

What If...

1. There is no reason to teach or share Jesus?
2. Faith is empty, useless, vain and not real?
3. The apostles are liars, gospel preachers are liars, people of faith are liars, Christian parents and grandparents are liars?
4. Every person alive is living in sin?
5. Every person who ever died is lost in sin?
6. Christians are the most miserable people in the world and should be pitied the most?

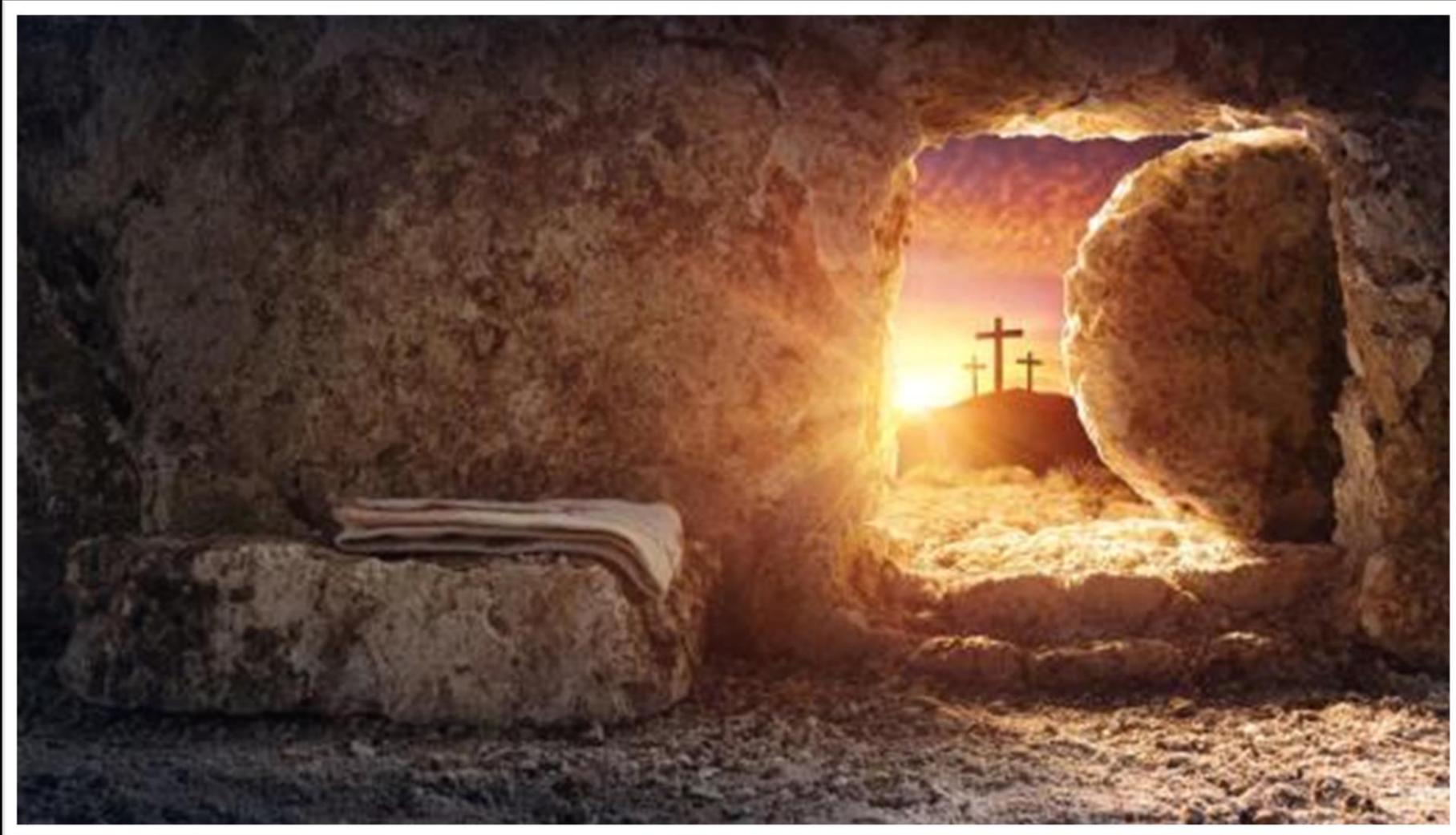
But...one thing
changes it all

1 Corinthians 15

14 ...If Christ has not been raised, **our preaching is useless and so is your faith.** 15 More than that, we are then found to be **false witnesses about God**, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then **Christ has not been raised either.** 17 And if Christ has not been raised, **your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.** 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep **in Christ are lost.** 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people **most to be pitied.** NIV

1 Corinthians 15:20a

But Christ has **indeed** been raised from the dead...



The
RESURRECTION
Changes It All



After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many **convincing proofs** that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3



We Can Be Certain Of The Resurrection Because...

1. He Lived



“With respect to Jesus, we have numerous, independent accounts of his life in the sources ...behind the Gospels (and the writings of Paul) — sources that originated in Jesus’ native tongue Aramaic and that can be dated to within just a year or two of his life. Historical sources like that are pretty astounding for an ancient figure of any kind. . . . [T]he claim that Jesus was simply **made up falters on every ground.”**

Bart Ehrman- “Did Jesus Exist?” The Huffington Post, 5/20/2012, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bart-d-ehrman/did-jesus-exist_b_1349544.html.

Pliny the Younger

Followers Thought He Was God



Phlegon
Predicted the Future
Jesus Rose After Death
Showed Signs of Crucifixion

Suetonius
Jesus A Real Man
Called the Christ
Caused Jewish Disturbance



Celsus
Allegedly Born of a Virgin
Father a Carpenter
Had Miraculous Power

Bar-Serapion
Wise King
Jews Wanted Dead
Teachings Remain



Josephus
Wise Man
His Followers
Reported Resurrection

Tacitus
Called the Christ
Followers Christians
Executed Under Pilate



Thallus
Jesus lived
Jesus was Crucified
Darkness and Earthquake



**Hostile
Ancient**



Talmud
Executed the Day Before
the Passover
Had Magical Power

Testimony Related to Jesus

“Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus...”

Cornelius Tacitus- Annals, 15.44

116AD

“Now around this time lived Jesus, a wise man. For he was a worker of amazing deeds and was a teacher of people who gladly accept the truth. He won over both many Jews and many Greeks. Pilate, when he heard him accused by the leading men among us, condemned him to the cross, (but) those who had first loved him did not cease (doing so). To this day the tribe of Christians named after him has not disappeared”

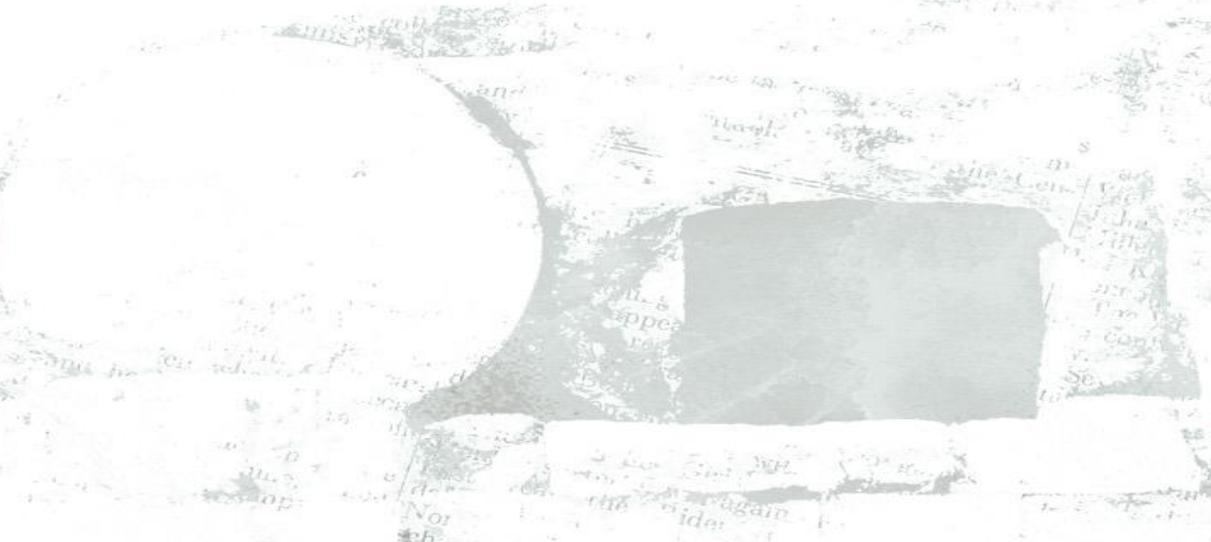
The Antiquities of the Jews, Book 18, Chapter 3
From The Works of Josephus,
93AD

- Amos was written by a herdsman from Tekoa
- David, the shepherd-boy-turned-king.
- Ezra, “skilled scribe in the Law of Moses,” penned the book that bears his name
- Nehemiah, the butler to King Artaxerxes
- King Solomon, renowned in the ancient world for his immense wisdom,
- Paul, a man highly educated at the feet of the Jewish teacher Gamaliel
- Luke, the first-century physician
- John, Peter, and Matthew, who were fishermen with little formal education.

All With One Message

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.



Luke 24

44 Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” **45** And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

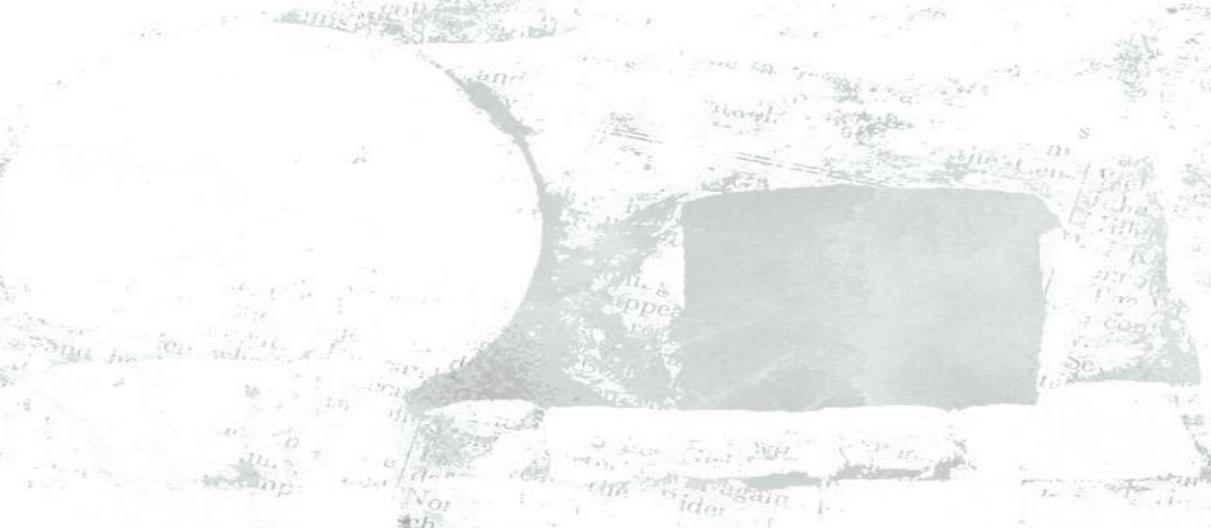
46 Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was **necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,**



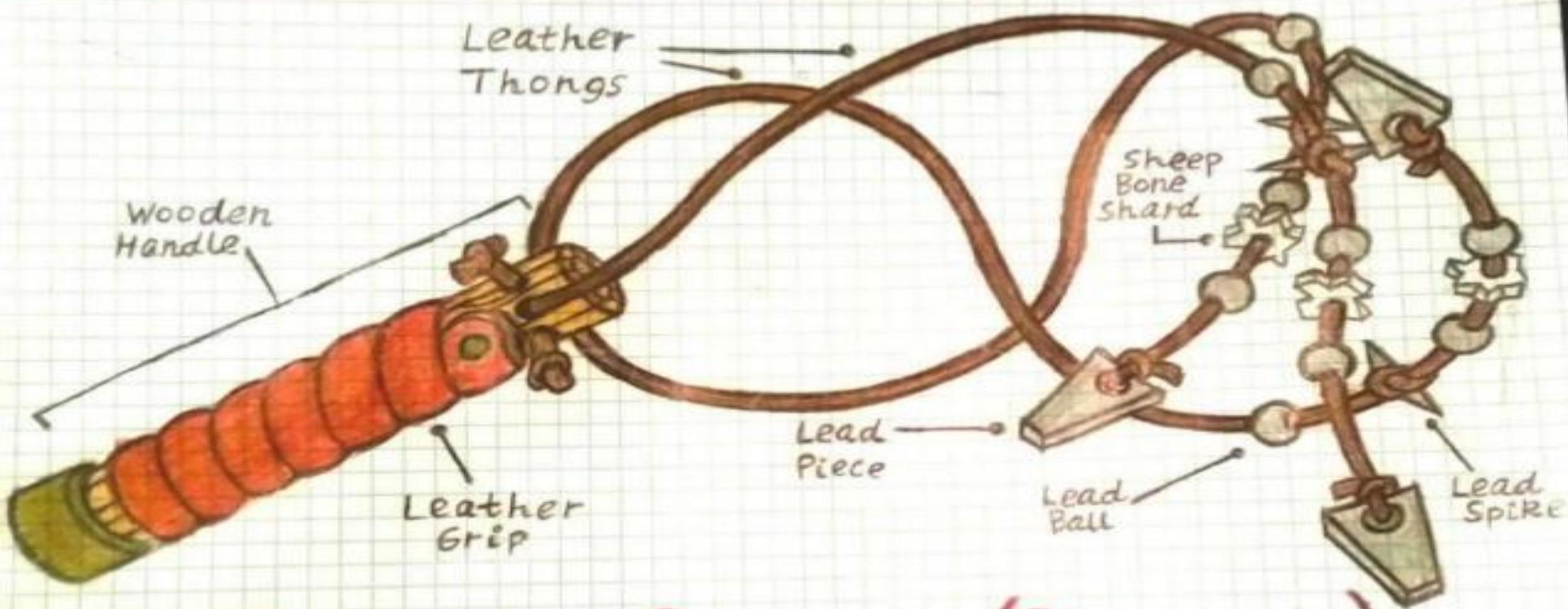
We Can Be Certain Of The Resurrection Because...

1. He Lived

2. He Died



John 19:1, They Scourged Jesus



Roman Scourge (Flagrum)





Medical experts say that the watery fluid indicates that Jesus had suffered from heart failure of some sort, causing fluid to collect around the heart.

Thomas A. Miller MD,

Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?: A Surgeon-Scientist Examines the Evidence.

³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN.”

John 19



We Can Be Certain Of The Resurrection Because...

1. He Lived

2. He Died

3. He Rose



- The body was placed in a new tomb. (Matt 27:60)
- The tomb was cut out of rock. (Matt 27:60)
- A large stone covered the entrance. (Matt 27:60)
- A Roman seal was placed on the stone. (Matt 27:66)
- A Roman Guard was placed at the tomb. (Matt 27:65-66)
- The tomb was inspected carefully. (John 20:3-8; John 20:11)



11 Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’ 14 And if this should come to the governor’s ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.” 15 And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

Matthew 28 NASB

28 And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. 29 When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. 30 **But God raised Him from the dead;** 31 and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

Acts 13 NASB

“...he appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also...”

1 Corinthians 15:5-7



DO YOU BELIEVE?

1 Cor. 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.