

# The Visible Hand of God

- KCBS 2023 •  
Friday



## Objectives:

- 1) To investigate the reasons that we believe.
- 2) To solidify our faith by a recognition of the hand of God in the present.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Biblical Case Study</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Why we believe, exploring doubt	Help thou my unbelief
<b>Tuesday</b>	Our 'privileged' planet	Angels in the hills
<b>Wednesday</b>	Fearfully & Wonderfully made	Is anything too hard?
<b>Thursday</b>	Witness to the defense: Israel	Blind witnesses
<b>Friday</b>	Our hope in the resurrection	Blessed are those that...

# Friday

- Resurrection - our hope

## Slides - scan QR code

KCBS 2023



# *What We Know About the I-95 Collapse in Philadelphia*

The authorities say the crash of a truck carrying gasoline ignited an intense fire that weakened the steel beams supporting an overpass.



**1Cor. 15:13-14** - But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and **your faith is also vain.**



# Modern Pillars of Proof

**Prophecy**



**Archaeology**



**Consistency**





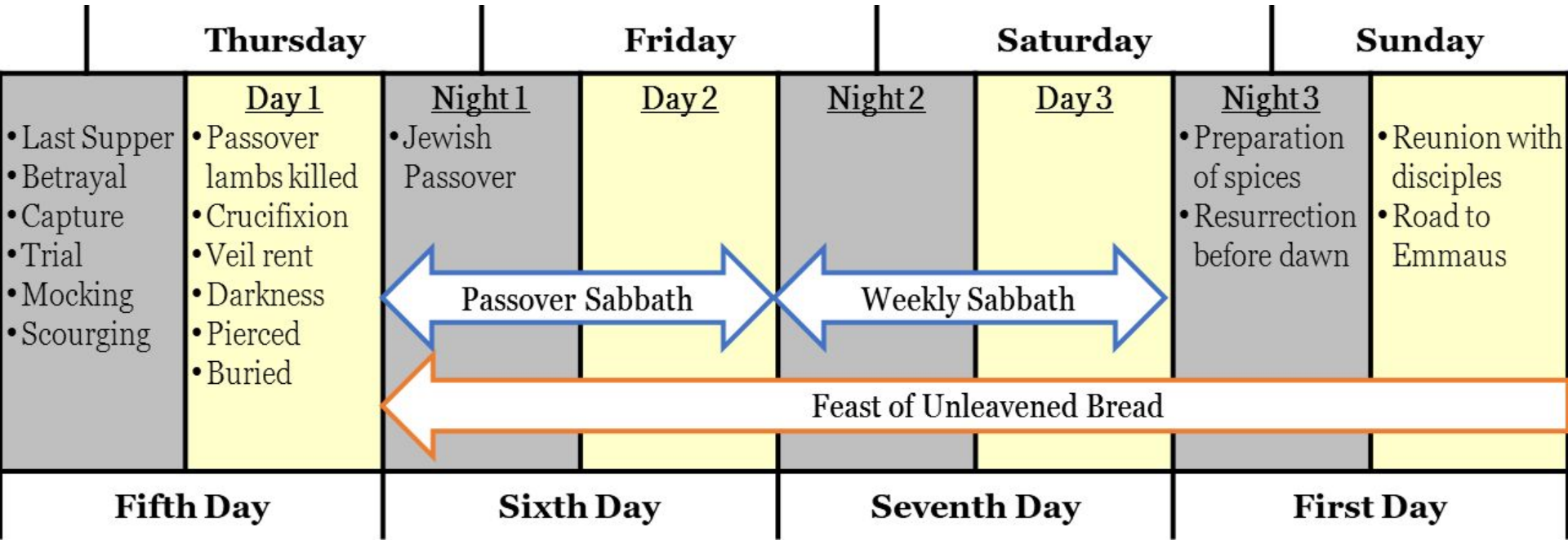
“There is arguably no other doctrine mentioned more often, more central to God’s purpose and more important in the New Testament Scriptures, than that of the Lord being raised to Life.”

- Matthew Trowell, The Empty Tomb



Acts 1:3 - To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them **forty days**, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

# Chronology of Christ's Death & Resurrection



FEAST OF PASSOVER

Day of Preparation

First Day Sabbath  
(John 19:31)

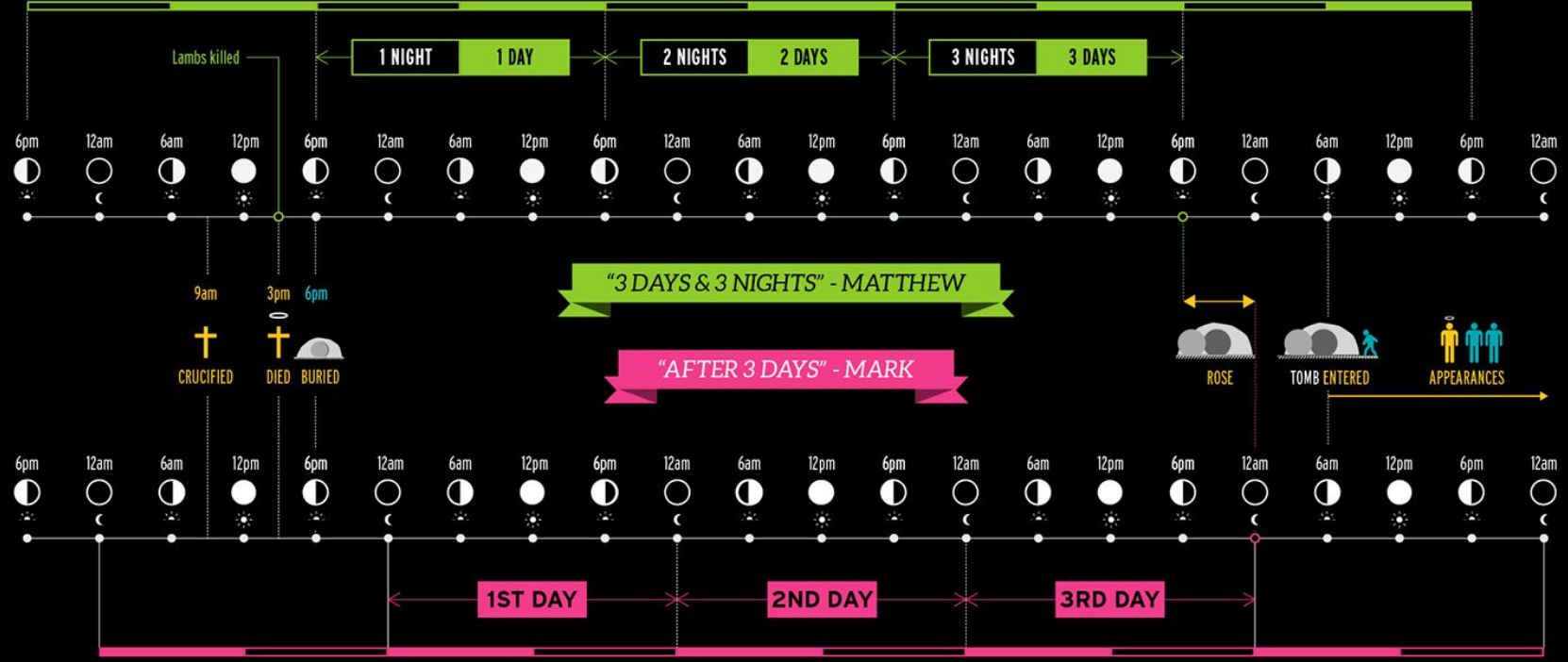
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY  
7th Day of the Week

SUNDAY  
1st Day of the Week



WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

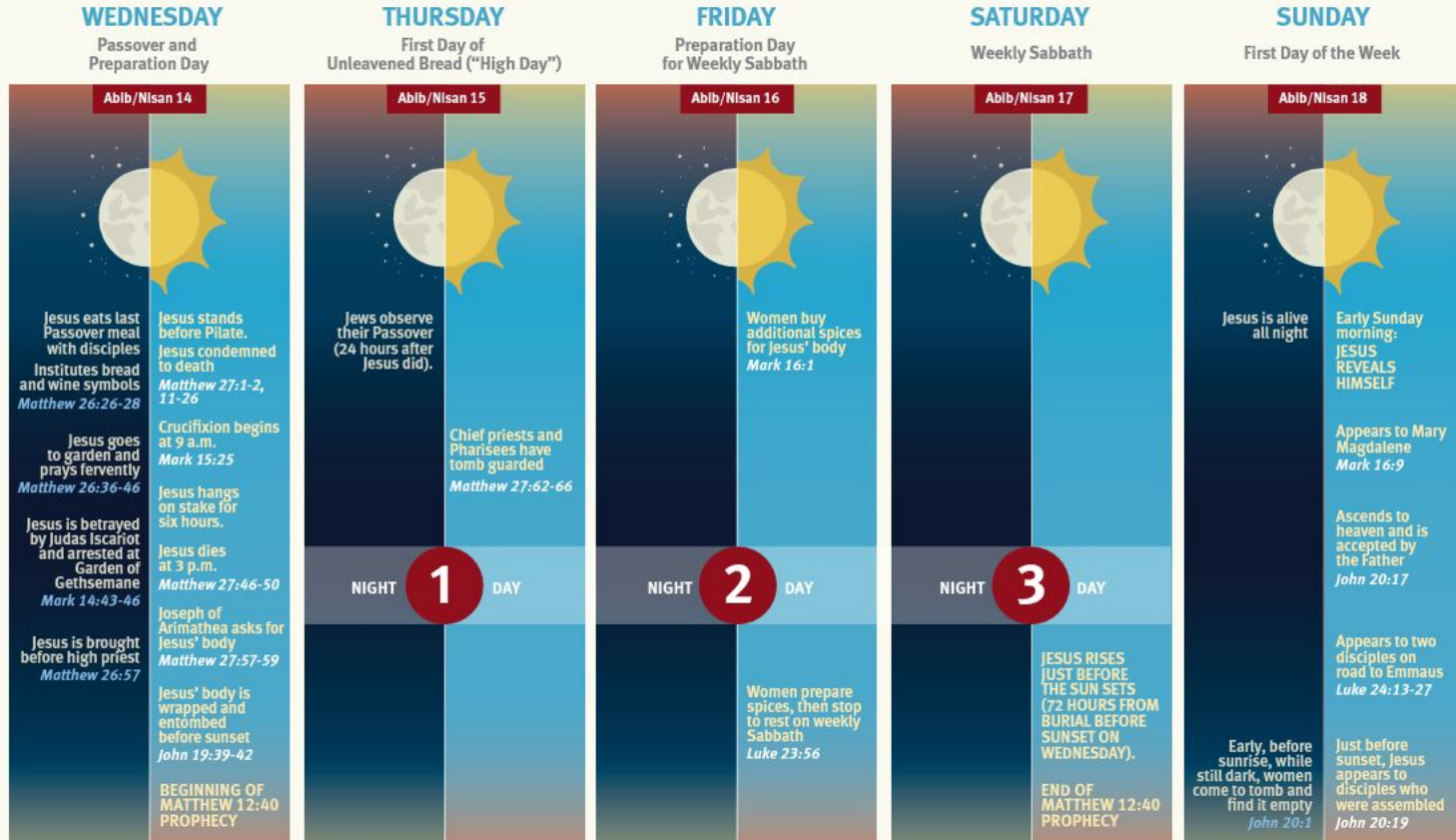
FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

# Chronology of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection

**3 DAYS AND 3 NIGHTS** (72 HOURS), PROVING JESUS CHRIST IS THE MESSIAH (*Matthew 12:38-40*)\*



\*A biblical day begins at sunset and lasts until the next sunset (*Genesis 1:5; Leviticus 23:32*)

# EVIDENCE FOR THE EMPTY TOMB

All four gospel writers claim that Jesus rose from the dead, but how can we know this claim is true?







# #1 - Women as Eyewitnesses

**Multiple Attestation** - a passage that appears in two or more independent sources is likely to be authentic. (John 20:1-2, Luke 24:1-10, Mark 1:1-2, Matthew 28:1-7)

Women were second-class citizens in the ancient world.

- Josephus states that the testimony of women shouldn't be allowed into a court of law. (*Antiquities*, 4.8.15.)
- Luke's description of disciples reaction - "But what they said seemed **nonsense** to them, so they did not believe them." (24:11)
- Why would the gospel writers *all* record that women were the first witnesses of the empty tomb?
- Why do only two biographies include male witnesses? (Lk. 24:12; Jn. 20:3-9)



## #2 - Members of Sanhedrin

**John 19:38-39** - And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. (39) And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

- Members of the Sanhedrin (70 men) were incredibly powerful, prestigious, and popular.
- The council had voted to put Jesus to death 3 days earlier (Mark 14:55)
- It's hard to believe that the authors of Jesus' biographies would make this up, because everyone would know these men.
- Who would write a story that made their enemies look good?



## #3 - Nazareth Inscription

### *Edict of Caesar*

It is my decision [concerning] graves and tombs... that these remain undisturbed forever. But if anyone legally charges that another person has destroyed, or has in any manner extracted those who have been buried, or has moved with wicked intent those who have been buried to other places... against such a person, I order that a judicial tribunal be created... I wish that [violator] to suffer capital punishment under the title of tomb-breaker.



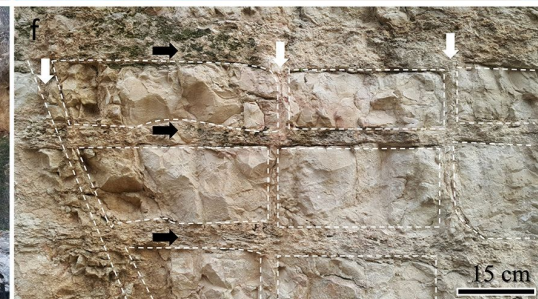




## #4 - Archaeological Tombs

The descriptions of the tomb from the gospel record fits well with the tombs discovered in Israel from the 1st century.

The use of such tombs was generally reserved for the middle/upper classes, and each typically belonged to a single nuclear or extended family.





## #5 - Mark's simple/early account

- (1) Mark never uses the high priest's name (Caiaphas). (Mk. 14:53, 54, 60, 61, 63).
  - This would be similar to modern people referring to “*the* President” or “*the* Pope.” If the person had been in office for years, there would be no need to specify which leader you were referring to.
  - Caiaphas reigned from AD 18 to AD 37. **Mark account prior to AD 37???**
  
- (2) Mark's simple, straightforward account of the empty tomb lacks signs of legendary development.
  - Critic Rudolph Bultmann refers to Mark's account as “extremely reserved.”
  - By comparison, the apocryphal Gospel of Peter dramatically depicts Jesus leaving the tomb.



# Resurrection Parallels in Scripture

**Gen. 22:2** - And he said, Take now **thy son, thine only son** Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for **a burnt offering** upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

- **1Jn 4:9** - In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent **his only begotten Son** into the world, that we might live through him.
- **Eph 5:2** - And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us **an offering and a sacrifice to God** for a sweetsmelling savour.

# Resurrection Parallels in Scripture

**Gen 22:8** – And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide** himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

- **Heb 11:19** – Accounting that **God was able to raise him up**, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.
- **Rom 4:17-18** – ...before him whom he believed, even God, who **quickeneth the dead**, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

# Resurrection Parallels in Scripture

Jacob/Rachel		Christ/Mary	
<b>Stone Rolled Away</b>	Gen. 29:1-3,10	<b>Stone Rolled Away</b>	Matt. 28:2
<b>Rachel, the first woman</b>	Gen. 29:9-10	<b>Mary, the first woman</b>	John 20:1
<b>Rachel becomes bride</b>	Gen. 29:18,30	<b>Jesus' resurrection → calling the bride</b>	Eph. 5:31-32, Rev. 21:9

# Resurrection Parallels in Scripture

<b>Joshua 10</b>		<b>Resurrection</b>	
<b>“Hanged them on five trees”</b>	Vs 26	<b>“They crucified him”</b>	Mark 15:29
<b>“Until the evening”</b>	Vs 26	<b>“Now when the even was come”</b>	Mark 15:42-43
<b>“Took them down”</b>	Vs 27	<b>“Took him down”</b>	Acts 13:29
<b>“Cast them into the cave”</b>	Vs 27	<b>“Laid him in a sepulchre”</b>	Mark 15:46
<b>“Roll great stones upon the mouth”</b>	Vs 18	<b>“Rolled a great stone”</b>	Matt. 27:60
<b>“Set men by it”</b>	Vs 18	<b>“Setting a watch”</b>	Matt 26:66
<b>“Open the mouth of the cave”</b>	Vs 22	<b>“Rolled back the stone”</b>	Mat 28:2
<b>“Fear not, nor be dismayed”</b>	Vs 25	<b>“Fear not ye...”</b>	Matt 28:5

# Resurrection Parallels in Scripture

<b>Hezekiah</b>		<b>Resurrection</b>	
<b>“The angel of the Lord”</b>	2 Kings 19:35	<b>“The angel of the Lord”</b>	Matt. 28:2
<b>“Early in the morning”</b>	2 Kings 19:35	<b>“Early in the morning”</b>	Luke 24:1
<b>“They were all dead corpses”</b>	2 Kings 19:35	<b>“Became as dead men”</b>	Matt. 28:4
<b>“But thou has saved us”</b>	Psalms 44:7	<b>“By grace ye are saved”</b>	Eph. 2:5
<b>“Arise for our help and redeem us for thy mercies sake”</b>	Psalms 44:26	<b>“Come boldly unto the throne of grace, that ye may obtain mercy”</b>	Heb. 4:16



## Resurrection Parallels in Scripture

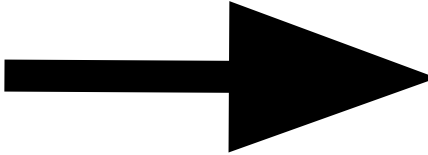
<b>Daniel 7,10</b>		<b>Matthew 28</b>	
<b>“The ancient of days did sit”</b>	7:9	<b>“The angel of the Lord... sat upon it”</b>	Vs 2
<b>“Clothed in linen... face as the appearance of lightning”</b>	10:6	<b>“His countenance was like lightning”</b>	Vs 3
<b>“His raiment white as snow”</b>	7:9	<b>“His raiment white as snow”</b>	Vs 3
<b>“They fled to hide themselves”</b>	10:7	<b>“Behold, some of the watch came into the city”</b>	Vs 11
<b>“I stood trembling”</b>	10:11	<b>“And for fear of him”</b>	Vs 4
<b>“A great quaking fell upon them”</b>	10:7	<b>“The keepers did shake”</b>	Vs 4
<b>“In a deep sleep on my face”</b>	10:9	<b>“And became as dead men”</b>	Vs 4

# The Resurrection Appearances in Order

Order	Appearance	Location	Did Jesus Speak?	Date and Time	References
1.	Mary Magdalene crying by the tomb	Jerusalem	Yes	Early morning on Sunday	Mk 16:9-11; Jn 20:11-18
2.	The other women returning from the tomb	Jerusalem	Yes	Early morning on Sunday	Mt 28:8-10
3.	Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus	Near Emmaus	Yes	Afternoon on Sunday	Mk 16:12-13; Lk 24:13-32
4.	Peter in Jerusalem	Jerusalem	N/A	Late afternoon on Sunday	Lk 24:33-35; 1 Cor 15:5a
5.	To the "11" disciples and others in Jerusalem	Jerusalem	Yes	Evening on Sunday	Lk 24:36-49 <sup>a</sup>
6.	To 10 disciples without Thomas	Jerusalem	Yes	Evening on Sunday	Jn 20:19-25
7.	To the 11 disciples with Thomas	Jerusalem	Yes	Monday (8 days later)	Mk 16:14; Jn 20:26-29
8.	To 7 disciples by the Lake of Galilee	Galilee	Yes	A few weeks later?	Jn 21:1-25 <sup>b</sup>
9.	To 11 disciples on a Mountain (Great Commission)	Galilee	Yes	Near the end of the 40 days	Mt 28:16-20; Mk 16:15-18; 1 Cor 15:5b
10.	To 500 people at once	Galilee?	N/A	Near the end of the 40 days	1 Cor 15:6
11.	To James	Jerusalem?	N/A	Near the end of the 40 days	1 Cor 15:7a
12.	To the 11 disciples at Jesus' Ascension	Bethany	Yes	40 <sup>th</sup> Day	Mk 16:19; Lk 24:50-52; Acts 1:4-11; 1 Cor 15:7b
13.	To Paul on the road to Damascus	Near Damascus	Yes	About two years later	Acts 9:3-5; 22:7-8; 26:14-16; 1 Cor 15:8

# 500+ Witnesses!

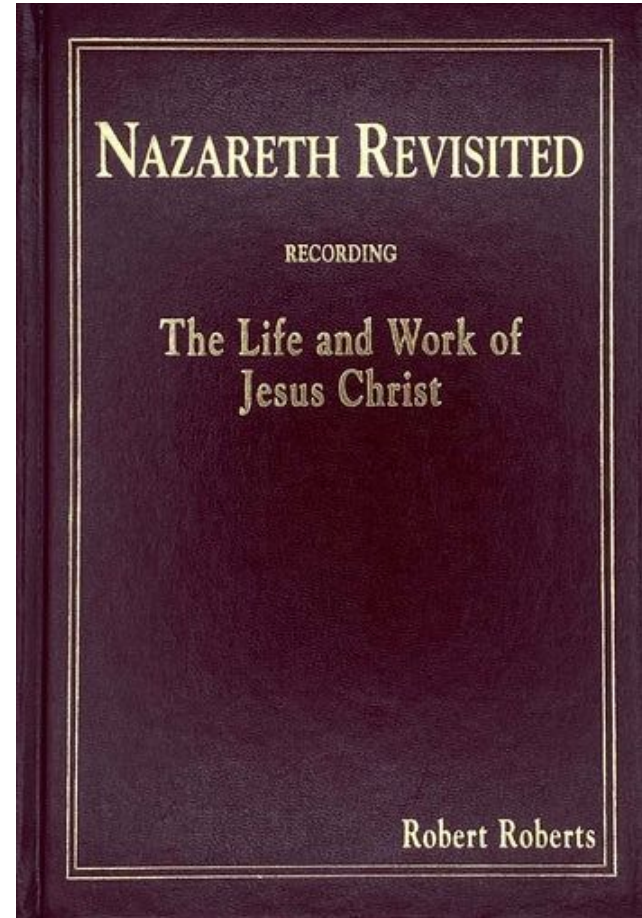
**1Cor 15:6** - After that, he was seen of above **five hundred brethren at once**; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

Where?  
  
When?

## Galilee???

**Mat 28:10** - Then said Jesus unto them, **Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.**

“The case in fact is impregnable. It can only be impugned by doubting the veracity of the record; and this cannot successfully be done in harmony with the facts. All the rules of evidence go to establish the apostolic narratives as those of capable and honest witnesses: honesty doubly guaranteed by the nature of their enterprise, and it's personal consequences to themselves: capability self-manifest in writings which are inimitable for their combination of power with grace, and lucidity with simplicity of diction.”





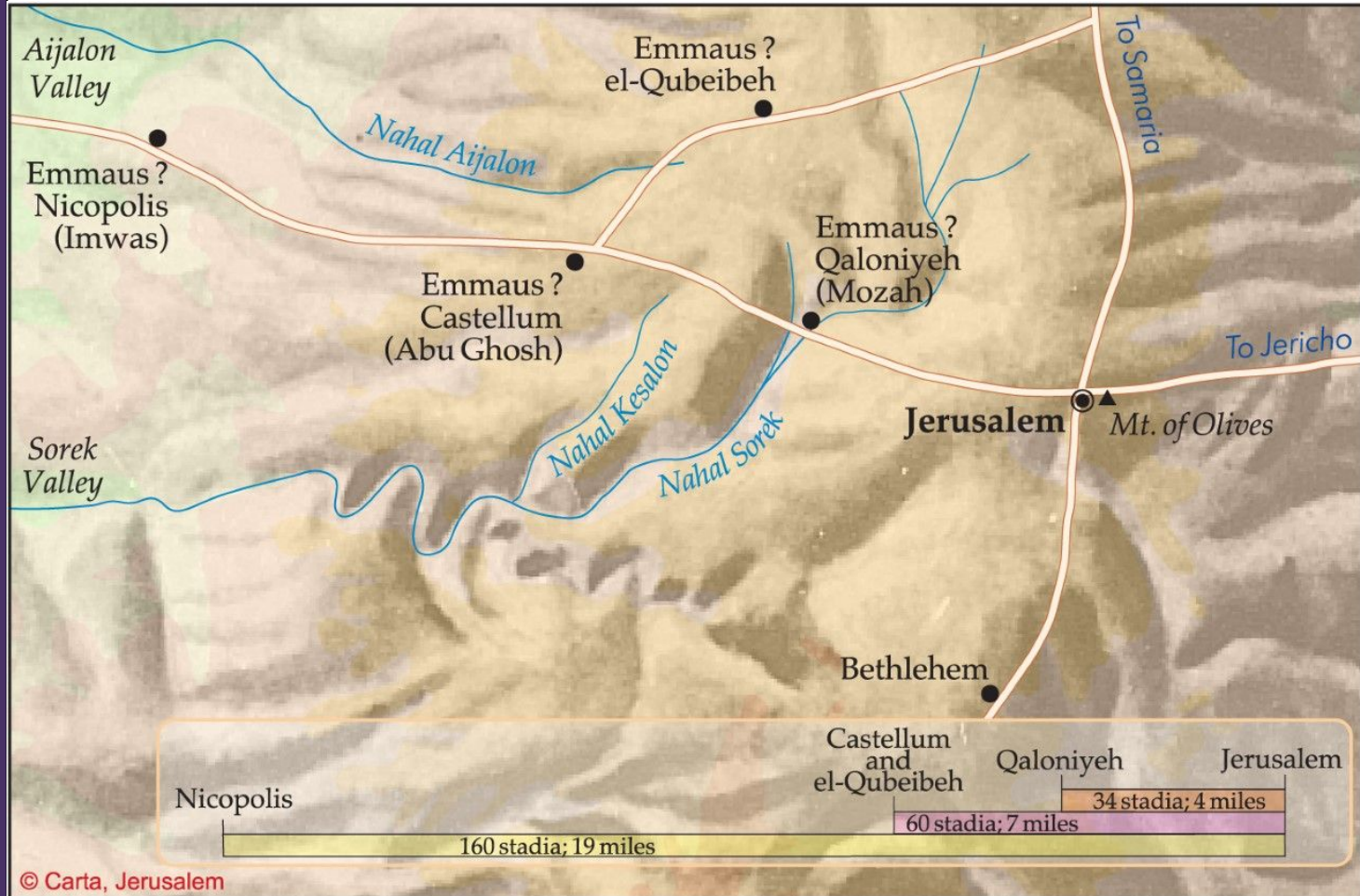
# The Road to Emmaus



**Luke 24:13-35**

# How far did they travel?

~14 miles total  
(Luke 24:13, 28,33)





# Who traveled?

Mark 16:12 - After these things he appeared in another form to **two of them**, as they were walking into the country.

Luke 24:18 - Then one of them, named **Cleopas**...



Mary the mother of Jesus → Brother = **Cleophas** (Alphaeus)

- John 19:25 - Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, **Mary** the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

Mary the mother of Jesus → "Sister in Law" = **Mary**

# Important Details

## He appeared in a different “form” (Mark 16:12, Luke 24:16)

- Immortal, incorruptible → turned traveler
- Scars of crucifixion remained hidden

## Misunderstood Christ’s first advent

- “...he which should have redeemed Israel” (Luke 24:21)
- Only through death/resurrection that reconciliation made possible → leads to peace on Earth (Heb 2:17)
- **Suffering before Salvation - Probation before Exaltation**

## Returned to Jerusalem with Joy

- Isaiah 35:10 - And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their head

**Acts 1:3** - To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many **infallible proofs**, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

**G5039** - **τεκμήριον** – **tekmērion**

Neuter of a presumed derivative of **τεκμάρ** tekmar (a goal or fixed limit); **a token** (as defining a fact), that is, criterion of certainty: - infallible proof.

Total KJV occurrences: 1

**Knowing Christ**

Proof of Resurrection

*John 10:14 - I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

# Emmaus: Two Disciples -

**Luke 24:30-31** - And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And **their eyes were opened, and they knew him;** and he vanished out of their sight.

## - **Breaking Bread**



**Luke 22:19** - And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

**Knowing Christ**  
Proof of Resurrection

*John 10:14 - I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

# Garden: Mary Magdalene -

**John 20:15-16** - ...Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. **Jesus saith unto her, Mary.** She **turned herself**, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

## - **Tone of Voice**



**John 10:4** - And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for **they know his voice.**

**Knowing Christ**  
Proof of Resurrection

**John 10:14** - *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

# Sea of Galilee: Peter & John -

**John 21:6-7** - And he said unto them, **Cast the net on the right side of the ship**, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it **for the multitude of fishes**.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, **It is the Lord**.

## - **Catching Fish**



**Luke 5:6** - And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

## Knowing Christ

Proof of Resurrection

**John 10:14** - *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*




# Jerusalem: Disciples (minus Thomas) -

**Luk 24:40-43** - And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

## - Hands/Feet & Eating



**John 19:18** - There they crucified him...



**Act 10:41** ...chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

**Knowing Christ**  
Proof of Resurrection

**John 10:14** - *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

# Case Study

Blessed are those...

John 20:24-29

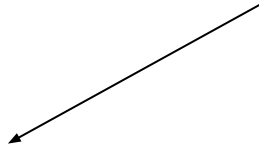
Except I shall see in  
his hands the print of  
the nails, and put my  
finger into the print of  
the nails, and thrust  
my hand into his side,  
I will not believe.

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## Doubting Thomas??

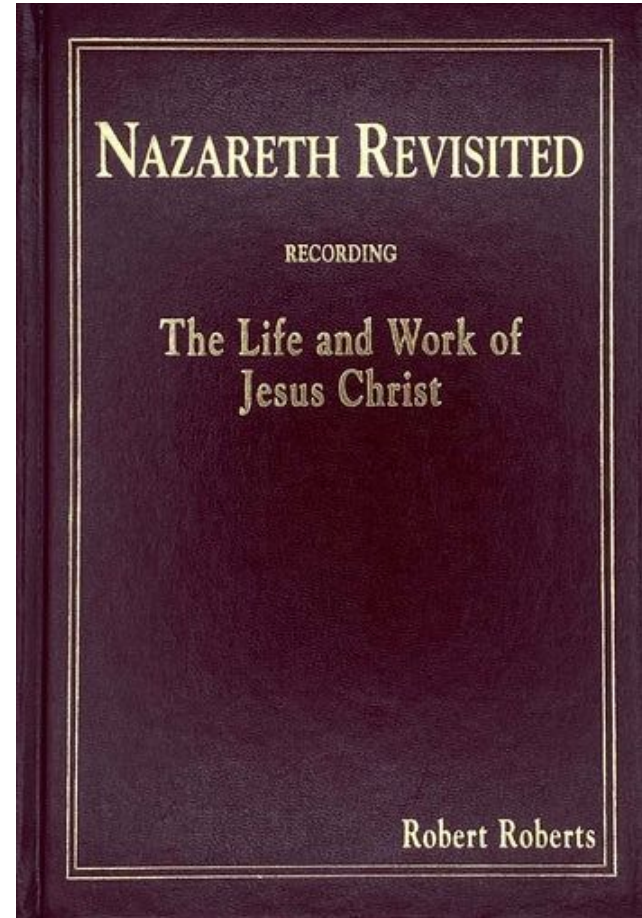
John 11:16 – So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, **that we may die with him.**”

**Resolute, Loyal – unmeasured, rash**



Matt 26:35 Peter said to him, “Even if I must **die with you**, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

“It was a happy circumstance for the faith of subsequent generations that one of the very apostles should have been allowed to take such an attitude. His absence from the first interview can scarcely have been an accident in view of its **providential value.**”



He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should **rise from the dead.**’”

- Luke 16:31



# Impediments to Faith

Worldliness

Moral Antipathy

Idle Speculation

Intellectual Pride





“These are barriers to conviction. It does not mean that they are impenetrable, but penetration demands resolution, courage, and humility. This sifts the contenders.

Dennis Gillett, Genius of Discipleship



**Psalm 25:9** - He leads the **humble** in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**Isaiah 66:2** - All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is **humble** and **contrite** in spirit and **trembles** at my word.

