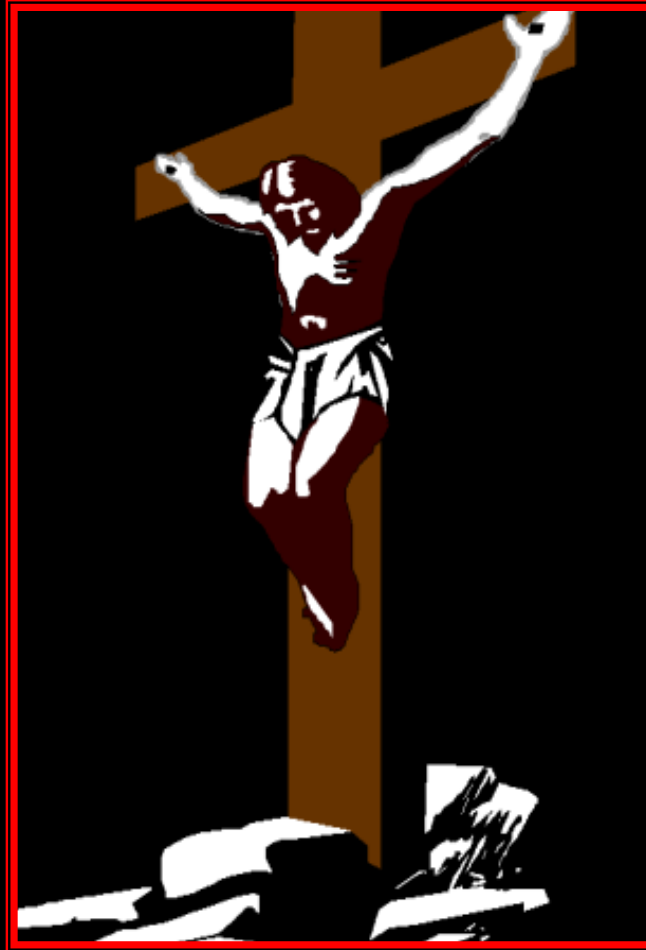


Choosing Jesus Only In a Skeptical World

by Dr. David Geisler



NGIM.org/all-resources/

NORMGEISLERTHEMOVIE.COM

CONVERSATIONALEVANGELISM.COM



Your Greatest Tools

Your Greatest Tool
in Answering False Claims:

Apply the claim to itself!



Apply the Claim to itself!

1. There is no such thing as truth!
2. You can't know truth!
3. All truth is relative!
4. It's true for you but not for me!
5. No one has the truth!
6. All truth depends on your perspective!



Sayable versus meaningful

Just because a statement is sayable does not mean that it is meaningful.

Example:

I cannot utter a word in English!



Some things are undeniable

Example:
Winnie the Pooh





I believe *All* religions are true.



Pluralism

All views are true!

***If all views are true
then nothing is true!***



Pluralism



Not All Religious Viewpoints Can Be Right!



Either Jesus is The Only
Way, The Truth, and The
Life ... (Jn. 14:6)

OR

He is not The Only Way,
The Truth, and The Life



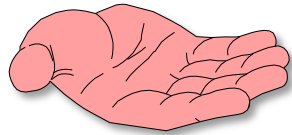
Exclusive Claims Among Religions



- **Christianity**— by faith alone in Christ alone
- **Islam**— by belief in Allah, his prophet Muhammad, and that your good works have to outweigh your bad works.
- **Hinduism**— by overcoming karma an incarnations with good works.
- **Buddhism**— by cessation of desire through eight-fold path

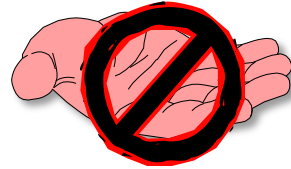


Can They All Be Right?



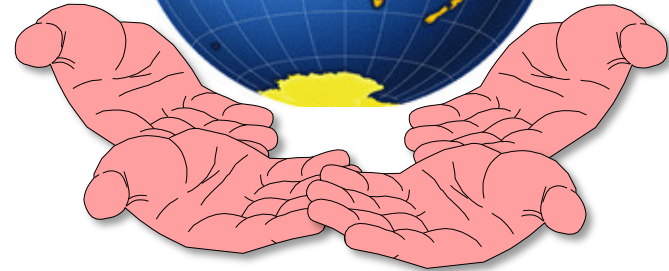
Christianity
Judaism
Islam

One God



Atheism,
Theravada
Buddhism

No God



Polytheism,
Mahayana
Buddhism

Many gods



Why Chose Jesus Only?



**Isn't It True That
How We Live Our
Life Depends
on Who We Trust?**





Isn't it true that if
we can trust Jesus...



...then we can we trust the Bible!

What Did Jesus Teach About the Bible!

1. It is divinely authoritative (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10).
2. It is imperishable (Mt. 5:17-18).
3. It is infallible (Jn. 10:35).
4. It is inerrant (without error) (Mt. 22:29).
5. It is historically reliable (Mt. 12:40; Mt. 24:37-38).
6. It is scientifically accurate (Mt. 19:4-5).
7. It has ultimate supremacy (Mt. 15:3, 6).



**So It Is Important
To Know That We
Can Trust Jesus?**

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

NOT QUALIFIED



**How could I be happy in
heaven if my sister wasn't
there?**



I can trust God for what I don't know because of what He's revealed to me that I do know.

NORM GEISLER



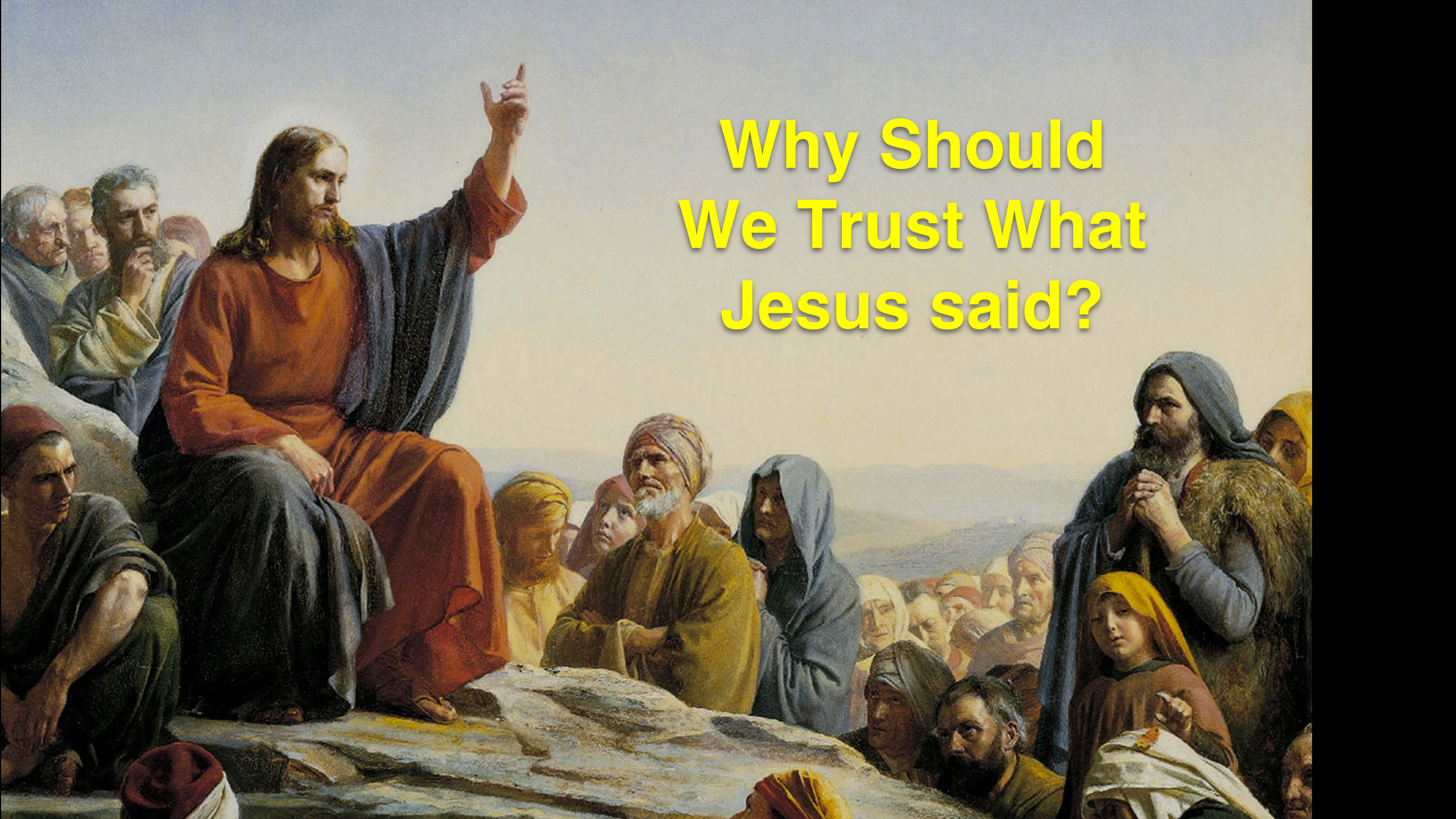
**Rev. 21:4 promises me that some day
God “will wipe away every tear from
their eyes...”**

The Bible Can Be Trusted

- I. If God exists, then miracles are possible
- II. The N.T. documents are historically reliable
- III. In the NT Jesus claimed to be God
- IV. Jesus proved to be God by an unprecedented convergence of miracles
 - A. The miracle of fulfilled prophecy
 - B. The miracle of the Resurrection
- V. Therefore, Jesus was God in human flesh
- VI. What Jesus (who is God) teaches is true
- VII. Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God
- VIII. Therefore the Bible is the Word of God



**So It Is Important
To Know That We
Can Trust Jesus?**

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ seated on a large, light-colored rock. He is wearing a red tunic and a blue cloak, with his right hand raised and pointing towards the sky. He has long brown hair and a beard. Surrounding him is a diverse crowd of people, including men, women, and children, all dressed in traditional, earthy-toned clothing. Some are looking at Jesus with expressions of interest and faith, while others are in prayerful or contemplative poses. The background shows a vast, hazy landscape with rolling hills under a pale sky. The overall style is characteristic of 19th-century religious art, with detailed shading and a focus on human emotion.

Why Should We Trust What Jesus said?



**A few things to
remember as
to why we
should trust
Jesus!**

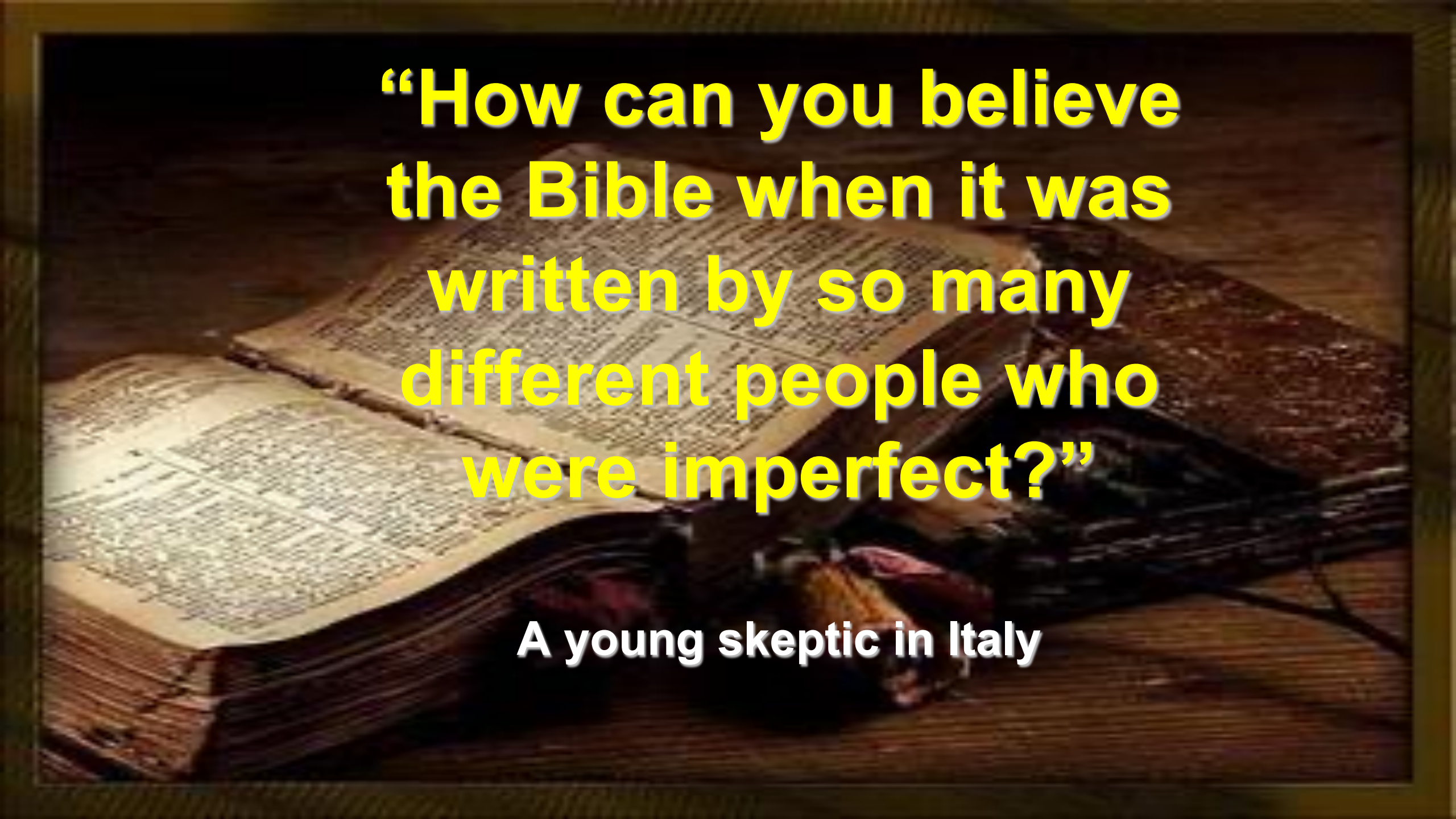


Why should we trust...?

1. Because we have good evidence that a Creator exists and so Jesus' miraculous claims are reasonable.

**If you can
believe the big
miracle, you
can believe in
the little
miracles!**



The background of the image shows a stack of several old, open books with yellowed pages and dark covers, resting on a wooden surface. The lighting is warm and focused on the books. Overlaid on this scene is a large, bold, yellow text with a black outline, and a smaller white text at the bottom.

**“How can you believe
the Bible when it was
written by so many
different people who
were imperfect?”**

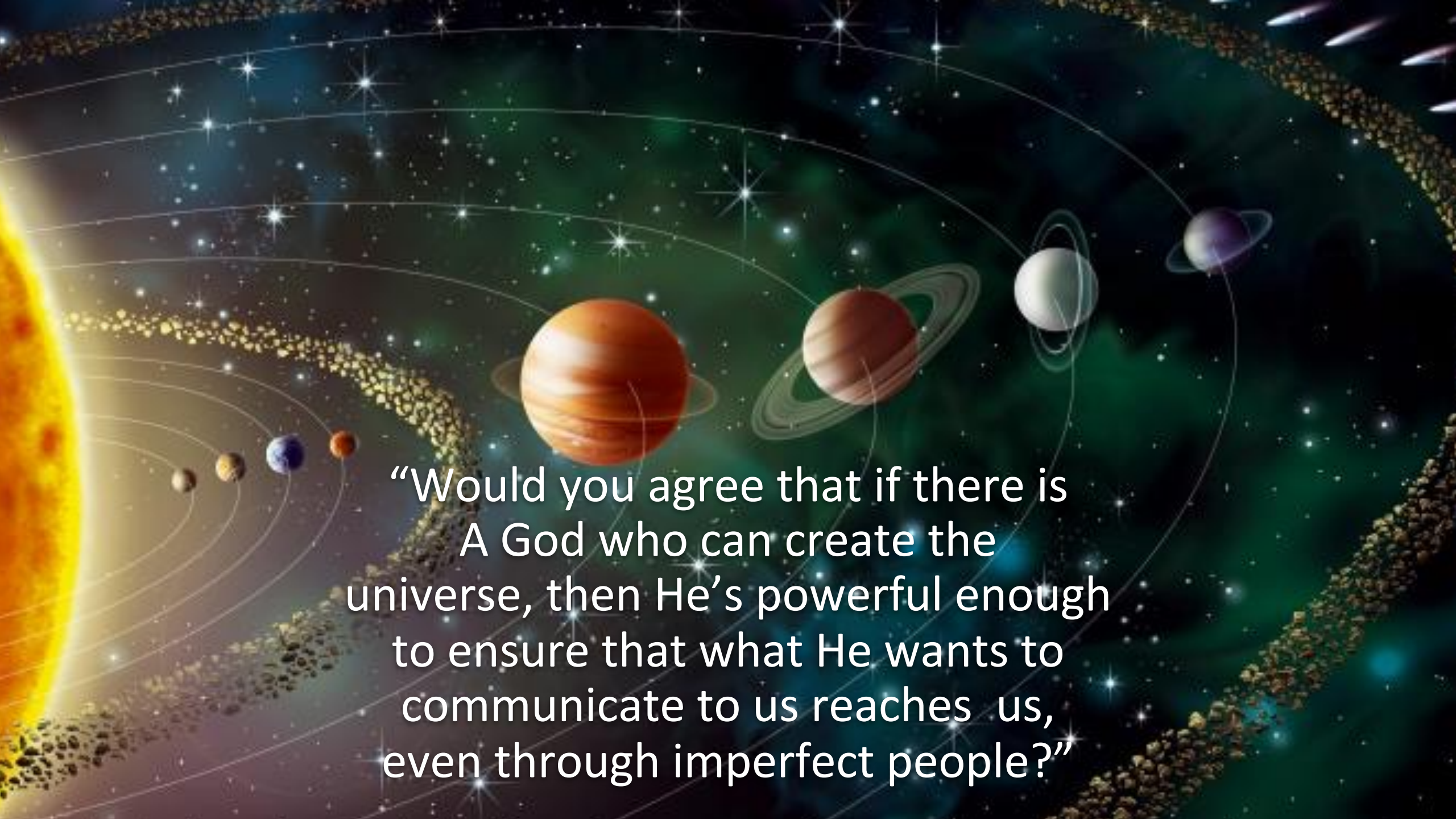
A young skeptic in Italy

An open book with a pair of glasses resting on it. The book is open to a page with dense text, and the glasses are positioned over the text. The background is dark and textured.

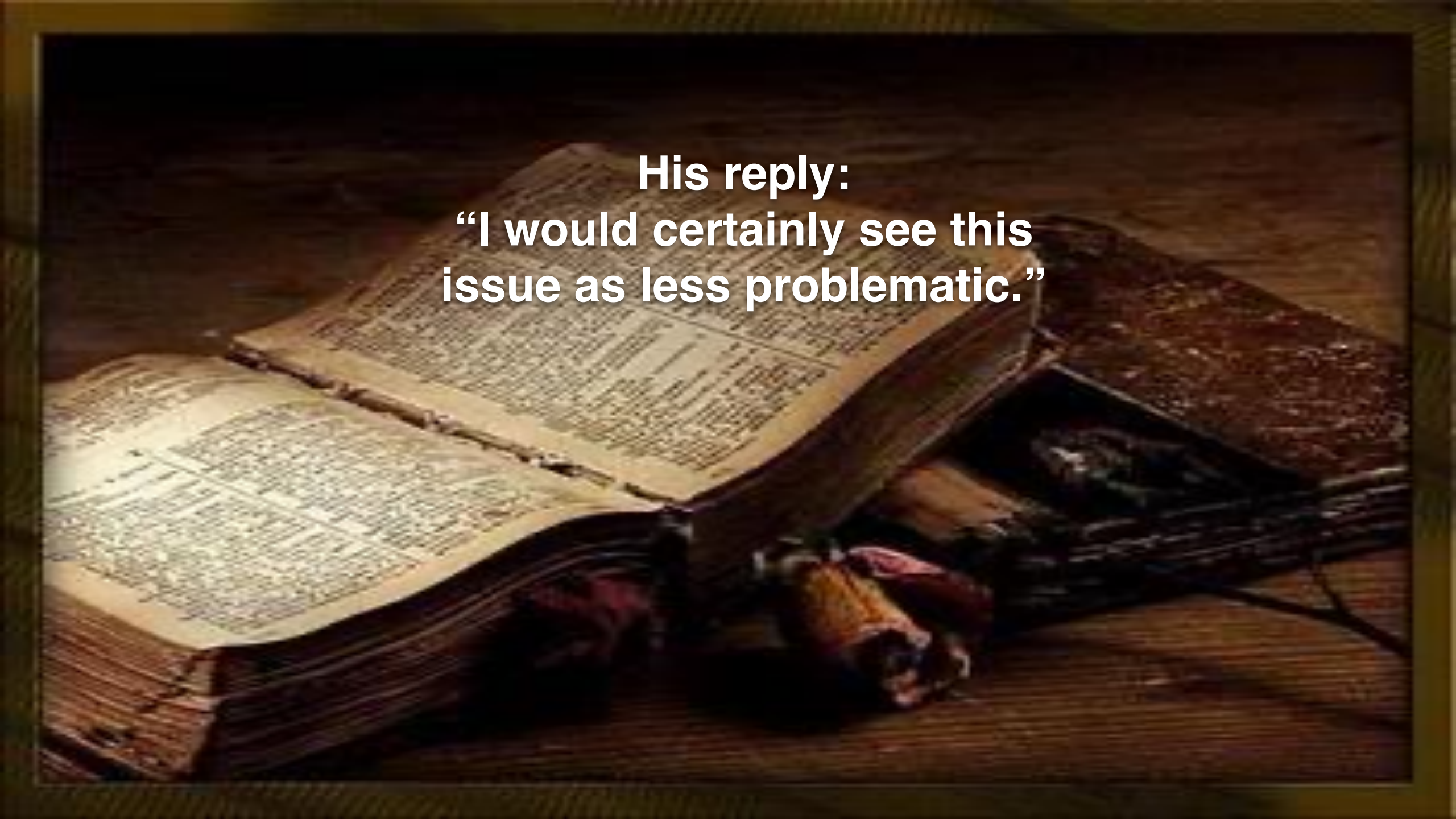
What is the truth I want this young man to understand?

If you see the world through a theistic lens, the concerns you raise may be less difficult to answer than you think!

If God can do the big miracles...He certainly can do the little miracles!



“Would you agree that if there is
A God who can create the
universe, then He’s powerful enough
to ensure that what He wants to
communicate to us reaches us,
even through imperfect people?”

An open book with a small dog resting on it. The book is open to a page with dense text. A small, dark-colored dog is lying on the pages of the book. The background is a dark, textured surface.

His reply:
**“I would certainly see this
issue as less problematic.”**

The Bible Can Be Trusted

I. If God exists, then miracles are possible

II. The N.T. documents are historically reliable

III. In the NT Jesus claimed to be God

IV. Jesus proved to be God by an unprecedented convergence of miracles

A. The miracle of fulfilled prophecy

B. The miracle of the Resurrection

V. Therefore, Jesus was God in human flesh

VI. What Jesus (who is God) teaches is true

VII. Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God

VIII. Therefore the Bible is the Word of God

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



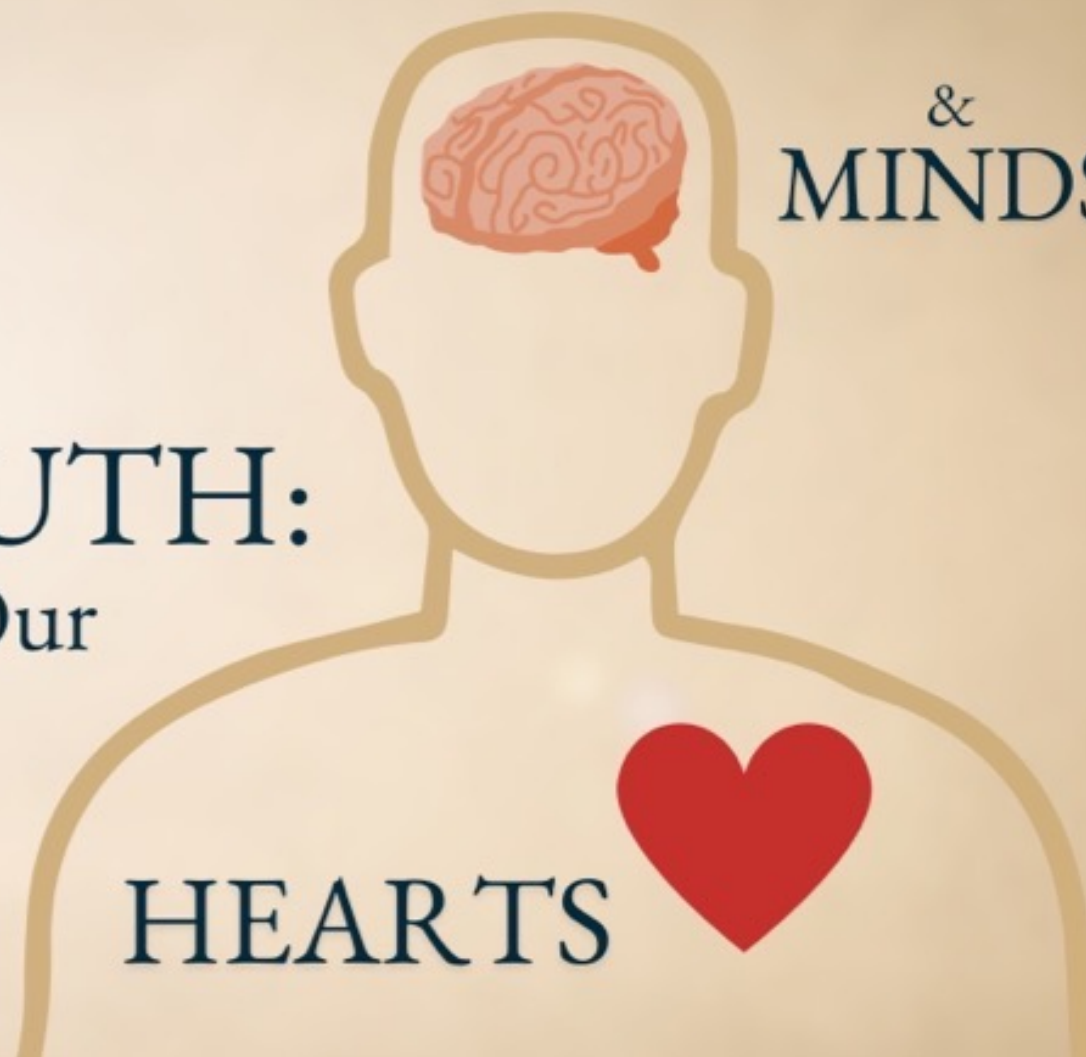
NGIM
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&
MINDS

GOD'S TRUTH:
Written on Our

HEARTS

w/ Dr. David Geisler



Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism

**For what can be known about
God is plain to them, because
God has shown it to them.**

Romans 1:19 ESV

The Bible teaches...

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, every since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

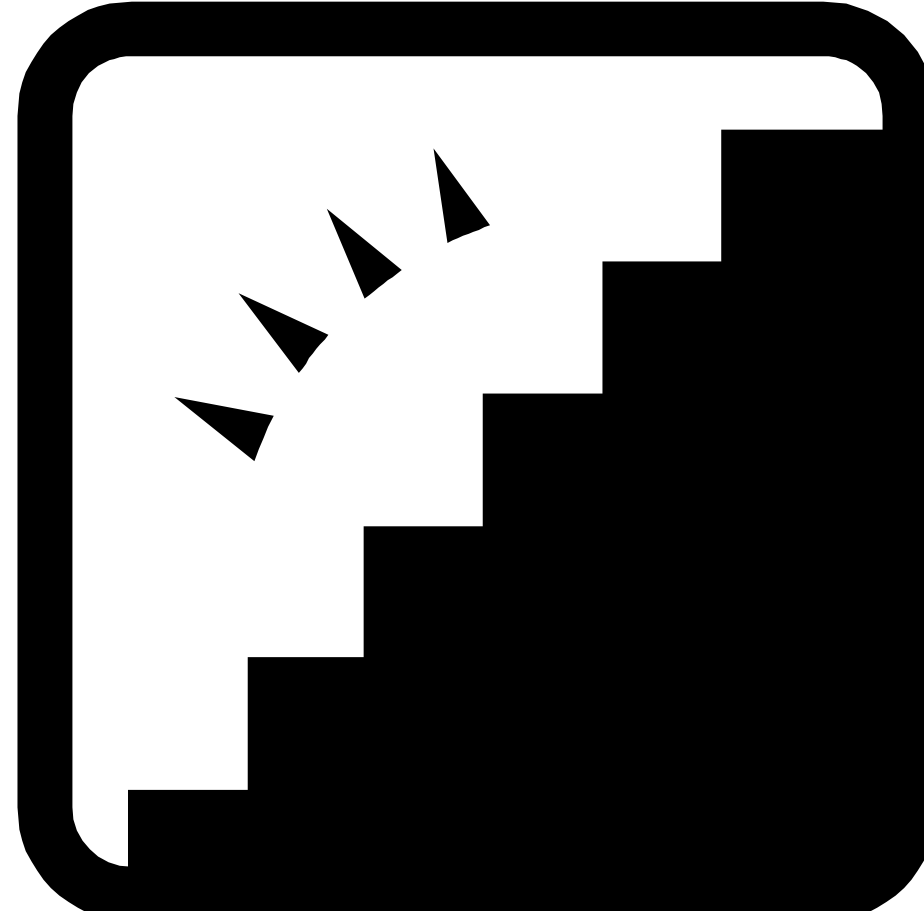
Romans 1:20, ESV

EVIDENCE FOR A THEISTIC GOD FROM PHILOSOPHY

Argument from the
reality of intelligent
effects - God is an
intelligent cause

Argument from the
reality of moral
effects – God is a
moral cause

Argument from effect
to cause - God is an
infinite power



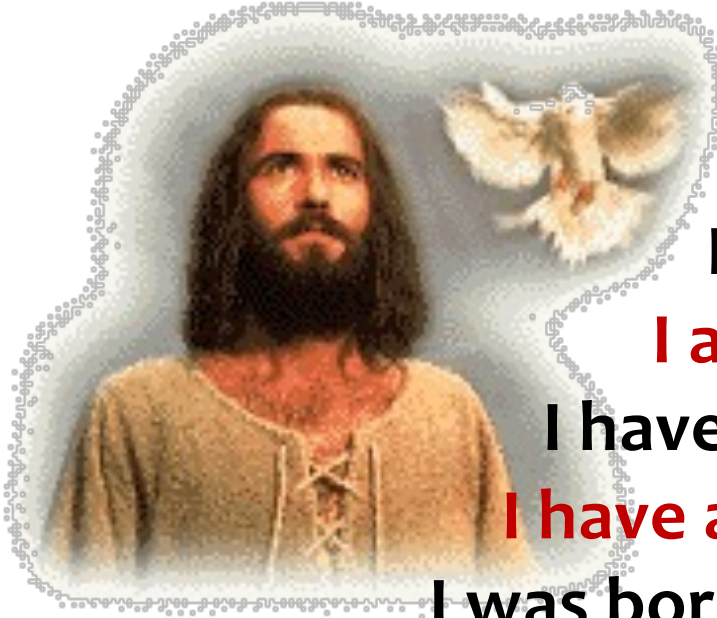
* This God is identical to the God described in the Bible, a Theistic God



Why should we trust...?

2. Because Jesus was unique even among major religious leaders merely in what he claimed about himself.

Which Religions Leader Ever Said This!



I am without sin (John 8:46)

I have always existed (John 8:58)

I am the only Son of God (John 3:16)

I am the light of the world (John 8:12)

I have come to save the world (John 3:17)

I have authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:10)

I was born to testify to the truth (John 18:37)

You trust in God; Trust also in me (John 14:1)

I am the Truth and only way to God (John 14:6)

I will come again to judge the world (Matt 25:31-46)



Christ's Unique Life

**Buddha claimed to point to the way,
Muhammad claimed to be a prophet
of God, but Jesus Christ is the only
major religious leader that ever
claimed to be God.**

Dr. David Geisler



Why should we trust Jesus?

3. Because Jesus offered evidence of his supernatural claim to be the God.

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is walking up a set of stone steps. The steps are made of large, rectangular blocks and are set within a narrow, rocky passage. The walls of the passage are rough and textured. At the top of the stairs, there is a bright, glowing light, possibly representing an opening to a new world or a divine presence. The overall scene is dramatic and symbolic.

Jesus Proved To Be God!

Jesus did three things to
prove that He was God!



Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by

- A. He lived a sinless and miraculous life.**
- B. He fulfilled prophecy written hundreds of years before he was ever born.**
- C. He died on the cross and rose from the dead.**

Messianic Prophecies fulfilled in the life of Jesus

J. Barton Payne in his Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecies (P. 665-670) lists 191 prophecies about Jesus. About 98 prophecies were literally fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ:

1. Place of birth (Mic. 5:2)
2. Time of birth (Dan. 9:25)
3. Manner of birth (Is. 7:14)
4. Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12)
5. Manner of death (Ps. 22:16)
6. People's reactions (mocking, spitting, staring, etc.) (Ps. 22:7,8, 17)
7. His side pierced (Zech. 12:10)
8. Burial in a rich man's tomb (Is 53:9)

Human Race

Woman, Gen 3:15

Ethnic Group

Abraham, Gen 12:1

Tribe

Judah, Gen 49:10

Dynasty

David, 2 Sam 7:12

How

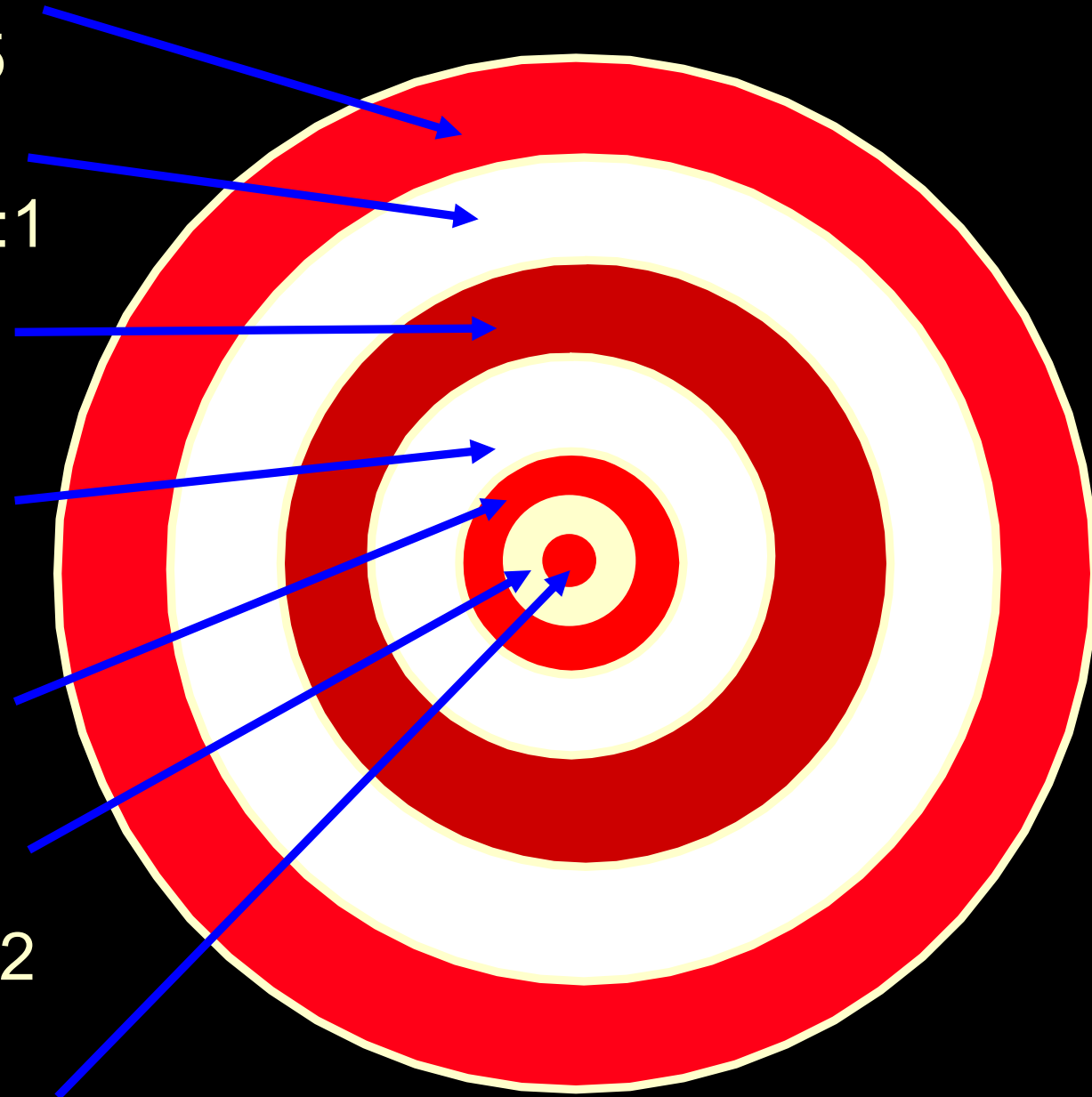
Virgin, Isa 7:14

Where

Bethlehem, Mic 5:2

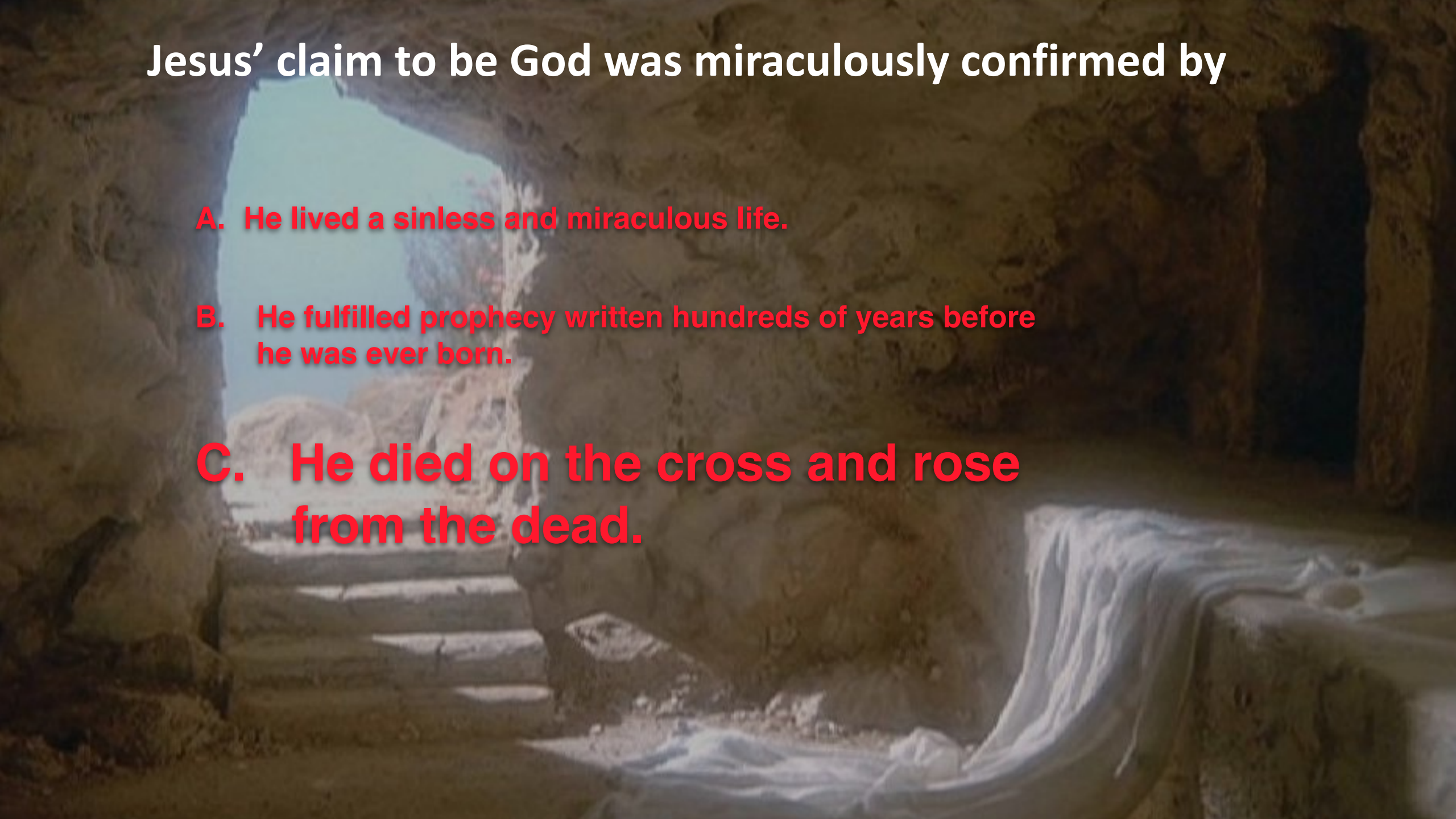
When

33 A.D., Dan 9:24



Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by

- A. He lived a sinless and miraculous life.**
- B. He fulfilled prophecy written hundreds of years before he was ever born.**
- C. He died on the cross and rose from the dead.**



Evidence for The Resurrection

Even critical scholars agree that 1 Cor. was written by 55-56 A.D.

This was 25 to 30 years after Christ's death.



Evidence for The Resurrection

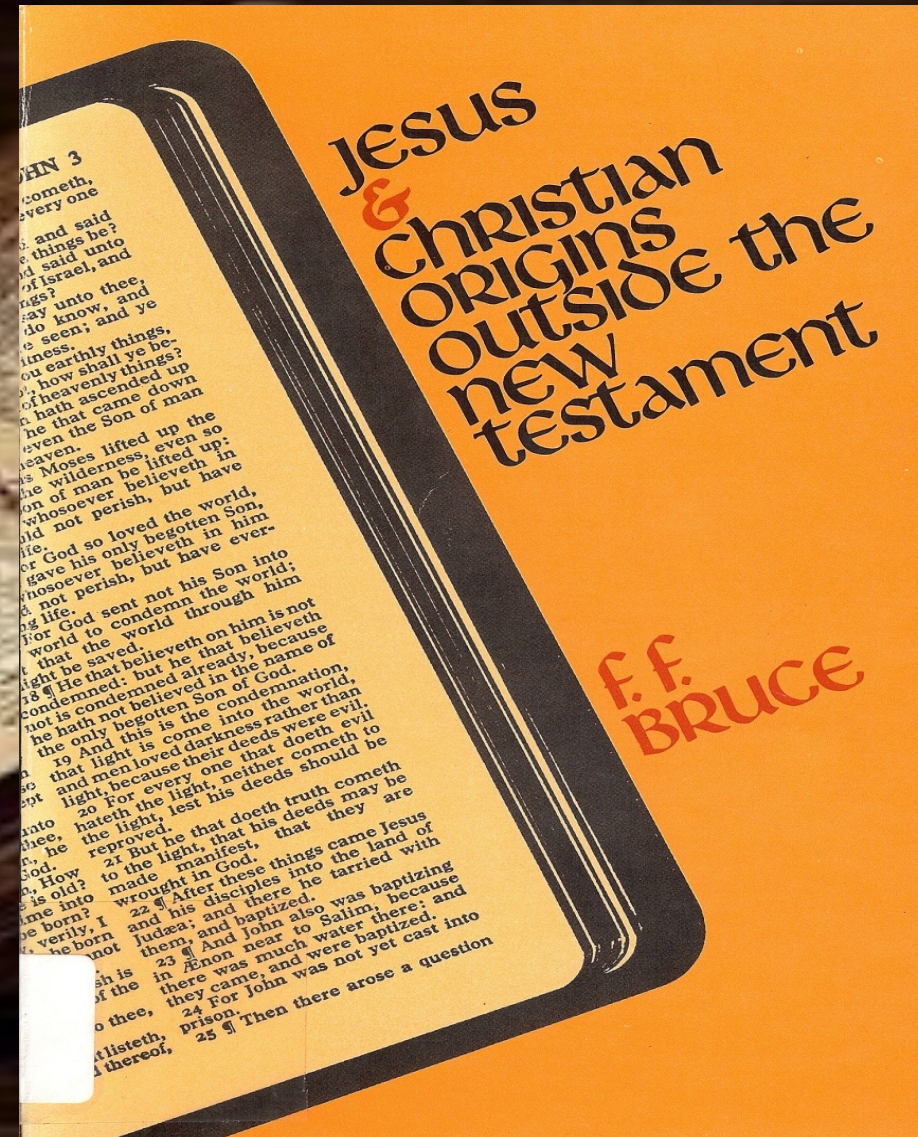
For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (1 Cor. 15:3-8)

**Even if every copy
of the New
Testament was
destroyed, we could
still paint a pretty
accurate picture of
Jesus' life just
based on the
information from
secular sources!**



Non-Christian Sources for the NT

F. F. Bruce, *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the NT.*



Non-Christian Sources for the NT

F. F. Bruce, *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the NT.*

- (1) Jesus was from Nazareth.
- (2) He lived a virtuous life.
- (3) He performed unusual feats.
- (4) He introduced new teaching contrary to Judaism.
- (5) He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
- (6) His disciples believed He rose from the dead.
- (7) His disciples denied polytheism.
- (8) His disciples worshiped Him.
- (9) His teachings and disciples spread rapidly.
- (10) His followers believed they were immortal.
- (11) His followers had contempt for death.
- (12) His followers renounced material goods.

Story of Jesus from secular writers

“Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar. He lived a virtuous life. He was a wonder worker. He had a brother named James. He claimed to be the Messiah. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. An eclipse and an earthquake occurred when he died. He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover. His disciples believed that he rose from the dead. His disciples were willing to die for their belief. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God.”

Taken from Dr. Norman Geisler's PowerPoint lecture "Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True"

A photograph of an empty tomb. The tomb is a simple, rectangular structure made of rough-hewn stone. The interior is empty, with a white cloth draped over the floor. A large opening at the front of the tomb provides a view of a bright, hazy landscape, possibly a valley or a field. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

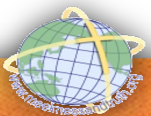
Christ's Unique Life

**Jesus Christ is
the only major religious leader
that ever claimed to be God,
who fulfilled prophecy,
lived a sinless life, and then died on
the cross and rose from the dead.”**

Dr. David Geisler

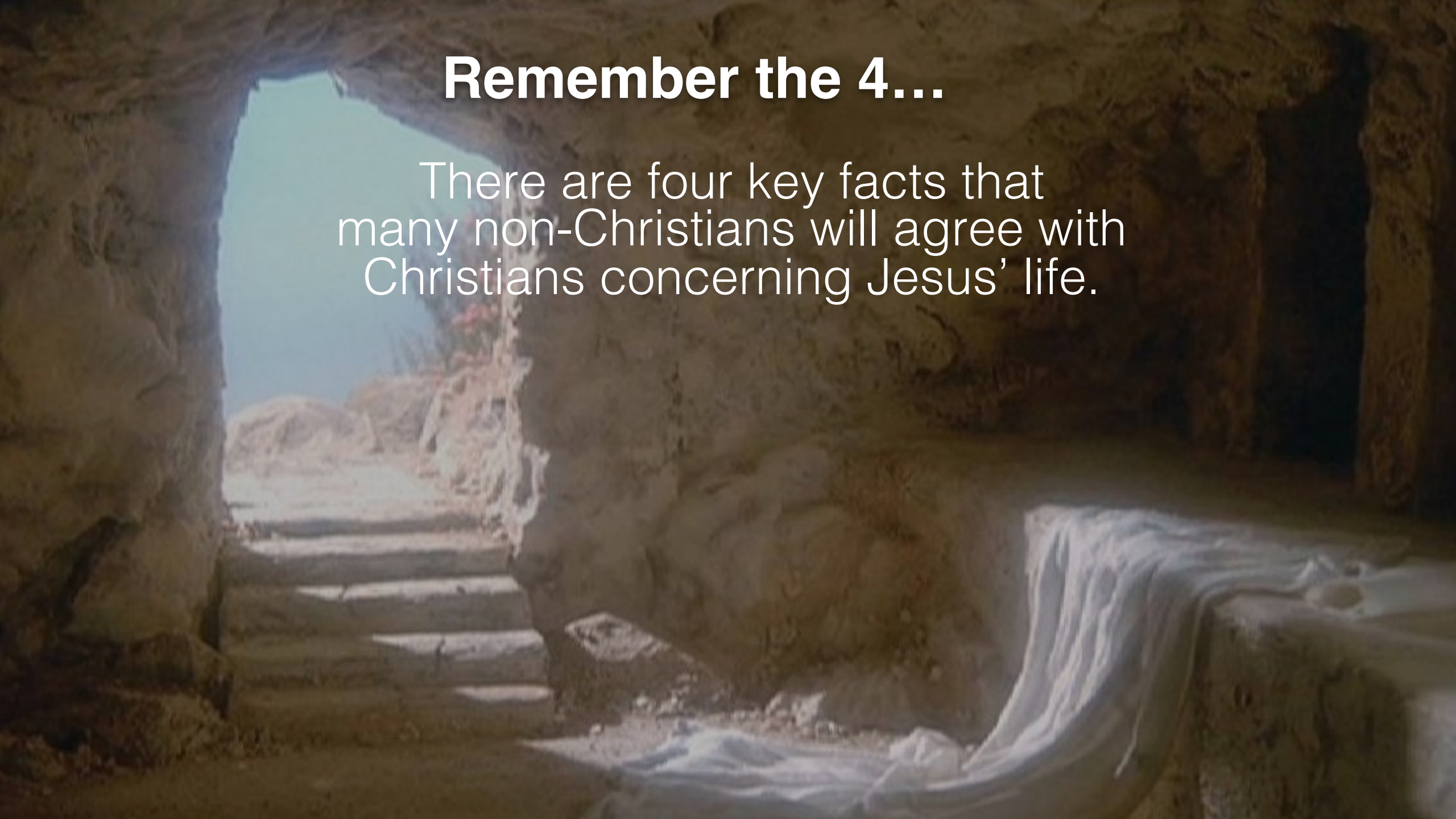
Jesus Is Unique!

Characteristic	Jesus	Muhammad	Buddha	Confucius
Virgin Born	Yes	No	No	No
Sinless	Yes	No	No	No
Prophecy	Yes	No	No	No
Did Miracles	Yes	No	No	No



Remember the 4...

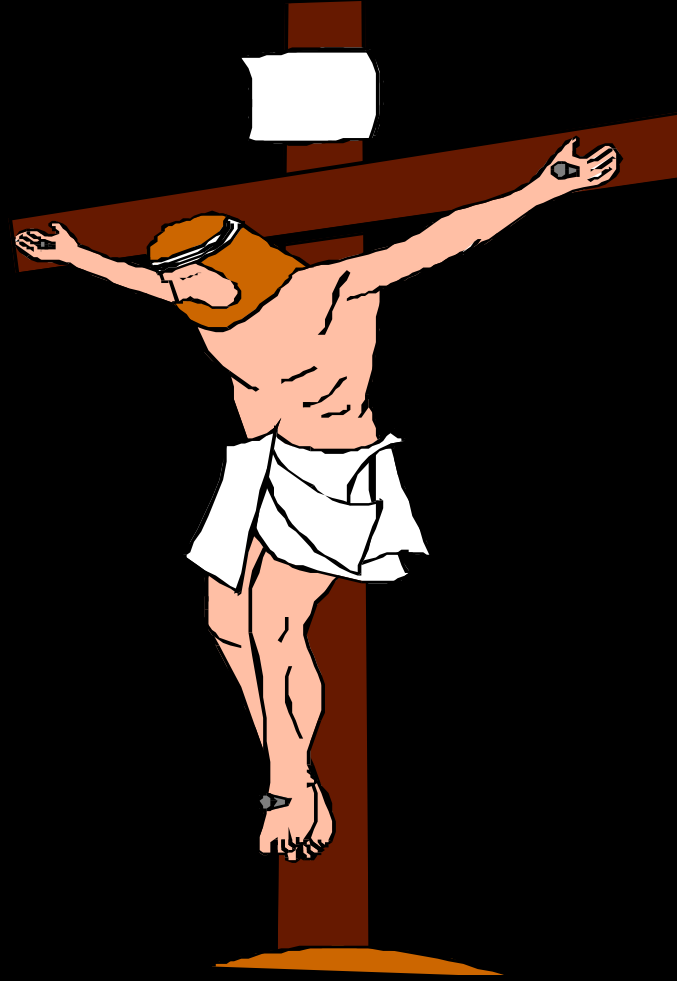
There are four key facts that many non-Christians will agree with Christians concerning Jesus' life.

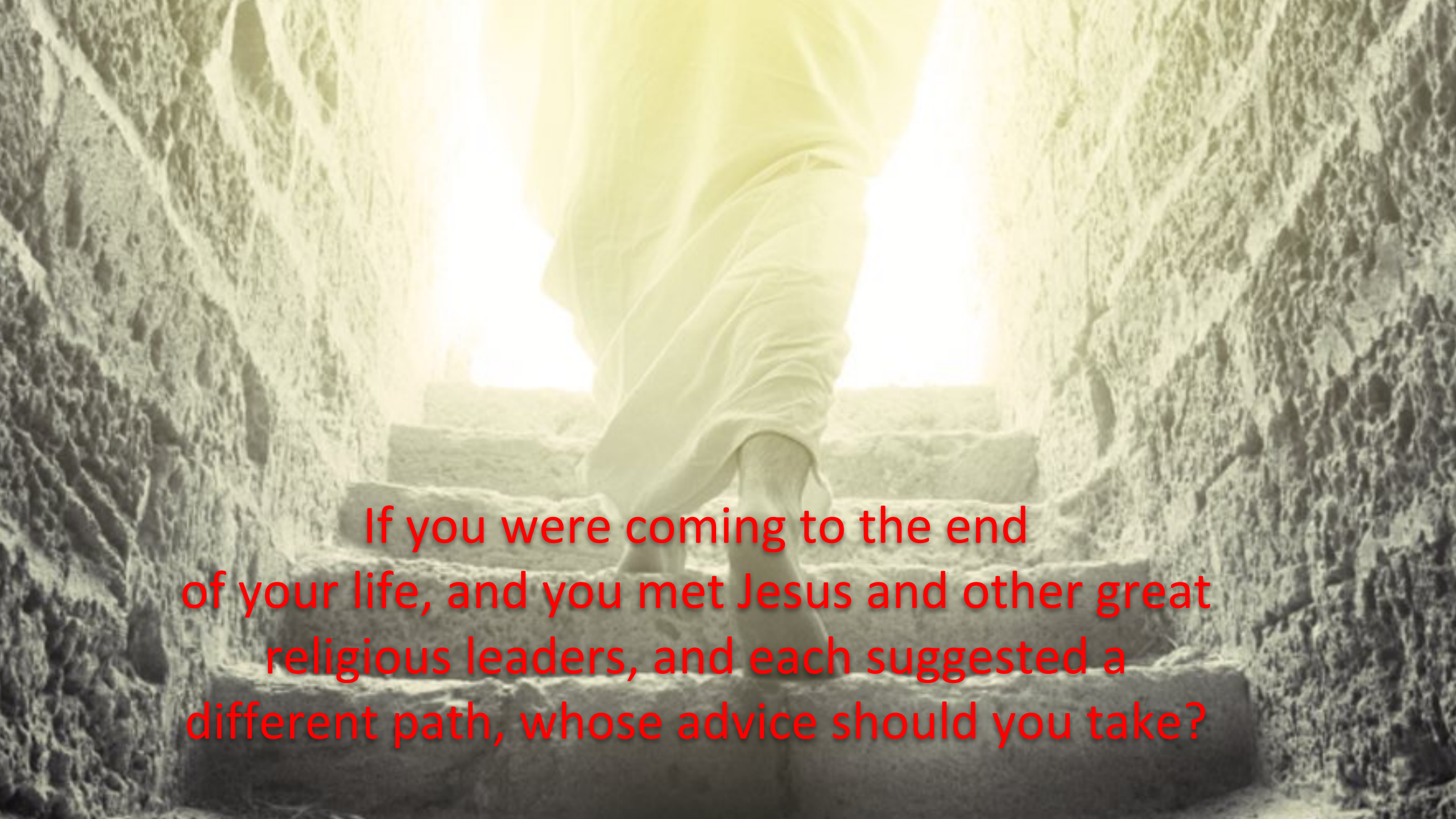


The Four Facts Are:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. He was buried in a tomb that was found empty three days later.
3. Something happened to convince a large number of his disciples that he had resurrected from the dead.
4. His disciples (who knew him the best) were willing to die for their belief that Jesus appeared to them.

But Why Should We Trust Jesus Only...?



A person wearing white, flowing robes is walking up a set of stone steps. The steps are carved into a rough, textured rock wall. At the end of the path, a bright, glowing light illuminates the scene, creating a strong contrast with the dark, shadowed interior. The person's feet are visible as they ascend the steps.

If you were coming to the end of your life, and you met Jesus and other great religious leaders, and each suggested a different path, whose advice should you take?

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is walking up a set of stone steps. The steps are made of large, rectangular blocks and are set within a narrow, rocky passage. The walls of the passage are made of rough, textured stone. At the top of the steps, there is a bright, glowing light source, possibly the sun, which creates a strong backlighting effect on the person's robe and the surrounding stone. The overall atmosphere is one of a journey or a quest.

Wouldn't you take the
advice of someone who's
been to the other side and
come back to tell us about it?



Why Jesus only....?

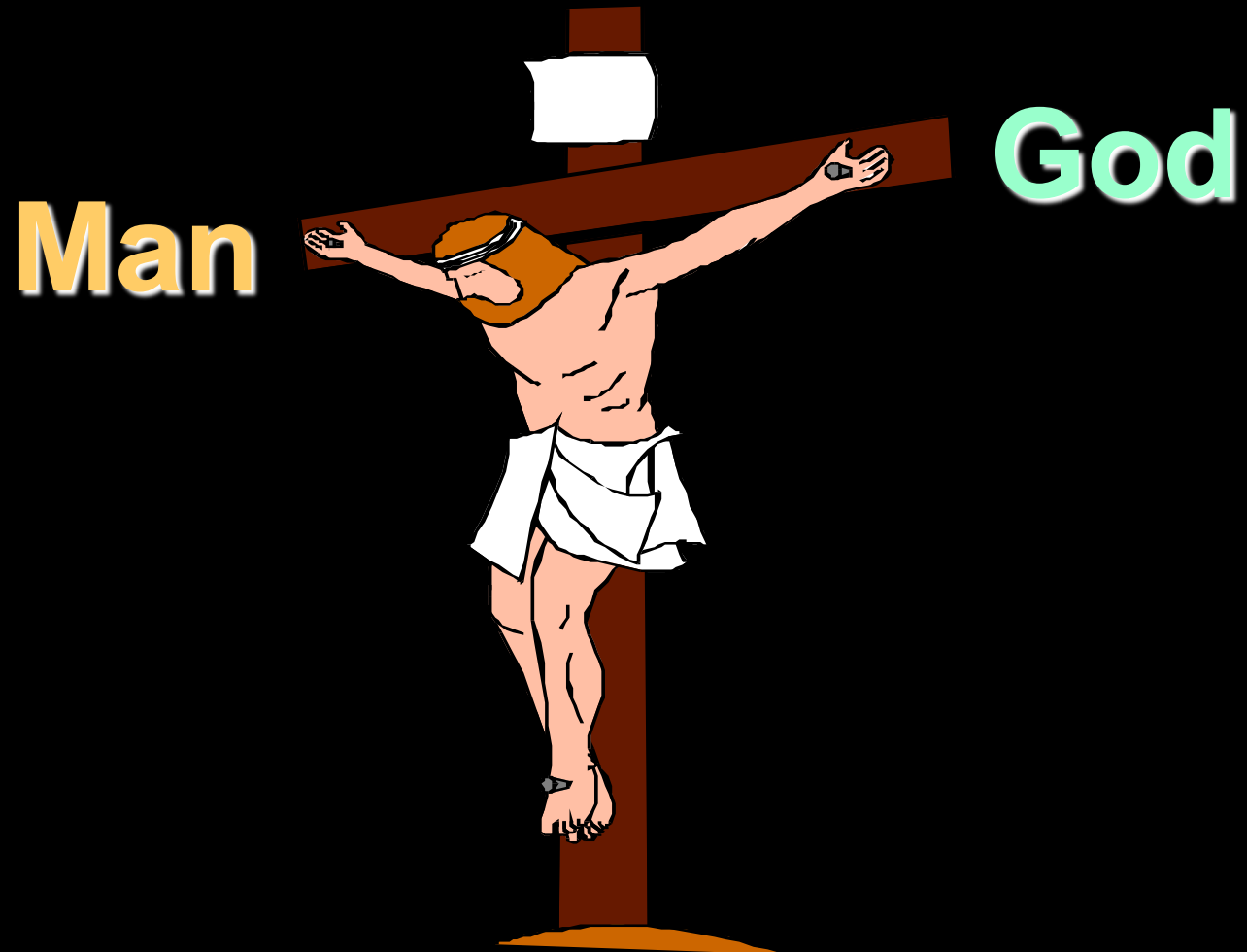
If each of you were coming to the end of your life...who's advice would you take?

4. Because Jesus knew what was on the other side of this life and came back to tell us about it.



Why Jesus only....?

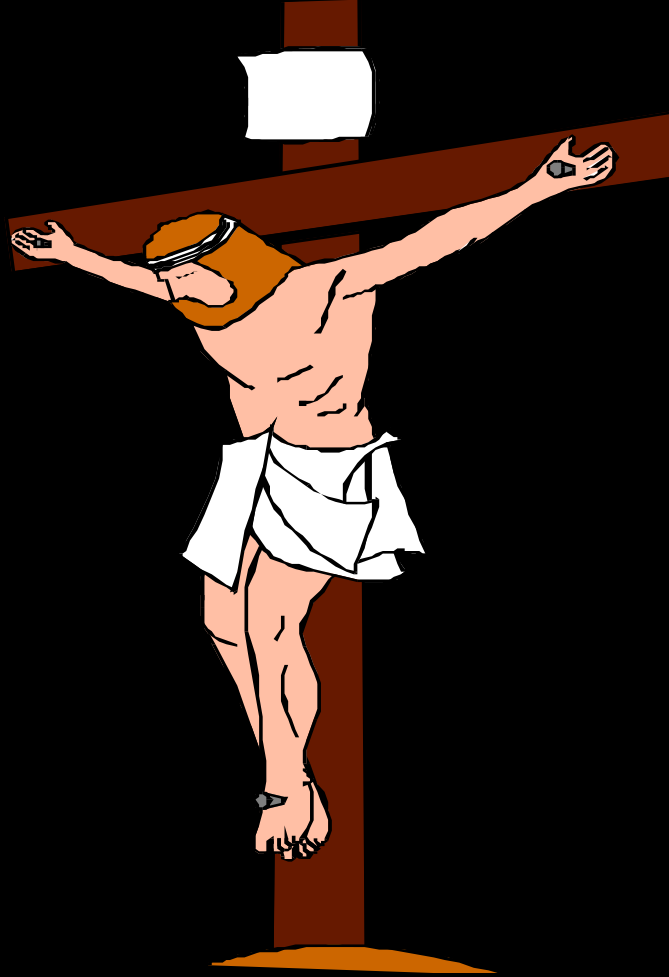
5. Because Jesus was the only person who could atone for the sins of the world.



Because only the **God-Man**
can bridge between **God** and **Man**.

Why is Jesus...?

Man



God

Because only the **God-Man** that lived a life without **sin** can **atone** for the world's sin.

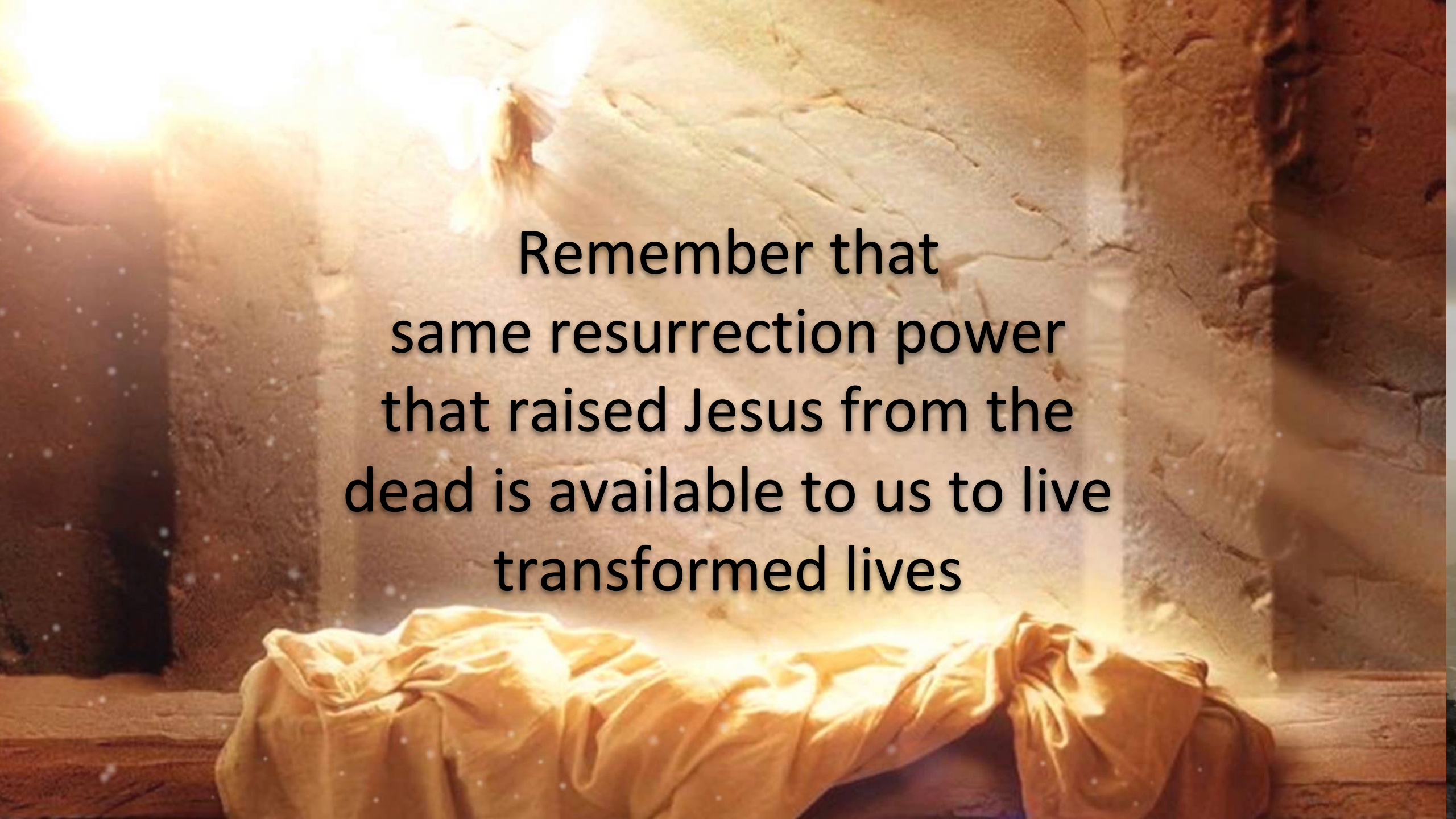
Comparing Jesus, Muhammad, and Buddha

1. Jesus was without sin (Jn. 8:46; Mk. 14:55; Lk. 23:22).
 - Even the Koran states that Jesus was without sin. (See Sura 3:45-46; 19:19-21)
2. Mohammed was told to ask for forgiveness (Sura 40:55; 48:1-2)
3. Buddha was imperfect.
 - He was understood as having many rebirths thus indicating an imperfect life.
 - At best, Buddha pointed to the way and followed a path to purity. He did not possess it fully himself.

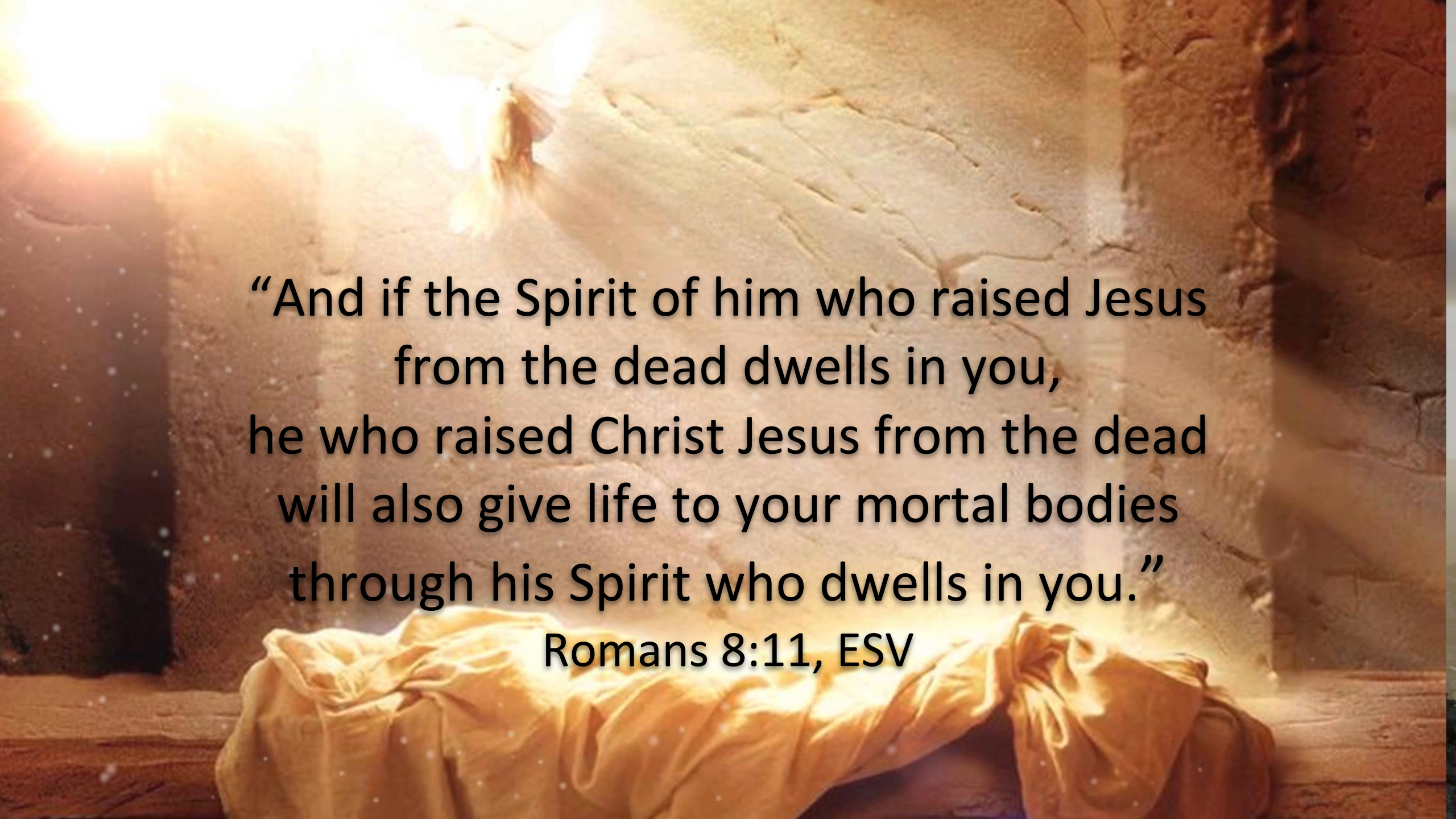


Why Jesus only?

6. Because that same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us, for transformation, so there is hope.

A photograph of an empty stone tomb. The tomb is made of rough-hewn, light-colored stone. A bright, warm light emanates from the left side, creating a strong glow and casting long shadows. Inside the tomb, a large, crumpled piece of yellowish-gold fabric is visible, rolled up. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and resurrection.

Remember that
same resurrection power
that raised Jesus from the
dead is available to us to live
transformed lives

A photograph of an empty tomb. A large, smooth, light-colored stone is rolled away from the entrance of the tomb, resting on the ground to the left. Inside the tomb, a white cloth is crumpled and lies on the floor. The interior of the tomb is brightly lit from the left, creating a strong contrast with the dark shadows on the right. The walls of the tomb are made of rough, textured stone.

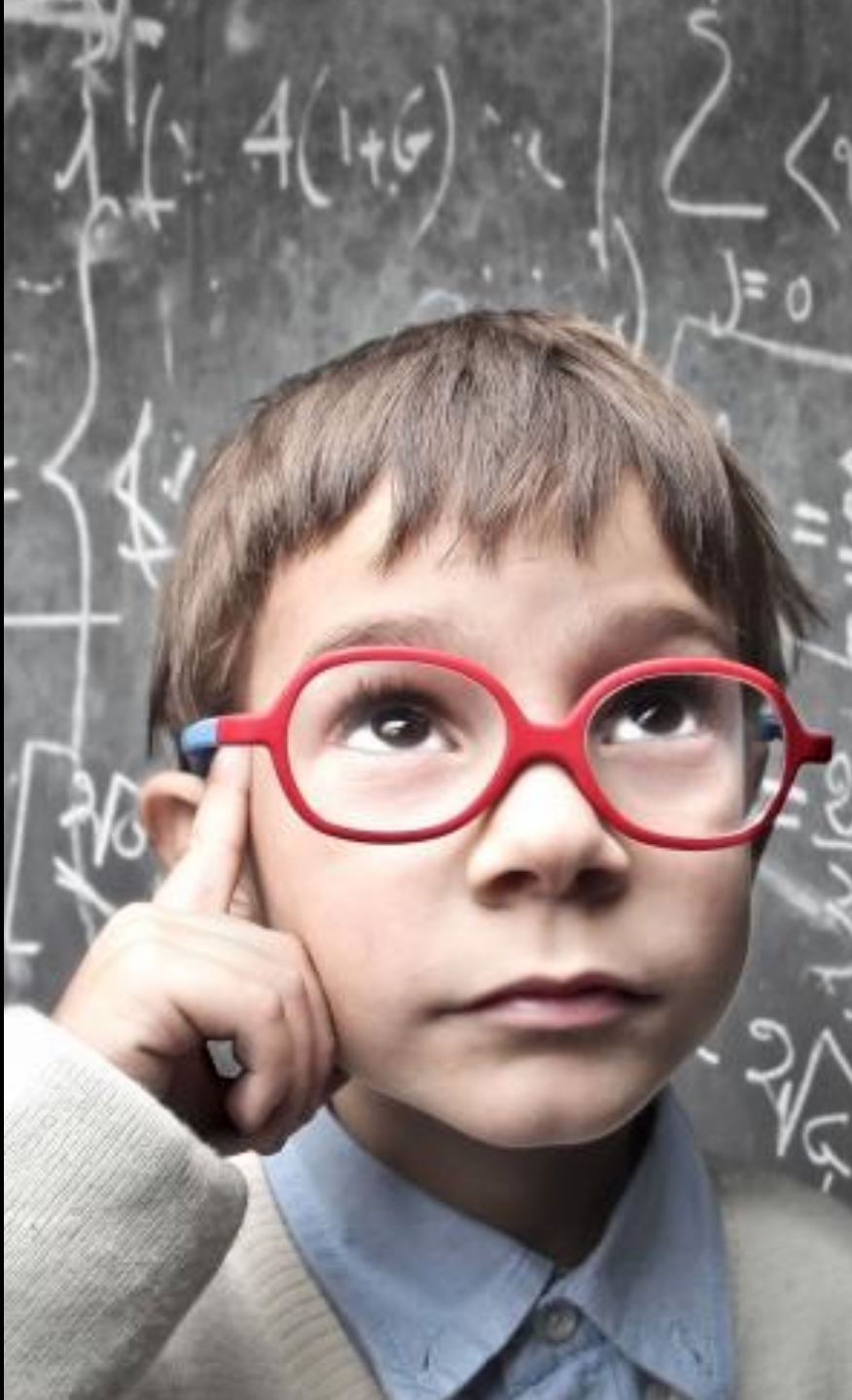
“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus
from the dead dwells in you,
he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead
will also give life to your mortal bodies
through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

Romans 8:11, ESV

A person wearing white robes is walking up a set of stone steps inside a dark, narrow tunnel. The tunnel walls are rough and textured. At the end of the tunnel, there is a bright, glowing light, suggesting an exit or a path of hope. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the bright opening at the end of the tunnel.

Jesus provides...

“Jesus offers the kind of transformation that the world desperately needs, so there is hope.”



Why should we trust Jesus only?

1. Because we have good evidence that a Creator exists and so Jesus' miraculous claims are reasonable.
2. Because Jesus was unique even among major religious leaders merely in what he claimed about himself.
3. Because Jesus offered evidence of his supernatural claim to be God.
4. Because Jesus knew what was on the other side of this life and came back to tell us about it.
5. Because Jesus was the only person who could atone for the sins of the world.
6. Because that same resurrection power is available to us, for transformation so there is hope.

**Isn't It True That
How We Live Our
Life Depends
On Who We Trust?**



Important Things To Remember in Recapturing Our Culture...

1. **Tear down their pluralistic walls!**
2. Remind our skeptical friends that if you can believe the big miracle, you can believe the little miracles.
3. **Remember that in a world that does not believe in propositional truth, we need to convert some of our statements of belief into questions, illustrations, or stories.**
4. **In building bridges with others it's important to LEARN their STORY!**
5. As you ask questions, remember the Three D's of Conversational Evangelism.
6. Always look for opportunities to move from pre-evangelism to evangelism.

How We Should Witness?

Some Practical Suggestions For Taking That Next Step
In Our Witness To Others (See book *Conversational Evangelism*)



Taking That Next Step

1. Determine who the Lord is placing on your heart to reach out to!
2. Pray for open doors. (Col. 4:3)
3. Look for divine appointments daily! (Acts 8:29)
4. Make the most of every conversation you have with pre-believers to help them take one step closer. (1 Cor. 3:6; Col. 4:5; 1 Cor. 9:22)





A step of faith in Jesus

I need what only Jesus can give

I need an outside source for help

I am a sinner

I cannot measure up

I am accountable

NGIM.org/all-resources/

NORMGEISLERTHEMOVIE.COM

CONVERSATIONALEVANGELISM.COM



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