



Biblical Apologetics



Welcome to Week #4

Two Quick Notes



Fellowship
Bible Church

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Summer Equipping Series

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[Series Resources](#)

Today's Question

In the New Testament, do we have an
accurate copy of the truth...
or an accurate copy of a lie?

Were the New Testament writers Trustworthy Historians?





Do we have EYE WITNESS Testimony?

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”

(Luke 1:1-4)

“...that which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched, this we proclaim to you concerning the

Word of Life”

(1 John 1:1)

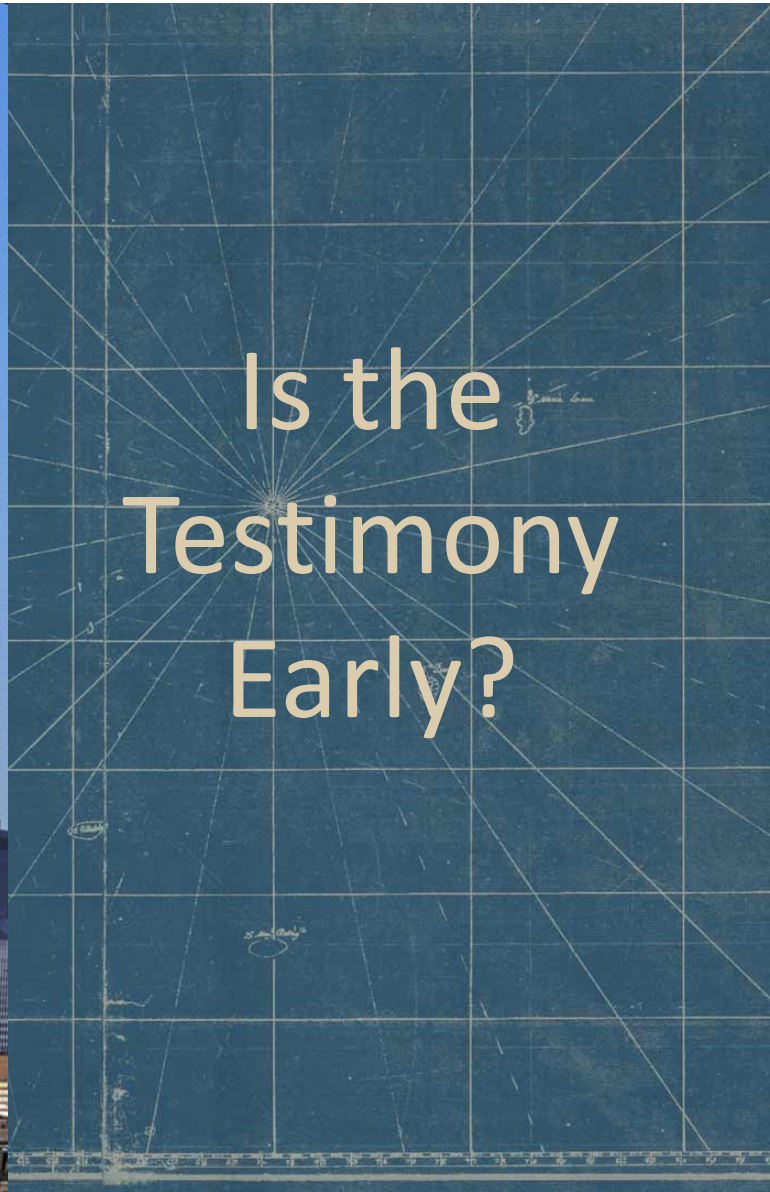
Do we have EYE WITNESS Testimony?

“We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

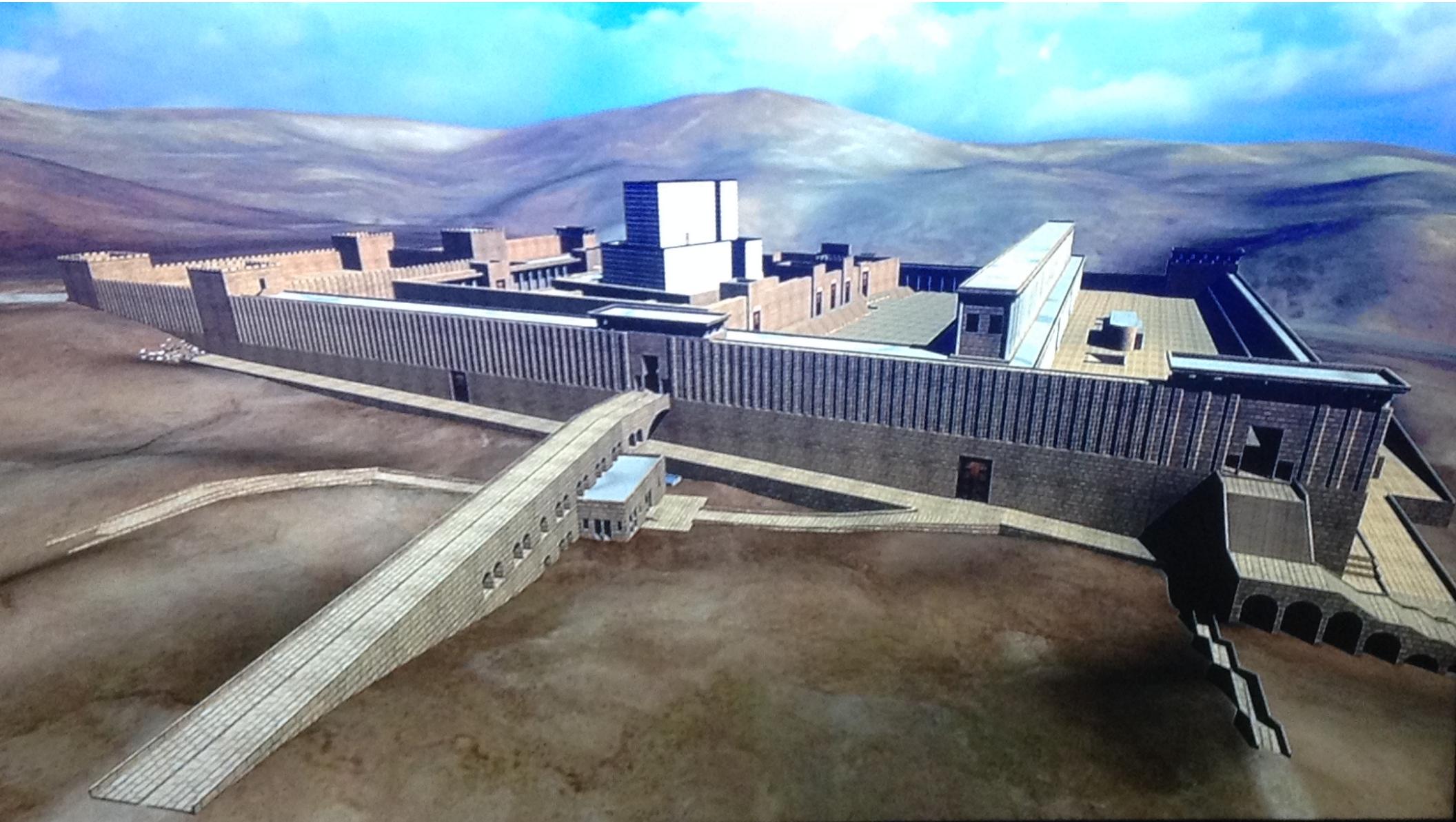
(1 Peter 1:16)

Paul said, “... Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”

(1 Cor 15:8)



Is the
Testimony
Early?



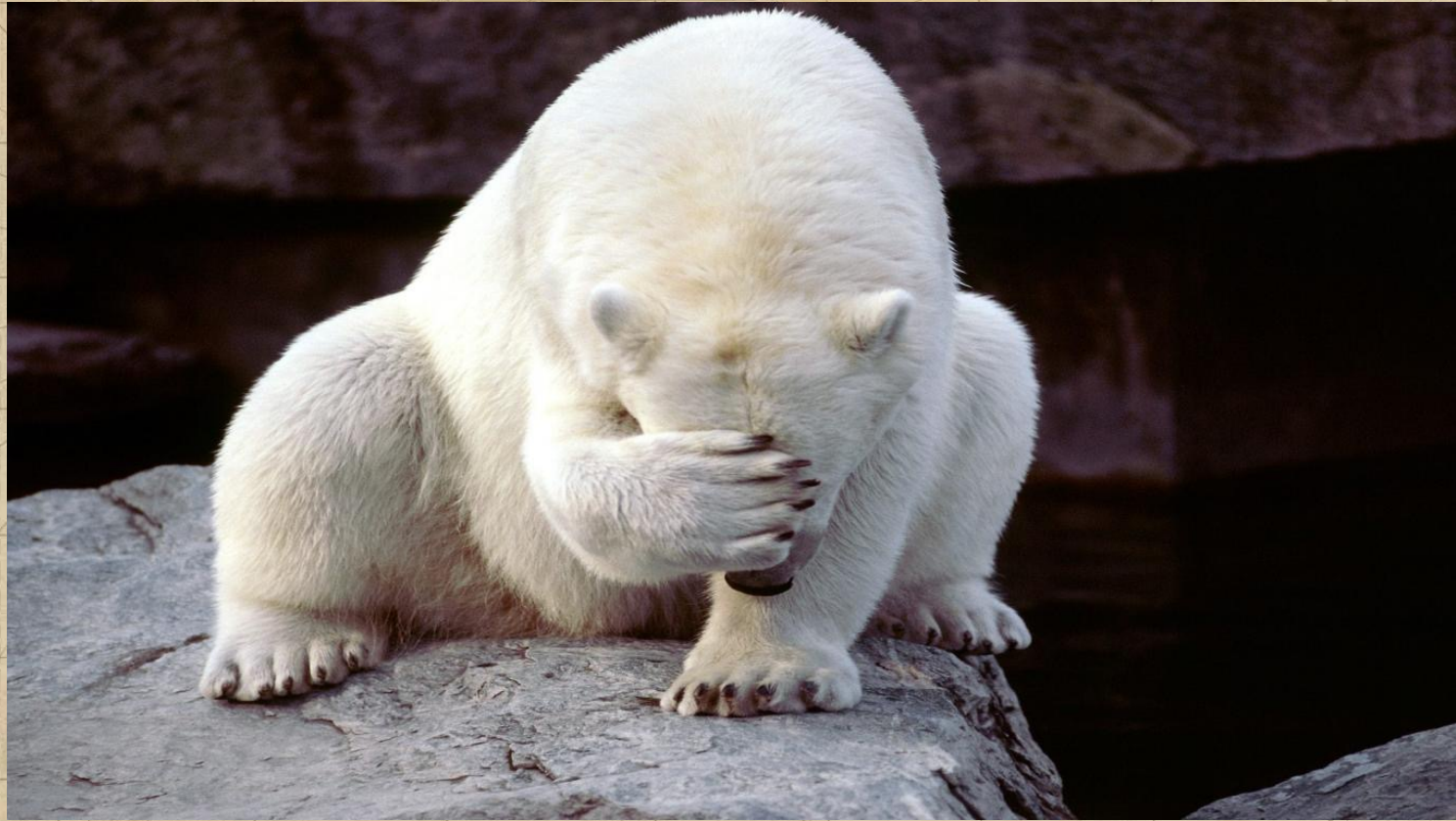


Establishing Eyewitness Character

Do the Witness Accounts Contain

Divergent Details

Establishing Eyewitness Character



Establishing Eyewitness Character

“Whatever weaknesses they may have had, the biblical authors are universally presented in scripture as scrupulously honest, and this lends credibility to their claim, for the Bible is not shy to admit the failures of his people.”

Establishing Eyewitness Character



WATERGATE

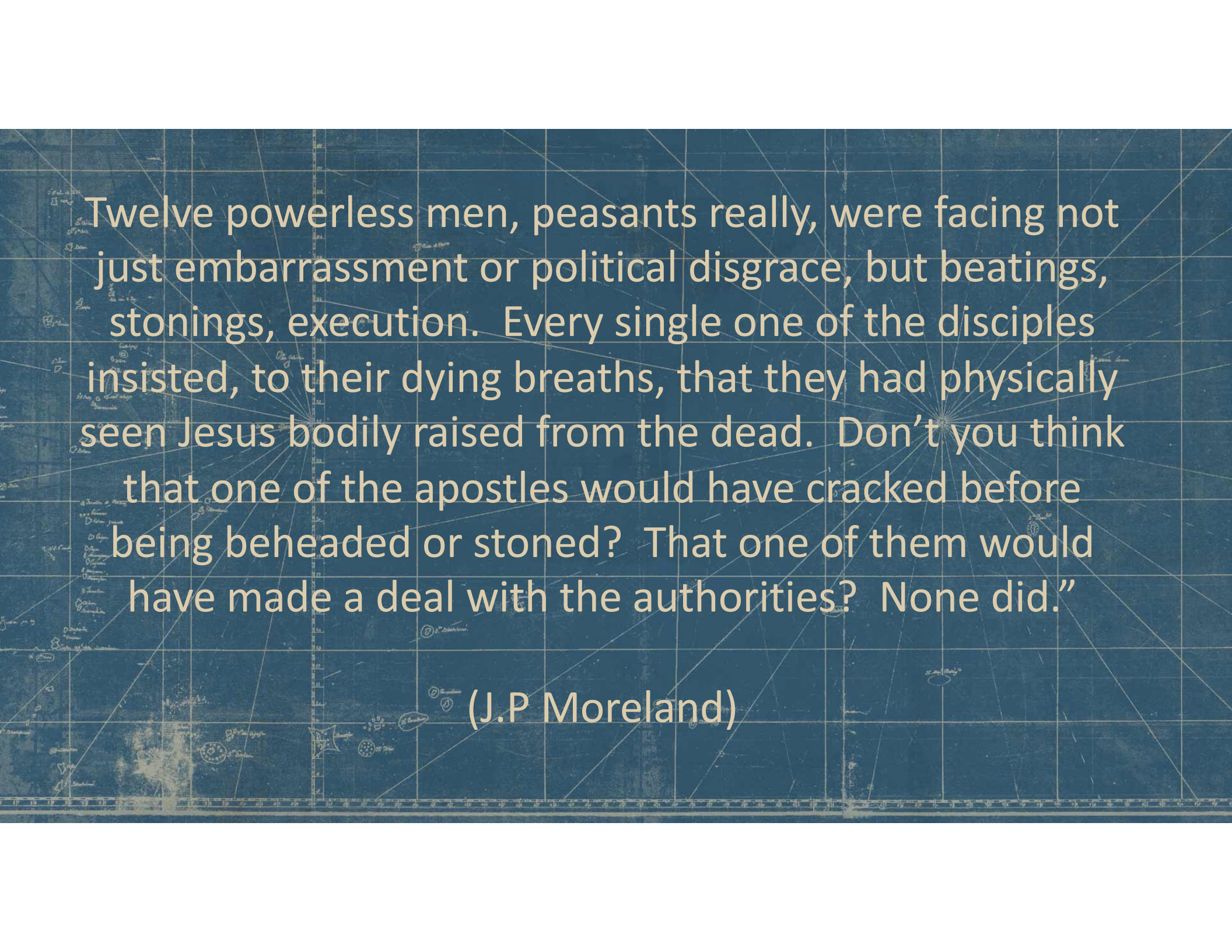
Something's
fishy with
Lochte's Rio
'mug' tale

AP/Patrick B. Brown



HEB Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte may have caused an international incident after angry Brazilian officials cast doubt on his Rio-bashing story that he was mugged at gunpoint.

PAGES 4-5



Twelve powerless men, peasants really, were facing not just embarrassment or political disgrace, but beatings, stonings, execution. Every single one of the disciples insisted, to their dying breaths, that they had physically seen Jesus bodily raised from the dead. Don't you think that one of the apostles would have cracked before being beheaded or stoned? That one of them would have made a deal with the authorities? None did."

(J.P Moreland)

Corroborating Evidence



Do the other puzzle pieces fit the witness narrative?

The Pool of Bethesda



Thomas Pilatus was the Roman prefect who presided over the trial of Jesus of Nazareth (Matt. 27:11-26). The content of the inscription and the use of the Latin language hint at the level of Romanization throughout the province, and in Caesarea, at the beginning of the 1st c. A.D.

תומאס פילאטוס היה הפרוקטור הרומי שהיה אחראי על משפט ישו מנצרת (מט' 27:11-26). תוכן הכתובת והשימוש בשפת הלטינית מעידים על רמת הרומניזציה ברחבי הפרובינציה, ובקיסריה, בתחילת המאה הראשונה לספירה.



The
Pilate
Stone



The Burrial Grounds of Caiaphas



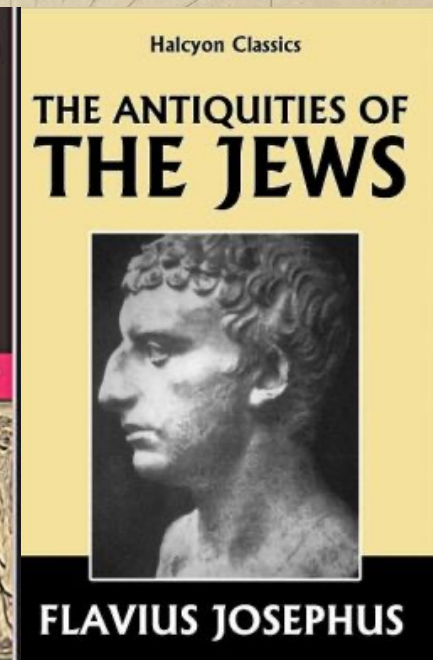
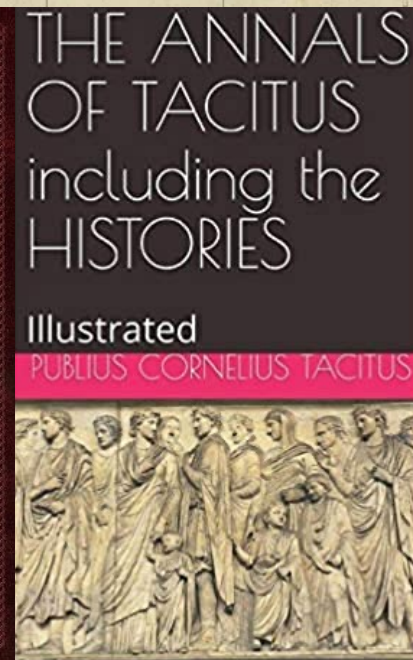
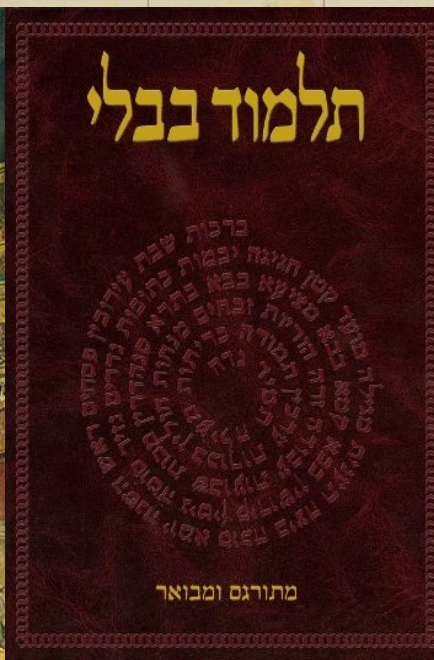
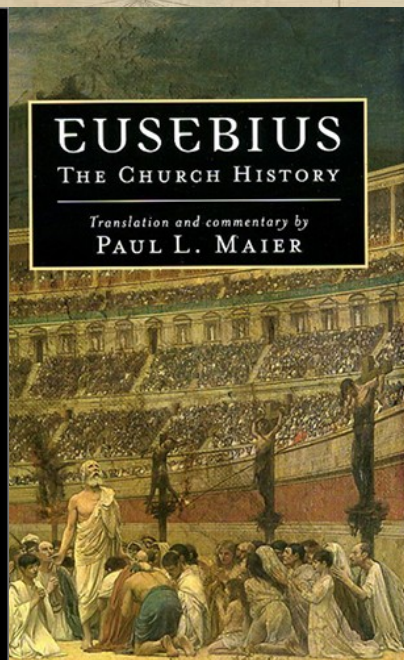
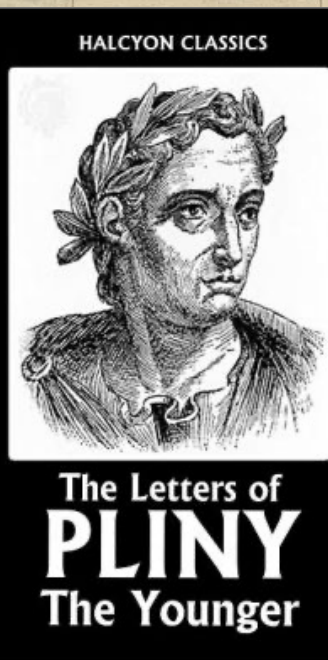
“It is worth noting that no archeological discovery has ever controverted a single Biblical reference.”

Nelson Glueck : (noted Jewish archeologist)

“The Bible is supported by archeological evidence again and again. The fact that the record can be so often explained or illustrated by archeological data shows that it fits into the framework of history as only a genuine product of ancient life could do....Names of places and persons turn up at the right places and in the right periods.”

(Millar Burrows of Yale)

Searching for Jesus Outside of the Scriptures



1. Christians were named for their founder, Jesus Christ, who was widely accepted as a wise and virtuous man, recognized for his good conduct.
2. He lived during the reign of Tiberius Caesar, (Ad 14-37)
3. and had many disciples, both Jews and Gentiles
4. to whom he would teach ethical principles regarding absence from sin.
5. He was recognized as being able to affect nature through the performance of miracles (sorcery)
6. Some of these miracles were healings,
7. others were resurrections from the dead.
8. These miracles were well attested
9. and could be checked out by eye witnesses of the events.
10. He was brought into custody and accused of leading Israel astray.
11. For this he was given a trial at which no one stepped forward to defend him.
12. He was given into the hands of the Roman Procurator Pontius Pilate

13. who condemned him to die
14. by method of crucifixion.
15. Jesus death ended the 'superstition' for a while,
16. but it broke out again because the disciples reported that Jesus had risen from the dead
17. and appeared to them on the third day after crucifixion.
18. Consequently, the disciples continued his teachings
19. especially in Judea where the teaching had its origin
20. but also in Rome.
21. After this event, Jesus was worshipped as deity by early believers.
22. A day of worship seems to have been established.
23. Perhaps he was the messiah concerning whom the Old Testament prophets spoke and predicted wonders.

Scan the QR code in your handout for the 3 page summary of this

Trustworthy Historians?

Witness Testimony

- ✓ Eye Witnesses
- ✓ Early Testimony
- ✓ Divergent Details
- ✓ Embarrassment
- ✓ Stress Tested

Corroborating Evidence

- ✓ Archaeological Confirmation
- ✓ Extra-Biblical Confirmation

A historical nautical chart, likely a Mercator projection, featuring a grid of latitude and longitude lines. Two compass roses are visible, one on the left and one on the right, with lines radiating from their centers. The chart includes various navigational markings, such as small circles and lines, and some faint text labels. The paper is aged and yellowed.

See you next Sunday