

THE CASE FOR CHRISTMAS
MATTHEW 1:18-25
CHARLIE CAMPBELL

MEDIA REFERENCE GS771 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27, 2023



Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph,



Matthew 1:18–25

being a just man and not wanting to disgrace her, resolved to put her away secretly.²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David,



Matthew 1:18–25

do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”



Matthew 1:18–25

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [Quoting Isaiah 7:14]

23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” which translated means, “God with us.”



Matthew 1:18–25

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.





Matthew 1:21

“ . . . save His people from their sins.”

“YAHWEH SAVES”



“There’s no reason to celebrate Christmas as Jesus’ birth. The whole story of a young virgin giving birth to a savior is a big myth.”

You KNOW it's a Myth
This Season, Celebrate REASON!



American Atheists



**JUST SKIP CHURCH
IT'S ALL FAKE NEWS!**

Happy Holidays from American Atheists!

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CLEARCHANNEL

081942

- **If Jesus *did* exist, His earliest followers certainly didn't think He was God**
- **The story of the virgin birth was plagiarized from ancient religions that were around before Christianity**
- **The Christmas accounts in the Bible contain errors**
- **The Gospels were written two or three centuries after He was born, so they can't be reliable**

A wooden manger filled with straw, set against a dark background. The manger is made of dark wood and is filled with dry, golden-brown straw. The straw is piled up, with some strands sticking out of the top and sides. The background is dark, making the straw stand out. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light illuminating the straw.

① JESUS'
EXISTENCE



atheists.syndicate



JESUS NEVER EXISTED.
NO INDEPENDENT
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
CAN PROVE HIS
EXISTENCE.
ZERO, ZIP, ZILCH, NADA,
NOTHING.
-atheists.syndicate



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30

More than
non-biblical sources
mention Jesus within 150
years of His life.



Flavius Josephus

was a historian for the Roman empire in the first century A.D. He mentions more than a dozen individuals talked about in the New Testament, including:

- John the Baptist**
- Herod the Great**
- Pontius Pilate**
- Jesus**

“At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good and was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them after his crucifixion and that he was alive . . . ” –**FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS**

(Antiquities of the Jews, Book 18, Chapter 3:63–64)



Cornelius Tacitus

Lived from about A.D. 55 – 120. He was a Roman historian who lived through the reigns of more than a half dozen Roman emperors. He has been called the “**greatest historian**” of ancient Rome.

“Christus [a Latin term that means “Christ”]
... **suffered the extreme penalty**
during the reign of Tiberius at the
hands of one of our procurators,
Pontius Pilatus . . . ”

– CORNELIUS TACITUS

(Annals 15.44)

“On the eve of Passover Yeshu [a shortened form of *Yeshua*, Jesus’ name in the Hebrew language] was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, “He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Any one who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.” But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged on the eve of the Passover!” —**THE TALMUD**

(Sanhedrin 43a)

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(Sanhedrin 43a)



Non-biblical sources like these
not only verify Jesus existed,
they corroborate more than a

**HUNDRED
DETAILS**

recorded about Jesus in
the New Testament.

JESUS

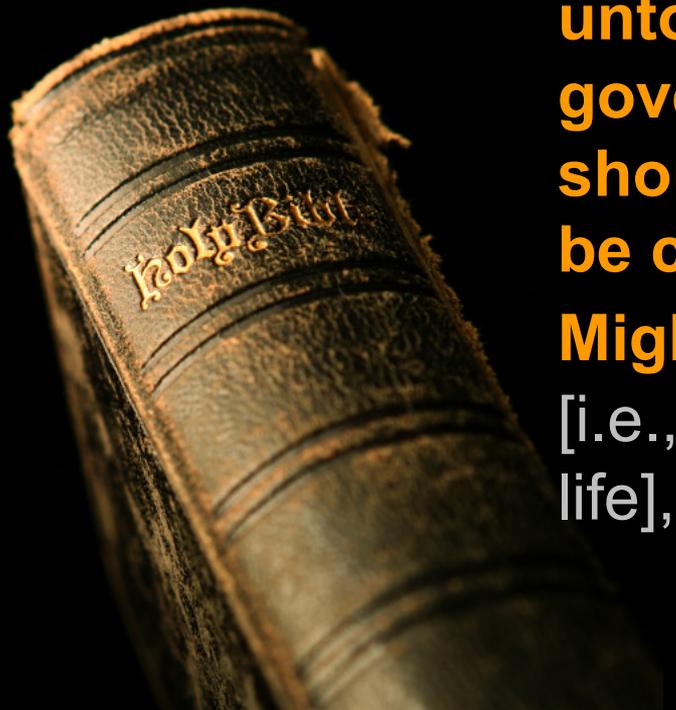
REALLY EXISTED





2

JESUS' DEITY



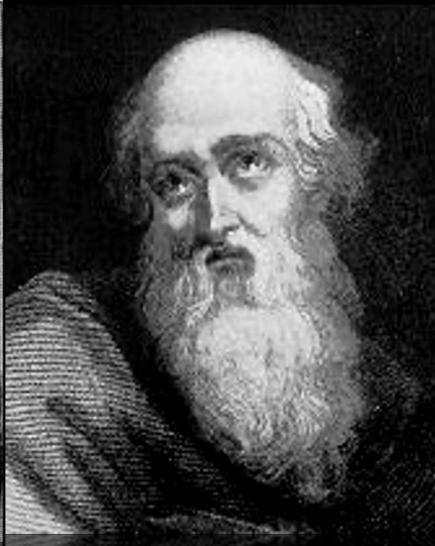
Isaiah 9:6

**“For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and the
government shall be upon His
shoulders: and His name shall
be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Father of Eternity,
[i.e., the one who gives everlasting
life], Prince of Peace.**



These critics regularly claim that the earliest Christians never believed Jesus was God. They say *that* view wasn't embraced until sometime in the fourth century.

- Peter called Jesus **“Our God and Savior”** (2 Pt. 1:1)
- John called Jesus **“God”** (John 1:1)
- Thomas called Jesus **“My Lord and my God!”** (John 20:28)
- Paul called Jesus **“Our great God and Savior”**
(Titus 2:13)



- Ignatius
- Justin Martyr
- Polycarp
- Irenaeus

...and others, refer to Jesus over and over in their writings as:

“GOD”



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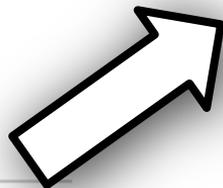
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STORY · Published November 5, 2005 · Last Update January 13, 2015

Israeli Archaeologists Discover Ancient Church



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Israeli archaeologists said Saturday they have discovered what may be the oldest Christian church in the Holy Land on the grounds of a prison near the biblical site of **Armageddon** ([search](#)).

The **Israeli Antiquities Authority** ([search](#)) said the ruins are believed to date back to the third or fourth centuries and include references to Jesus and images of fish, an ancient Christian symbol.



In Megiddo, in northern Israel, a prison inmate at a maximum-security prison (above) unearthed the remains of one of the oldest Christian churches ever discovered.



Pottery fragments and coins found at the site revealed that the place of worship was used by local believers and people from a nearby Roman camp, where



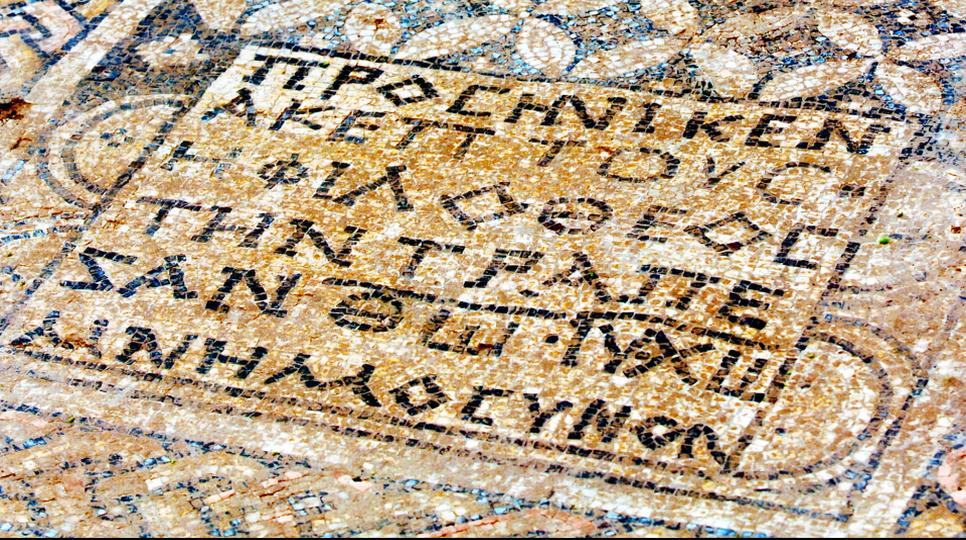
**two legions
were
garrisoned,
around**

AD 230

**—so pretty early
on in the history
of the Christian
Church.**

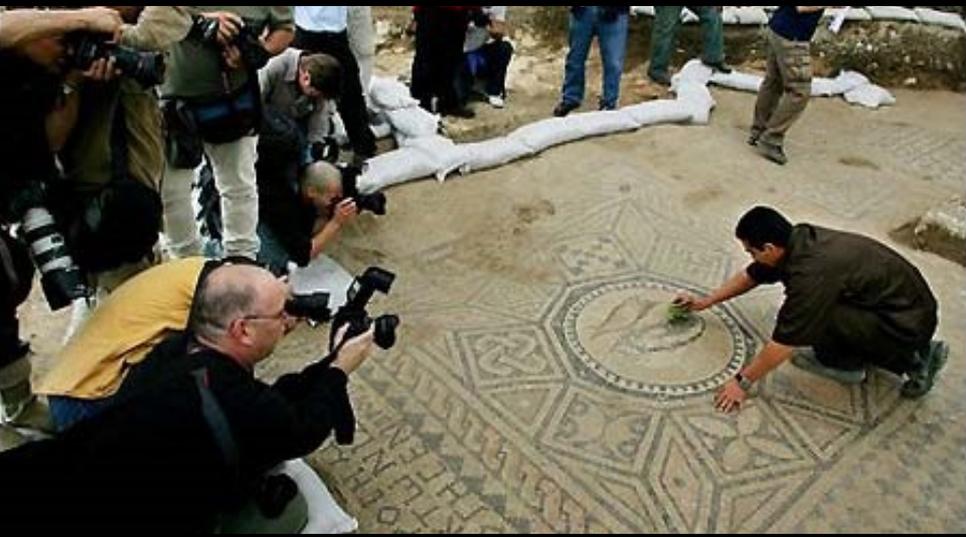


While digging in the prison yard, Ramil Razilo discovered a sixteen by thirty-two-foot Greek-styled mosaic floor that bore an inscription mentioning that



the building had
been built in the
memory of:

“The God
Jesus
Christ”



Not only does this discovery help reinforce the fact that Jesus existed, it underscores what we have long known: the early Christians believed Jesus was:

GOD



3

JESUS:

A "COPYCAT" SAVIOR?

ZEITGEIST



The video alleges that the New Testament authors borrowed major details for Jesus' life from earlier sources (other religions) that were around before the rise of Christianity.

**“The whole story
about Jesus was
plagiarized from
ancient Egyptian
myths about
Horus.”**



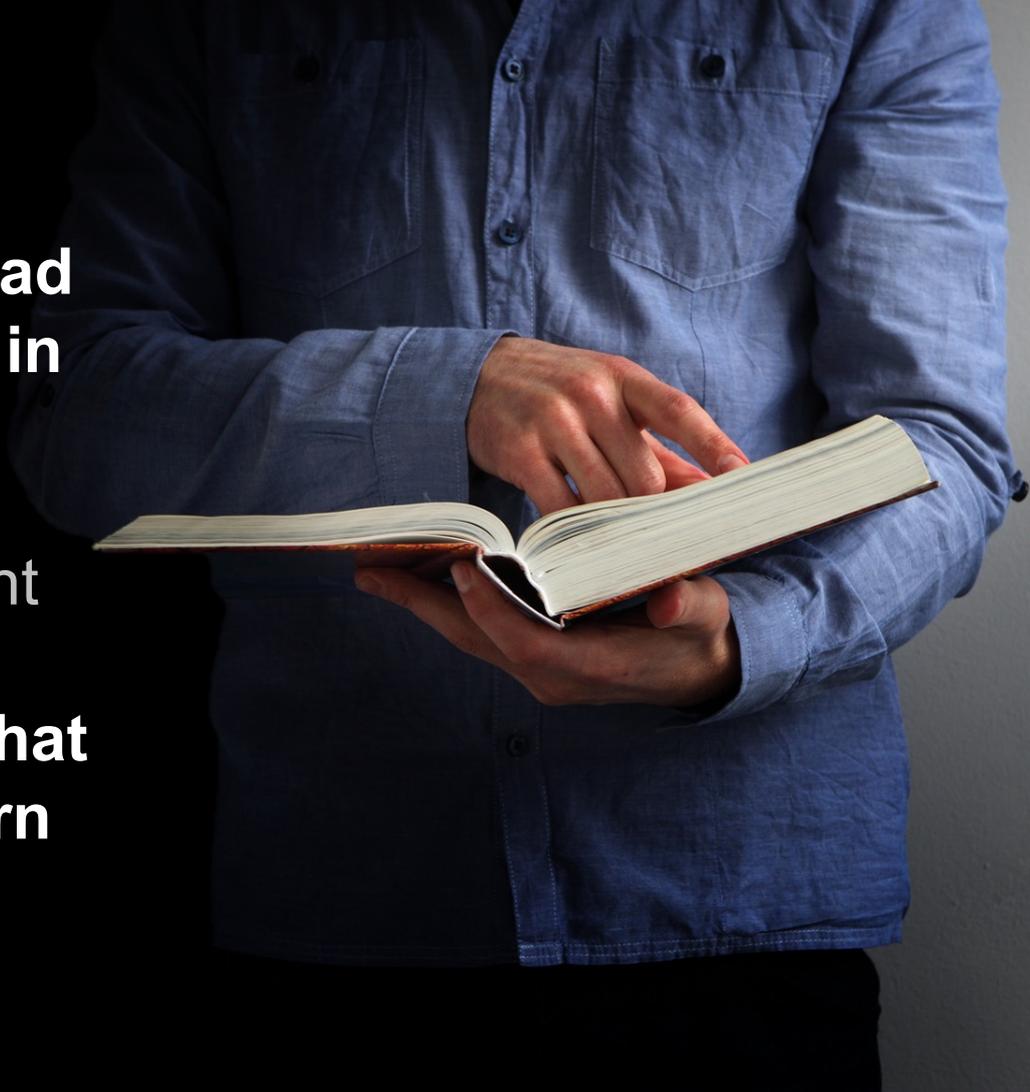




Horus

- born to a virgin on Dec. 25th
- worshipped by three kings
- teacher by age twelve
- had 12 disciples
- called “The Lamb of God”
- crucified, buried for three days, and then resurrected

If a person would take the time to read the “Horus” entry in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (or any dictionary on ancient religions), he’d quickly discover that Horus was not born to a virgin.





The ancient myths say **Horus** (far left) was conceived by his parents:

- The god **OSIRIS**
(middle)
- The goddess **ISIS**
(right)

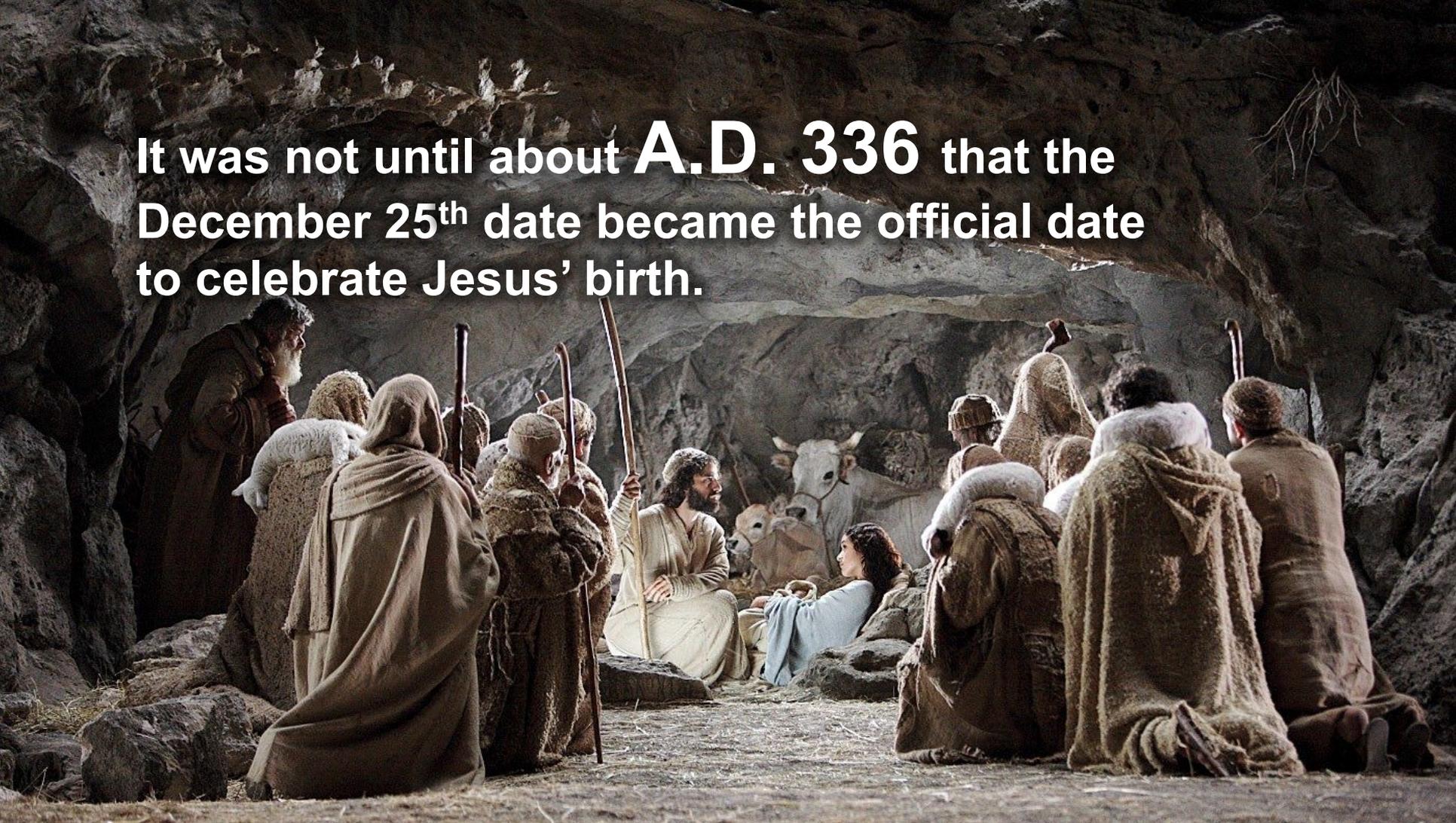


Horus:

- ~~born to a virgin~~ on Dec. 25th
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- teacher by age twelve
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It was not until about A.D. 336 that the December 25th date became the official date to celebrate Jesus' birth.





Horus:

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- worshipped by three kings
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and then resurrected



The Bible knows nothing of “three kings” showing up at Jesus’ birth or anytime after. Three kings is an idea that occasionally appears on some poorly researched Christmas cards, but *not in the Bible.*



Matthew 2:1

“Now after Jesus was born
in Bethlehem of Judea in the
days of Herod the king,
behold, [Kings? No.] magi
Three magi? No.] from the east
arrived in Jerusalem.”



Magi were known as
WISE MEN, not kings.



Horus:

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- ~~worshipped by three kings~~
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Horus:

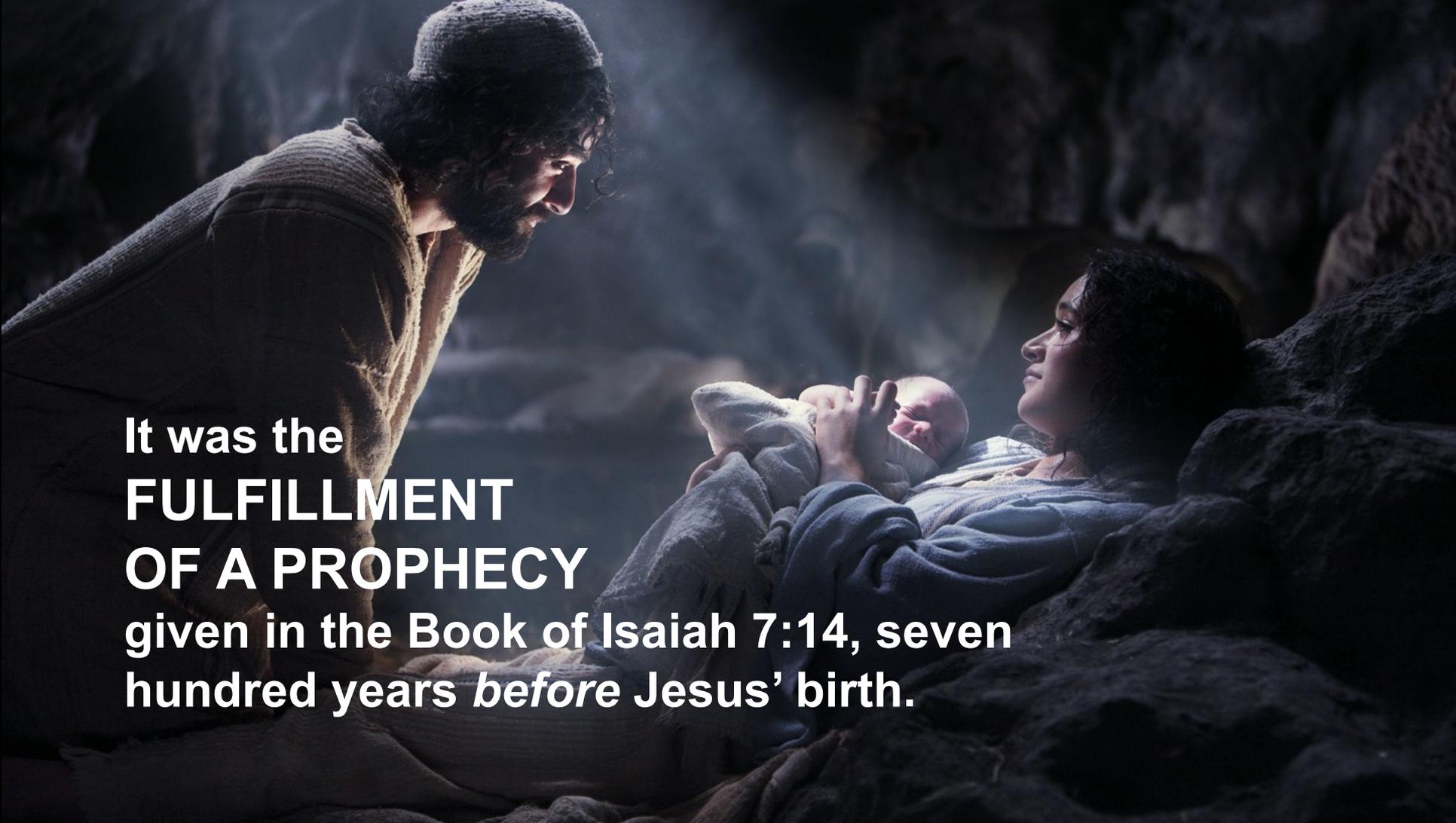
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- ~~worshipped by three kings~~
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- ~~had 12 disciples~~
- ~~crucified, buried for three days,
and then resurrected~~



The same Zeitgeist video that's been misleading people with all this Horus garbage also says that the Bible's account of the virgin birth was borrowed from the ancient religion of Mithraism.



The myths say
MITHRAS
arose
spontaneously
from a rock in a
cave.



It was the
FULFILLMENT
OF A PROPHECY
given in the Book of Isaiah 7:14, seven
hundred years *before* Jesus' birth.



And many Bible commentators believe the virgin birth of the Messiah was prophesied as far back as **GENESIS 3** where God seems to indicate that the coming Messiah would be born to a woman apart from a relationship with a man.

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On our alphabetical menu, click on “Zeitgeist”



4 ALLEGED ERRORS
IN THE THE CHRISTMAS
ACCOUNTS



The Gospel of Matthew tells us that after Jesus' birth, Joseph was warned in a dream to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape King Herod who sought to kill Jesus (Matthew 2:13).

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In Luke's Gospel, there is no mention of:

- Herod's threat
- Joseph's dream
- the escape to Egypt

Luke just tells us that sometime after Jesus' birth, the family **“returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth”** (Luke 2:39).

In his book,
God is Not Great, the
late well-known
atheist, Christopher
Hitchens said
Matthew and Luke's
accounts

**“flatly contradict
each other”**

because of this.

(God is Not Great, p. 111)



They assume a
PARTIAL report is
a **FALSE** report.

Luke

leaves out the flight to Egypt
(mentioned in Matthew 2)

Matthew

**leaves out details about the
shepherds coming to see Jesus
and Jesus being brought to the
temple in Jerusalem**
(mentioned in Luke 2)





“The Bible says Herod’s soldiers killed all the young boys in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16). If that really happened, surely Josephus or another historian would have mentioned it.”



At the time of Jesus' birth, Bethlehem was a small obscure village in the middle of nowhere as far as the Roman Empire was concerned.



William F. Albright estimated that the population of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth was only about: 300 people.



• **Bethlehem**

There would have only been about SIX or SEVEN boys who were two years old or younger when Herod ordered them to be put to death.



Josephus, who was born about forty years after the Bethlehem murders, may have never heard of the event. Or, perhaps, he just decided to leave it out of his *Antiquities of the Jews*.

Josephus

- **three of his own sons**
- **his wife**
- **her grandfather**
- **his mother-in-law**
- **several uncles**
- **a couple of cousins**



If Herod was willing to kill his own sons, what would stop him from ordering the killing of other peoples' sons, especially if one among them had been prophesied to be a ruler of the Jews?





5

JESUS' MIRACLES









They are forced by their
atheistic worldview to
deny Jesus' miracles—not
because there's evidence
miracles can't occur—but
because of their . . .



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atheistic worldview to
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**ANTI-
SUPERNATURAL
BIAS**



“No way! These things couldn’t have happened! They must be made up!”



If Jesus was the One who spoke the universe and all of life into existence in Genesis 1—then it would be no problem (for example) for Him to speak life into a dead man like Lazarus (John 11:43).



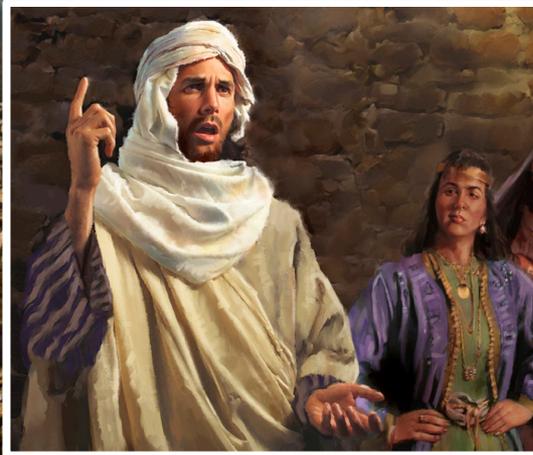
THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY IN JERUSALEM

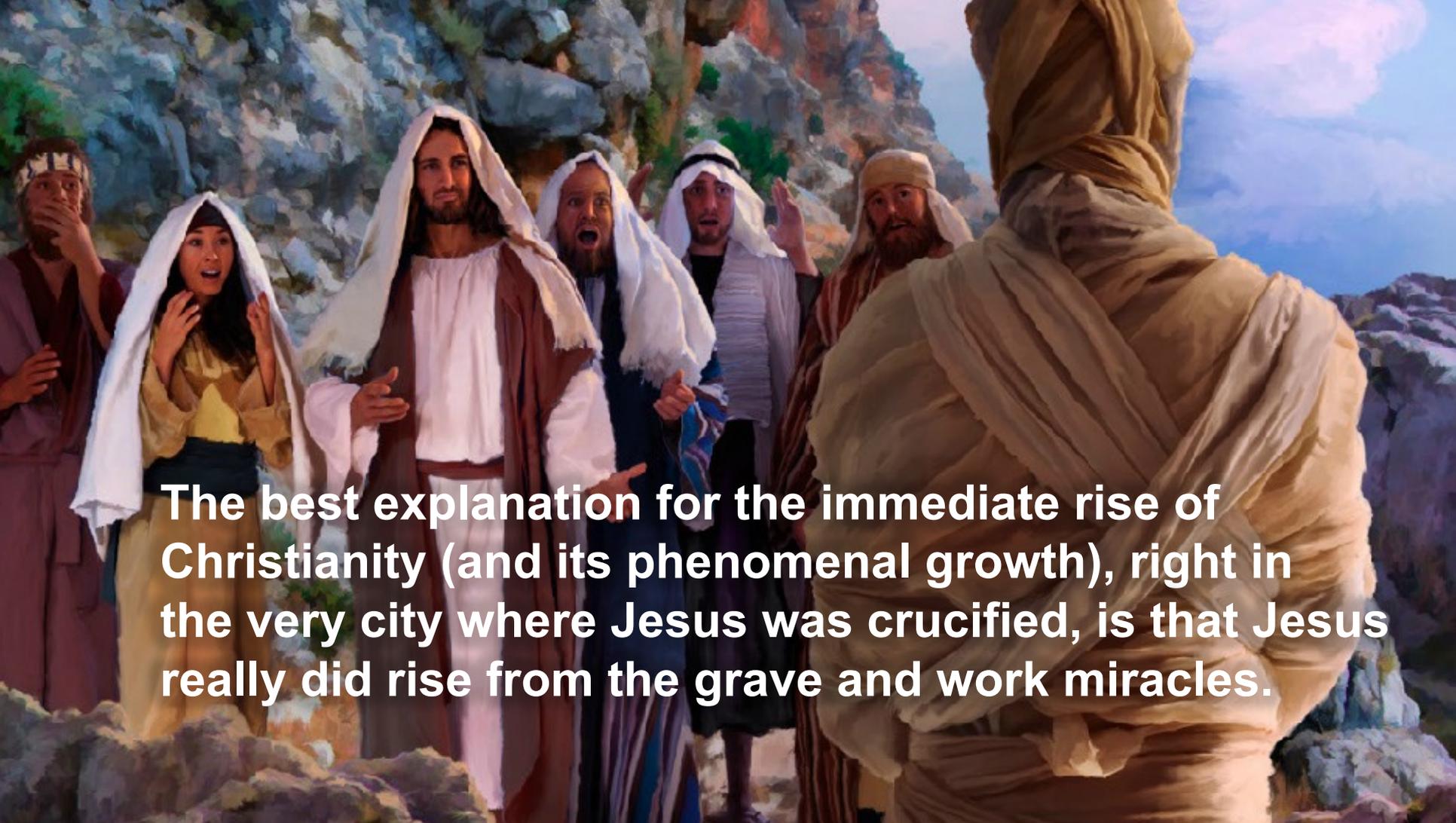


It is an accepted historical fact that the Christian faith (a religion built upon the preaching of the resurrection of its leader) originated in approximately A.D. 32 right in the very city of Jerusalem where Jesus had been publicly crucified and buried.



Because a message calling people to repent and put their faith in a resurrected miracle-working Messiah could never have gained any substantial following in Jerusalem if the people had not actually seen Jesus work miracles.





The best explanation for the immediate rise of Christianity (and its phenomenal growth), right in the very city where Jesus was crucified, is that Jesus really did rise from the grave and work miracles.



Is it reasonable to suppose that thousands of people within those early days following Jesus' death were actually deceived into believing a man rose from the dead?

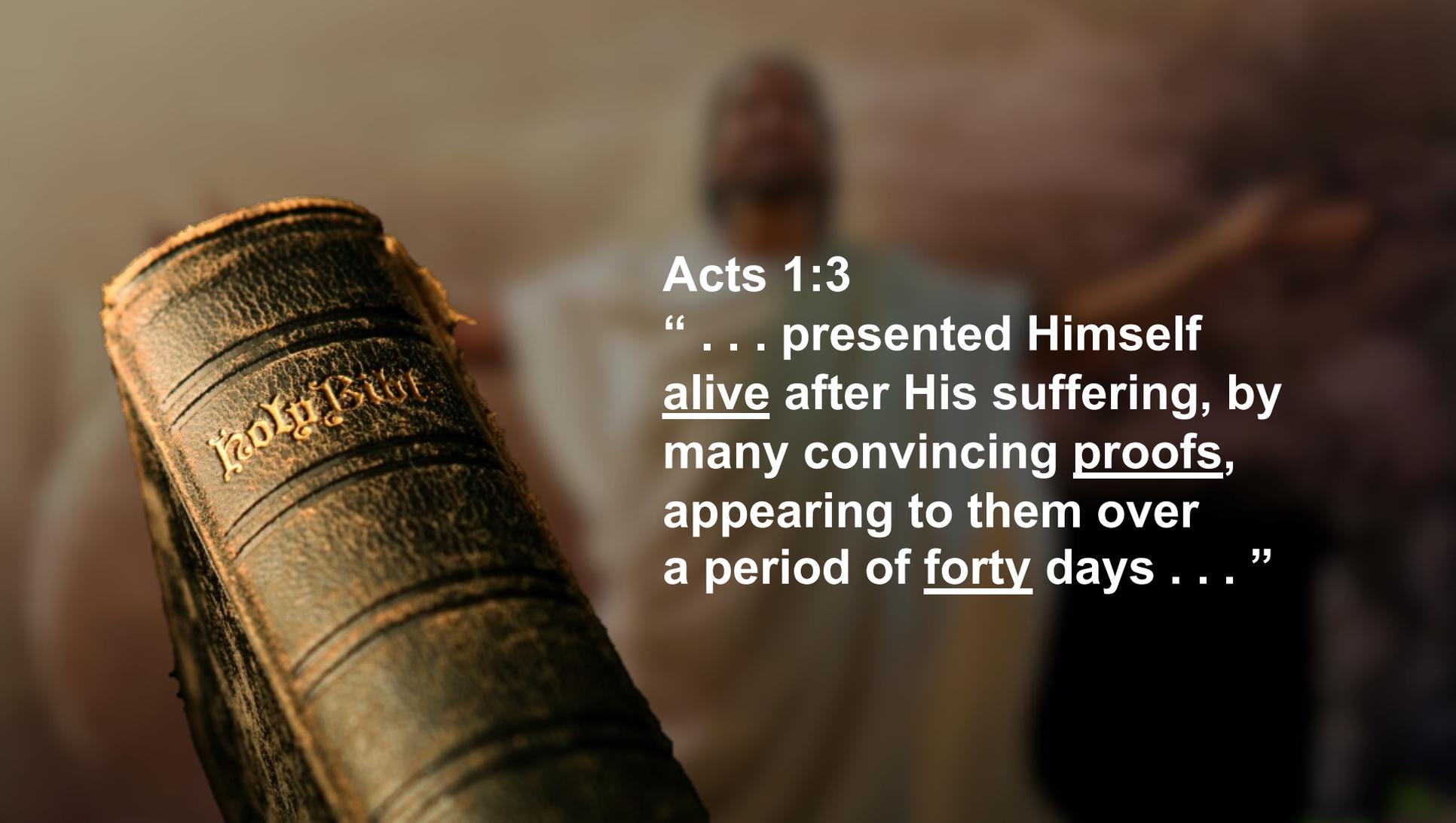


How hard would it have been in the weeks following that tragic event, to **CONVINCE HUNDREDS** of people in the city of Dallas who were there and saw J.F.K. die, that he came back to life after he was buried?



In the days immediately following Jesus' public crucifixion (a crucifixion verified by Roman and Jewish historians outside the New Testament), **thousands of Jews who lived there in Jerusalem and who knew Jesus had died, suddenly converted to Christianity, convinced Jesus rose from the grave.**





Acts 1:3

“ . . . presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days . . . ”



Liars lie to get out of trouble or gain some type of advantage or benefit. But what the early Christians said about Jesus, didn't get them out of trouble or result in any kind of benefit.

What these men
said and wrote
about Jesus got
them *in* trouble.
What they
received was:

- rejection
- persecution
- torture
- martyrdom





6 THE SUPPOSED
LATE AUTHORSHIP
OF THE GOSPELS



**There's no evidence
any of the New
Testament books
were written down
two to three hundred
years after Jesus.
And there is good
evidence most of the
New Testament was
written down before
AD 70.**



The New Testament Scriptures are absolutely silent regarding the destruction of the Jewish temple by the Romans in A.D. 70.



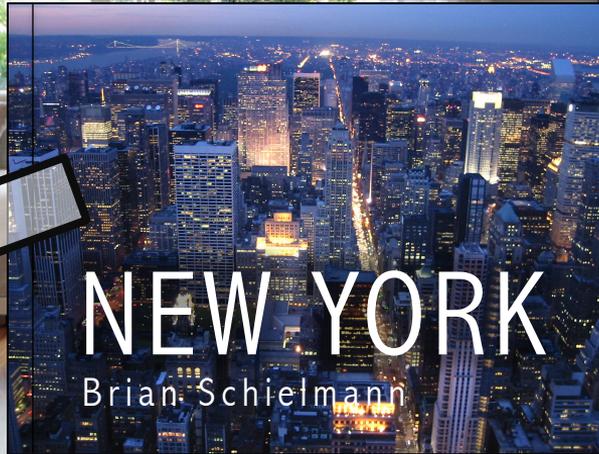
Flavius Josephus, an eyewitness to the event, says the Roman soldiers destroyed the Jewish temple as well as the entire city of Jerusalem.



In the process, Josephus says 1.1 million people died, and that the Romans carried away 97,000 people as prisoners.

*War of the Jews,
Book 6, Chapter 9:3*





NEW YORK

Brian Schielmann



Well, the same is true with the New Testament. Its silence regarding the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem is a strong indicator the New Testament was largely completed before A.D. 70.



Paul was put to death around A.D. 64 and Peter c. A.D. 65.

And though the deaths of other prominent Christians are mentioned in the New Testament (e.g., Stephen and James) the deaths of these two apostles are not mentioned anywhere.



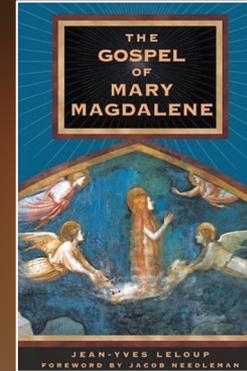
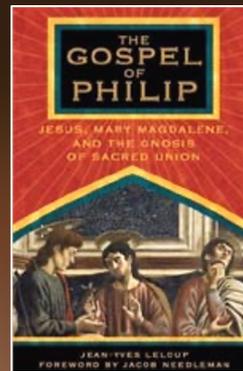
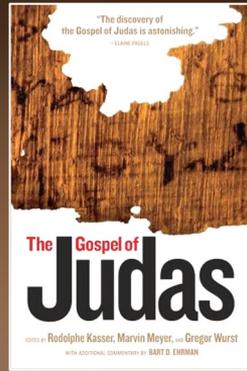
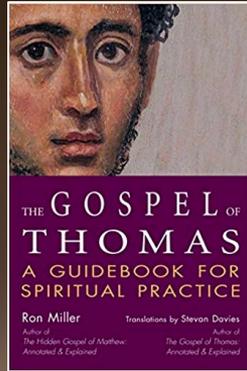
7

OTHER ALLEGED GOSPELS

Why did Christians leave those writings out of the Bible?



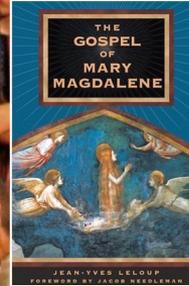
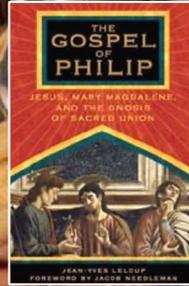
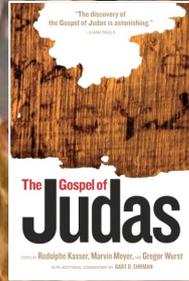
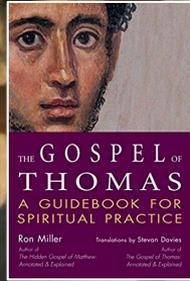
A group of people in traditional Middle Eastern attire, including head coverings and robes, are gathered under a thatched roof. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light. In the center, a dark rectangular box contains the text "THEY NEVER BELONGED IN THE BIBLE." in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The people are looking in various directions, some towards the camera, some away. The background shows the intricate structure of the thatched roof and a glimpse of an outdoor area with a window.



When the so-called “Gospel of Thomas” and other “gospels” purportedly written by Judas, Philip, and Mary Magdalene started appearing on the scene long after these persons died, Christians recognized them for what they were—pseudo gospels that were uninspired, spurious writings.

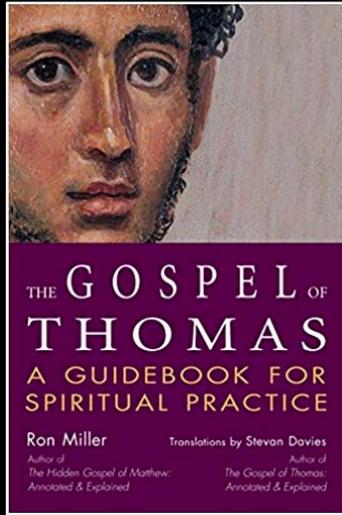


They realized these writings were not written by Thomas and the others, but by false teachers who attached the disciples' names to their writings seeking to influence Christians with their unbiblical, heretical ideas.



Scholars have determined that every one of these so-called gospels that were left out of the New Testament originated in the second or third century A.D. —long after Jesus, Thomas, Mary Magdalene, Philip, and Judas walked the earth.

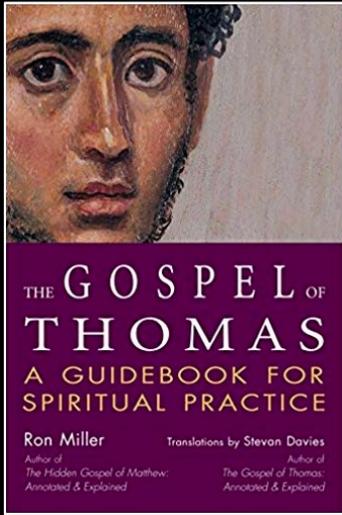




—THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS

Simon Peter said to them,
“Make Mary leave us, for females
don’t deserve life.” Jesus said,
“Look, I will guide her to make
her male, so that she too may
become a living spirit
resembling you males. For every
female who makes herself male
will enter the domain of Heaven.”

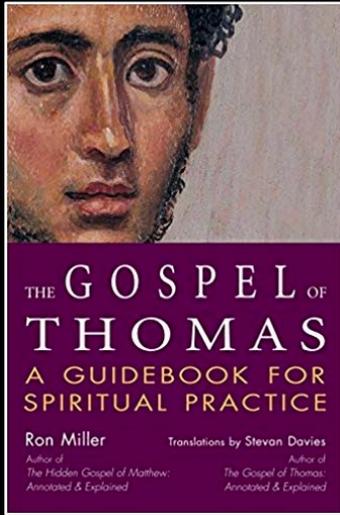
(Verse 114)



—THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS

Jesus said to them, “If you fast, you will bring sin upon yourselves, and if you pray, you will be condemned, and if you give to charity, you will harm your spirits.”

(Verse 14)



—THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS

Jesus said, “Lucky is the lion that the human will eat, so that the lion becomes human. And foul is the human that the lion will eat, and the lion still will become human.”

(Verse 7)

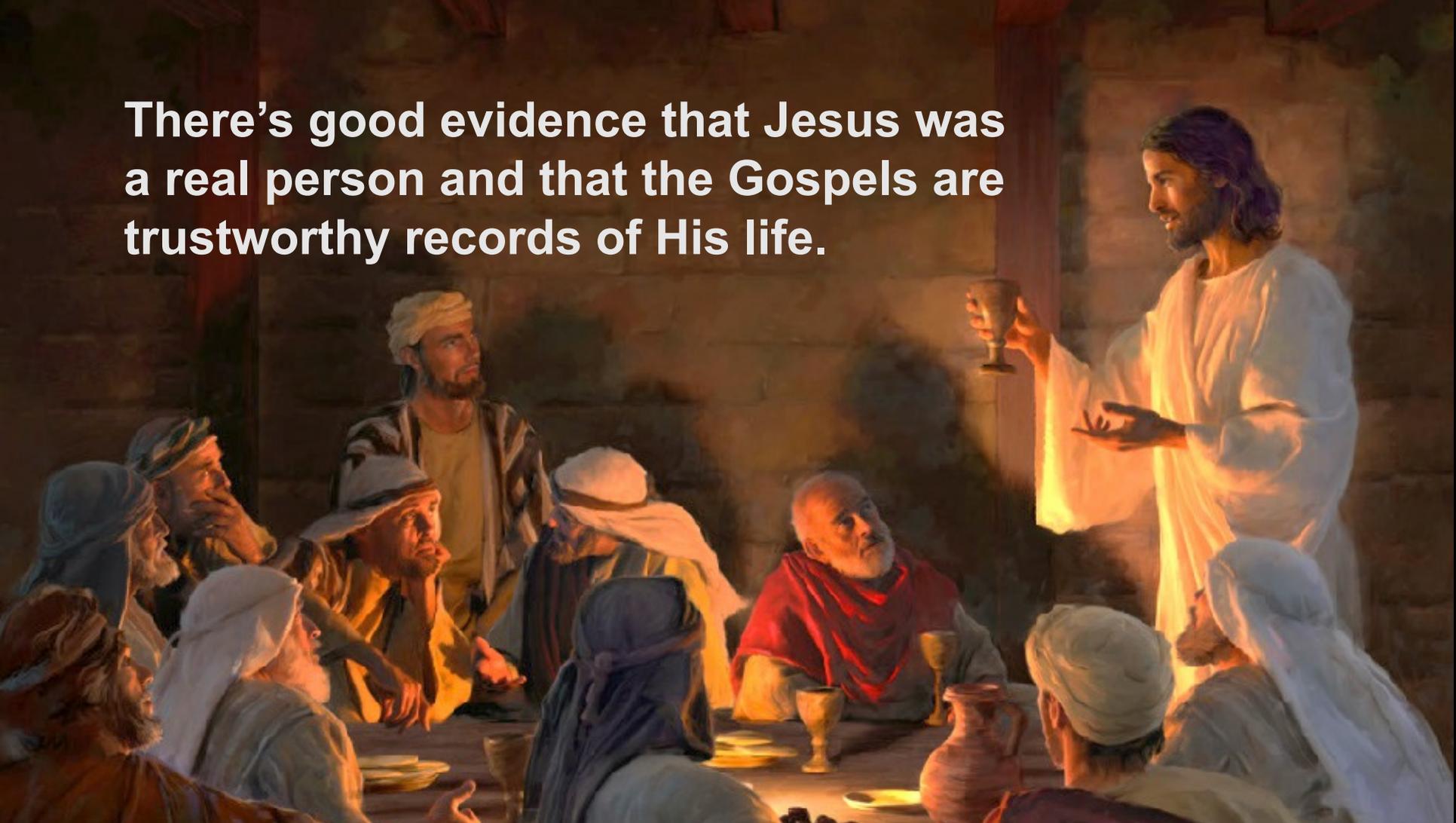


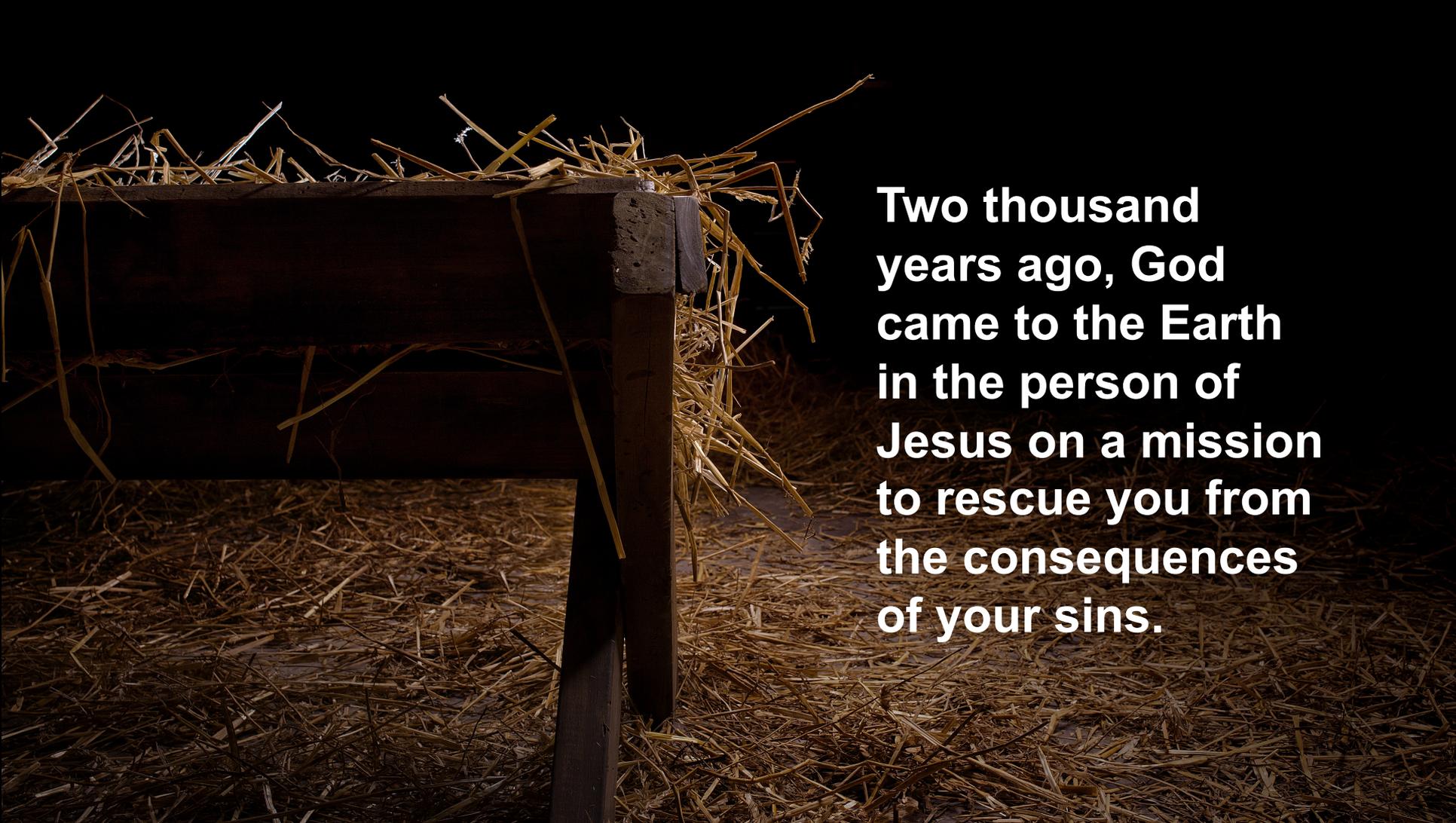
The Christians (who were widely familiar in the second and third centuries with the *genuine* teachings of Jesus and the apostles) knew that these were not the kinds of things Jesus or the disciples ever taught.

**YOU HAVE NOT
FOLLOWED
“CLEVERLY
DEvised MYTHS.”**

(2 Peter 1:16)

There's good evidence that Jesus was a real person and that the Gospels are trustworthy records of His life.





**Two thousand
years ago, God
came to the Earth
in the person of
Jesus on a mission
to rescue you from
the consequences
of your sins.**



On the cross, God suffered the condemnation and judgment you deserve for your sins, so that you could be forgiven, rescued from spending eternity in Hell, and be brought back into a right relationship with Him.

He rose from the grave three days later, and today He offers all humanity:

- **“the forgiveness of sins”**
(Acts 26:18)
- **“peace with God”**
(Romans 5:1)
- **the “free gift”
of “everlasting life”**
(Romans 6:23; John 3:16)



**“Whosoever
believes in
Him will not
perish but have
everlasting life.”**

–JESUS

(John 3:16)





God, thank You for loving me. Please forgive me for my sins. I trust in Jesus Christ to save me! Come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.



God, thank You for loving me. Please forgive me for my sins. I trust in Jesus Christ to save me! Come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:13

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”