



Seven Reasons to Believe That Christ Rose From the Dead

1 Corinthians 15:1-9



1. A Public Execution Assured That He Actually Died



Matthew 27:50 (NKJV)

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

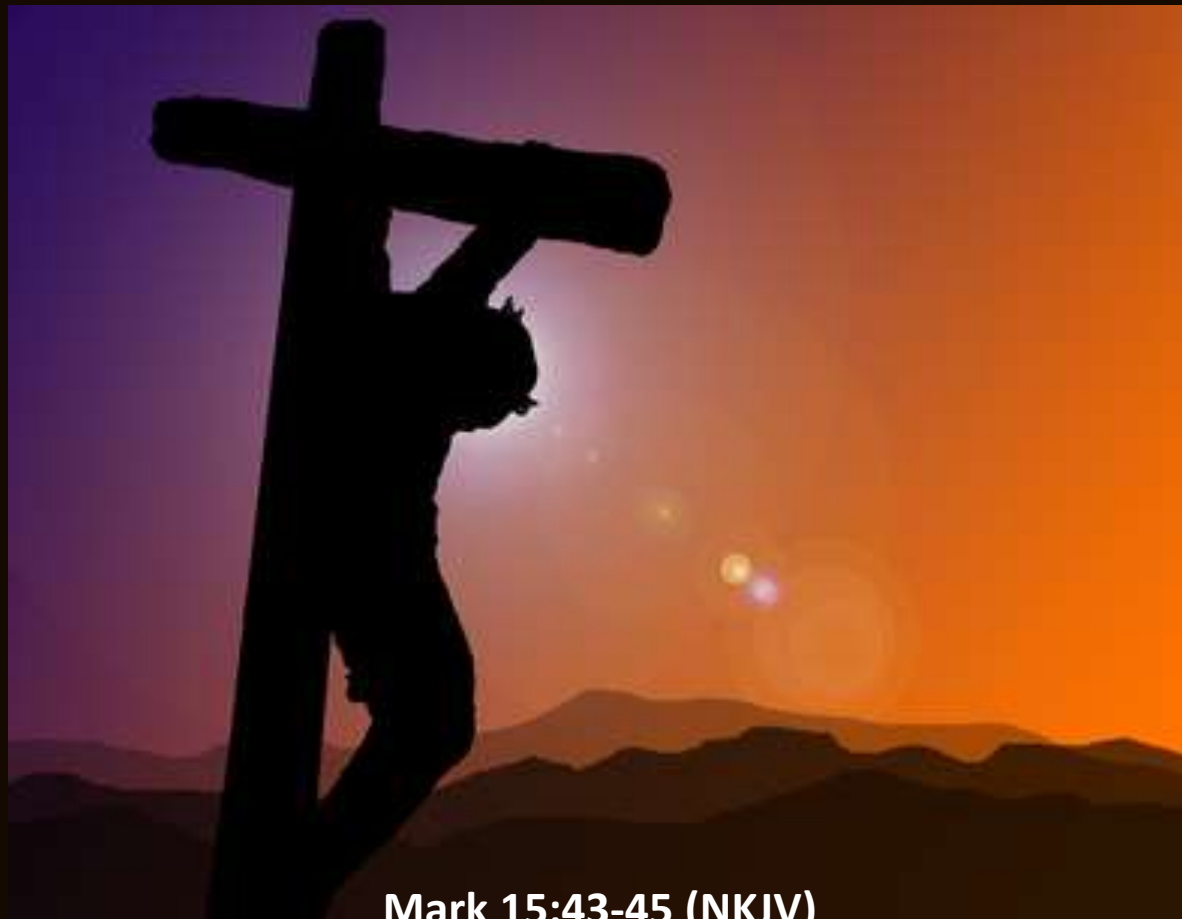
John 19:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"
And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.



John 19:33-34 (NKJV)

³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.



Mark 15:43-45 (NKJV)

⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.



2. High Officials Secured the Gravesite



Matthew 27:62-66 (NKJV)

⁶²On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, ⁶³saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him *away*, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶**So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.**



3. The Grave Was Found Empty



The resurrection proclamation could not have been maintained in Jerusalem for a single day, for a single hour, if the emptiness of the tomb had not been established as a fact.



Mark 16:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.



John 20:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, ⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.



Matthew 28:11-15 (NKJV)

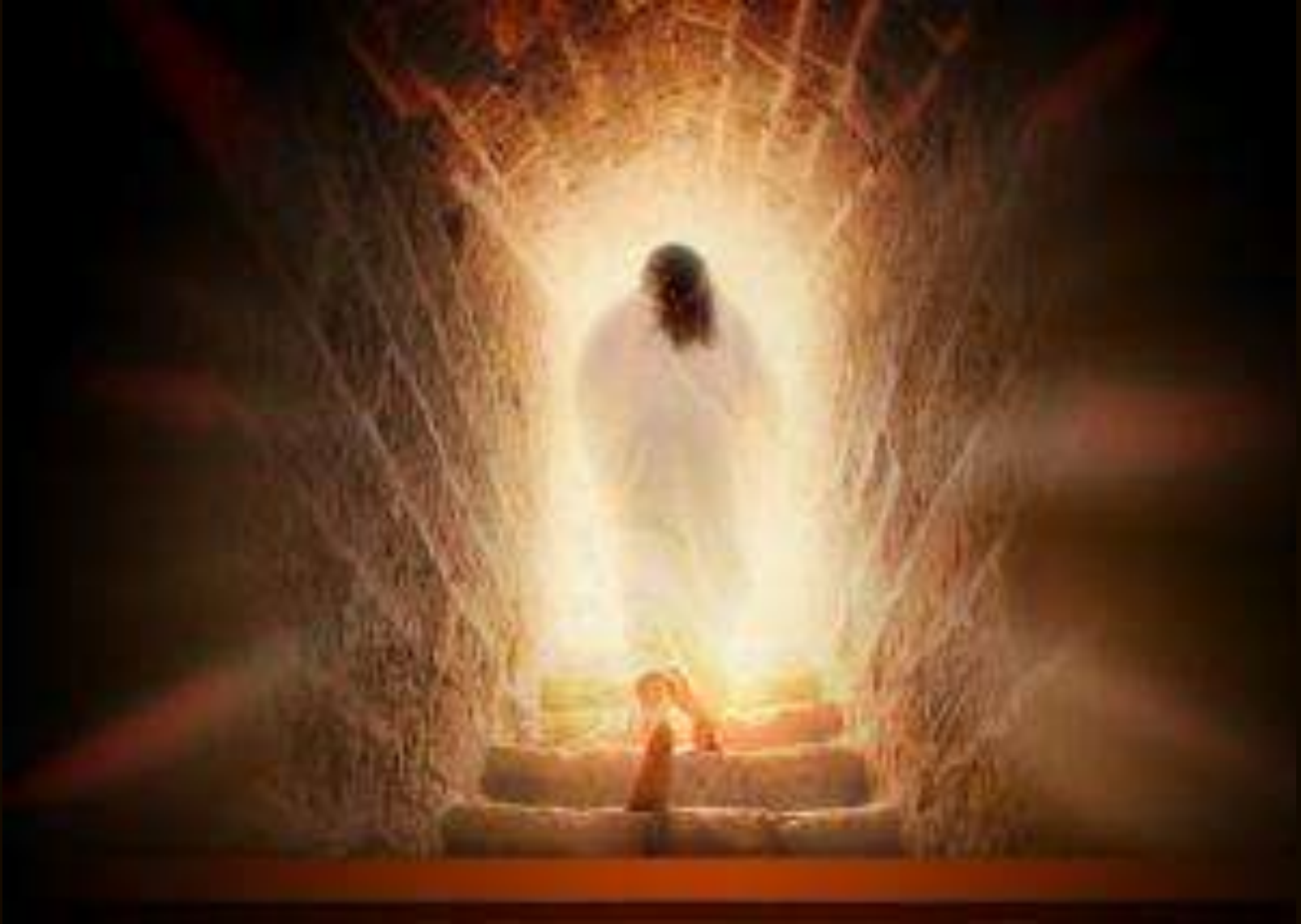
¹¹Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. ¹²When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him *away* while we slept.'" ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.



We are faced with two facts.

(1) Jesus died and was buried.

(2) In a short time, His tomb became empty.



4. Many People Claimed to Have Seen Him Alive



1 Corinthians 15:5-8 (NKJV)

⁵and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18),

Several women near the tomb (Matthew 28:9-10),

Two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32),

Peter (Luke 24:33-35),

Ten disciples in the upper room (Luke 24:36-43),

Eleven disciples in the upper room (John 20:26-31),

Seven men at the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-25),

Eleven disciples on a mountain (Matthew 28:16-20),

The disciples near Bethany (Acts 1:9-12; Luke 24:52).



ACTS 1:3

“presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by [the apostles] during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God”



5. His Apostles Were Dramatically Changed



After the resurrection the apostles said to the Jewish leaders,
“We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).
After they were beaten for disobeying the orders of the Jewish council,
these once-cowardly apostles
“did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ”
(Acts 5:42).



“Nothing less than a witness as awesome as the resurrected Christ could have caused those men to maintain to their dying whispers that Jesus is alive.” –Charles Colson



6. Witnesses Were Willing to Die For Their Claims

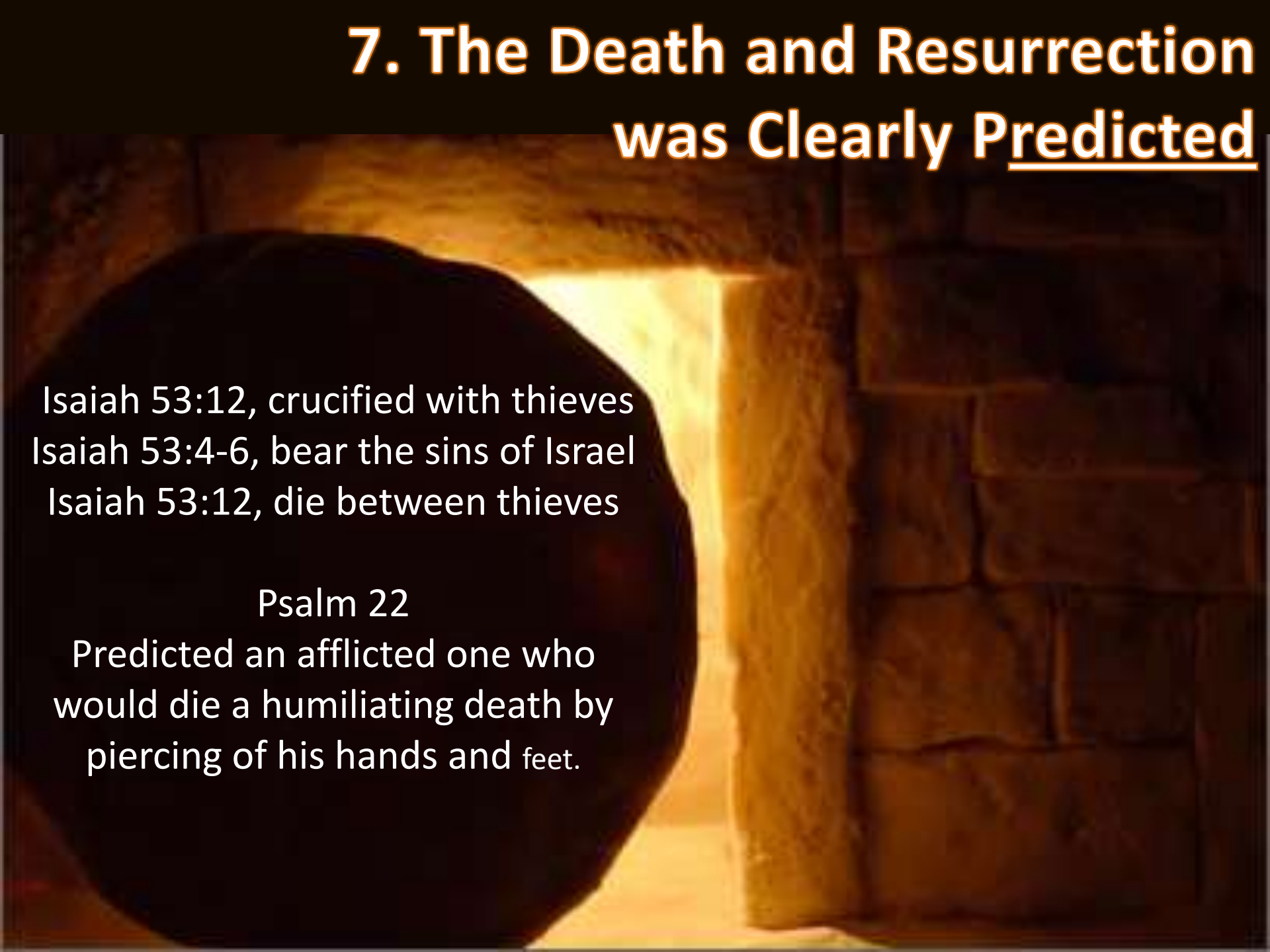
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7. The Death and Resurrection was Clearly Predicted



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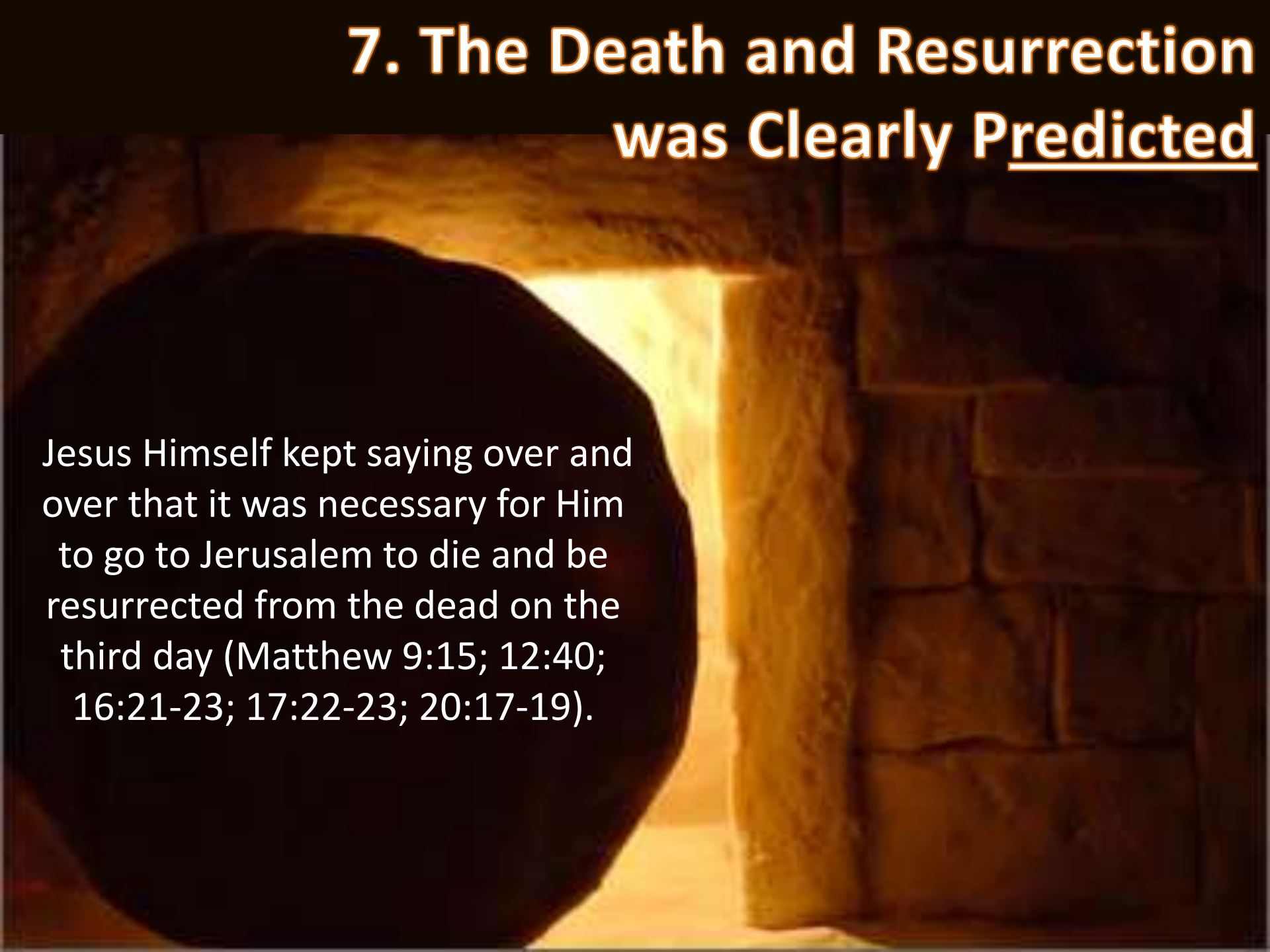


Isaiah 53:12, crucified with thieves
Isaiah 53:4-6, bear the sins of Israel
Isaiah 53:12, die between thieves

Psalm 22

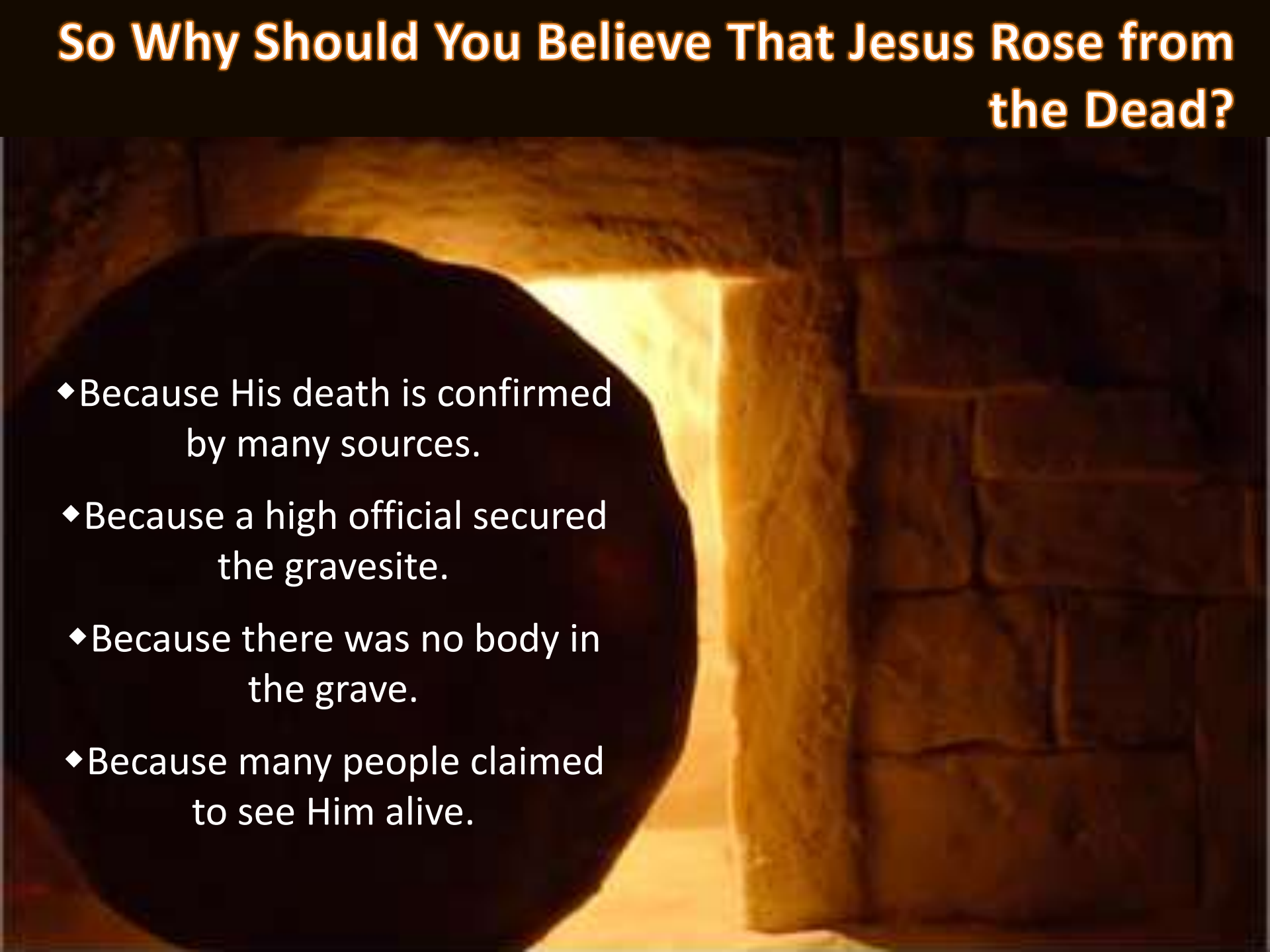
Predicted an afflicted one who
would die a humiliating death by
piercing of his hands and feet.

7. The Death and Resurrection was Clearly Predicted

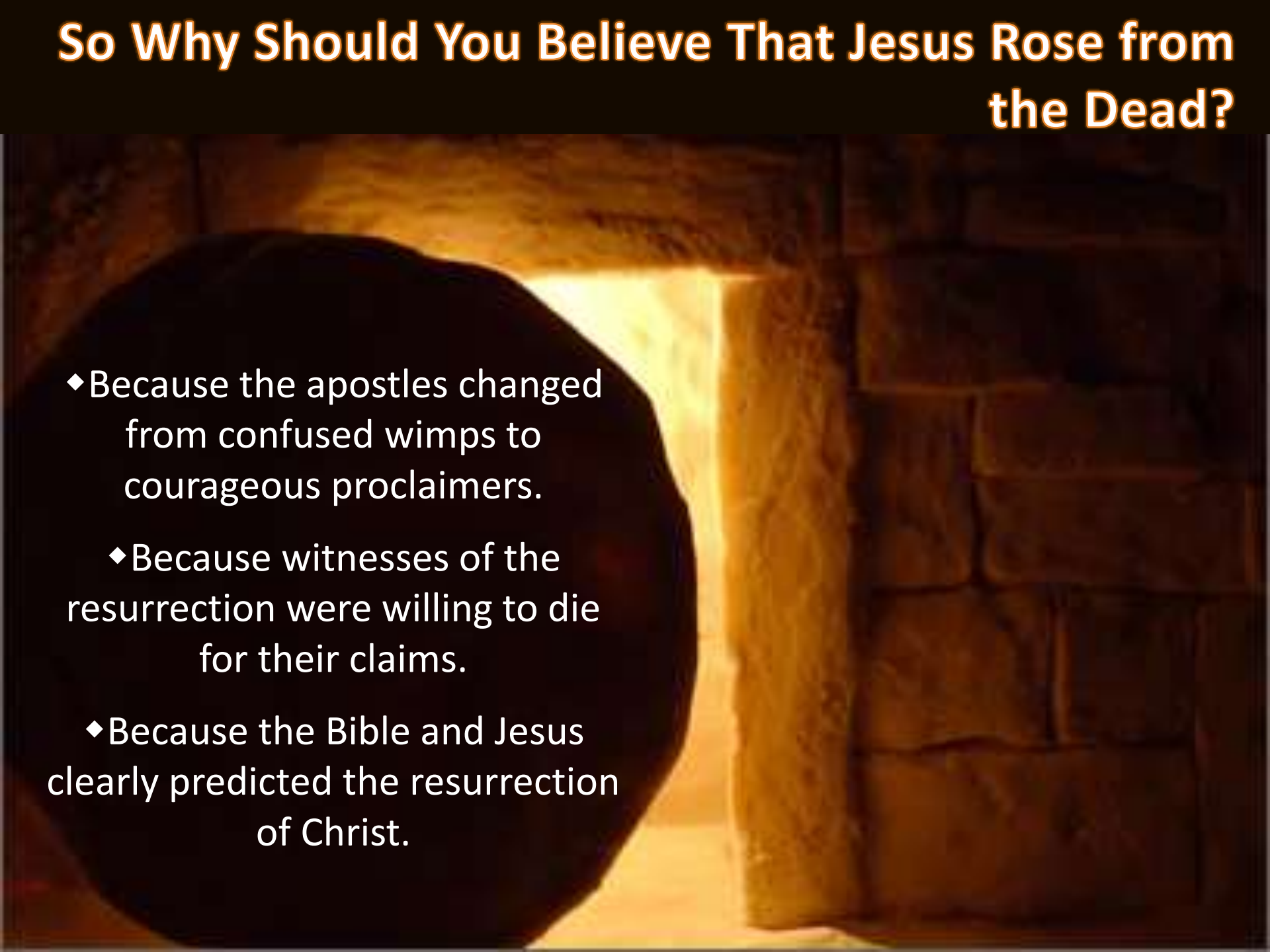


Jesus Himself kept saying over and over that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem to die and be resurrected from the dead on the third day (Matthew 9:15; 12:40; 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19).

So Why Should You Believe That Jesus Rose from the Dead?

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- ◆ Because His death is confirmed by many sources.
 - ◆ Because a high official secured the gravesite.
 - ◆ Because there was no body in the grave.
 - ◆ Because many people claimed to see Him alive.

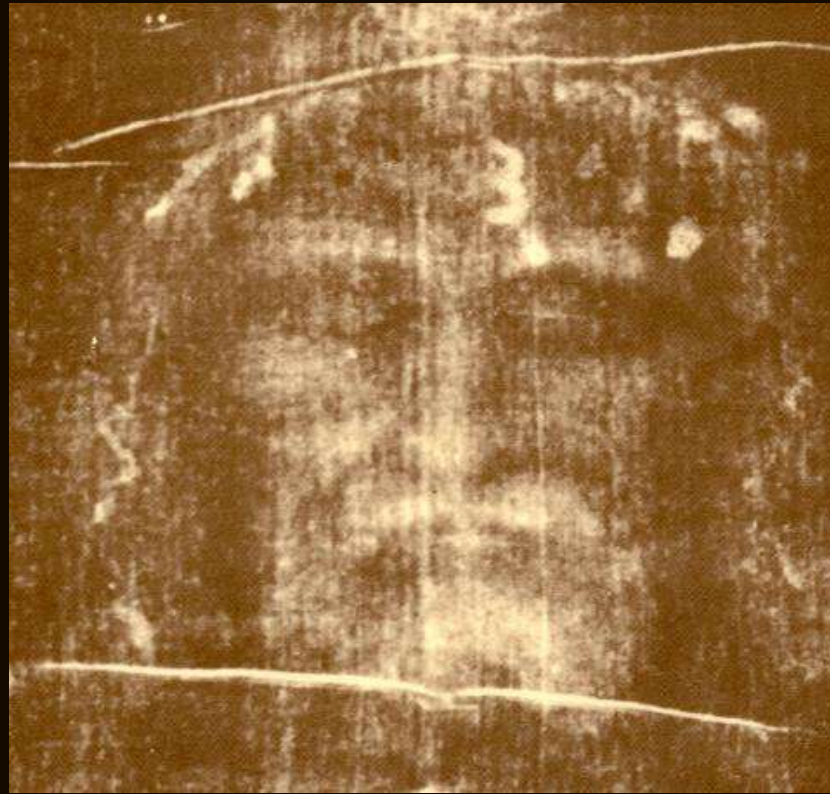
So Why Should You Believe That Jesus Rose from the Dead?

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- ◆ Because the apostles changed from confused wimps to courageous proclaimers.
 - ◆ Because witnesses of the resurrection were willing to die for their claims.
 - ◆ Because the Bible and Jesus clearly predicted the resurrection of Christ.

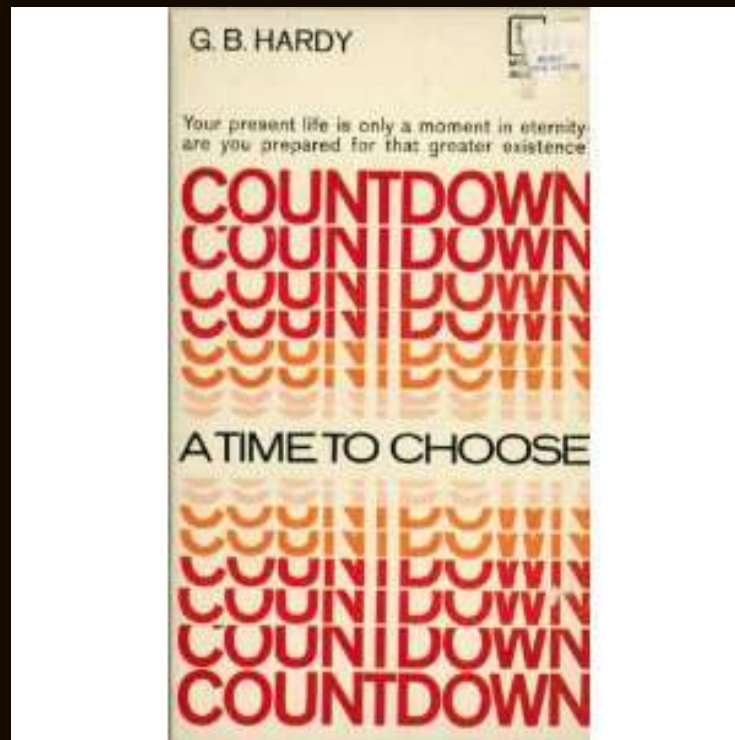
1 Corinthians 15:17

“And if Christ has not
been raised, then your
faith is worthless”





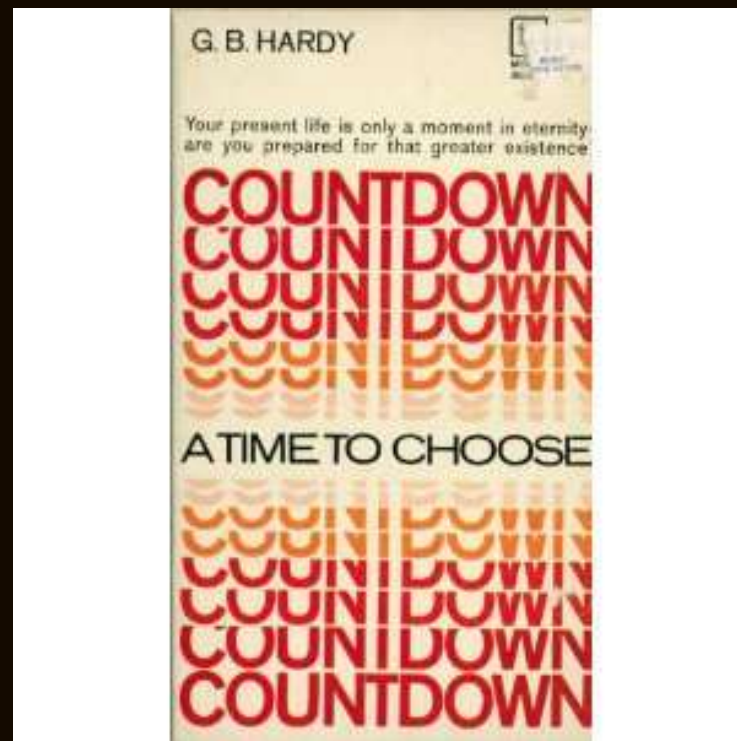
In the early part of this century, a group of lawyers met in England to discuss the biblical accounts of Jesus' resurrection. They wanted to see if sufficient information was available to make a case that would hold up in an English court of law. When their study was completed, they published the results of their investigation. They concluded that Christ's resurrection was "one of the most well-established facts of history!"



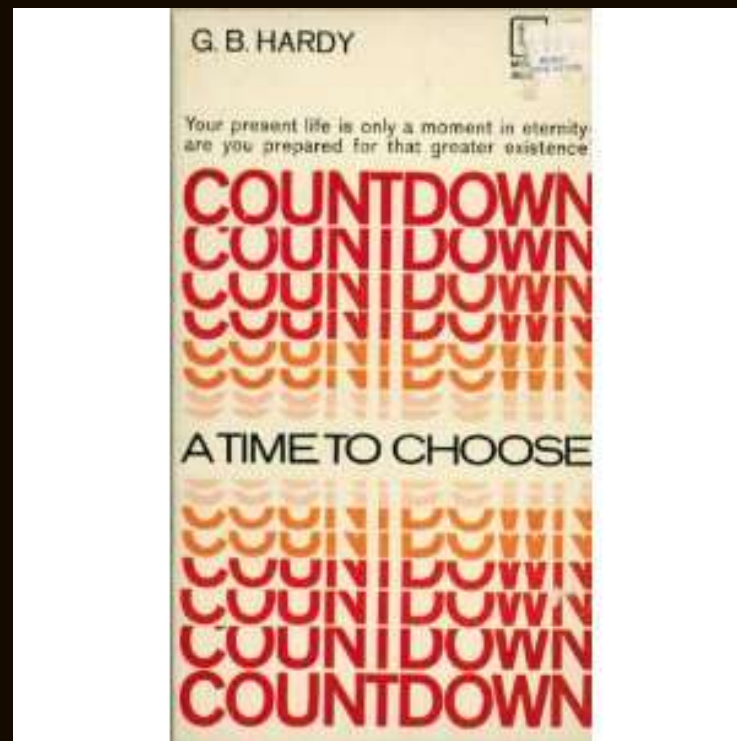
“There are but two essential requirements when evaluating religions:

1. Has anyone cheated death and proved it?
2. Is it available to me?

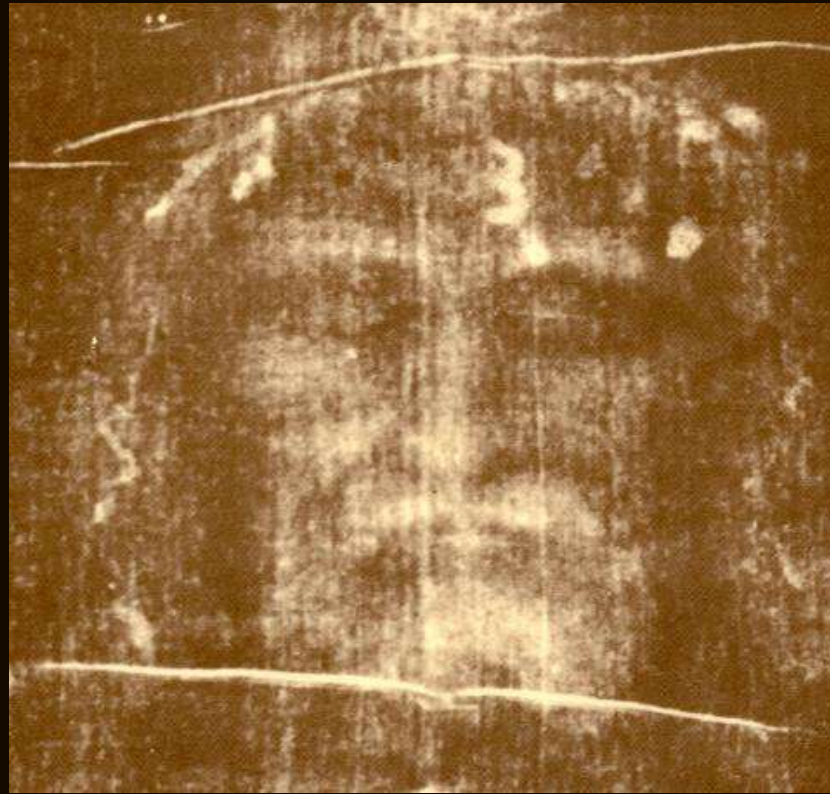
Here is the complete record: Confucius' tomb — occupied. Buddha's tomb — occupied. Mohammed's tomb — occupied. Jesus' tomb — empty! Argue as you will, there is no point in following a dead man. You'll just end up like him.



But despite the fact that the resurrection is man's only hope for eternal life, the majority of people, including many who have studied it thoroughly, have rejected it. In doing so, they not only forfeit the future life but are left without true meaning or significance in the present life. Rejecting the resurrection is spiritual suicide.



Furthermore, denying the resurrection goes against the very grain of the human heart and soul. Solomon wrote that God “has also set eternity in their hearts” (Eccles. 3:11). Something within man is not satisfied with present earthly living. He instinctively reaches out for immortality, for a life that transcends his present life and that will continue after he dies.



John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of
His disciples, which are not written in this book;
³¹but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is
the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may
have life in His name.



JESUS IS ALIVE