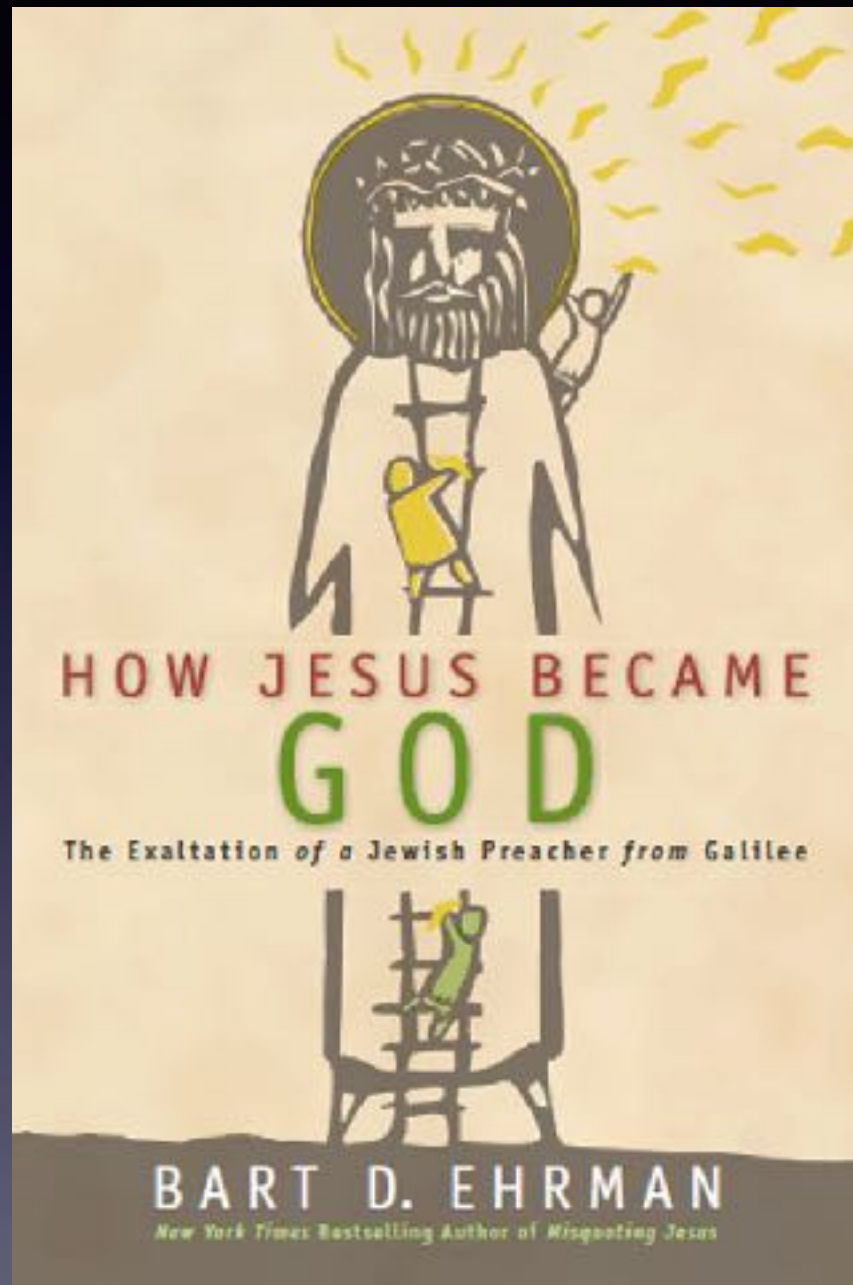


# How Jesus Became God

ACTS

Winter 2017

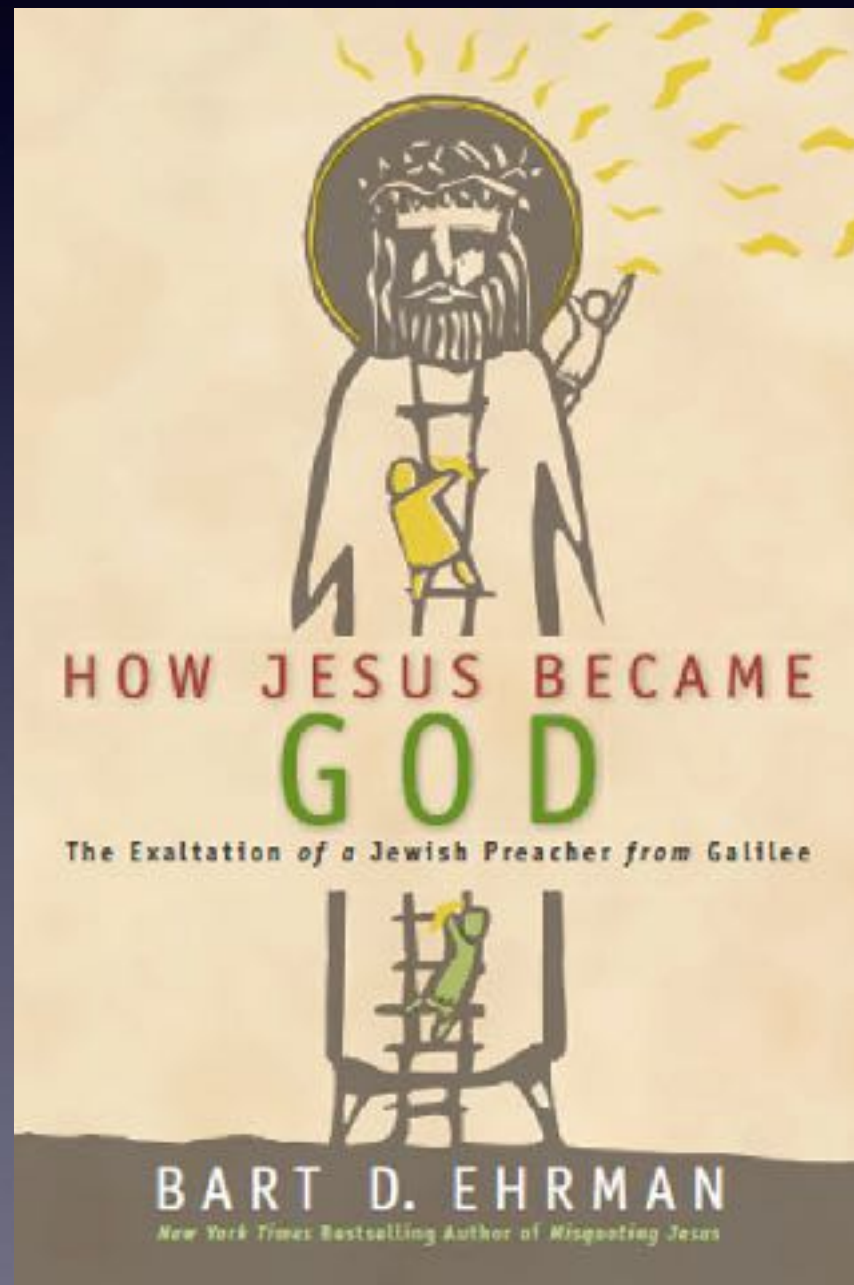
St David's United Church  
Calgary



# How Jesus Became God

## Chapter 4.

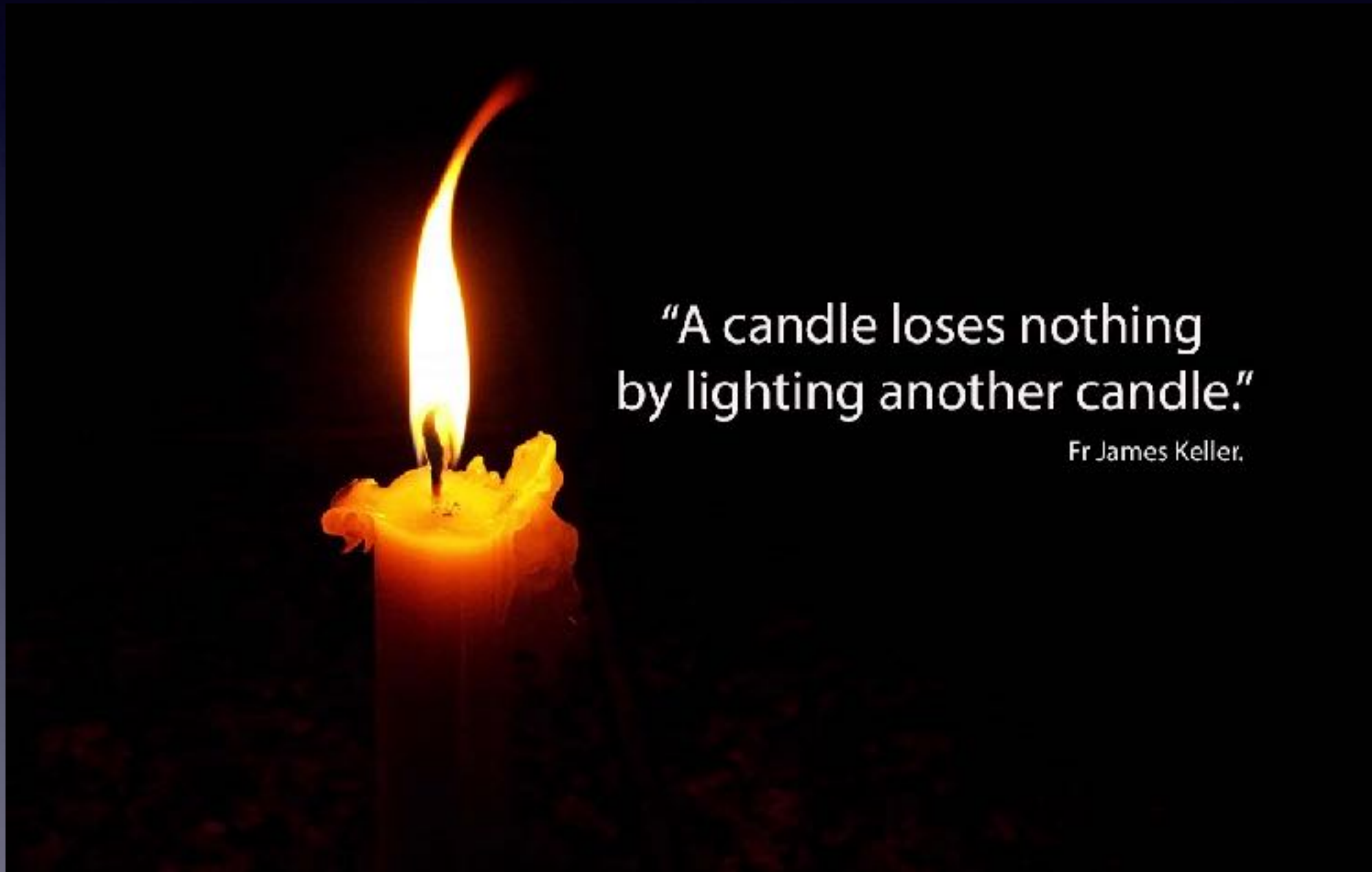
### The Resurrection of Jesus: What We Cannot Know



## Session # 5

- Opening
- Presentation
- Break
- Video
- Discussions
- Closing

# Opening

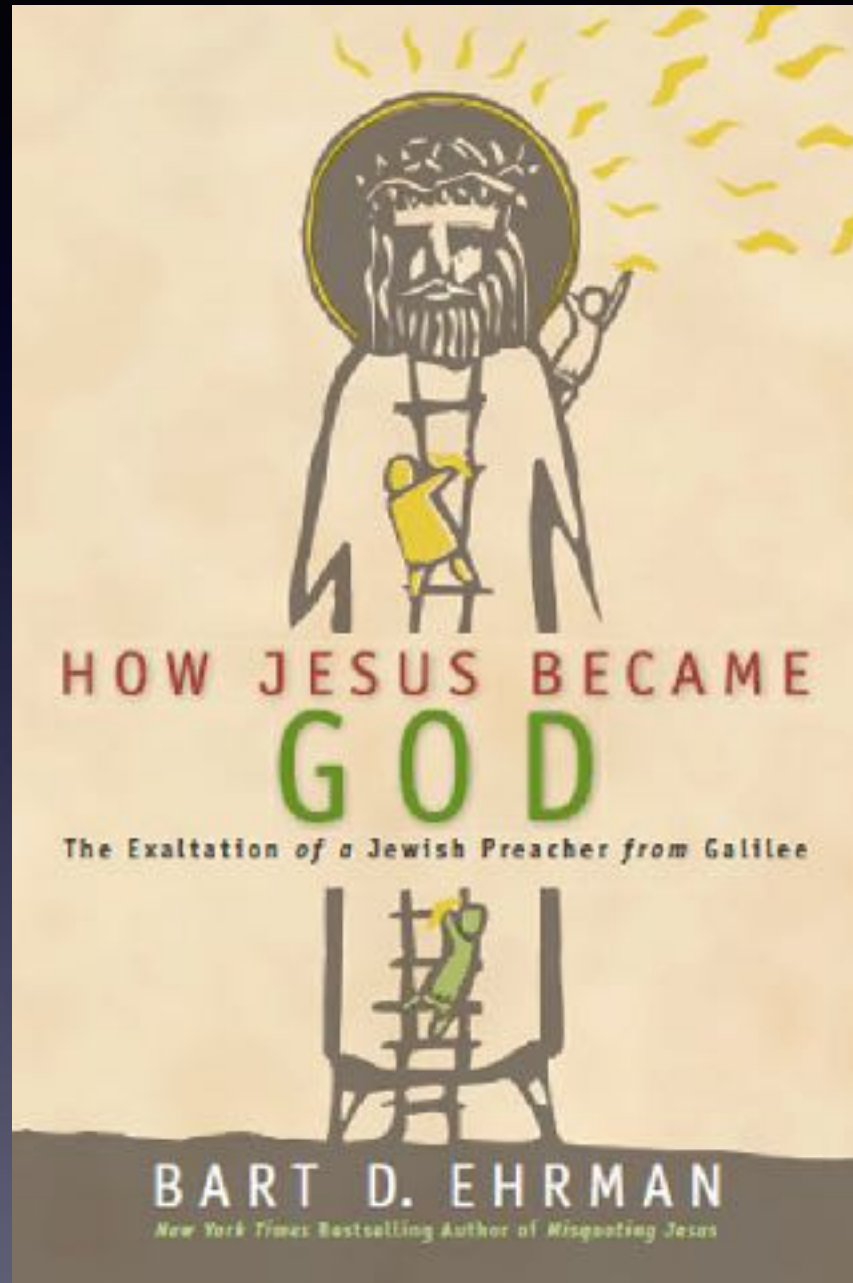


Holy Manners Bookstudy 38

How Jesus Became God

Chapter 4.

The Resurrection of  
Jesus: What We  
Cannot Know





# Summary to Date

## Concerning what makes a being divine:

- We have studied the mythological background of Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Ancient Judaism.
- We have wondered if Jesus thought he was God.



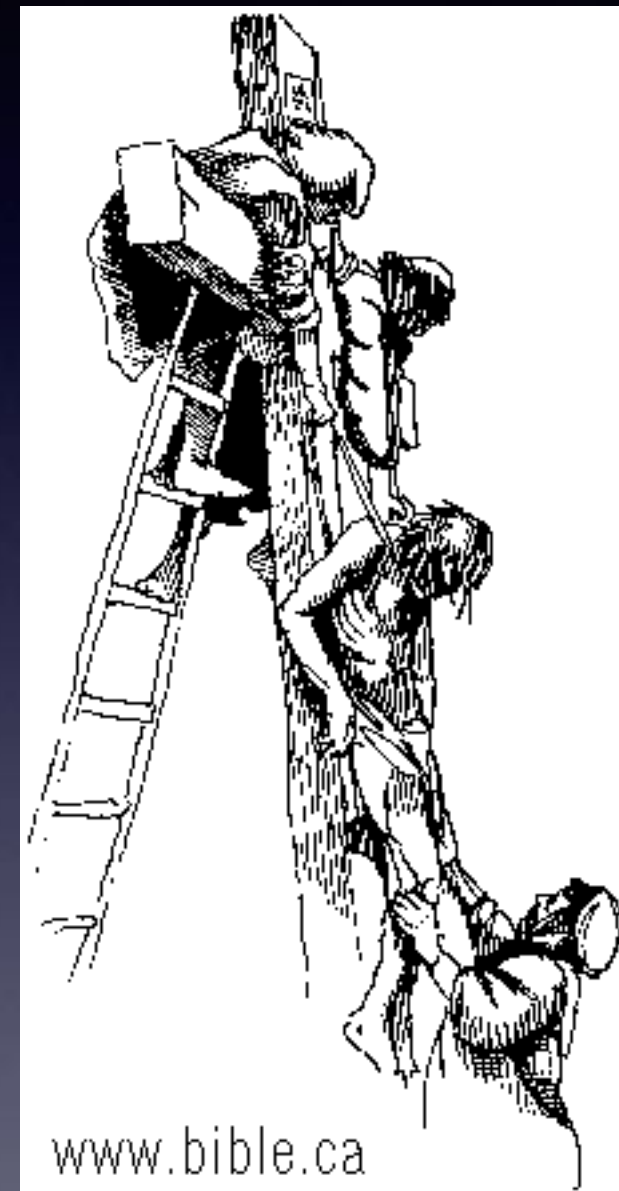
# The Resurrection.

The next two chapters (Ehrman four and five) deal with the core theme that separates Jesus from most ancient traditions relating to divinity (and especially in Judaism), that is the resurrection.



# The Resurrection of Jesus: What We Cannot Know

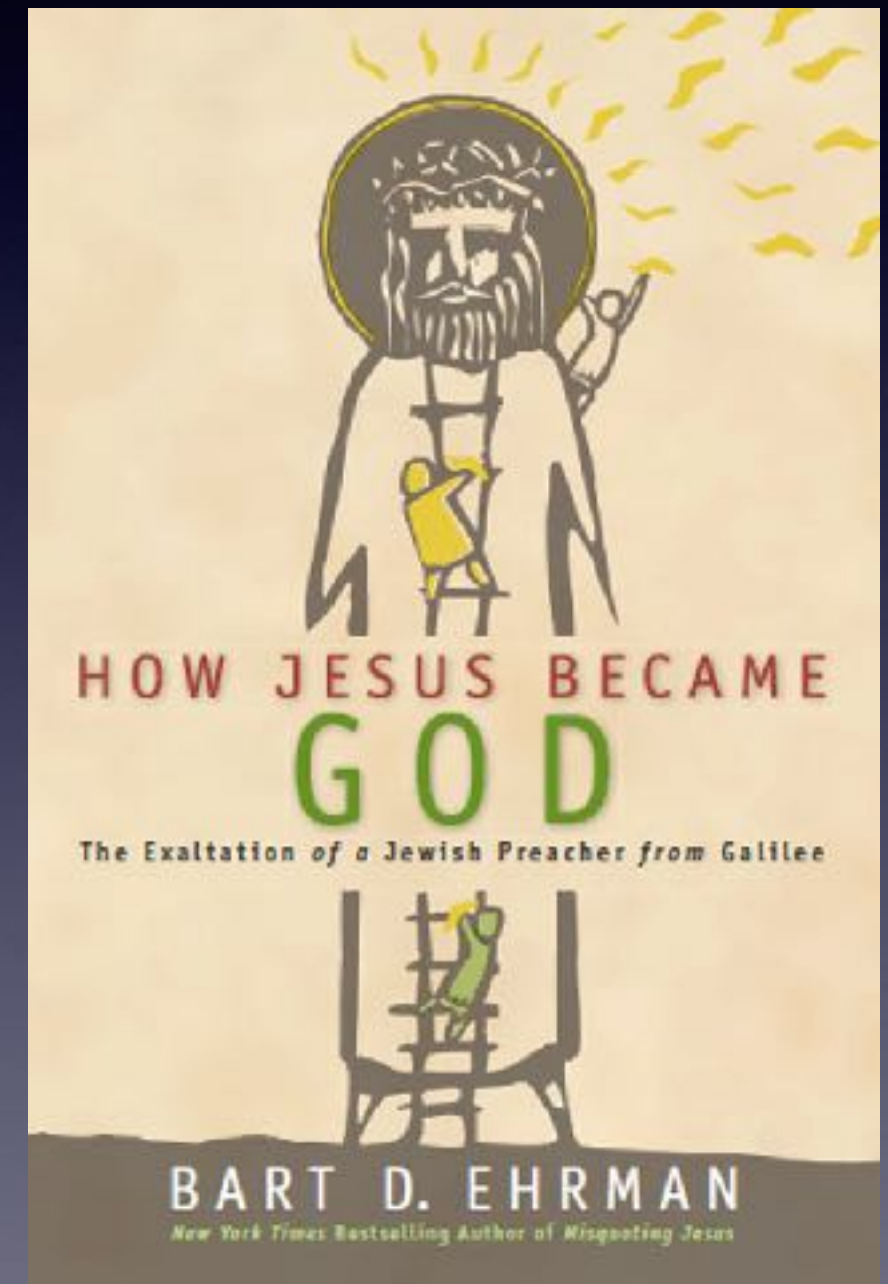
The next two chapters present Ehrman's attempt to demonstrate what - as academic historians - we can and cannot know about the resurrection of Jesus.





# A Key Point

- Faith and historical knowledge are two different ways of knowing.
- Herein lie the seeds of why Christians differ on the meaning of Jesus' resurrection.



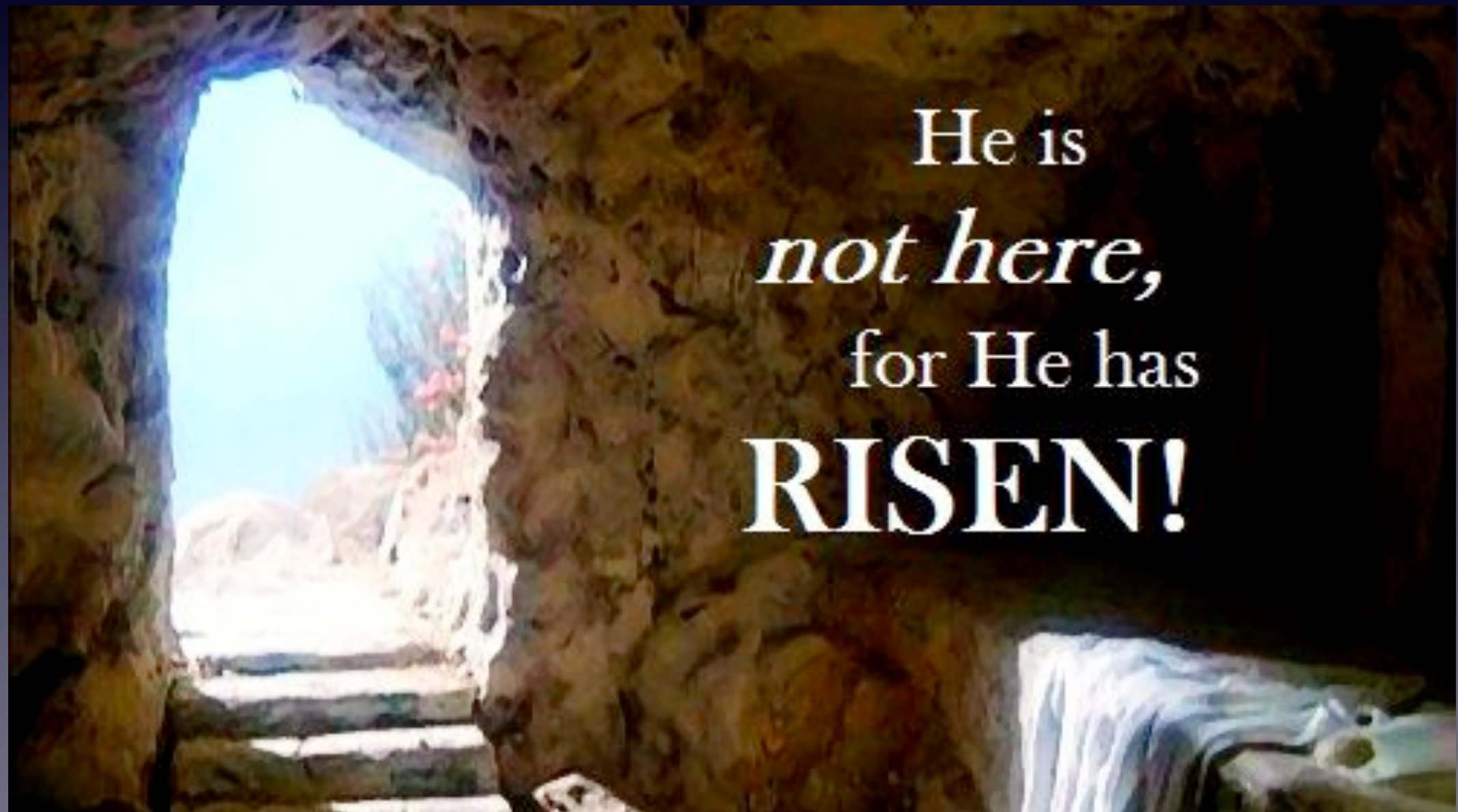


Some claim the resurrection was an historical event





Some claim the resurrection must be taken on the basis of faith, not historical "proof"



Others consider the resurrection  
"historical" in terms of meaning , but  
not "historical" in terms of fact.





But what do we mean by "history" or "historical"?





# Summary

- Conservative Christians tend to support the idea that Jesus' resurrection actually happened in history.
- More moderate to liberal Christians do not need historical evidence that Jesus' resurrection actually occurred..

# Discuss

# What was special about Jesus?

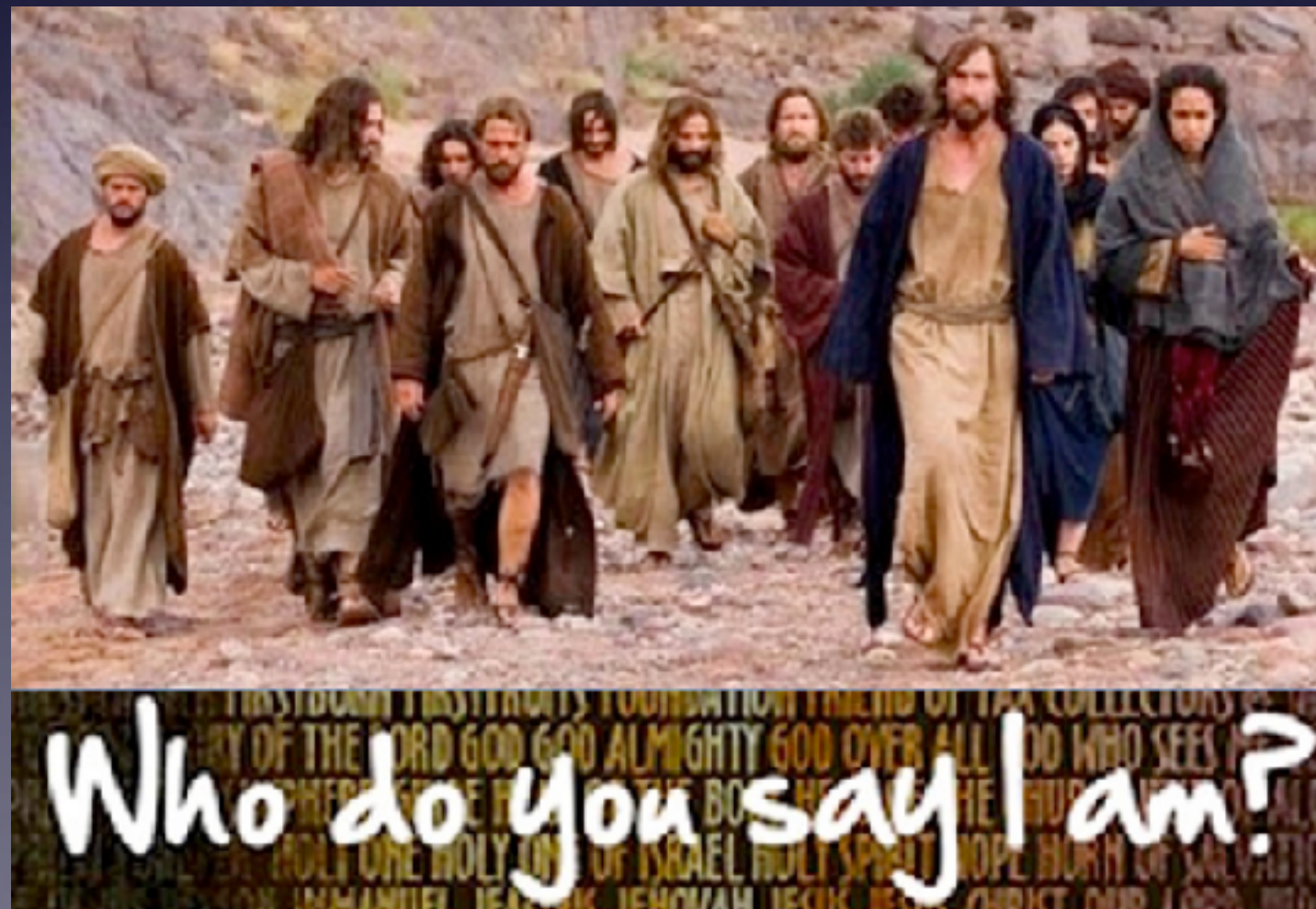
1. It was not his apocalyptic message. There were many would-be messiahs who preached that message.





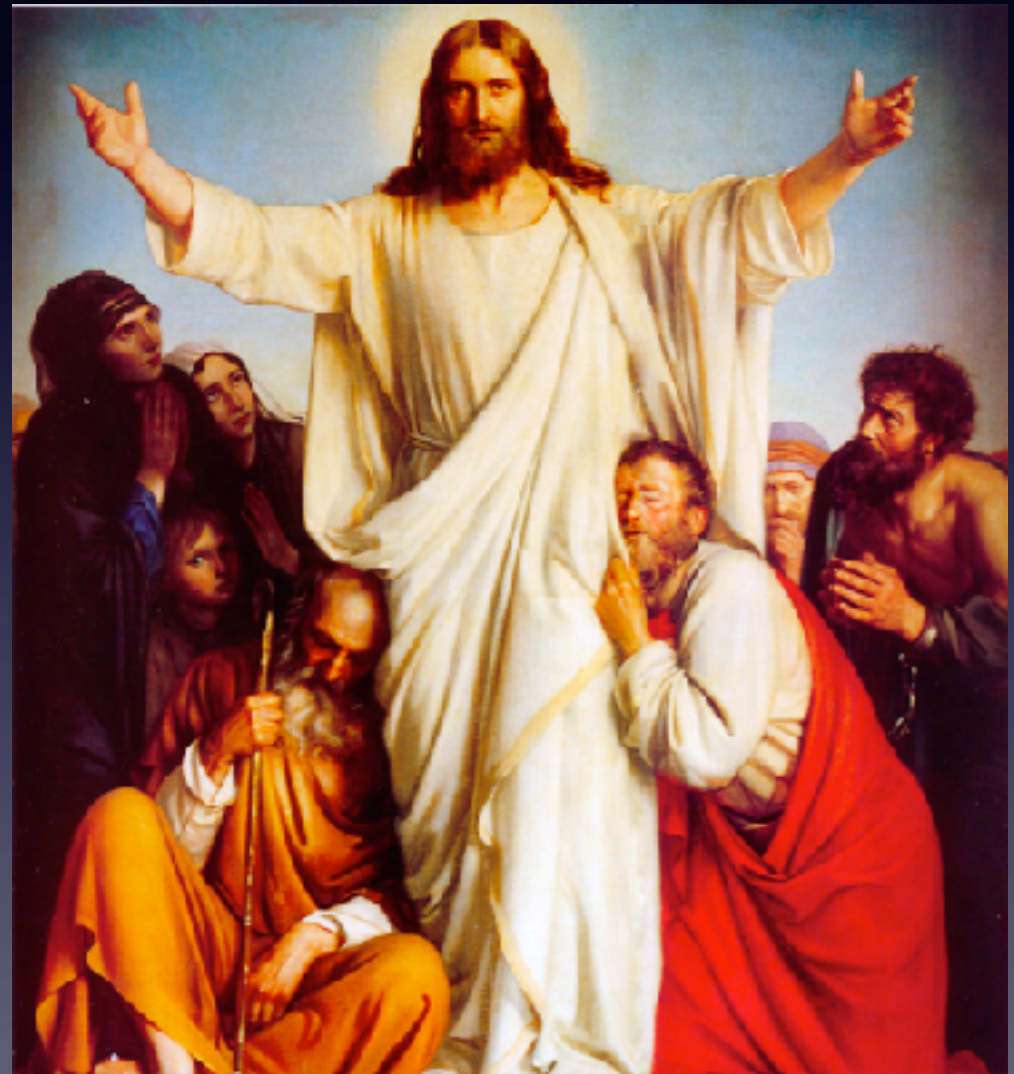
# What was special about Jesus?

2. The game-changer was the belief of early Christians that Jesus' message was confirmed by his resurrection. He was therefore not your typical messiah.



# What was special about Jesus?

3. Jesus' resurrection confirmed his messiahship.





# What was special about Jesus?

4. But not only that - Jesus' resurrection became the basis for the claim of his early church followers that Jesus was God.

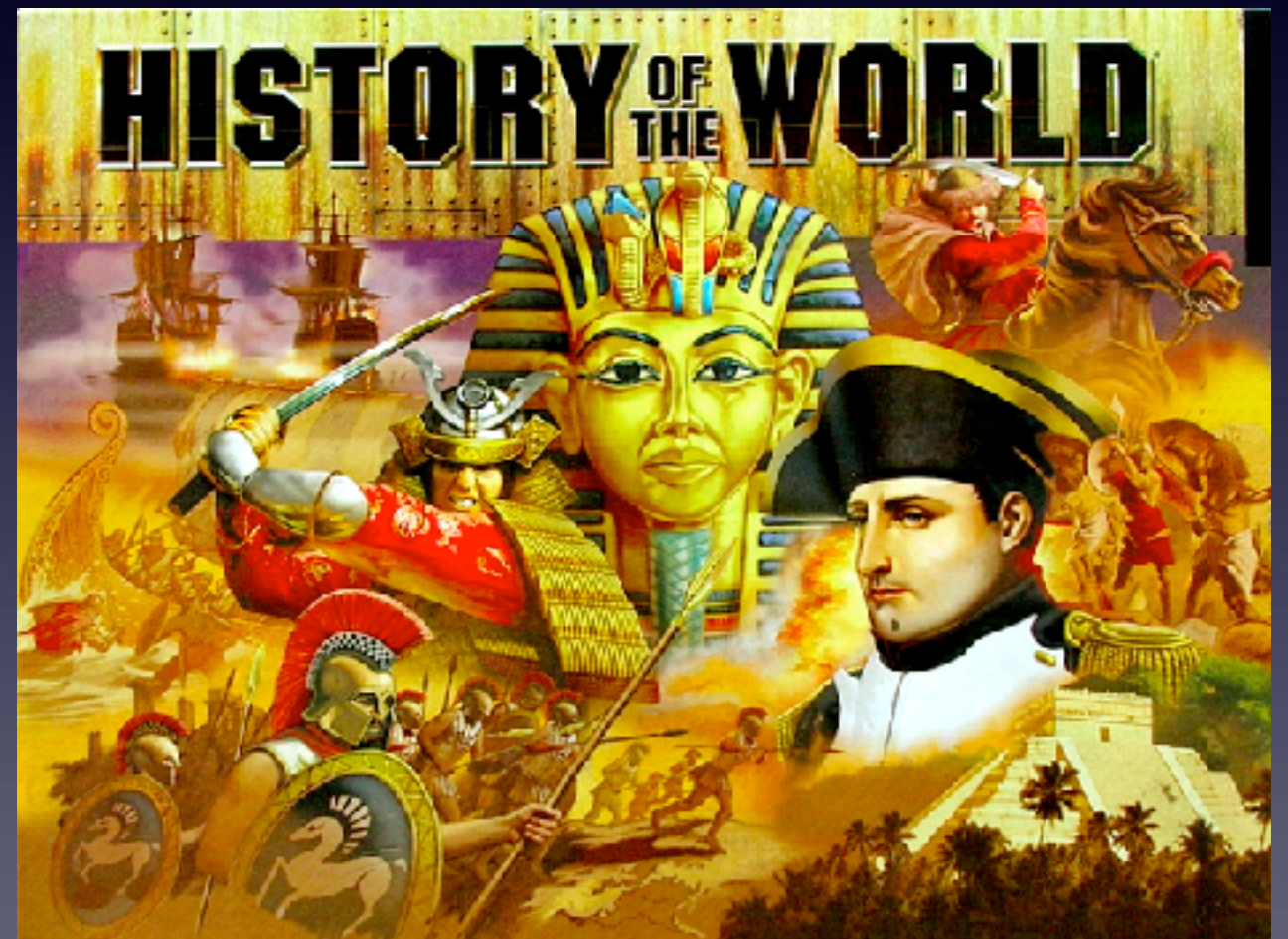


Constantine's Vision

# The Resurrection of Jesus: What We Cannot Know

Ehrman declares:

History can neither prove or disprove the resurrection. By that he means "history" as understood by modern professional historians.





## **It boils down to - historical evidence vs. religious belief**

Religious beliefs are based on personal faith without historical evidence. Religious conviction that an event happened does not need shared presuppositions.

It is subjective, not objective in nature.

Historical evidence is based on shared presuppositions - when different sources confirm that an event did in fact occur.

It is objective, not subjective in nature.

**Discuss**

# The Resurrection of Jesus: What We Cannot Know

Ehrman goes into great academic detail to explain why historians have a problem discussing Jesus' resurrection.

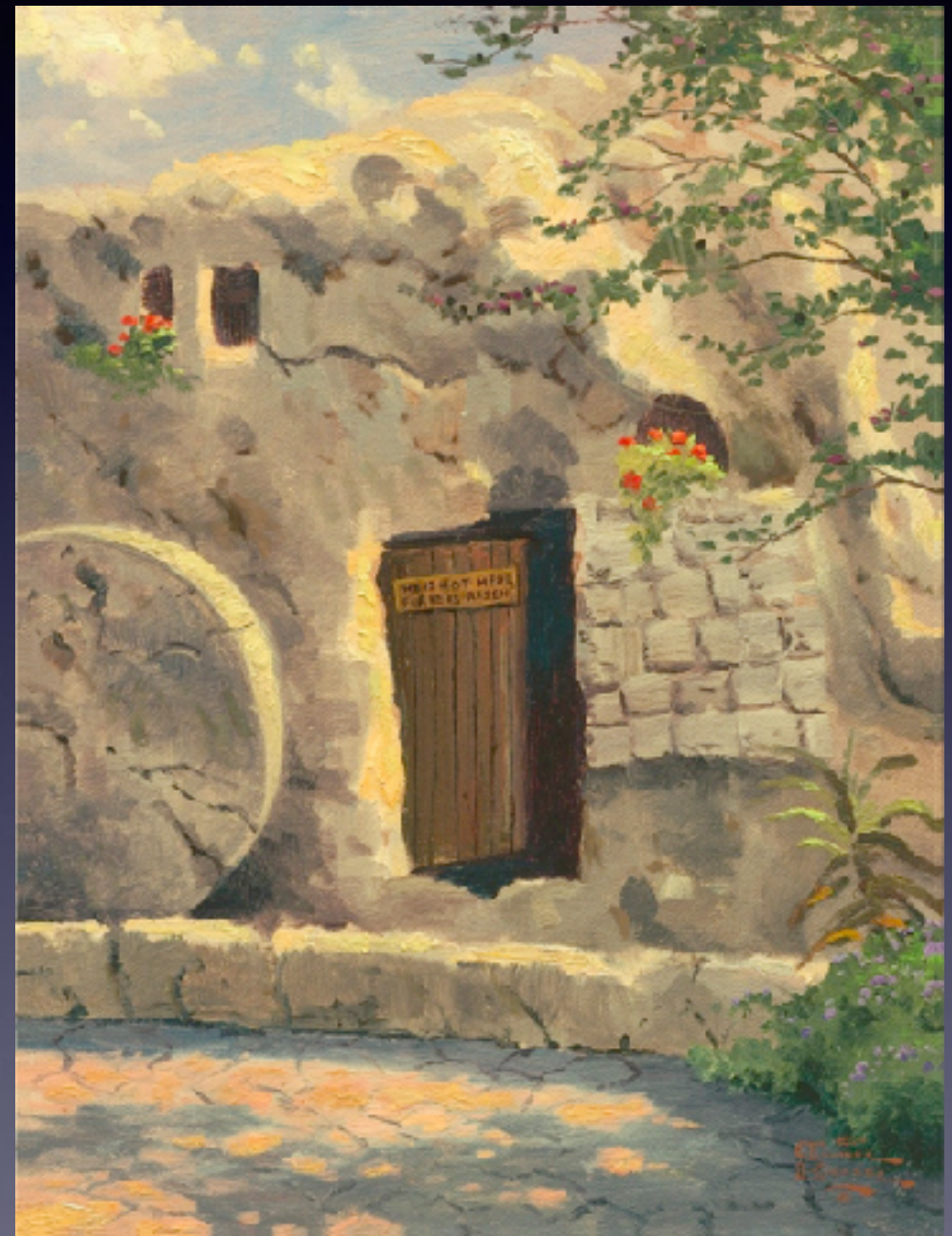
This is his primary task in the current chapter.





# The Resurrection of Jesus: What We Cannot Know

- His "empty tomb" discussion may or may not appeal to us because it is so detailed.
- Yet, this is a worthy explanation about why historians challenge the historicity of the resurrection.



# The Resurrection of Jesus: What We Cannot Know

Still, Ehrman grants that an historian who is also a person of faith can believe the resurrection actually happened.

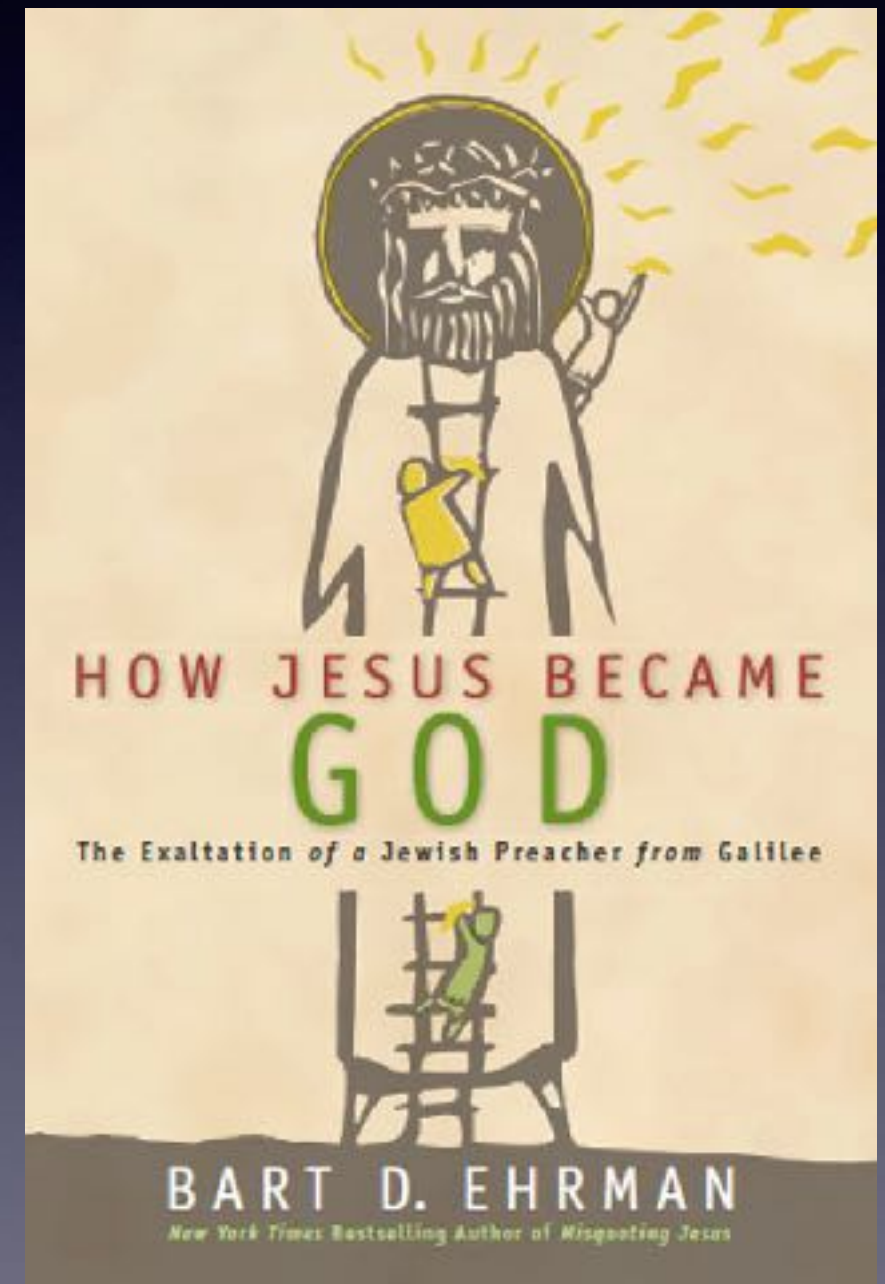


## Discuss



# Other interesting details

- Roman practices of crucifixion
- Greek and Roman practices of using common graves for criminals
- The policies of Pontius Pilate in particular.





# The empty tomb

## Discuss

Why the early Christians needed to believe that the tomb of Jesus was discovered empty after he had been buried there several days earlier.





# The empty tomb

## Discuss

the gnostic belief that Jesus only 'appeared' to have risen from the dead, compared to the mainstream conviction that he did, in fact, physically rise.



# Video

12m excerpts from lecture

Veritas Forum, UC-Santa Barbara

“The Resurrection Argument That Changed a Generation of Scholars - Gary Habermas at UCSB ” Nov 8, 2012

Gary Habermas is the Distinguished Professor of Apologetics and Philosophy and chairman, Department of Philosophy and Theology, at Liberty University, explores the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ay\\_Db4RwZ\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ay_Db4RwZ_M)

# Next Readings

Session 6 - 27 Feb 2017

Ch 5. The Resurrection of Jesus: What We Can Know

**Study Website**

<http://hjbg.stdavidscalgary.net>



# Closing



"I can only trust that even oppressive darkness cannot  
snuff the light cast from many tiny flames of truth."

Melanie Jean Juneau