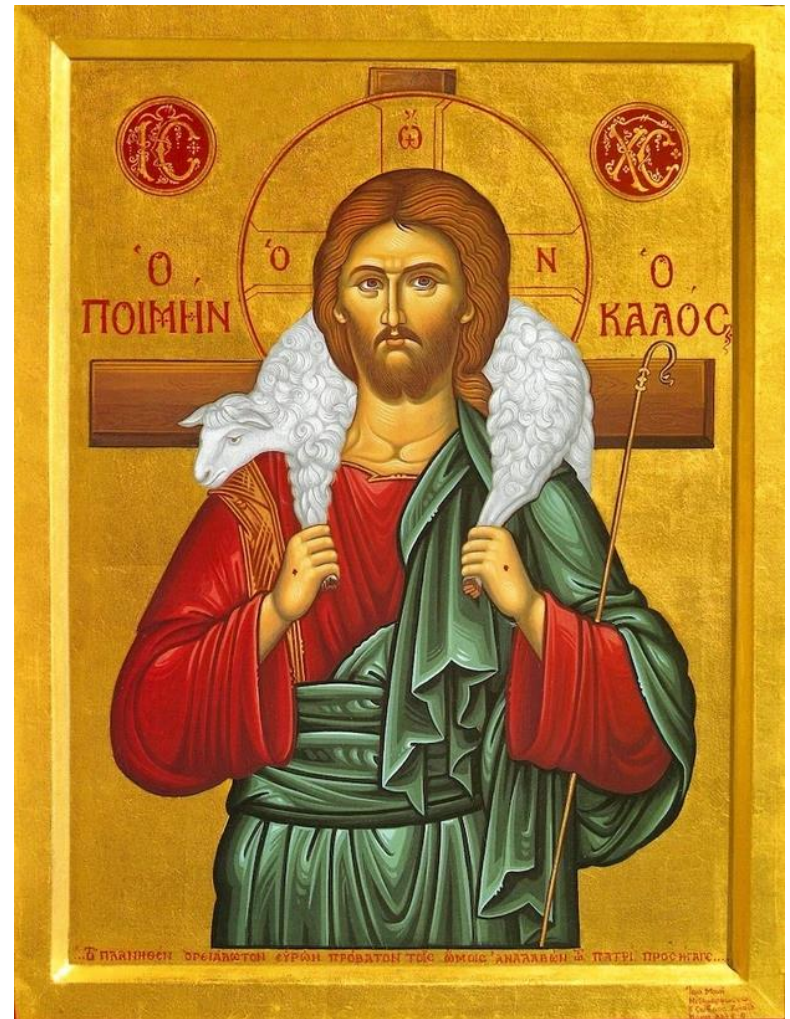
**These followers
died bloody deaths
claiming he was
the Risen Lord**



**Skeptics converted
after reporting
seeing him,
knowing they
would be killed for
their faith**

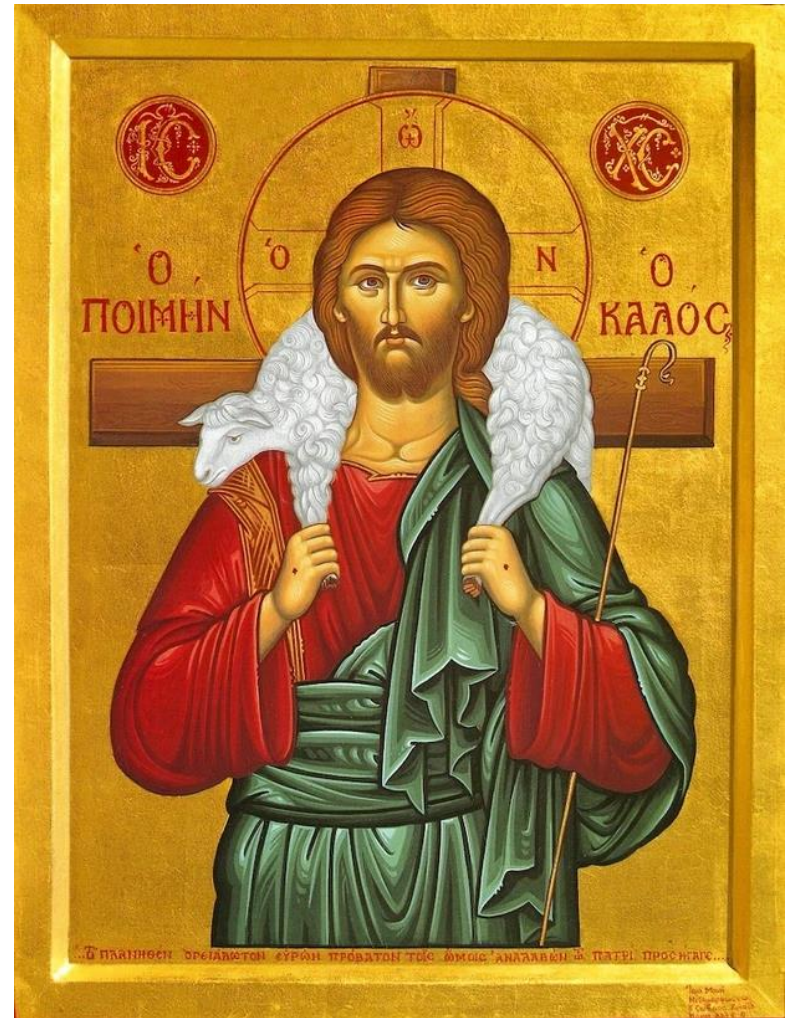


**Opposing theories
to the resurrection
not fitting the data
or science**



**Millions of lives
are changed**

**Millions suffer
persecution today
for his name**



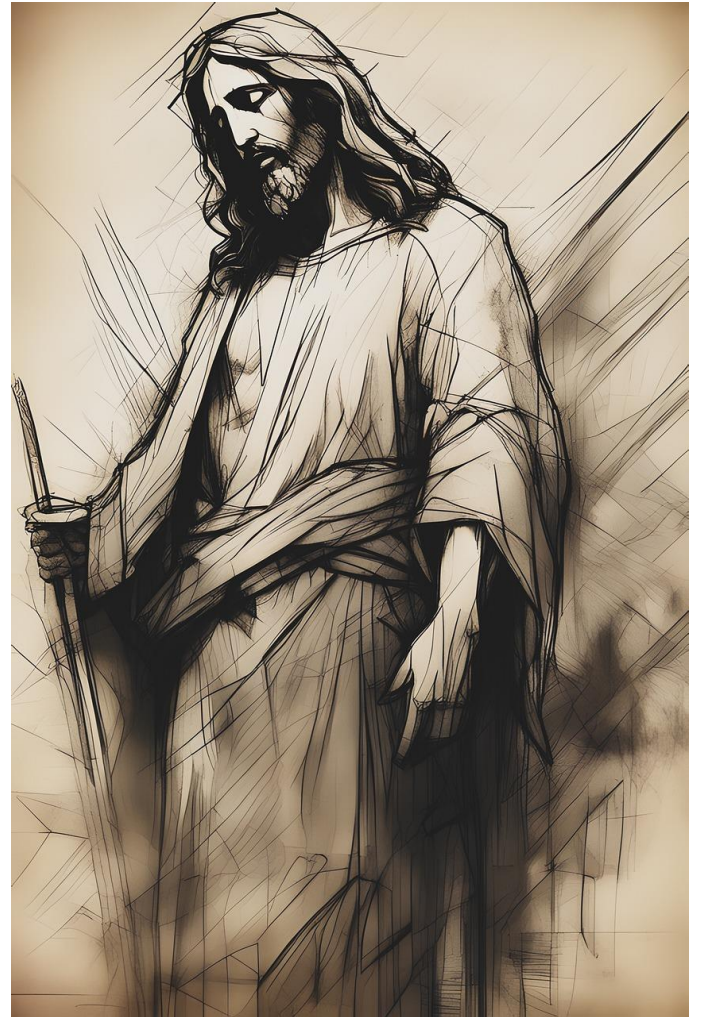
**Jesus is Risen, with all
the consequences that
come with it**

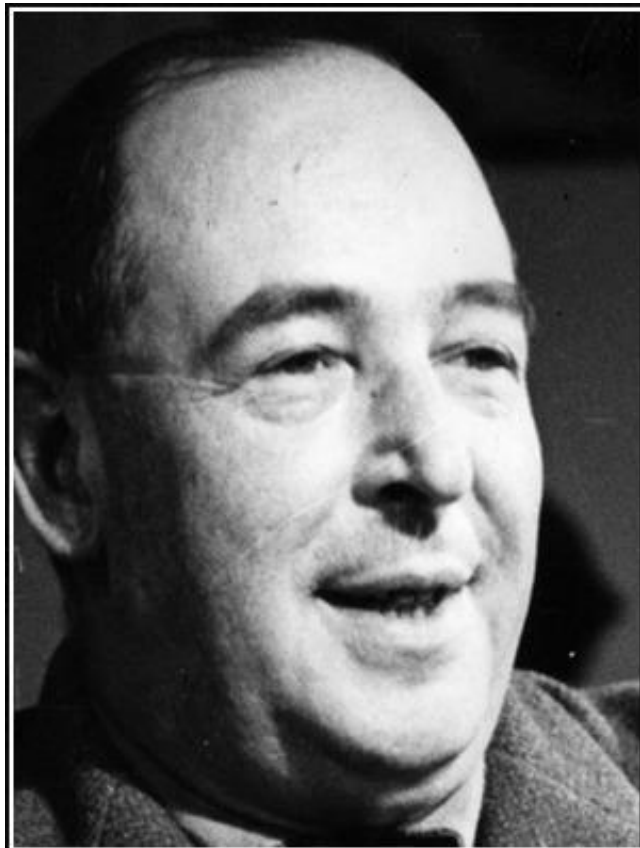
There is a God who raised Jesus from the dead

Sin exists and has a costly element paid for by Jesus Christ

God has revealed His will to humanity

Christianity is the lens through which everything becomes clear





I believe in Christianity as I believe
the sun has risen, not only because I
see it, but because by it I see
everything else.

— *C. S. Lewis* —

AZ QUOTES

If the Resurrection is true:

You have a story in God's grand plan

You have meaning that is not based on your output

You are loved, objectively

This is the same for your neighbour



THE
EVIDENCE
FOR
EASTER
SERIES

