

Neighborly Apologetics

The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection- Part 4:
Christ's Resurrection





The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

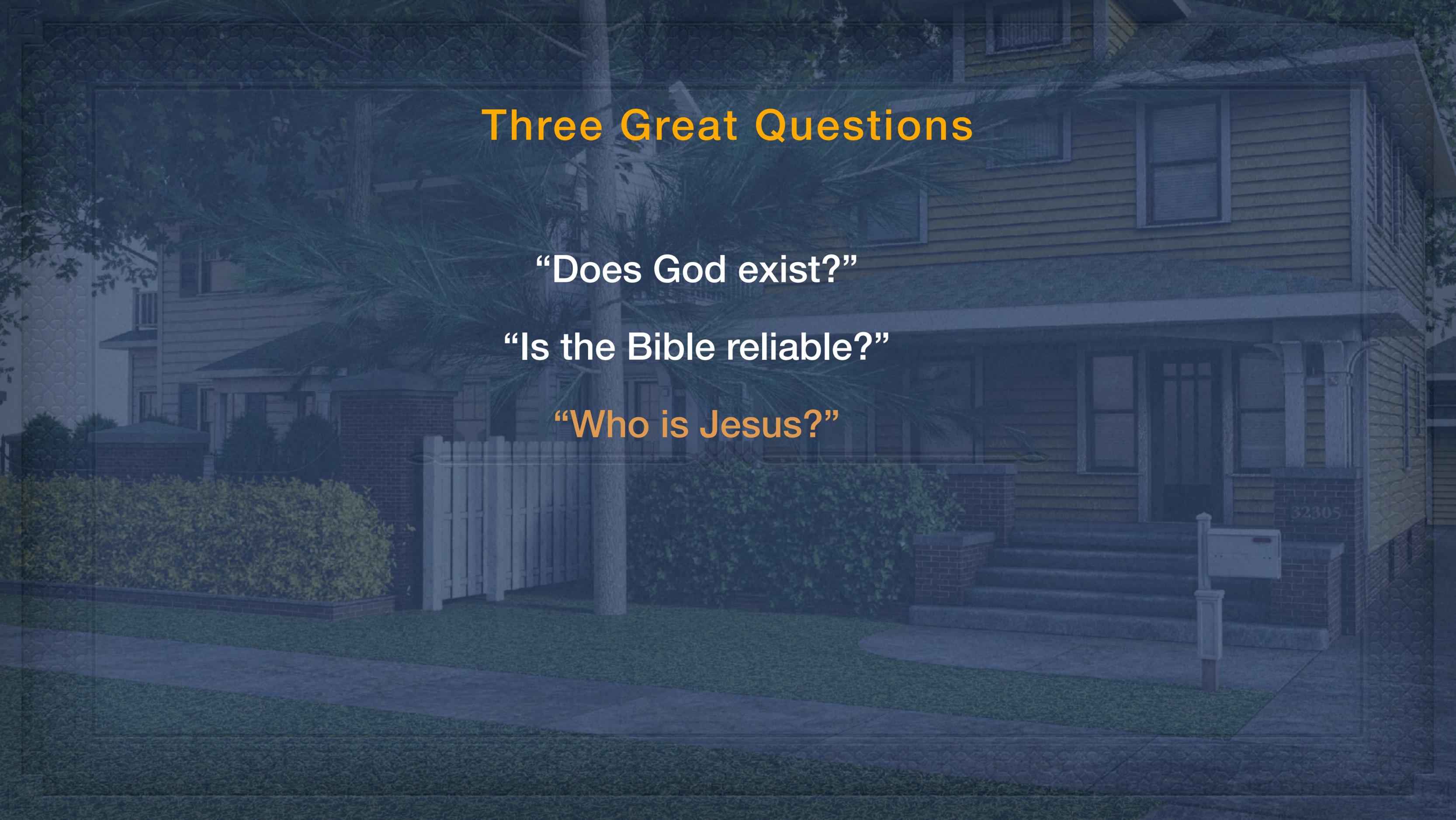
God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom to the common
Christian family

Three Great Questions

“Does God exist?”

“Is the Bible reliable?”

“Who is Jesus?”



Three Great Questions

“Does God exist?”

“Is the Bible reliable?”

“Who is Jesus?”

Who is Jesus?

The Question Pursued...

- + the promise and the prophecy
- + His life and words
- + His death and resurrection
- + the claim of deity
- + is Jesus the only way?
- + how to handle the questions

Who is Jesus?

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Who is Jesus?

Christ's death and resurrection



Christ's resurrection



the heart and key of the Christian apologetic

BC or BCE

AD or CE



Christ's resurrection

BC or BCE

AD or CE

And *if Christ has not been raised*, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:14

Christ's resurrection

BC or BCE

AD or CE

*...if Christ has not
been raised*, your
faith is futile and you
are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:17

Christ's resurrection

Christ's resurrection

just another holiday?



Christ's **resurrection**

prominent in early testimony

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was **raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures, and that He **appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He **appeared** to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He **appeared** to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He **appeared** to me also. 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8

Christ's **resurrection**

prominent in early testimony

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God **raised** him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. Acts 2:22-24

Christ's **resurrection**

prominent in early testimony

And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to **rise from the dead**, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." Acts 17:2-3

Christ's **resurrection**

prominent in early testimony

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his **resurrection from the dead**, Jesus Christ our Lord... Romans 1:1-4

Christ's **resurrection**

prominent in early testimony

It will be counted to us who believe in him who **raised from the dead** Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and **raised** for our justification.

Romans 4:24-25

...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God **raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Christ's **resurrection**

prominent in early testimony

For since we believe that Jesus died and **rose again**, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the **resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**... 1 Peter 1:3

Christ's resurrection



the heart and key of the Christian apologetic

Christ's resurrection

attacks

seven poor theories

- the twin/substitution theory
- the hallucination theory
- the wrong tomb theory
- the swoon theory
- the alien theory
- the disciples stole the body
- the legend theory

one valid argument

- the supposed inconsistencies in the resurrection accounts

Christ's **resurrection**

historical facts

- the death and burial
- the guard posted
- the tomb sealed

- the **third day morning**

- the creation claps its hands
- the angel appears
- the angel rolls the stone away
- the seals broken
- the guards frozen
- the guard's report
- the false story

Christ's resurrection

historical facts

creation claps its hands



Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake... Matthew 28:1

Christ's resurrection

historical facts



Christ's resurrection

historical facts

the guards



The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore, order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” So, they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. Matthew 27:62-66

Christ's resurrection

historical facts

the guards



Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:1-6

Christ's resurrection

historical facts

the guards



While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So, they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Matthew 28:11-15

Christ's resurrection

historical facts

the guards



Arguments:

-all of this is in Matthew: therefore invalid?

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

Christ's resurrection

historical facts

the guards



Arguments:

- all of this is in Matthew: therefore invalid?
- why do the Pharisees take the resurrection prophecies seriously but the disciples seemed clueless?

Christ's resurrection

historical facts

the guards



Arguments:

- all of this is in Matthew: therefore invalid?
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"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again" Mark 8:31
(See also Luke 9:22)

Christ's resurrection

historical facts

the guards



Arguments:

- all of this is in Matthew: therefore invalid?
- why do the Pharisees take the resurrection prophecies seriously but the disciples seemed clueless?
- did they know the tomb was empty?

Confirmation:

“And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.”

Christ's **resurrection**

historical facts

angel rolls the stone away

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:1-6



Christ's *resurrection*

historical facts

angel rolls the stone away

Why roll the stone away?

Was it for Jesus to escape the tomb?

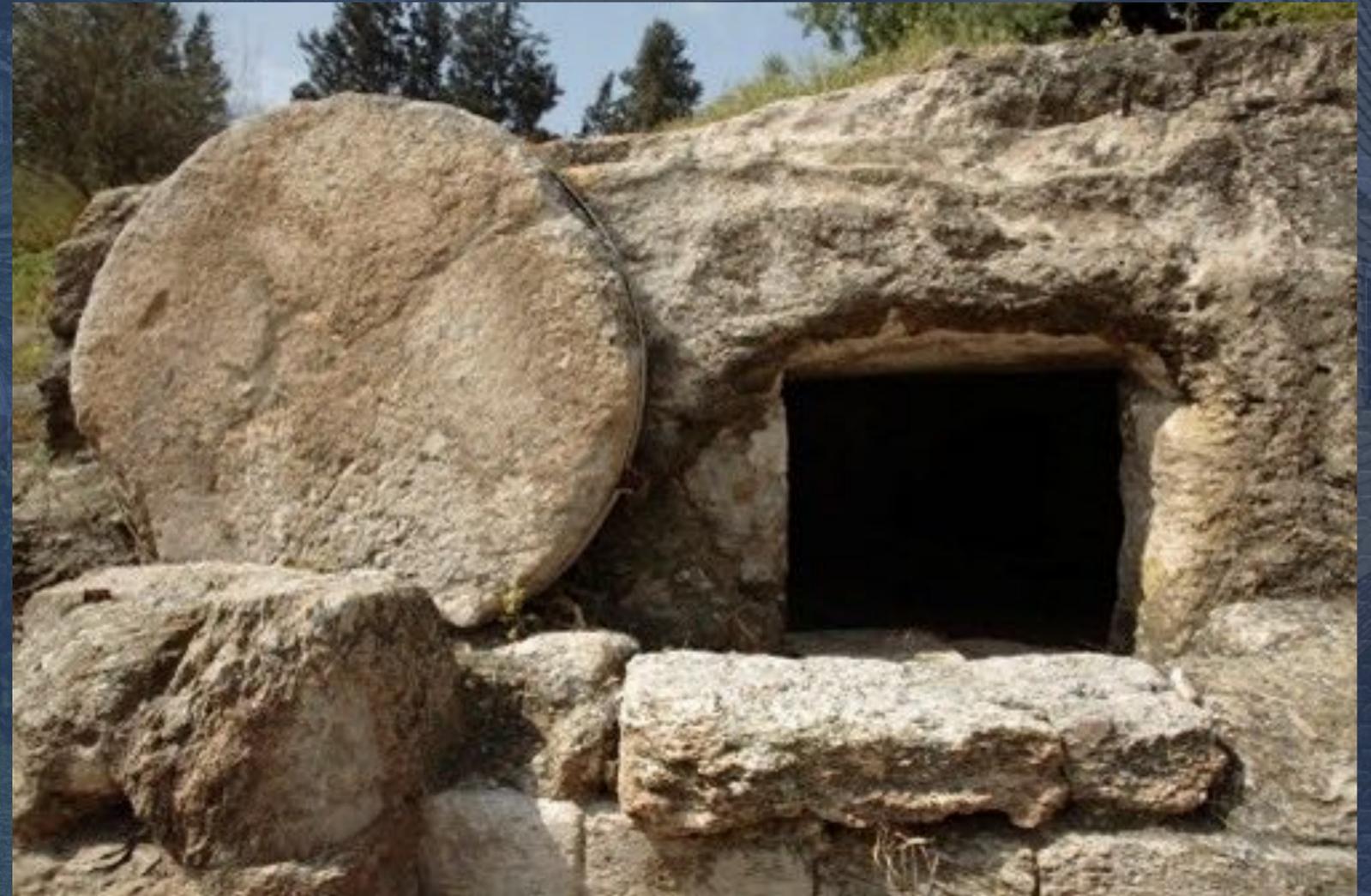
For the women...

For the guards...

For the disciples...

For anyone to see...

Our faith is not blind



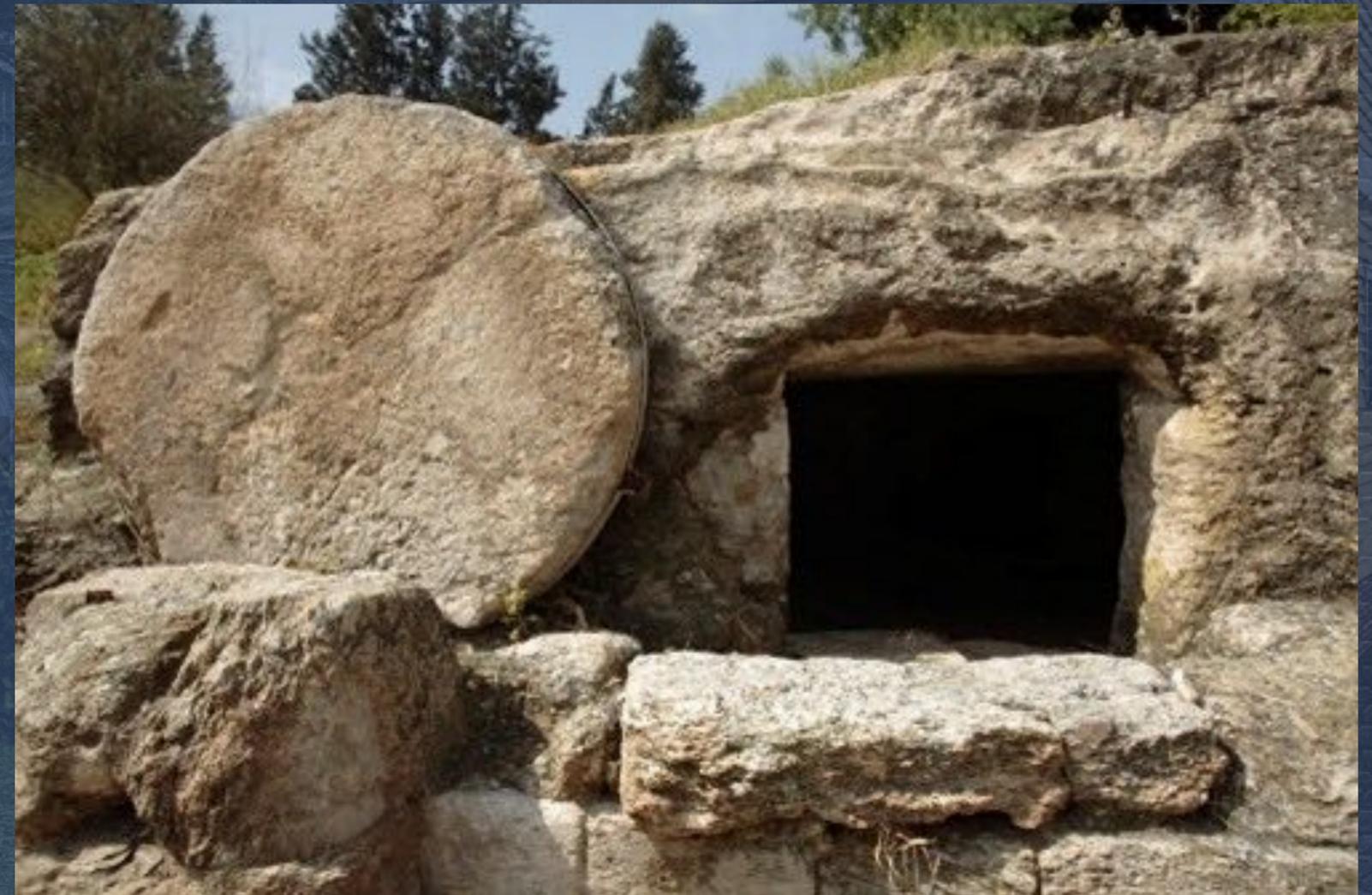
Christ's **resurrection**

historical facts

angel rolls the stone away

Sir Norman Anderson, considered one of the foremost legal minds ever, after a lifetime of legally analyzing the evidence, concluded:

“The empty tomb, then, forms a veritable rock on which all rationalistic theories of the resurrection dash themselves in vain.”



Christ's **resurrection**

historical facts

seals broken

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it **as secure as you can.**” So they went and made the tomb secure by **sealing the stone** and setting a guard. Matthew 27:62-66



Christ's resurrection

historical facts

seals broken

seals were inviolable

In the book of Esther, when King Ahasuerus issued the order to save the Jews, he commanded them to “seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring **cannot be revoked.**”



Christ's resurrection

historical facts

seals broken

seals were inviolable

When Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, "... a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that **nothing might be changed** concerning Daniel."



Christ's resurrection

historical facts

seals broken

seals were inviolable

In the vision concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, the Scripture says this:

And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is **sealed**. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "**I cannot, for it is sealed.**" Isaiah 29:11



Christ's resurrection

historical facts

seals broken

seals were inviolable

John begins to weep because there was “no one worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.”

that the Lamb, “standing as though it had been slain”, was worthy to break the seals.



And when each of those seals were broken, great calamity came upon the earth.

Seals in the Scripture mean something. And John had wept, because the seal represented an inviolable wall to anyone who did not have the authority to break it.

Christ's **resurrection**

historical facts

seals broken

seals that will never be broken

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” John 6:27



Christ's **resurrection**

historical facts

seals broken

seals that will never be broken

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. Eph 1:13



“... it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. 2 Cor 1:21

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Next: the witnesses of the empty tomb