

Christ's Resurrection Points to God's Existence

THE CORNERSTONE OF CHRISTIANITY



The Apostle Paul

And if Christ has
not been raised, our
preaching is useless
and so is your faith.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:14

What do we mean by resurrection?

Christ is risen from the dead

NOT REVIVIFICATION

The Bible reports of various people on different occasions being restored to life—Lazarus, Tabitha, Jairus's daughter, among others. The resurrection is not like that.

NOT NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

People all throughout the world have reported an experience of "dying" and returning to life. The resurrection is not like that either.

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Instead, Jesus is the first person in human history to rise from the dead in the way that the Bible predicts will happen at the end.



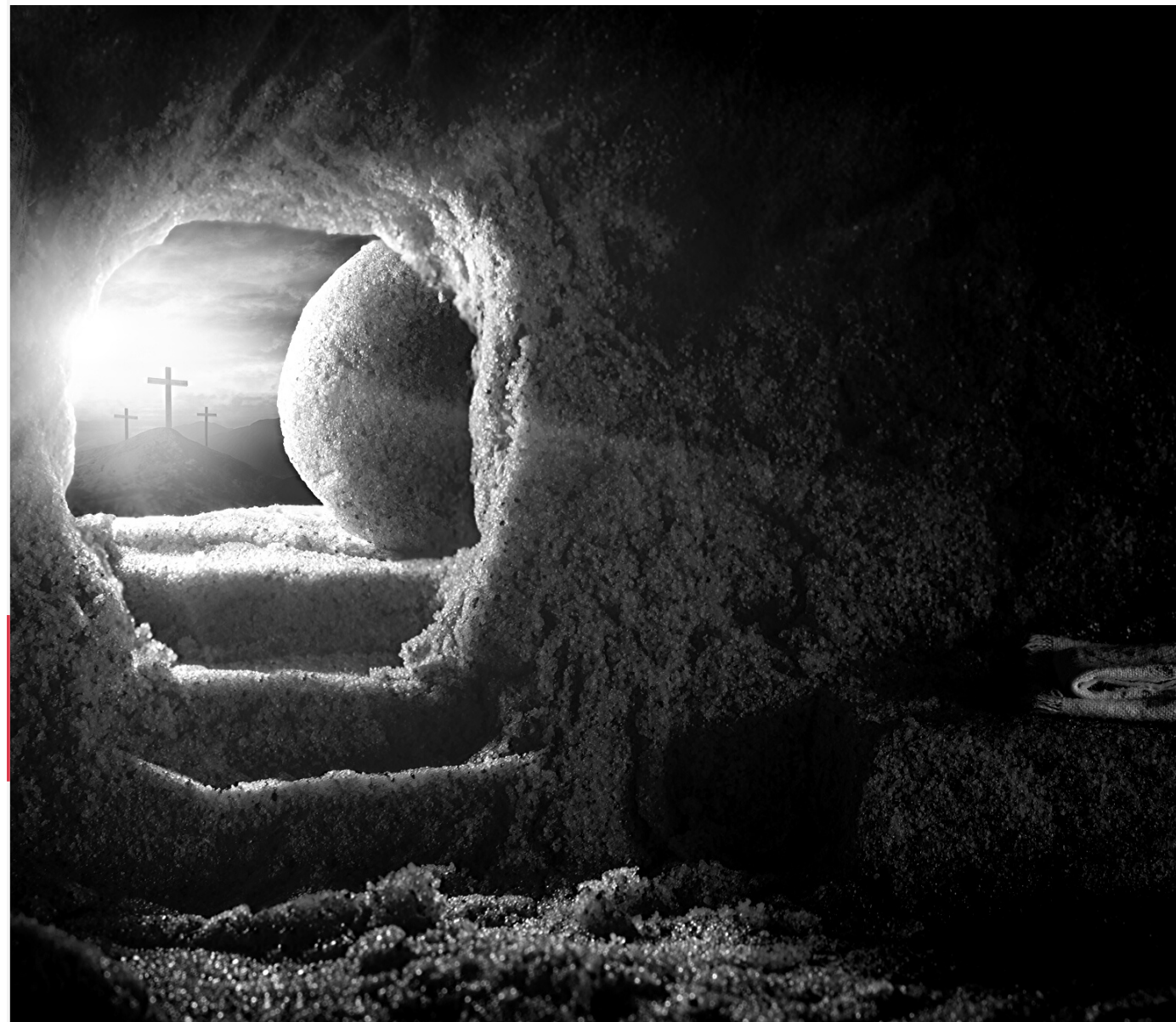
Old Testament Prophet Daniel

**Multitudes who sleep in the
dust of the earth will
awake: some to everlasting
life, others to shame and
everlasting contempt.**

DANIEL 12:2

1 Corinthians 15:20

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.



1 Corinthians 15:42

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.



What Jesus said to his disciples

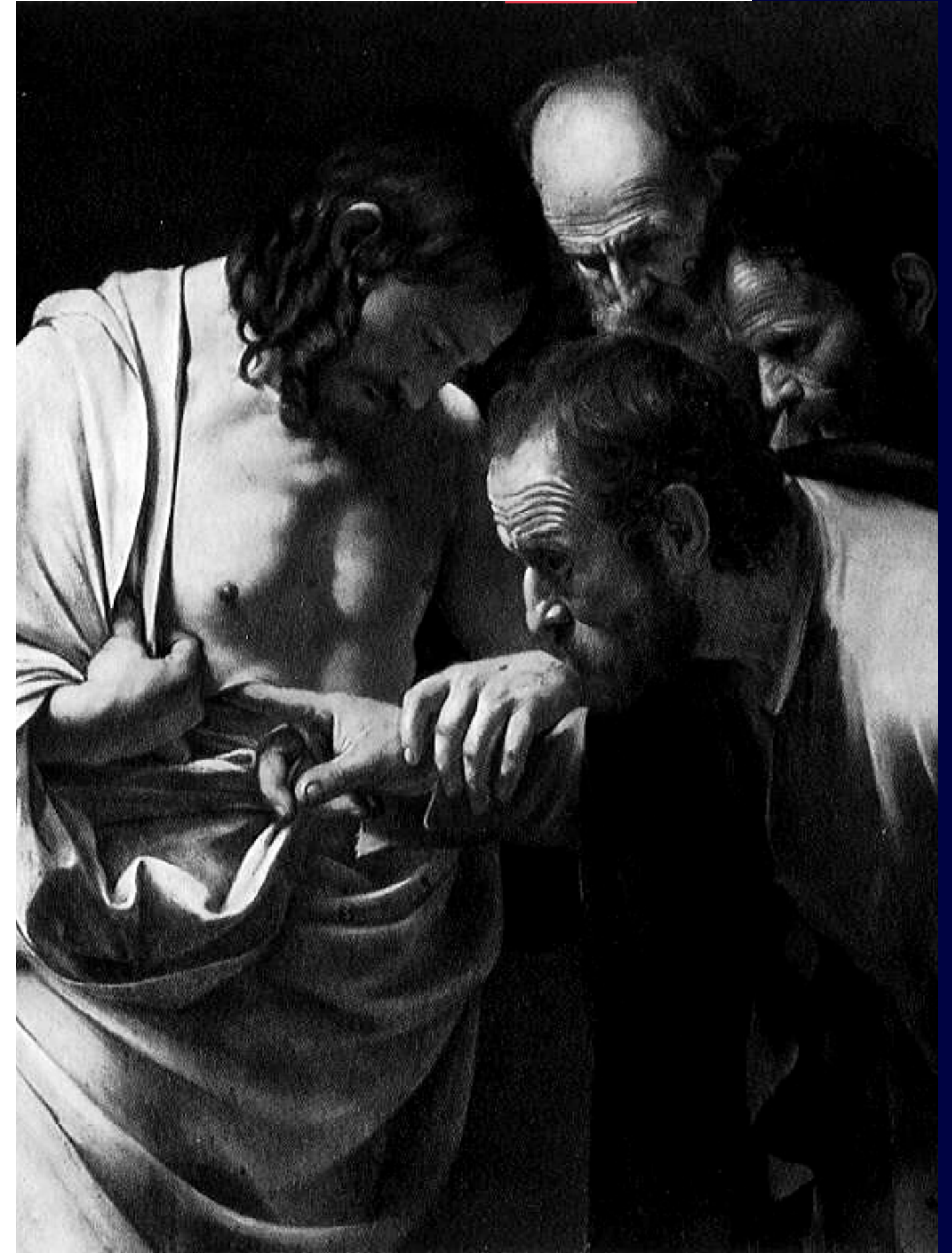
Luke 24:39

"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."

What Jesus said to Thomas

John 20:27

"Put your finger here; see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it into my
side. Stop doubting and believe."



The Big Question

Did it actually happen?

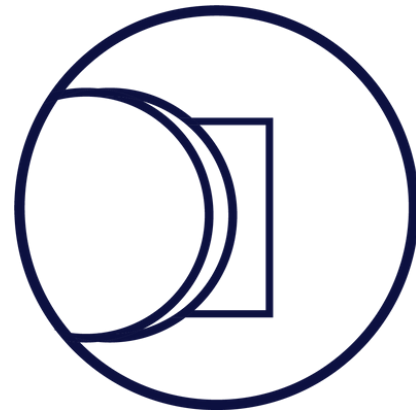
The resurrection of Christ is a claim of history, similar to a court case. We weren't there when the event in question happened. So, we hear the evidence and consider the eyewitness testimony. After that, we give a verdict.

What is the evidence?

Four facts each beginning
with the letter "E"



#1 Execution



#2 Empty
Tomb



#3
Eyewitnesses



#4 Early
Testimony

There are the four key facts in this case



Remember

To make a case for or against the resurrection, you can't just explain one or a few of the facts. You must account for all four key facts.

Was Jesus executed?




EVEN SKEPTICAL SCHOLARS ACKNOWLEDGE CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION

There are a few things we can say with virtual certainty about Jesus. For example: he was a Jewish preacher from rural Galilee who made a fateful trip to Jerusalem and was crucified by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. —Bart Ehrman

<https://ehrmanblog.org/jesus-crucifixion-as-king-of-the-jews/>

Key fact #1 is proven
beyond a reasonable doubt



Was his tomb empty?



NOTE THE EXPLANATION THAT THE JEWS OFFERED

When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'" (Matthew 28:12,13)

There would be no point in coming up with such a story if, in fact, the tomb was still occupied. All the Jews would have to do to end talk of Christ's resurrection would be to present the body of Jesus. They didn't.

Key fact #2 is proven
beyond a reasonable doubt



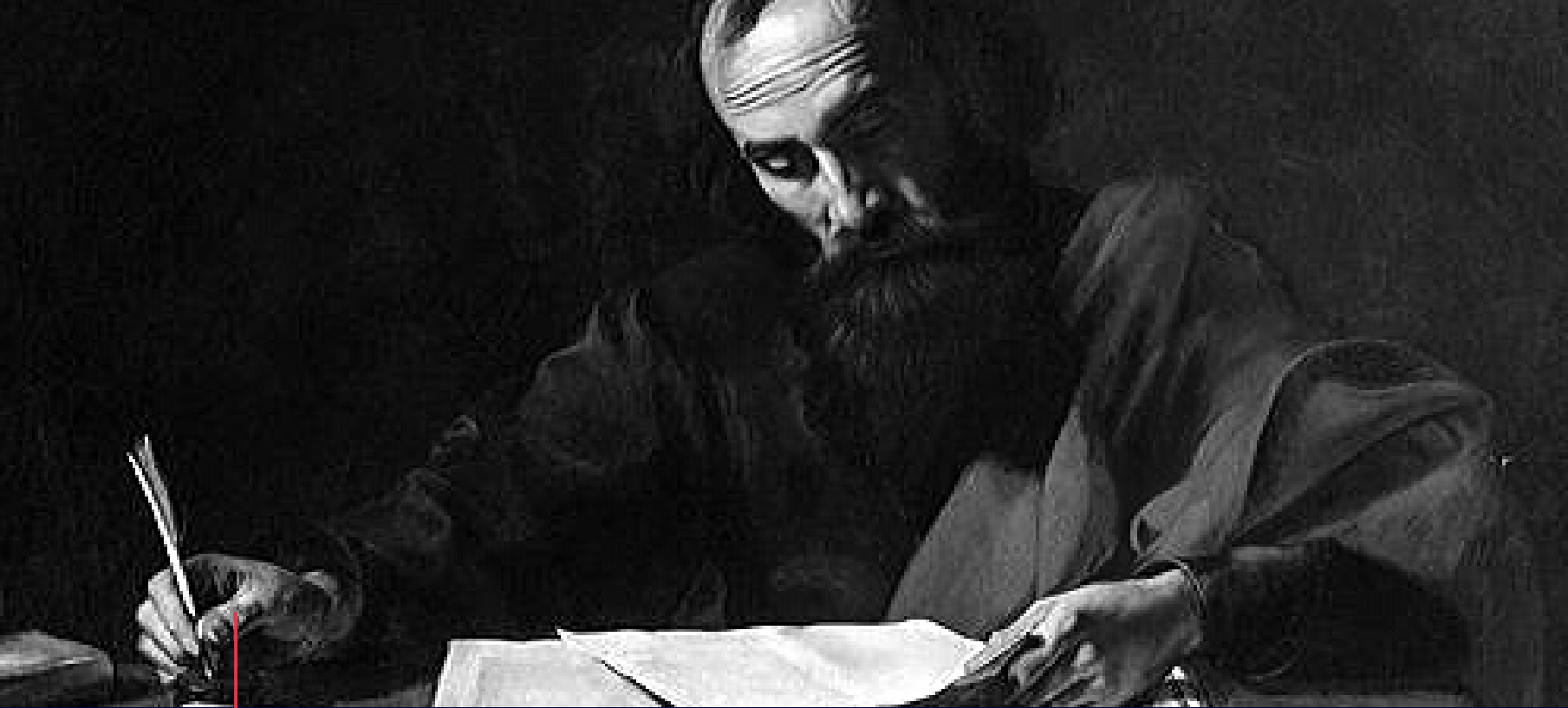
Who were the eyewitnesses?



SOME WERE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Paul says that Jesus "appeared to Cephas [Peter], and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time" (1 Corinthians 15:5,6)

Many of these early disciples suffered loss, persecution and martyrdom. People will die for what they believe is true but not for what they know is false.



Who were the eyewitnesses?



SOME WERE SKEPTICS OR ENEMIES OF JESUS

James, Jesus' brother, didn't believe in him while Jesus was alive (John 7:5). He became a disciple after Jesus' death.

Paul also became a Christian, although previously he was a zealous persecutor of the church (Acts 8:1).

What convinced them? Why did they convert? They became disciples because they were convinced that they saw the risen Jesus.

Key fact #3 is proven
beyond a reasonable doubt



How early is the testimony?



WHAT SCHOLARS SAY ABOUT PAUL'S REFERENCE

Scholars acknowledge that the book of 1 Corinthians was written about 25 years after Jesus' crucifixion. They date the source that Paul cites in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 to within a couple years after Jesus' death.

There simply wasn't enough time for a resurrection legend to develop in the early church. The resurrection of Christ was something that the church preached right from the very beginning.

Key fact #4 is proven
beyond a reasonable doubt

But what about the alternative theories?

STOLEN BODY

This theory accounts for the death of Christ and the empty tomb. But it does not explain the appearances of Jesus to his disciples and to James and Paul.

SWOON

Adherents of this now discredited theory claimed that Jesus was "mostly dead" and somehow freed himself from the grave clothes, rolled away the stone and appeared to others. Why would anyone, especially James and Paul, mistake this severely injured man for the risen Christ?

HALLUCINATION

The problems mount up with this theory. It doesn't explain the empty tomb or the conversions of James and Paul. Furthermore, hallucinations are private matters. On one occasion, Jesus appeared to over 500 people.

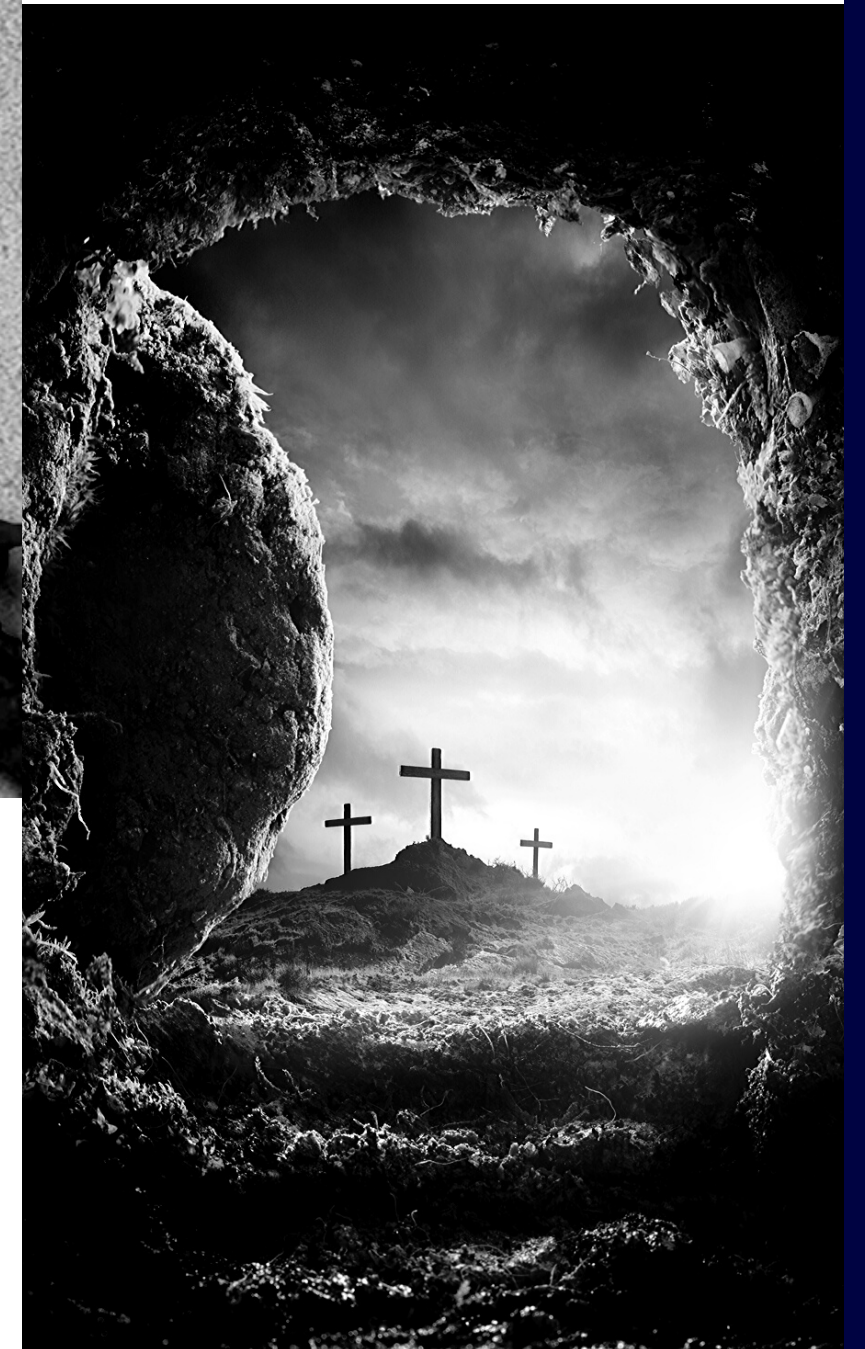
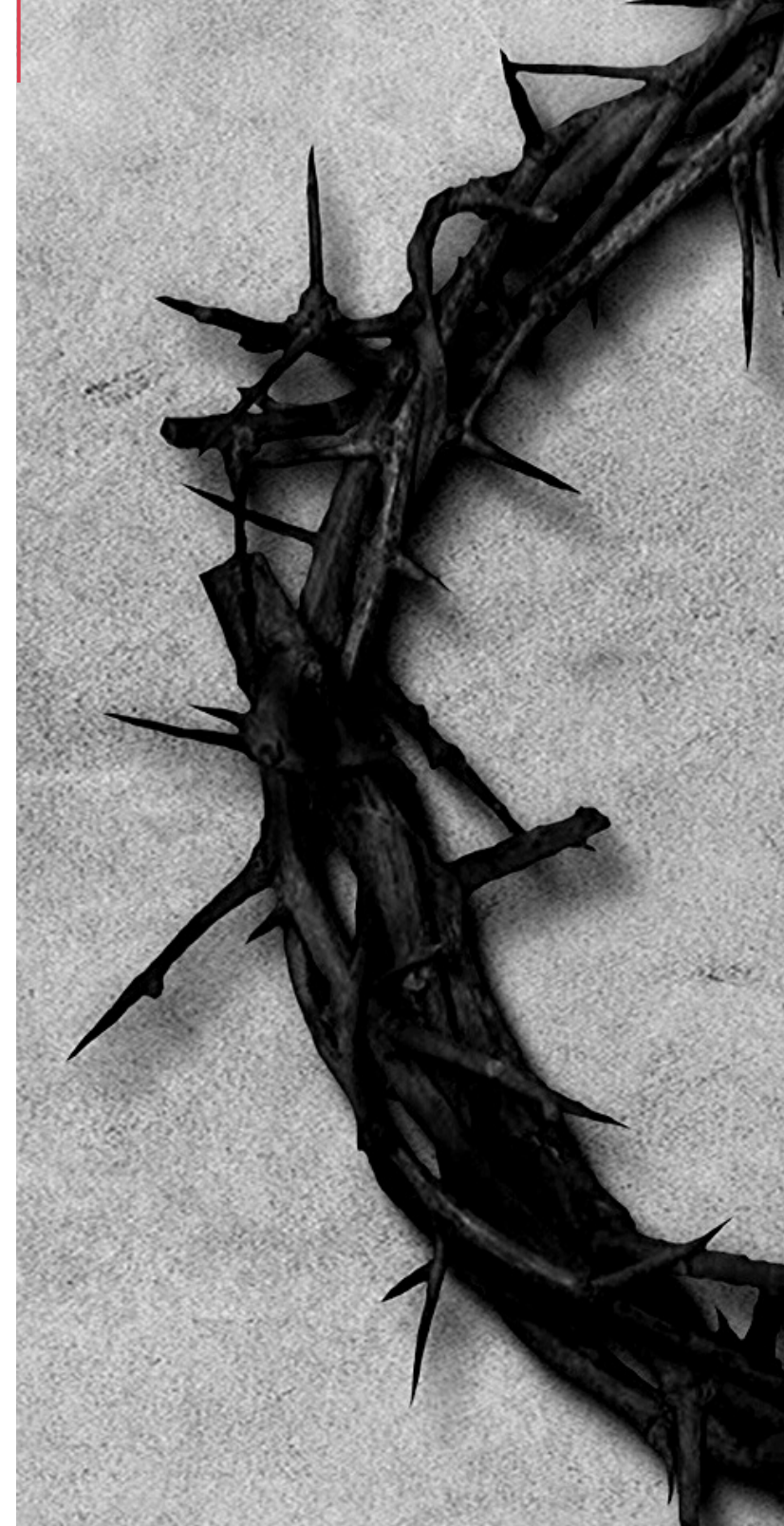
THE IMPOSTOR

Muslims and other individuals have claimed that it really wasn't Jesus who died on the cross. However, the uniform witness of the early church testifies that not only did Jesus die on the cross but he also rose from the dead.

Where does the evidence lead?

ALTERNATIVE THEORIES OR RESURRECTION?

The alternative theories cannot explain all the facts surrounding this historical event. For any alternative theory to be taken seriously, it must explain all the facts, not just some of them. The only explanation that accounts for all the facts is simply this—God raised Jesus from the dead!



Christ's resurrection points to God's existence

Here's What The Apostles Preached

You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.
(Acts 3:15)

