

The Servant King



PART 52

THE EMPTY TOMB

MARK 16:1 - 8

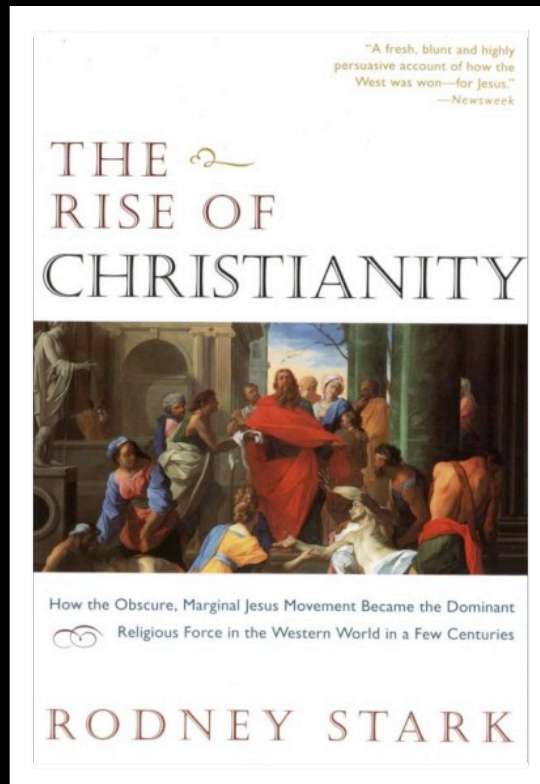
The story of the *King*... who came to *serve*.

THE FACT OF THE EMPTY TOMB

Trembling and bewildered,
the women went out and
fled from the tomb. They
said nothing to anyone,
because they were afraid.

Mark 16:8

Three Lines of
Evidence



56.5% of the Roman Empire's 60-million people were Christian by the year 350 AD

Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, p. 7

Mark 15:37 – 43

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. ³⁸

The curtain of the temple was torn in two
from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the
centurion who stood there in front of Jesus,
heard his cry and saw how he died, he said,
“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Mark 15:37 – 43

⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Mark 15:44 – 47

⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.



Joseph of Arimathea

The Roman Centurion

Mary Magdalene and
Mary the mother of Jesus



Mark 16:1 – 3

¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene,
Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought
spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’
body. ² Very early on the first day of the week,
just after sunrise, they were on their way to the
tomb ³ and they asked each other, “Who will roll
the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”



Mark 16:4 – 7

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶ “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, he is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

“He has risen! He is not here.”

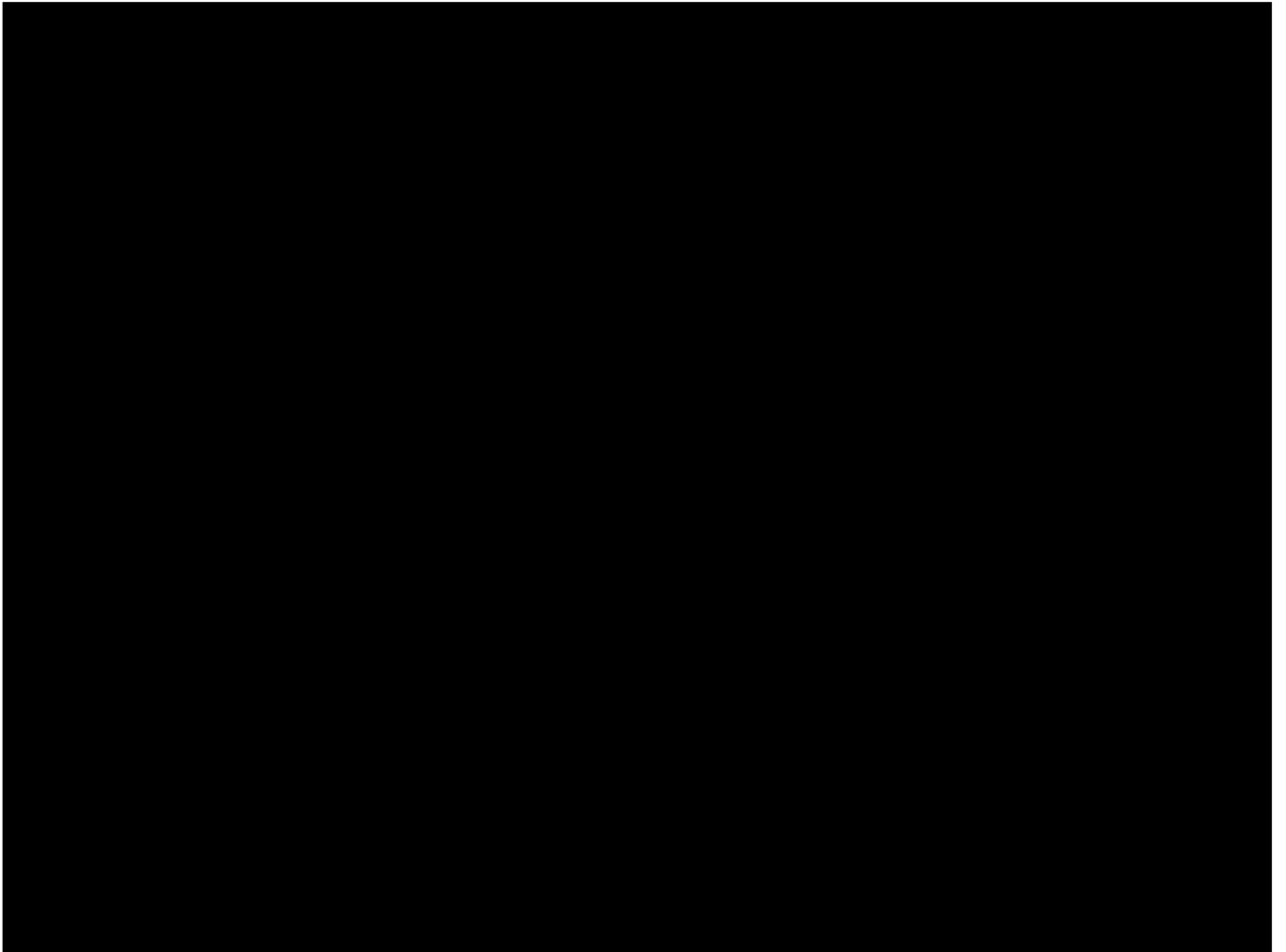


Nobody was expecting a
resurrection!

“He has risen! He is not here.”

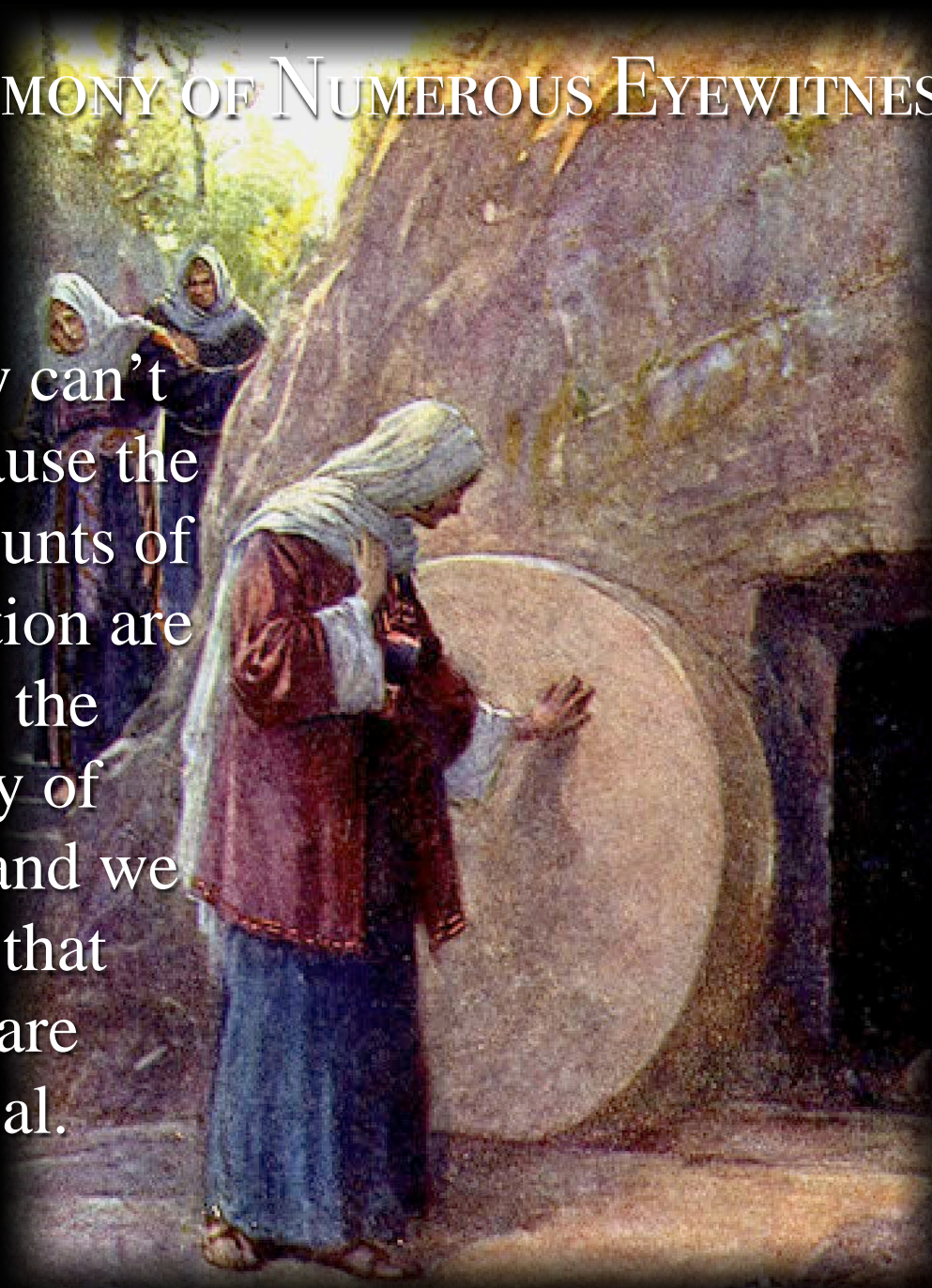


The resurrection was as inconceivable for the first disciples, and as difficult for them to believe, as it is for many of us today.



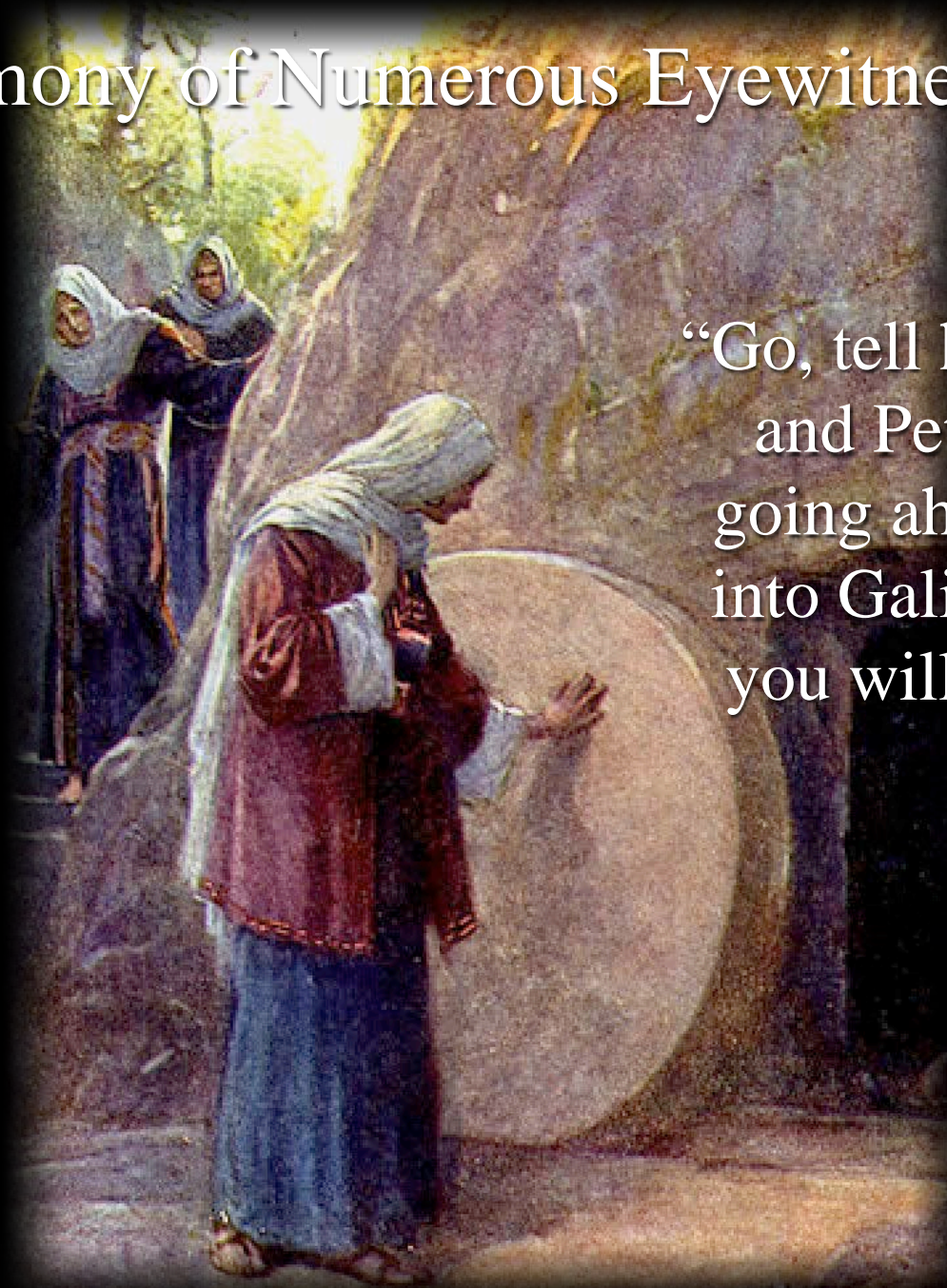
THE TESTIMONY OF NUMEROUS EYEWITNESSES

Christianity can't be true, because the written accounts of the resurrection are based on the testimony of women — and we all know that women are hysterical.



Three Lines of
Evidence

The Testimony of Numerous Eyewitnesses



“Go, tell his disciples
and Peter. He is
going ahead of you
into Galilee. There
you will see him.”

Mark 16:7

Three Lines of
Evidence

Luke 24:36 - 46

“³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do *doubts* rise in your minds?”

Luke 24:36 - 46

“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.” ⁴⁰

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet . . . ⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you . . . ⁴⁶

This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day . . .”

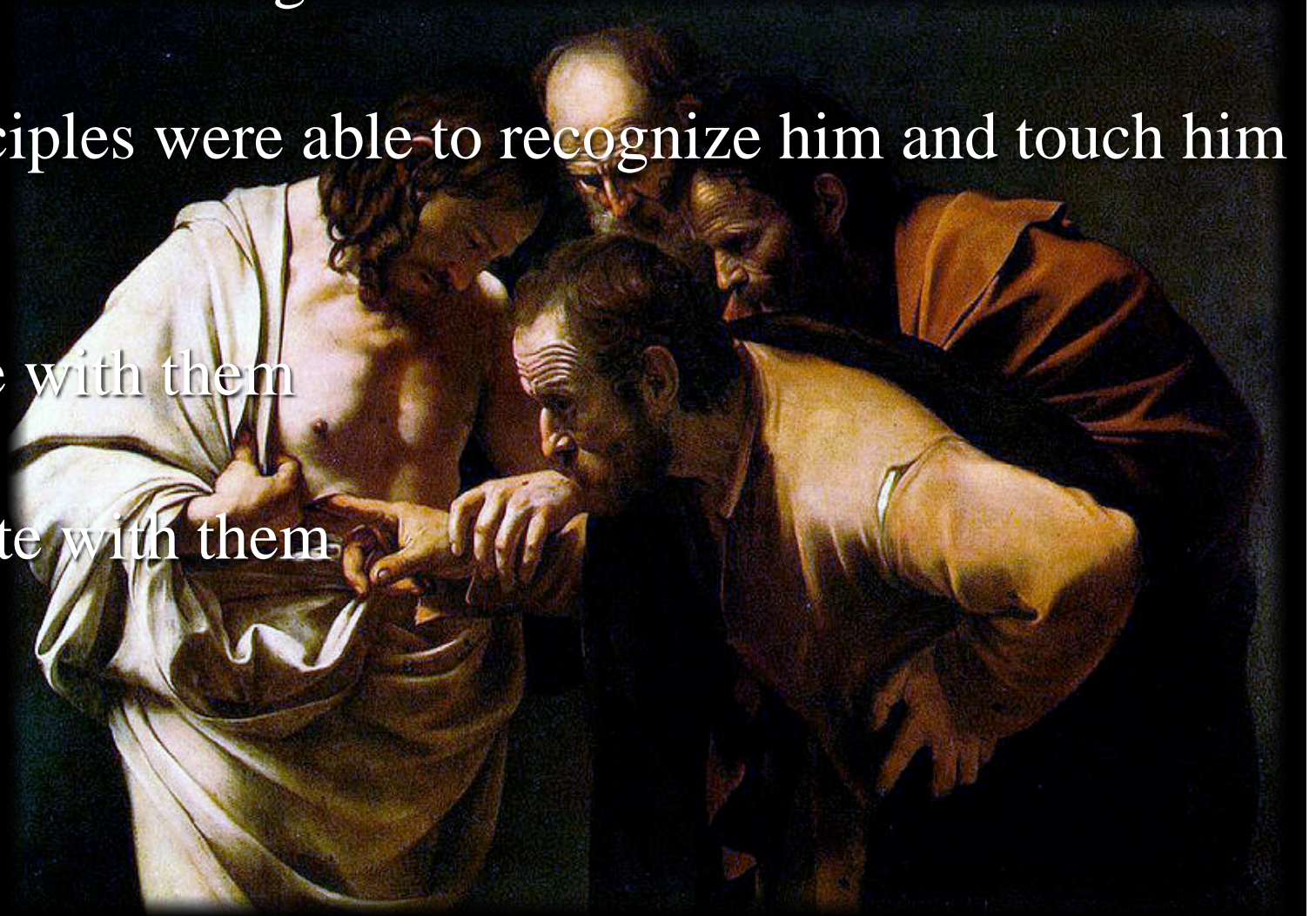
His resurrection body had “flesh and bones.”

He wasn't a ghost

The disciples were able to recognize him and touch him

He spoke with them

He ate with them



1 Corinthians 15:5 - 8

⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

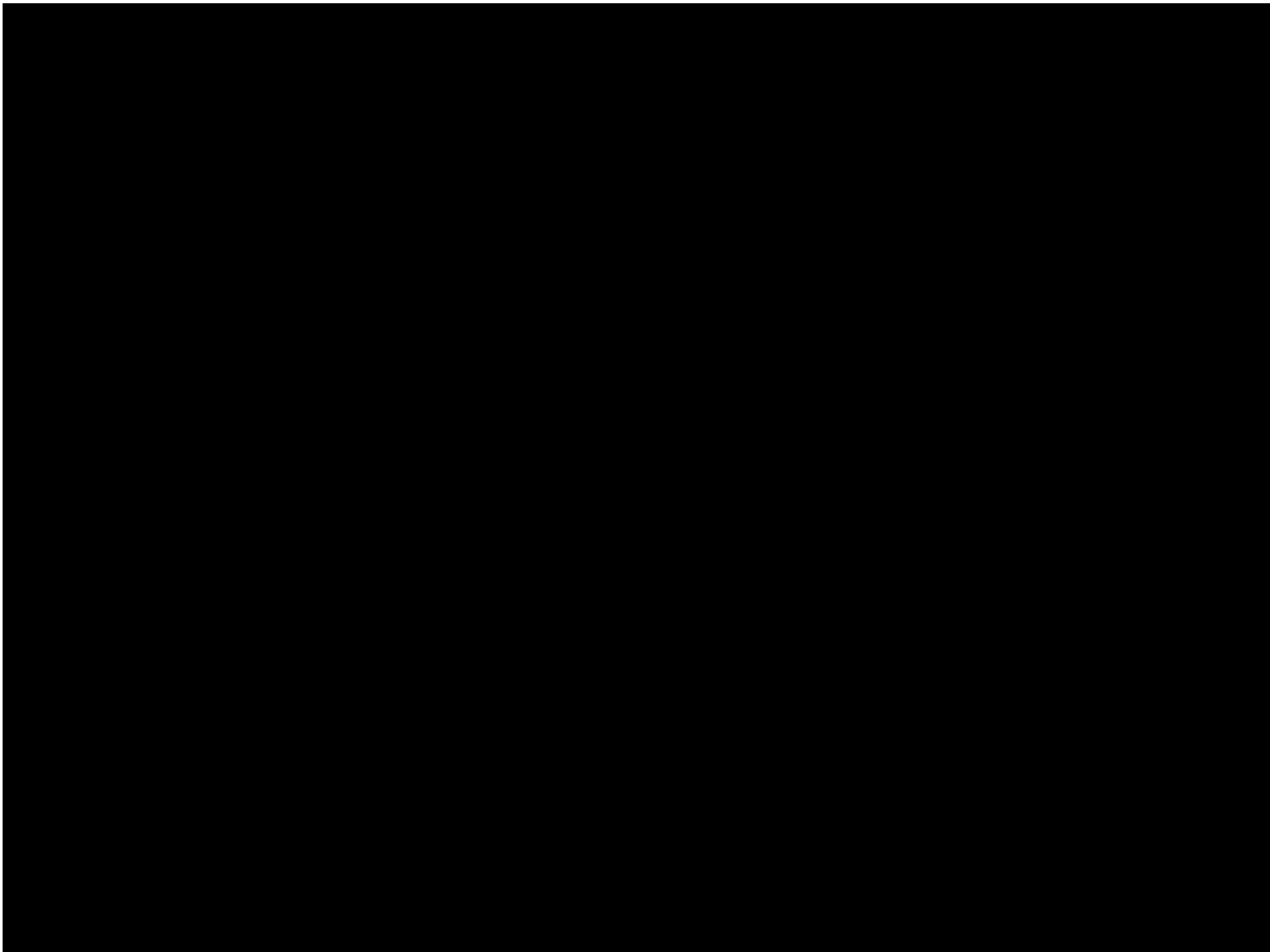
⁶ After that, he was seen by more than five-hundred of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷

Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.



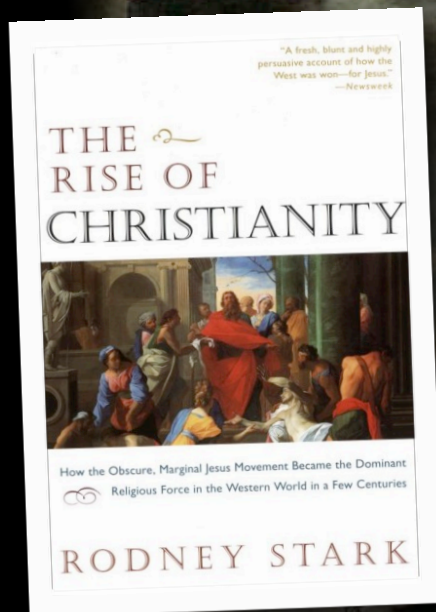
Acts 1:3

“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.”



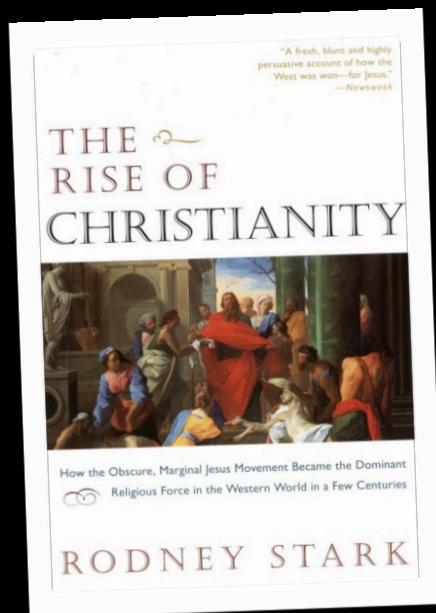
THE TRANSFORMED LIVES OF HIS FOLLOWERS

In 165 AD, during the reign of Marcus Aurelius, a devastating epidemic swept through the Roman Empire. Some medical historians suspect that it was the first appearance of small pox in the West. But whatever the actual disease, it was lethal. During the fifteen-year duration of the epidemic, from a quarter to a third of the empire's population died from it, including Marcus Aurelius himself . . .



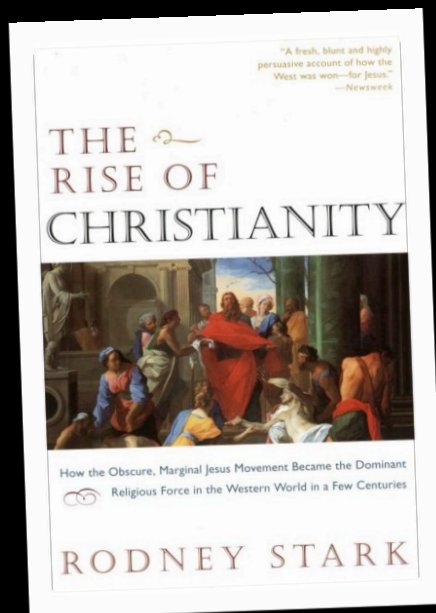
Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, p. 73

Three Lines of
Evidence



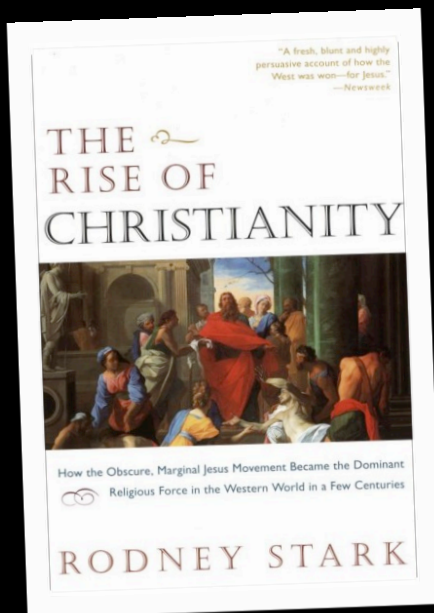
Although this mortality has contributed nothing else, it has especially accomplished this for Christians and servants of God; that we have begun gladly to seek martyrdom while we are learning not to fear death.

These are trying exercises for us, not deaths; they give to the mind the glory of fortitude; by contempt of death they prepare for the crown . . .



Our brethren who have been freed from the world by the summons of the Lord should not be mourned, since we know that they are not lost but sent before; that in departing they lead the way; that as travelers, as voyagers are wont to be, they should be longed for, not lamented . . .

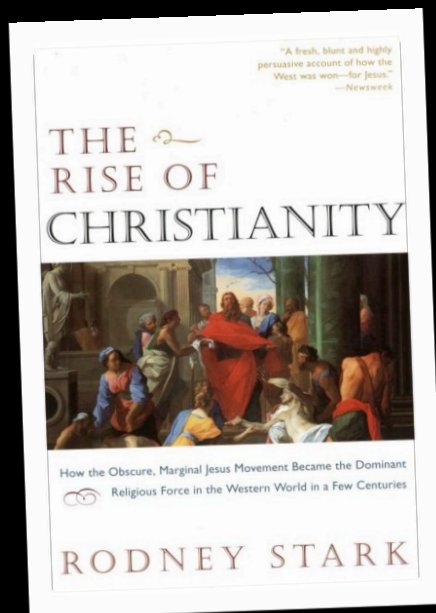
Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage



“Other people would not think this a time for festival but far from being a time of distress, it is a time of unimaginable joy.”

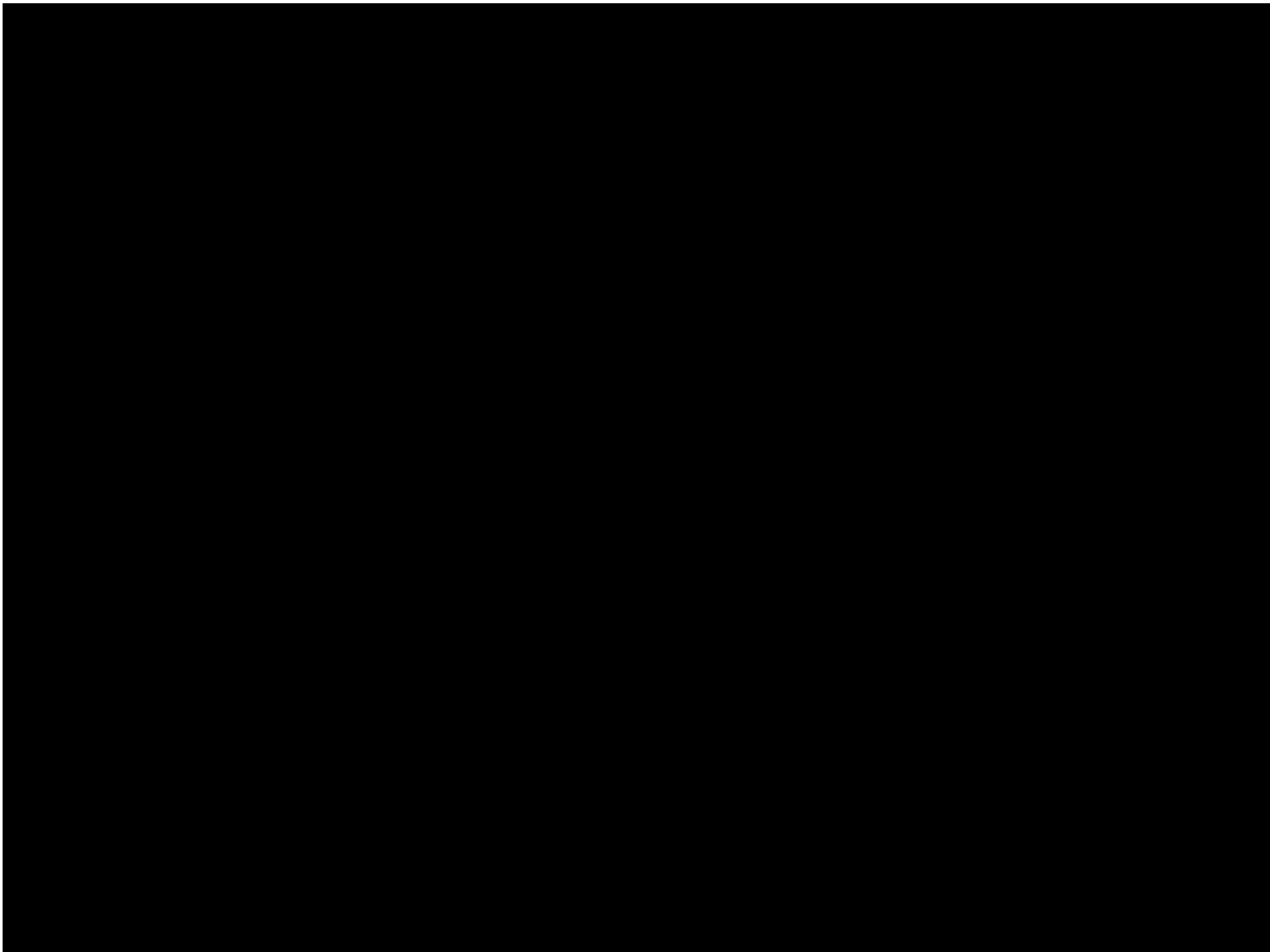
Dionysius, bishop of Alexandria

Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, p. 79 - 82



Acknowledging the huge death rate, Dionysius noted that though this terrified the pagans, Christians greeted the epidemic as merely “schooling and testing.” Thus, at a time when all other faiths were called into question, Christianity offered explanation and comfort.

Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, p. 79 - 82



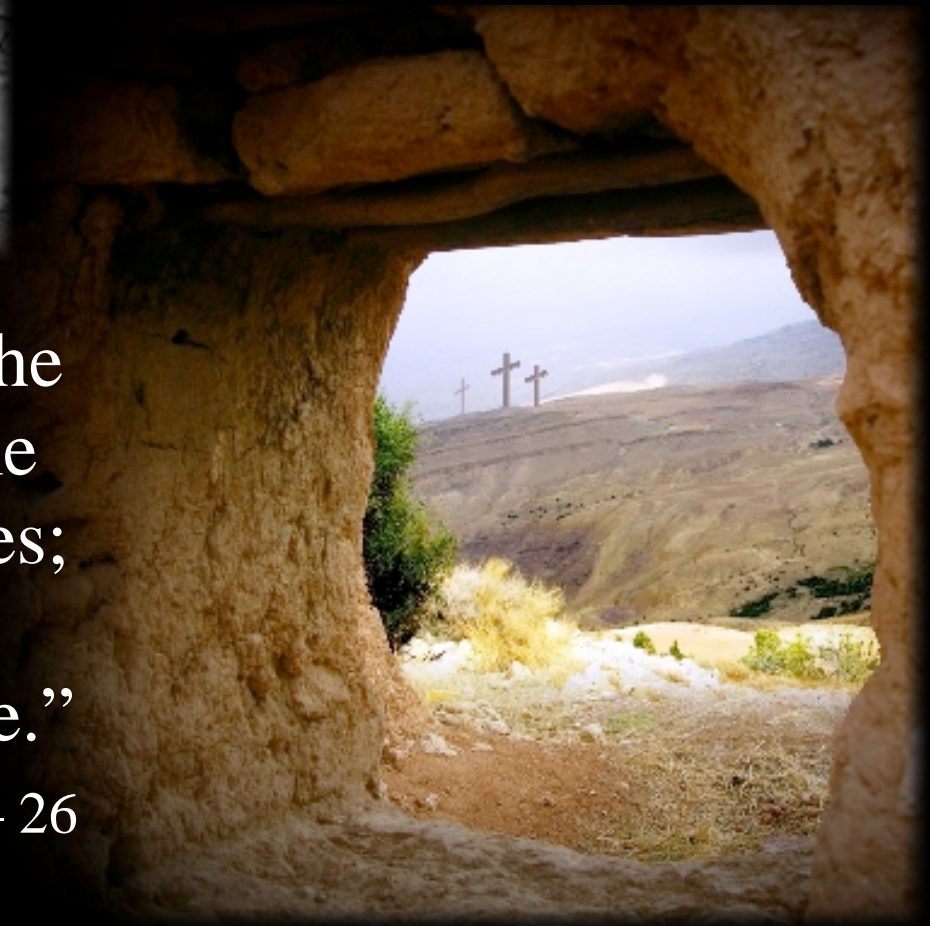


“It is finished!”

John 19:30

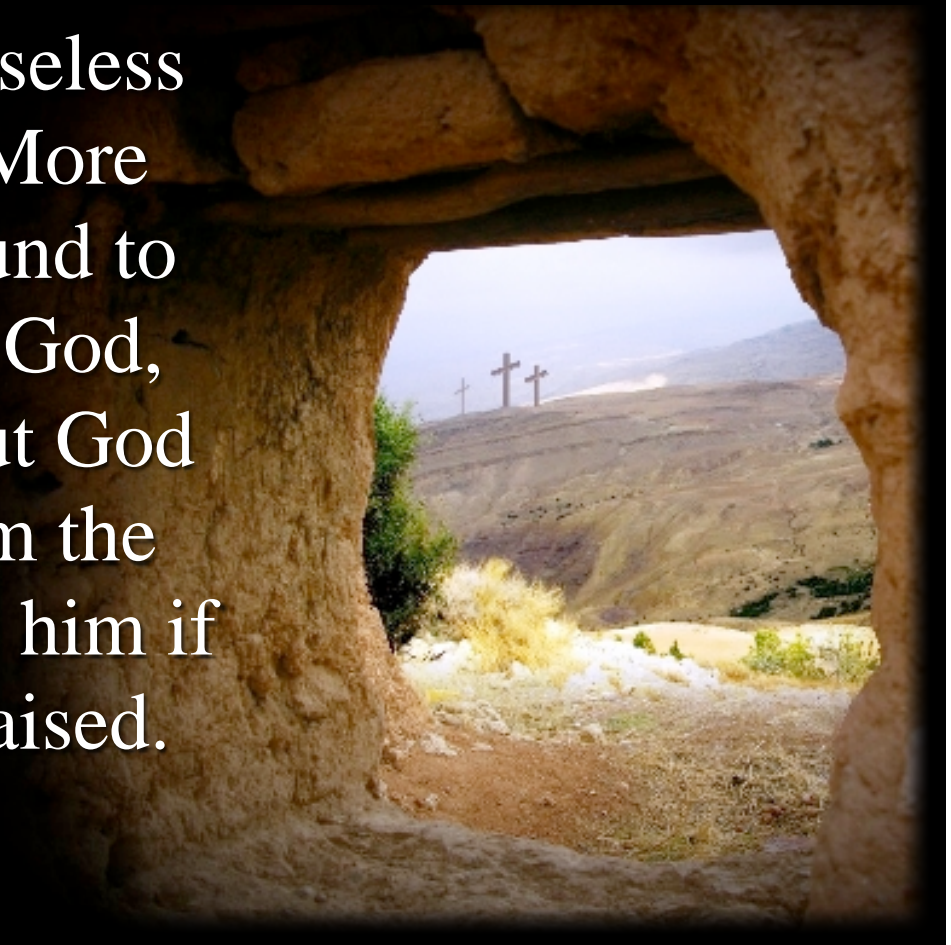
“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

John 11:25 – 26



1 Corinthians 15:14 – 19

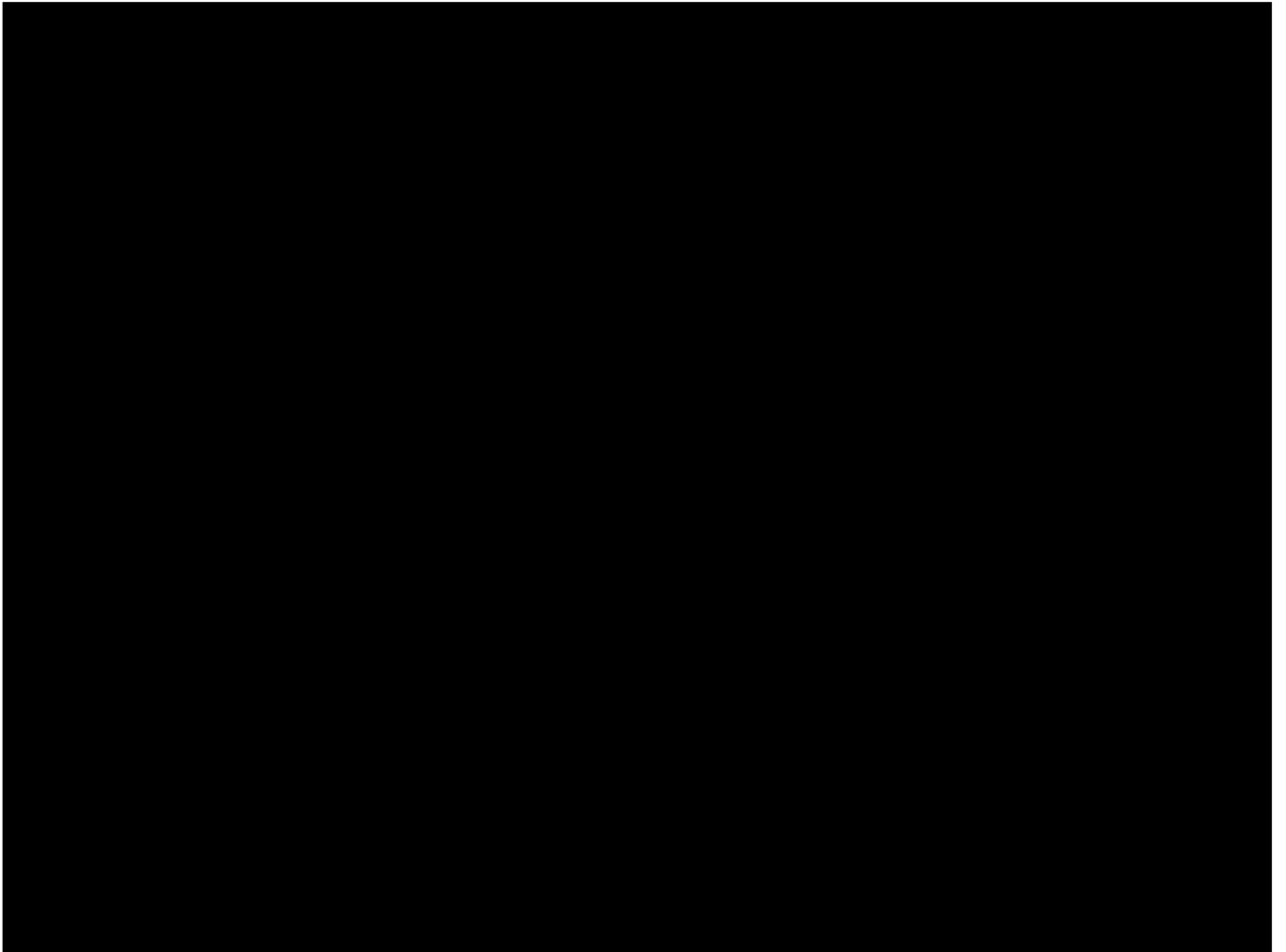
¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.



1 Corinthians 15:14 – 19

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 worthless; 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. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead . . .



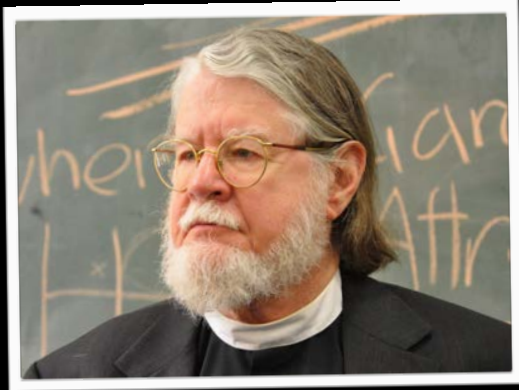




Revelation 21:1 – 4

“¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”



“The modern world has lost its story. We once thought that life had a purpose, that there was something to live for, and that there was hope for a resolution to the sufferings of the world. Now, many say, none of those things are true.”

