

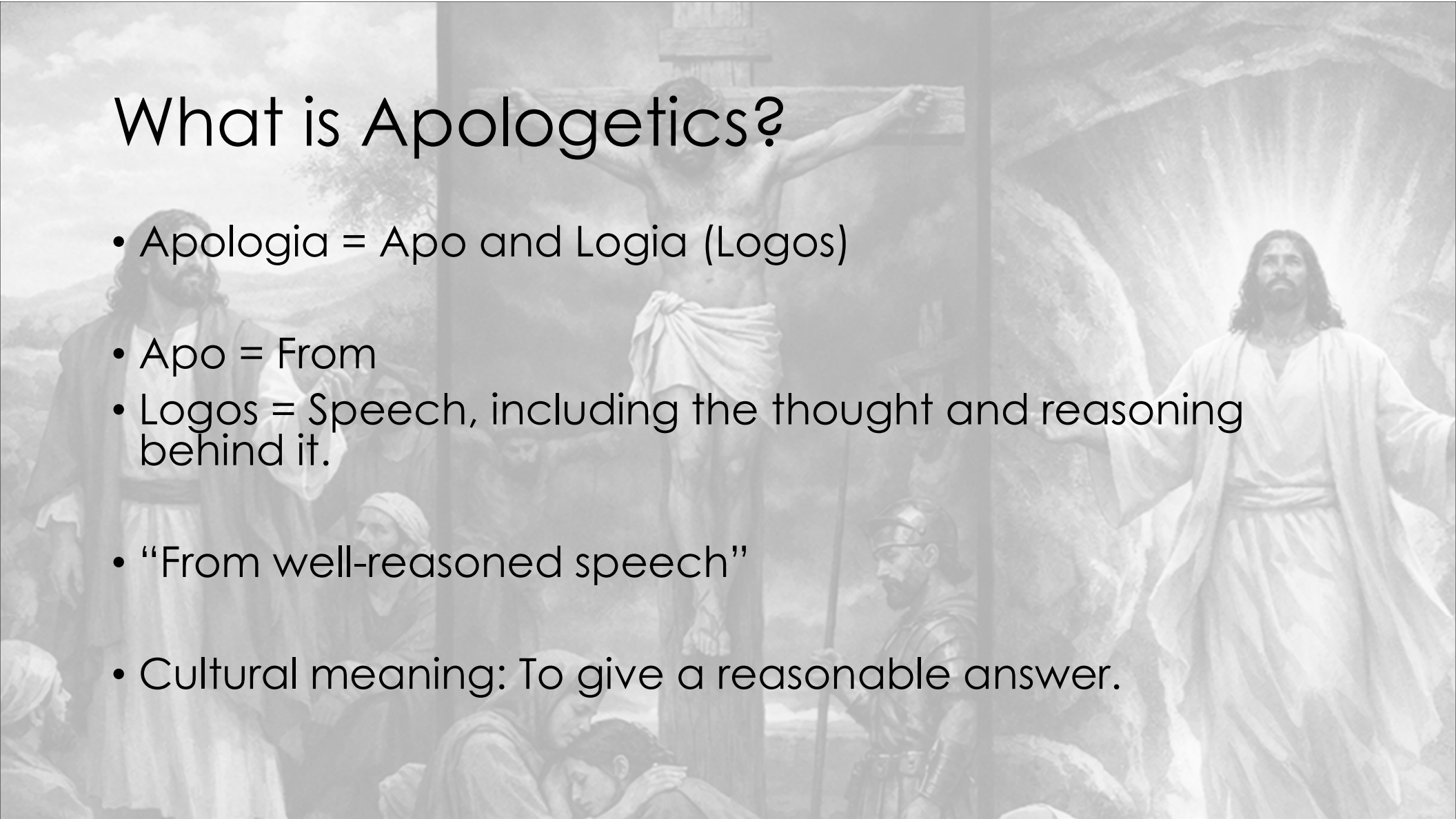


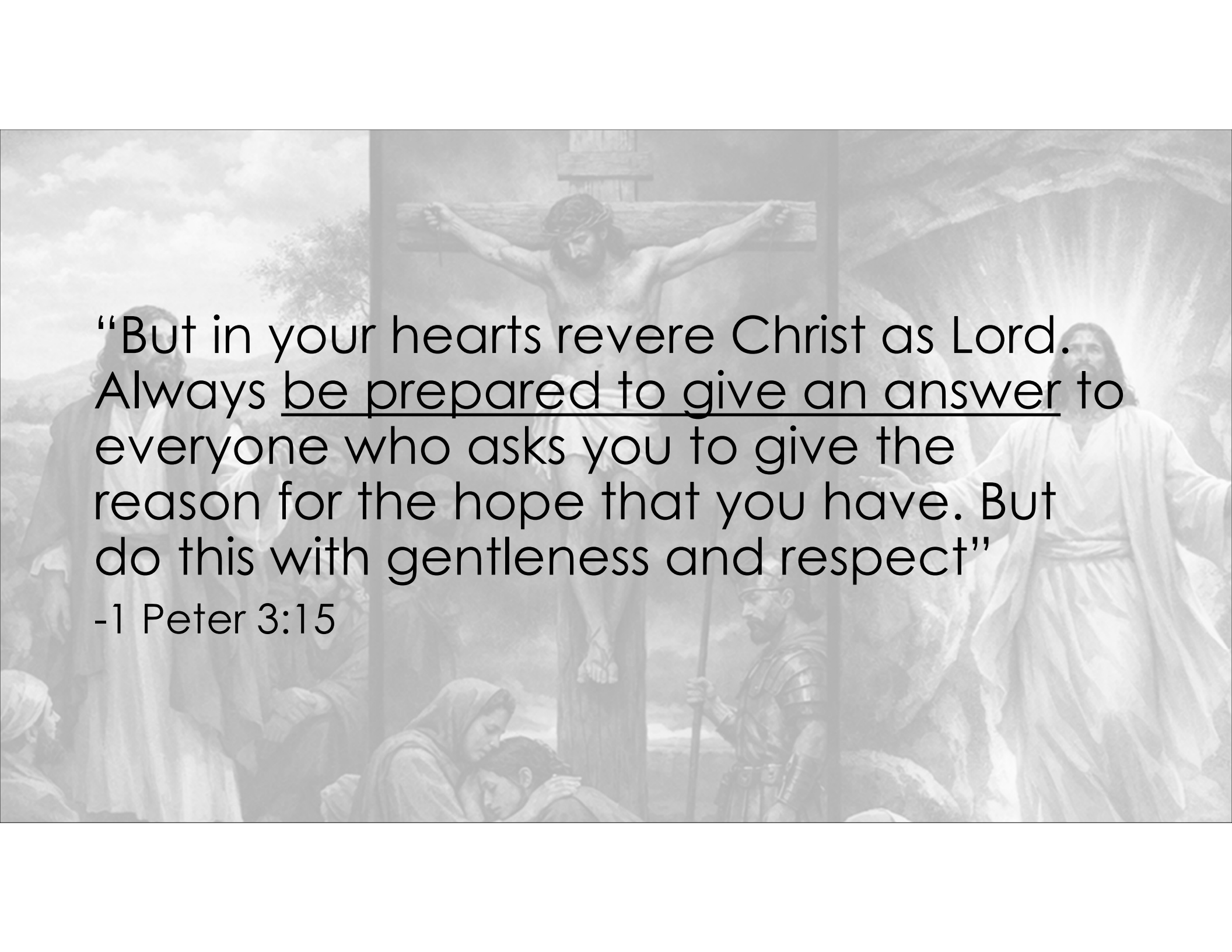
Anatomy of an Apologetic

An apologetic for the resurrection of Jesus

What is Apologetics?

- Apologia = Apo and Logia (Logos)
- Apo = From
- Logos = Speech, including the thought and reasoning behind it.
- “From well-reasoned speech”
- Cultural meaning: To give a reasonable answer.





“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”

-1 Peter 3:15

What makes a Well-Reasoned Answer?

- Evidence that support your claim
- Evidence: Data/information
- Standard of proof - 100% assurance, or beyond a *reasonable* doubt?

Q: It has been said that God provides sufficient evidence of Himself, rather than compulsory proof.

Why?



Anatomy of a Reasonable Answer

1. Claim “AI is mortal”

2. Premise (facts):

1. All men are mortal
2. AI is a man

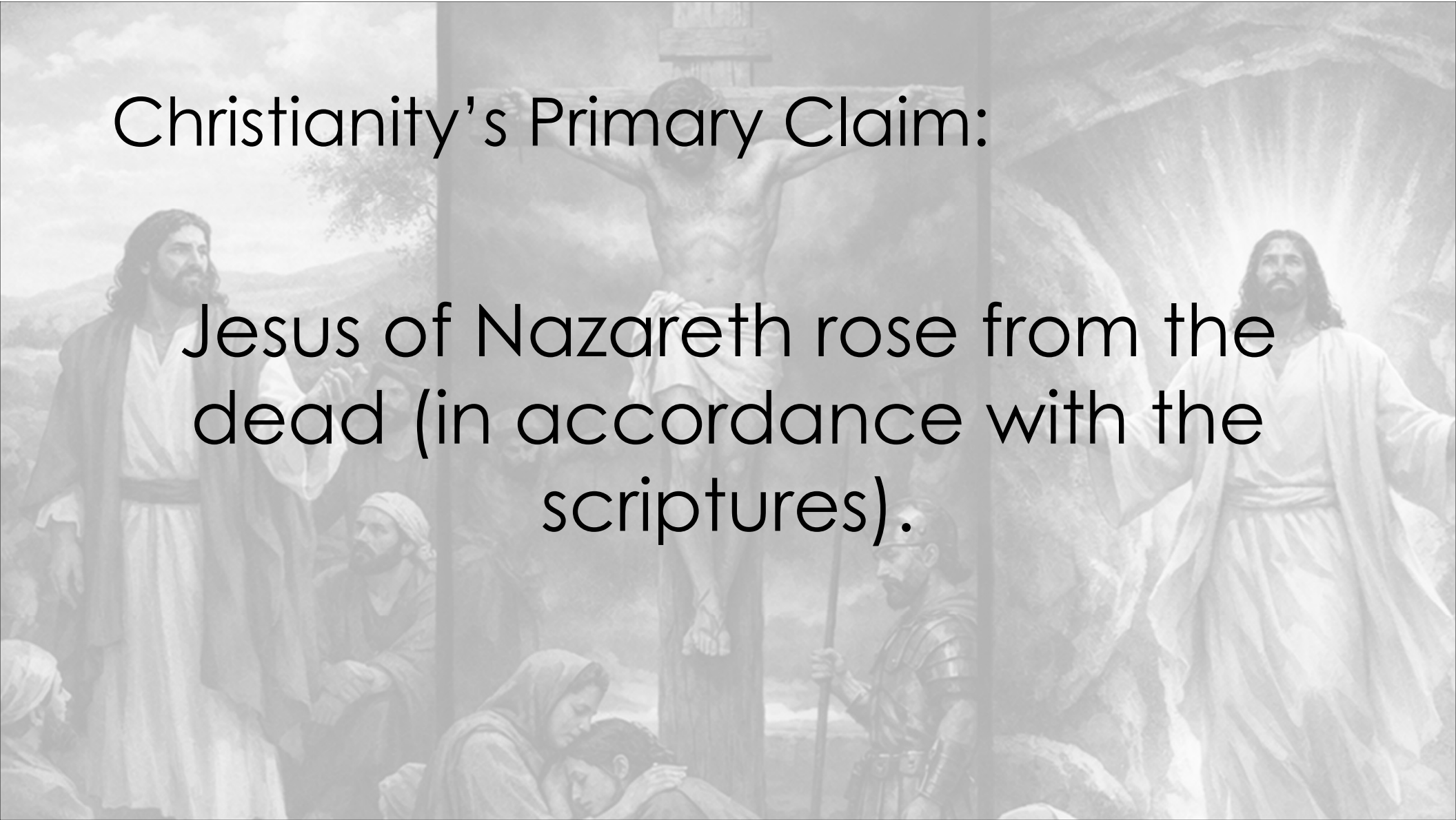
3. Conclusion: Based upon truth of the premises, the claim is true – “yes, beyond a reasonable doubt, AI is mortal!”

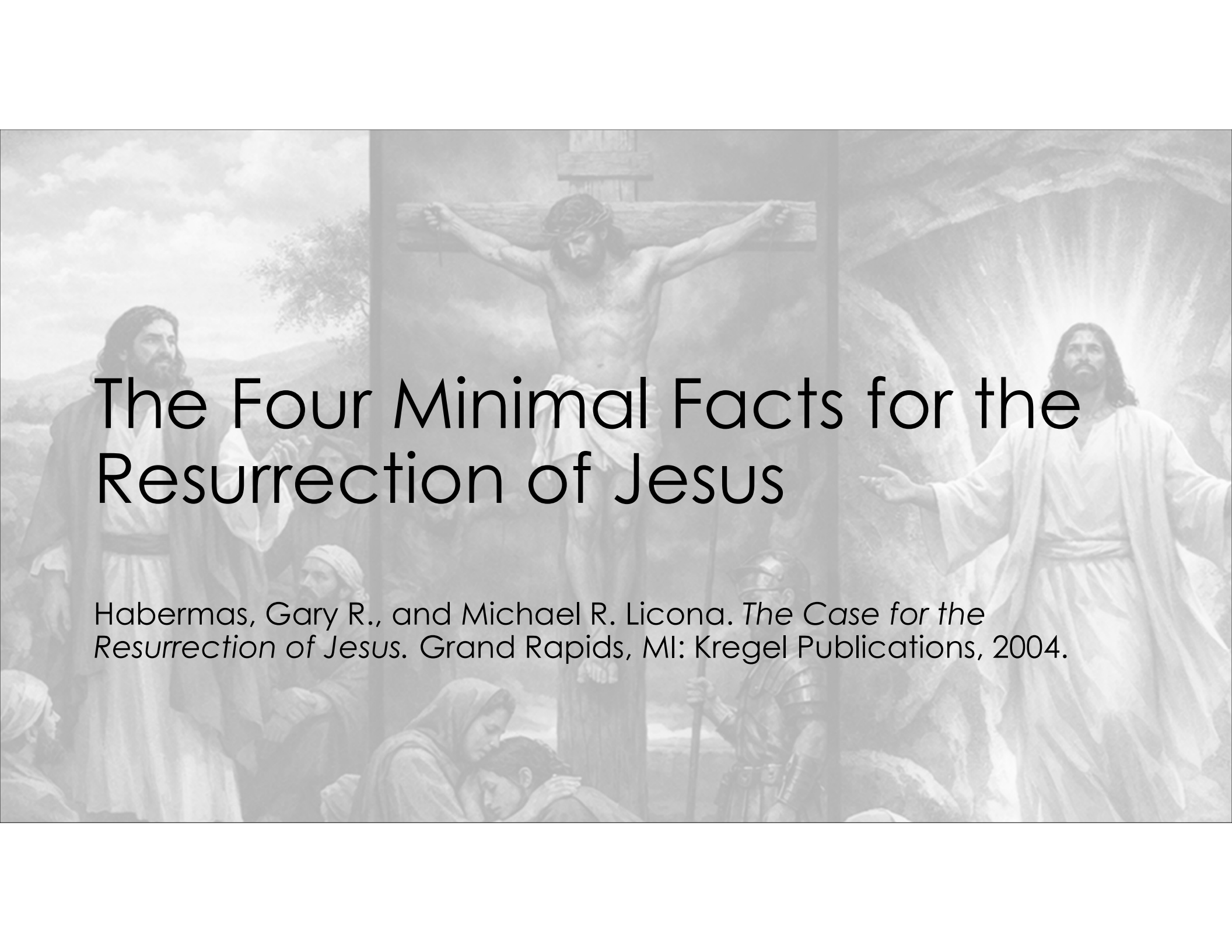
Is the NT a reliable source?

- Scholars consider the New Testament trustworthy due to:
 - the early dating of manuscripts within the lifetimes of eyewitnesses
 - an abundance of textual evidence (over 25,000 copies) confirming accurate transmission
 - archaeological evidence supporting its historical details.
 - The narratives display characteristics of ancient biography rather than myth, often written while contemporaries could challenge inaccuracies.

Christianity's Primary Claim:

Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead (in accordance with the scriptures).





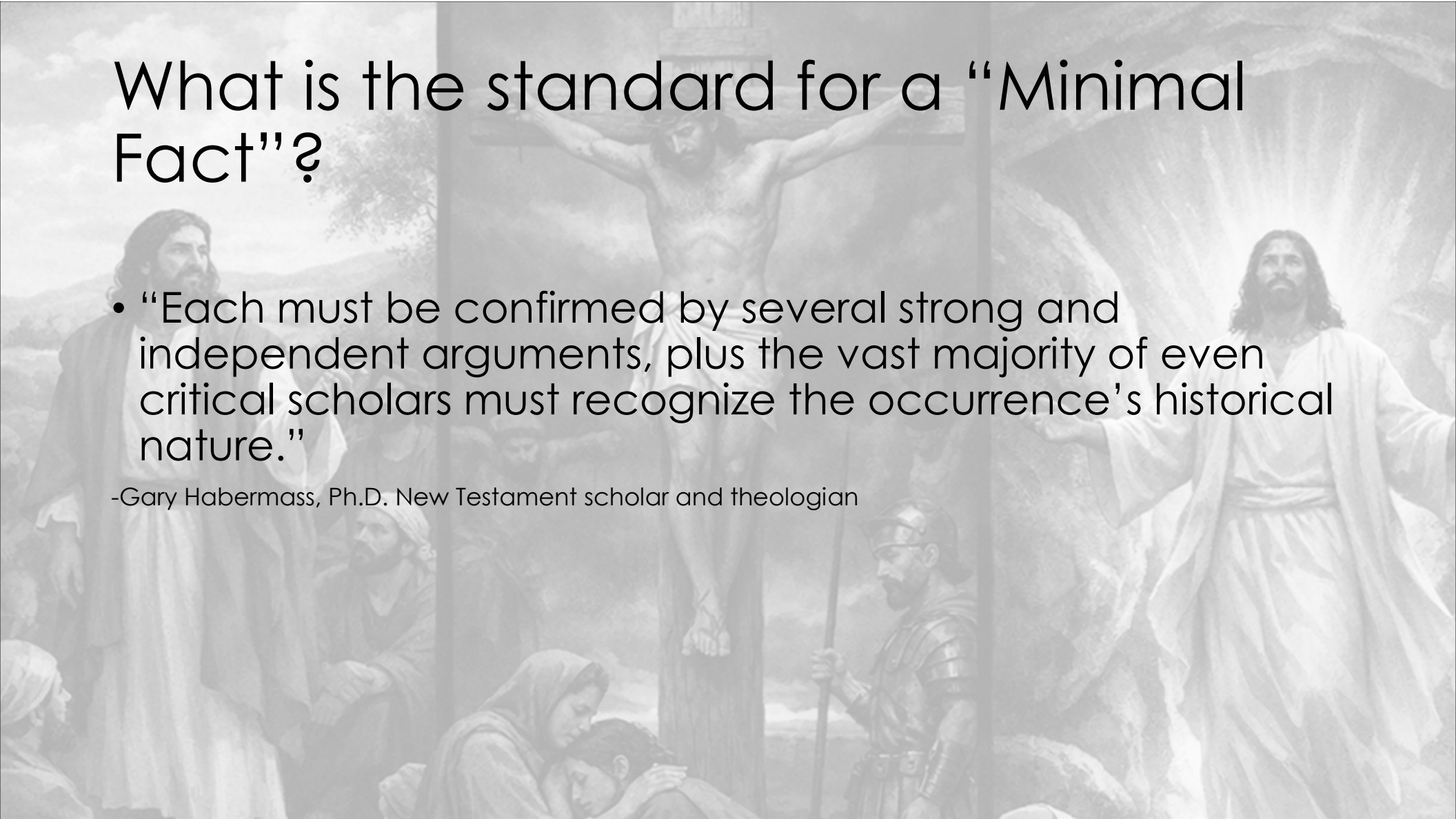
The Four Minimal Facts for the Resurrection of Jesus

Habermas, Gary R., and Michael R. Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2004.

What is the standard for a “Minimal Fact”?

- “Each must be confirmed by several strong and independent arguments, plus the vast majority of even critical scholars must recognize the occurrence’s historical nature.”

-Gary Habermass, Ph.D. New Testament scholar and theologian





The Four Minimal Facts

1. Jesus of Nazareth was a historical person, executed by Romans on the order of the prefect, Pontius Pilate in the first century During the reign of Tiberius Caesar.
2. Jesus Disciples' lives were markedly changed after *claiming* to have seen him after his death.
3. James, the skeptical brother of Jesus, experienced a powerful conversion after meeting the risen Jesus.
4. Saul of Tarsus, the commissioned persecutor of Jewish Christians, had a radical conversion after meeting the risen Jesus.



Fact 1. Jesus of Nazareth was a historical person

See the “10 Extra Biblical, non-Christian Sources for the Historical Jesus”

A) Tacitus:

Publius Cornilius
Tacitus, AD 56-120

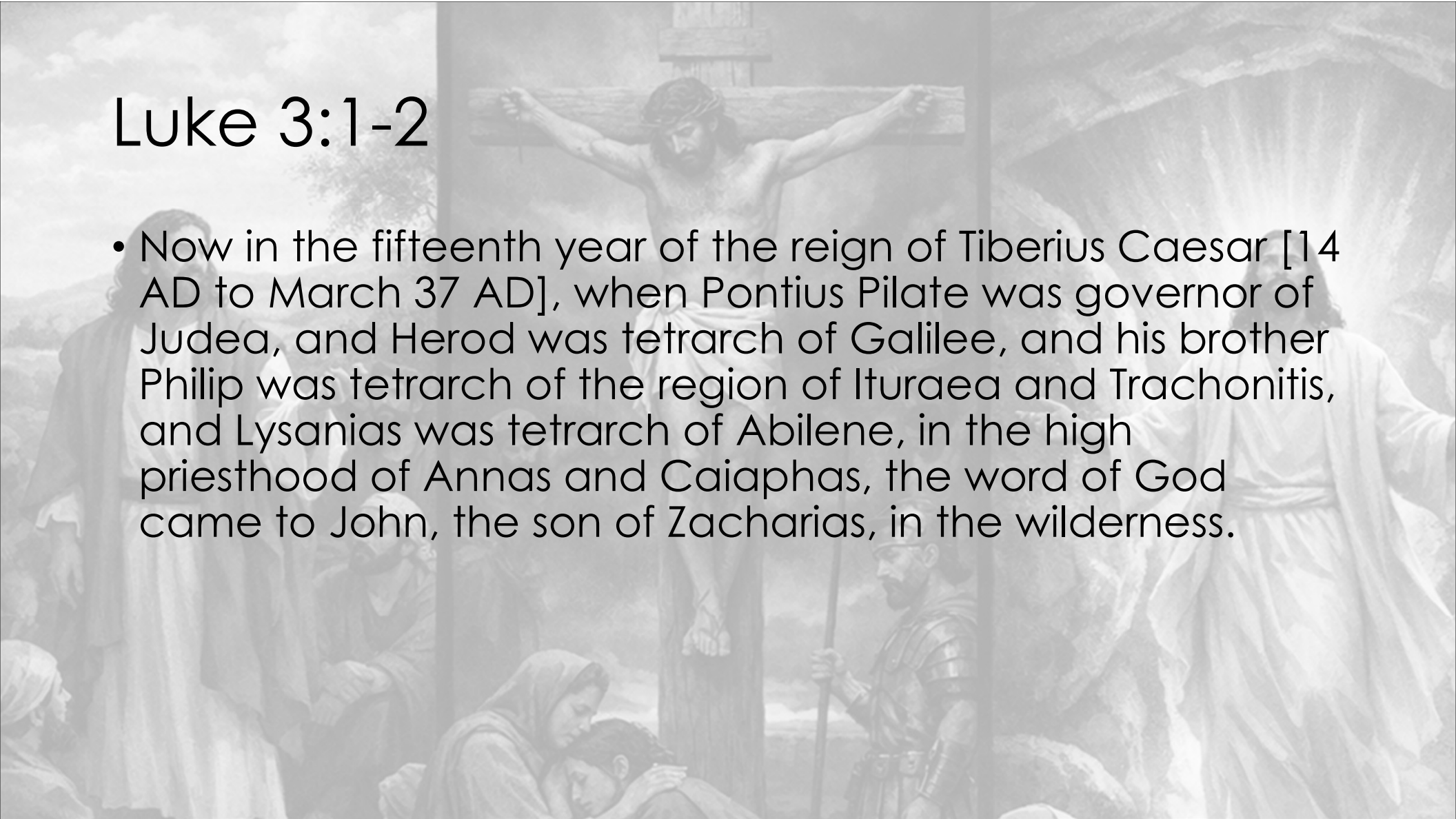
Senator, Consul,
Historian

Annals of the
Roman Empire,
book 15, chapter
44 AD 118

Consequently, to get rid of the report (of the great fire), 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, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judæa, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. (Luke 3:1-2)

Luke 3:1-2

- Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar [14 AD to March 37 AD], when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.



B) Josephus



Flavius Josephus AD
37 – 100

Jewish historian
employed by the
Flavian emperors
Vespasian, Titus,
and Domitian.

“The Testimonium
Flavianum”

Annals, 18.3.3 AD 96

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

C) Suetonius



Gaius Suetonius
Tranquillus

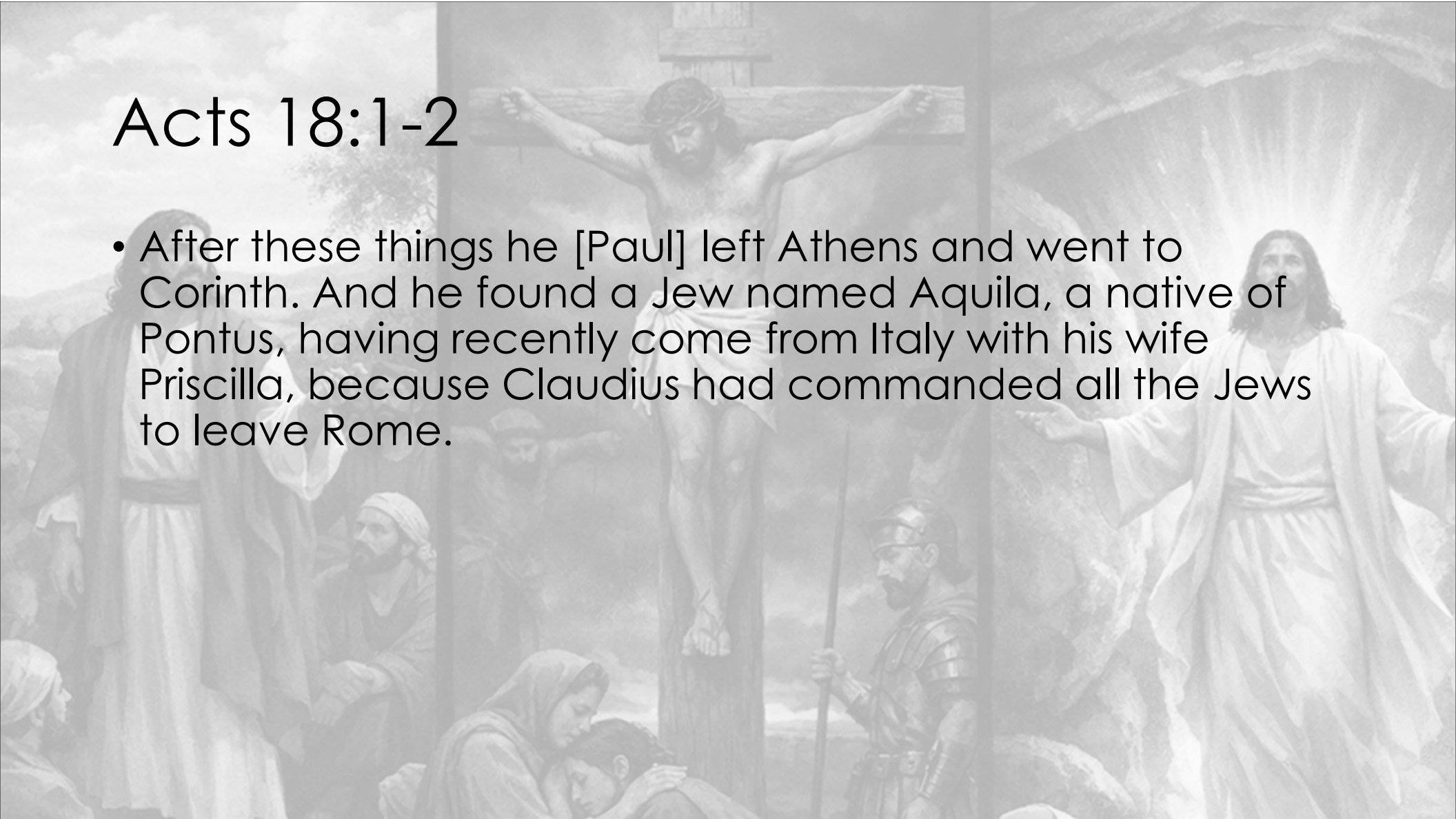
Lives of the 12
Caesars – AD 120-
121

[During the reign of Claudius (AD 41-54)] Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus [Christ], he [Claudius] expelled them from Rome. (Acts 18:1-2)

Life of Claudius
25.4

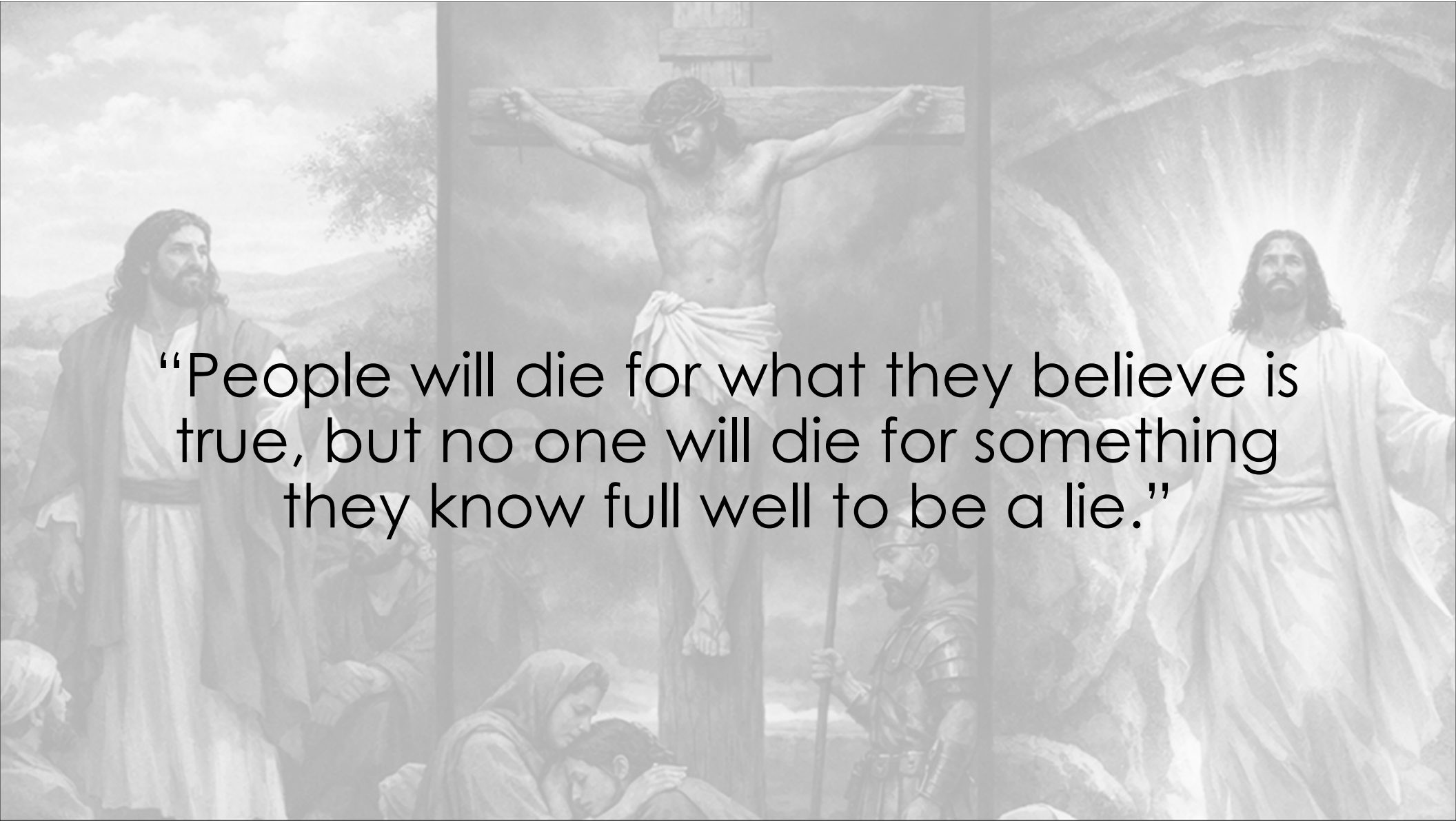
Acts 18:1-2

- After these things he [Paul] left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome.



Fact 2. Radical Change of the Disciples

- Judas Iscariot as evidence that they didn't understand that Jesus would rise.
- Dejected, fearful followers. John 20:19, Mark 16:10, Luke 24:17-18
- Sudden and astonishing boldness. Acts 4:8-13, Acts 4:18-20, Acts 5:41-42
- Willing to accept loss of life (community, job, martyrdom).
- No record anywhere of recanting the testimony, even under intense pressure.



“People will die for what they believe is true, but no one will die for something they know full well to be a lie.”



Fact 3. James, the skeptical brother of Jesus

- Thought Jesus was insane. (Mark 3:20-21)
- Jesus appeared to him specifically. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
- James and family were in the upper room. (Acts 1:14)
- James died, not for his half-brother, but for his Lord in AD 62

Josephus on James



- Festus [Acts 24:27–26:32] was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned.

-Antiquities of the Jews, Book XX

Fact 4. Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

- Commissioned enforcer and persecutor of Christian Jews: (Acts 22:3-5, Acts 26:10-11)
- Assisted in the killing of Stephen. (Acts 8:1)
- Accepting the loss of all and martyrdom. (Acts 21:13, Philippians 1:21)
- “Paul hallucinated” (Acts 22: 9)

Summary:

- Jesus was a real person crucified by the Romans.
- Jesus' followers' lives were radically changed after meeting with Jesus after his death.
- Jesus' skeptical brother, James, experience a profound conversion after meeting the risen Jesus.
- Saul of Tarsus, an enemy of Christianity, experienced a radical conversion from persecutor to martyr for Christ after meeting the risen and glorified Jesus.
- Conclusion: Jesus the Christ rose from the dead.



Discussion:

1. Does the evidence provide sufficient support for the conclusion?
2. What are some of the weaknesses or strengths of the evidence?
3. What objections do you think people may have to the evidence presented?
4. How does this evidence impact you?

Why the Resurrection Matters



- The resurrection was God's accreditation or affirmation of Jesus' life, deity, and message. (Acts 2:22-24)
- "...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hope in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied." (1 Cor 15:17-19)



Thank you for listening.