



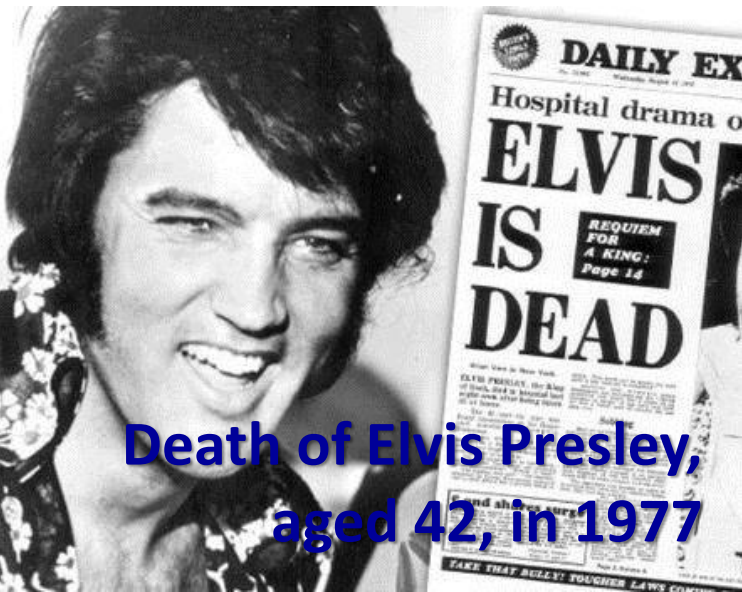
He Is Risen!

Matthew 28:1-15

**Dismissal of Whitlam government
by Governor-General Sir John Kerr
in 1975**



**Assassination of Martin Luther King
in 1968**



**Death of Elvis Presley,
aged 42, in 1977**



Assassination of JFK 1963



11 September 2001

An account of the
genealogy of Jesus the
Messiah, the son of David,
the son of Abraham ... So
all the generations from
Abraham to David are
fourteen generations; and
from David to the
deportation to Babylon,
fourteen generations; and
from the deportation to
Babylon to the Messiah,
fourteen generations

Matthew 1:1, 17

Abraham

(Israel)

Genesis 12

Nation

Land

Through you I will bless all people

David

2 Samuel 7

Everlasting king / kingdom

Exile / Restoration

Jeremiah 31

New Covenant



My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? ...

⁷ All who see me mock at me;

they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

⁸ “Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!” ...

¹⁸ they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots ...

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰ Posterity will serve him;

future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Psalm 22



He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers
is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

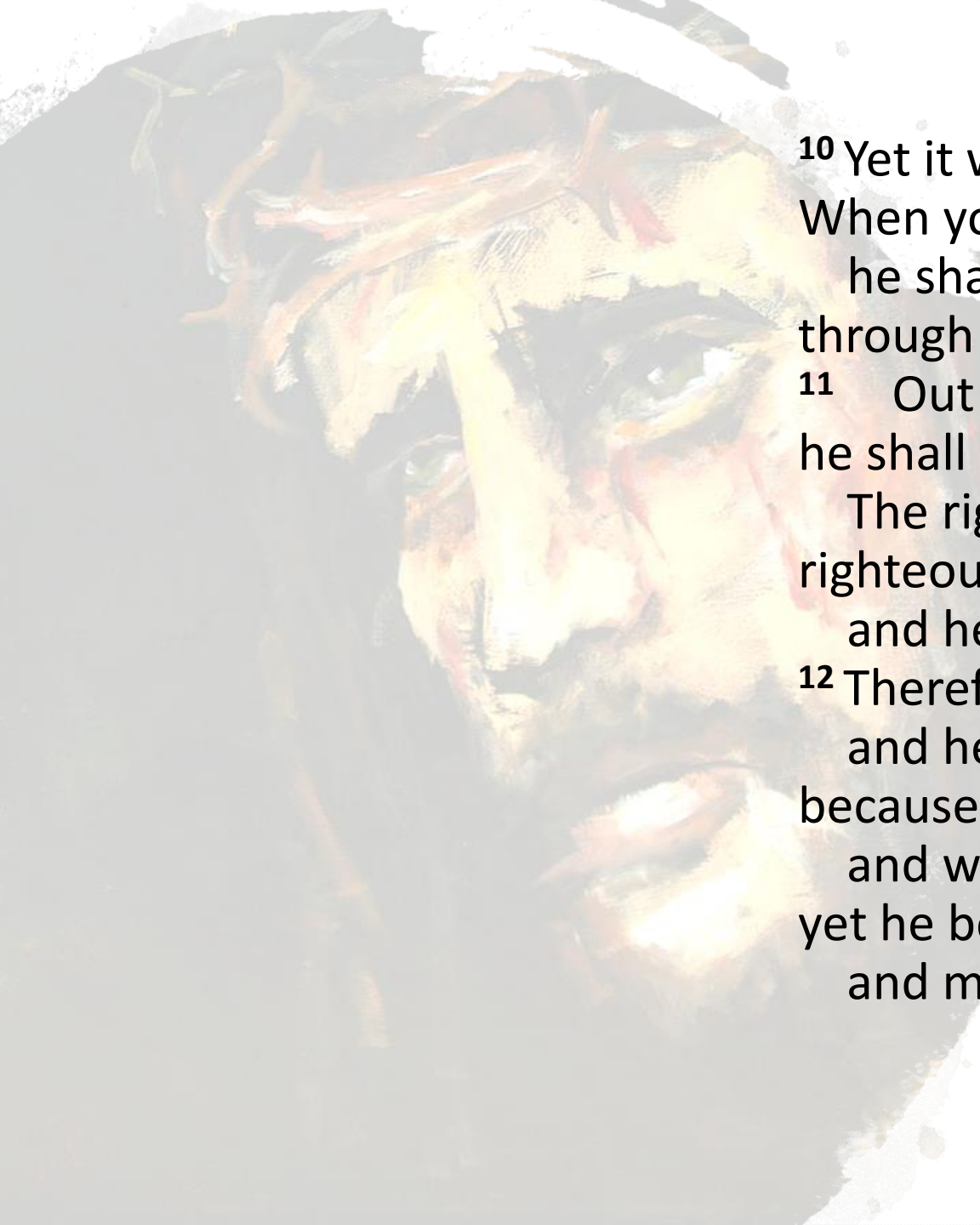
⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken
away.

Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the
living,
stricken for the transgression of my
people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Isaiah 53





¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many
righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, **and on the third day be raised.** ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Matthew 16:21-23

¹⁷ While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, ¹⁸ “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; ¹⁹ then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; **and on the third day he will be raised.**”

Matthew 20:17-19

**History of
Israel**



**Basis of
Christianity**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

pluperfect

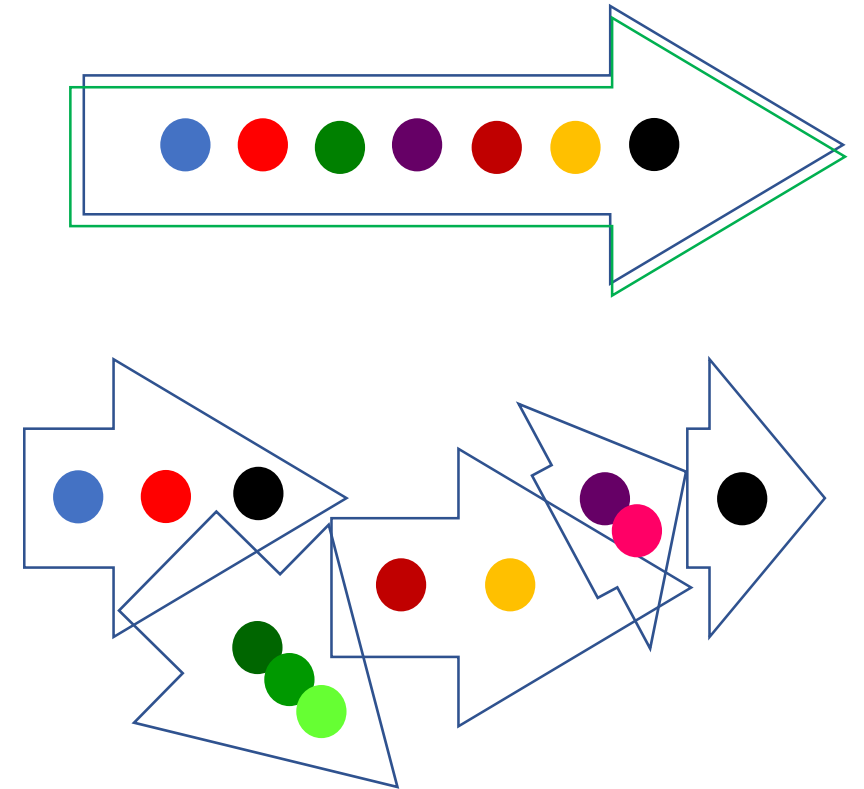
ADJECTIVE

(of a tense)

denoting an action completed prior to some past point of time specified or implied, formed in English by had and the past participle, as in he had gone by then.

“The great historians of the nineteenth century learned to solve their problems [i.e. narrating complex stories with multiple events and characters occurring in time] by keeping to a chronological order. Such a practice is strictly speaking impossible unless the narration is confined to one person or to one locality ... Earlier chroniclers had tackled the difficulty in two ways. Sometimes they incorporated in a single story a number of actions and speeches which had a common them, not indicating at all the time of the occurrence. Sometimes they jumped back and forward between two or more parallel sequences of events, leaving it to the reader to understand that each item is as it were a flash on a cinema screen”

W. E. Brown cited by John Wenham, *Easter Enigma* 2nd Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker, 1992), 78.





⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Matthew 28:8-10

- Fear and great joy
- No ghost or hallucination
- Jesus again accepts worship
- Setting up for the Great Commission

¹¹ While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ telling them, “You must say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴ If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

Matthew 28:11-15

Justin Martyr, born to pagan parents in Palestine around AD 100, became a Christian in about AD 130. He published from Ephesus around AD 155 his ***Disputation with Trypho the Jew***, in which he said without fear of contradiction, “You have sent chosen and ordained men throughout all the world to proclaim that ... his disciples stole him by night from the tomb.”

Which, of course, presupposes that the tomb was empty and therefore, an explanation was required!

How do we explain the empty tomb?

Many accept the claim of the Jewish establishment ... the disciples stole Jesus' corpse and the resurrection is therefore a malicious hoax or, at best, a pious fraud. But ...

- Jesus (and the Old Testament prophets) said he would be raised (that's why the Jewish authorities sought a Roman guard to prevent anyone tampering with Jesus' body; Matthew 27:62-66).
- The disciples had nothing to gain (and for most, there was much to lose). Sane people don't suffer torture and martyrdom for what they KNOW to be a lie. Yes, people will die for a cause they believe in (whether what they believe is actually true or false is another matter). But this claim has the apostles and many disciples dying for a cause they supposedly knew to be false!
- The apostles displayed impeccable character in their teaching and in their practice. Further, they did not set-up any system to line their pockets, etc.
- The rapid growth of the church in the first century based upon the eye-witness testimony of the apostles and other disciples claiming that Jesus was resurrected from the grave remains to be accounted for.

How do we explain the empty tomb?

Jesus revived in the tomb and escaped ... But professional executioners tested (spear in the side) and pronounced him dead.

The disciples went to the wrong tomb ... really? (Joseph could have sorted that out ... as could the Jewish council of which Joseph of Arimathea was a member).

The disciples were hallucinating ... really? (groups of people simply don't see the same hallucination at the same time ... besides, that offers no explanation for the empty tomb).

Jesus' resurrection was "spiritual" and not "physical" ... The post-resurrection appearances were undoubtedly "real" and not just "symbolic" – touch me, eat with me (and again, that offers no explanation for the empty tomb).

How do we explain the empty tomb?

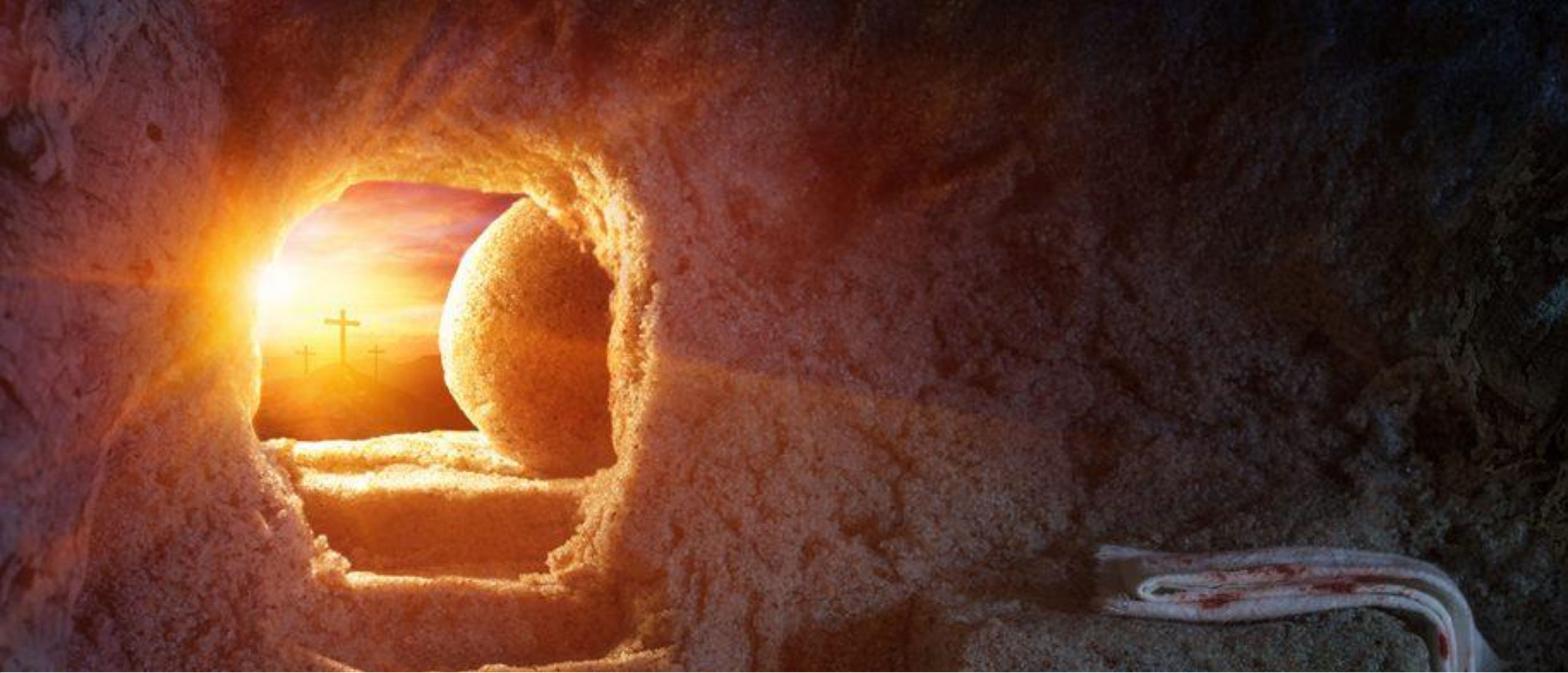
It's all a myth ... the Gospels are "fiction" with little or no basis in historical reality.

- This presupposes that the New Testament writings were created hundreds of years after the church began. Few scholars today would date the New Testament writings much later than the first century AD. Most of the New Testament writings, including the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) are known to have been in circulation during the lifetime of Jesus' and his apostles' contemporaries (e.g. letters of Clement). As the apostle Paul told king Agrippa, "these things did not happen in a corner" (Acts 26:26; cf. Acts 2:22).
- Jesus' death, burial and resurrection lay at the heart of the gospel from the beginning (1 Corinthians 15), and is further evidenced in the original Christian rites of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- No mythical explanation can account for the rapid growth of the church in the first century based upon the eye-witness testimony of the apostles and other disciples claiming that Jesus was resurrected from the grave.

How do we explain the empty tomb?

It cannot be true because we know that people are not resurrected from the grave. It is a scientific impossibility.

- Remember we are not talking about people being revived from death (only to die again later) like Lazarus. Resurrection is to rise from the grave victorious over death, never to die again. The claim IS RADICAL!
- And that's the point! The careful observer will note that people aren't resurrected from the grave ... except for One! The resurrection is extraordinary. It had never happened before Jesus' resurrection, and it has not happened since. But it is not just an extra-ordinary miracle. It is not just an impressive display of supernatural power for its own sake, nor is it just a special favour to Jesus *per se*. What God is doing in resurrecting Jesus is starting something new, beginning the new world promised long ago, the Kingdom of God where Jesus (the King) is the first-fruits of many to come!
- Which brings us to Galilee and the Great Commission ...



He Is Risen!