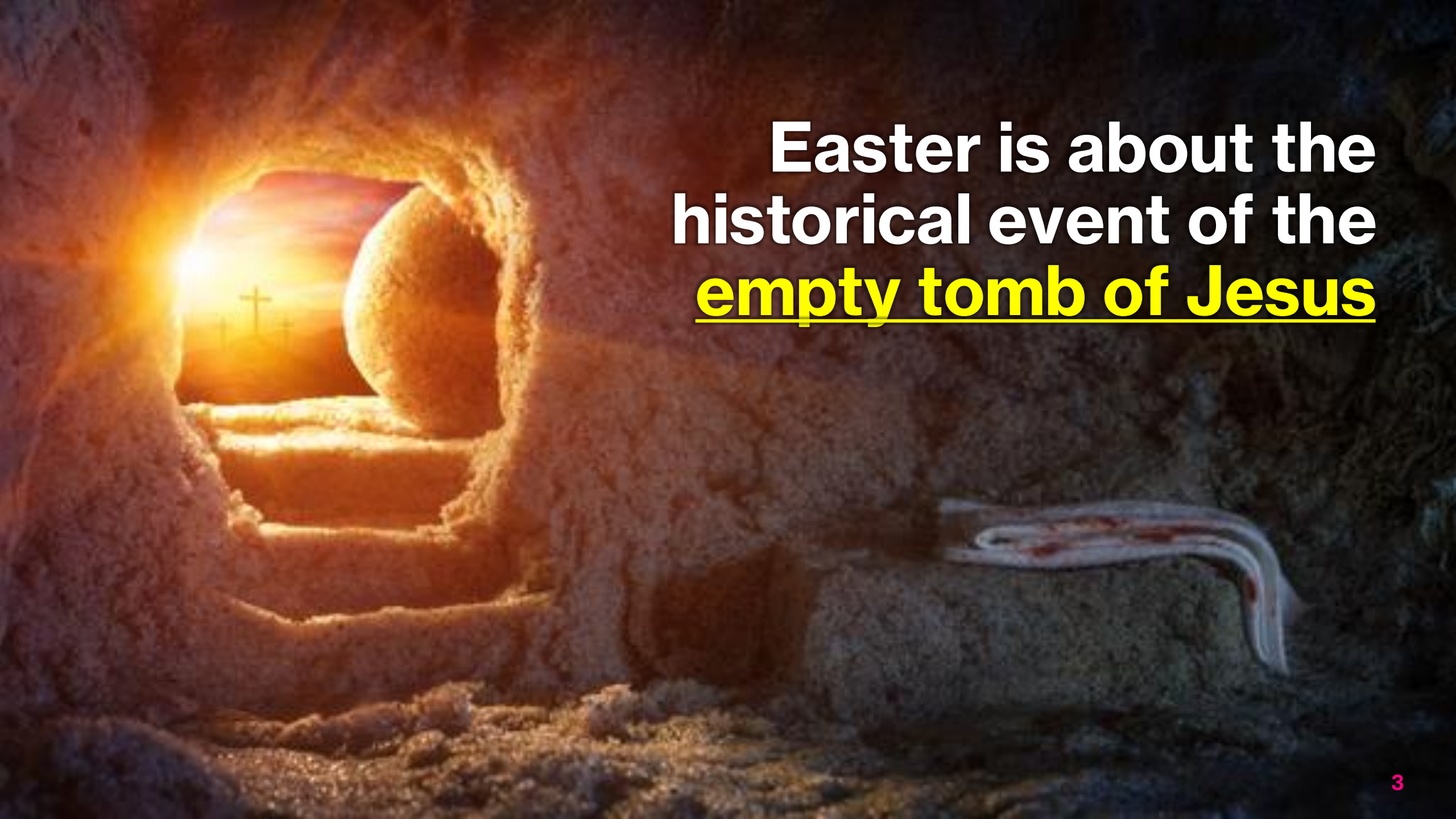


Living in the Power and Hope of the Resurrection

SJSM Easter Gospel Sermon | Ven Wong Tak Meng | 20 April 2025

**Easter is not
about the
arrival of
spring,
or about
bunnies, eggs
and chicks**





**Easter is about the
historical event of the
empty tomb of Jesus**

The body of Jesus laid in a tomb of stone

Jesus repeatedly predicted his own death and resurrection

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed, and on the third day be raised.** (Matt 16:21, cf. 17:9, 17:23, 20:19, 26:32)

His executioners confirmed his death with a spear thrust to his side

But when they came to Jesus and saw that **he was already dead**, they did not break his legs... one of the soldiers **pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.** (John 19:33-34)

He was buried by reputable persons with Roman permission and Jewish customs.

Joseph of Arimathea.. asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and **Pilate gave him permission...** **Nicodemus**... came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about **seventy-five pounds** in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, **as is the burial custom of the Jews.** (John 19:38-40)

And (Joseph) **rolled a great stone** to the entrance of the tomb (Matt 27:60)

The seal and the guards were no match

To prevent theft, a Roman Guard were posted at the sealed tomb

“...order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, **lest his disciples go and steal him away.**” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went and made the tomb secure by **sealing the stone and setting a guard.** (Matt 27:64-66)

An earthquake happened, and an angel rolled back the stone

...toward the dawn of the first day of the week...there was **a great earthquake**, for **an angel of the Lord** descended from heaven and came and **rolled back the stone** and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And **for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.** (Matt 28:1-4)

The chief priests and elders bribed the guards to say the body was stolen

...**they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers** and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ **And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.**” (Matt 28:11-14)

Jesus showed himself resurrected

Mary Magdalene and the disciples saw the empty tomb.

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and **saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb...** Simon... **saw the linen cloths** lying there, **and the face cloth**, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. (John 20:1-10)

The risen Jesus walked, talked and broke bread with two disciples

While they were talking and discussing together, **Jesus himself drew near and went with them...** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself... When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. **And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.** (Luke 24:13-35)

Jesus appeared to his disciples and showed them the scars in his hands and side

John 20:19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, **"Peace be with you." ... "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side."** (John 20:19-28)

Christ has **died**, Christ is **risen**, Christ will **come again**

Jesus appeared to multiple groups of people, and restored and commissioned his disciples to continue his mission

Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias... This was now **the third time** that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. (John 21:1-14)

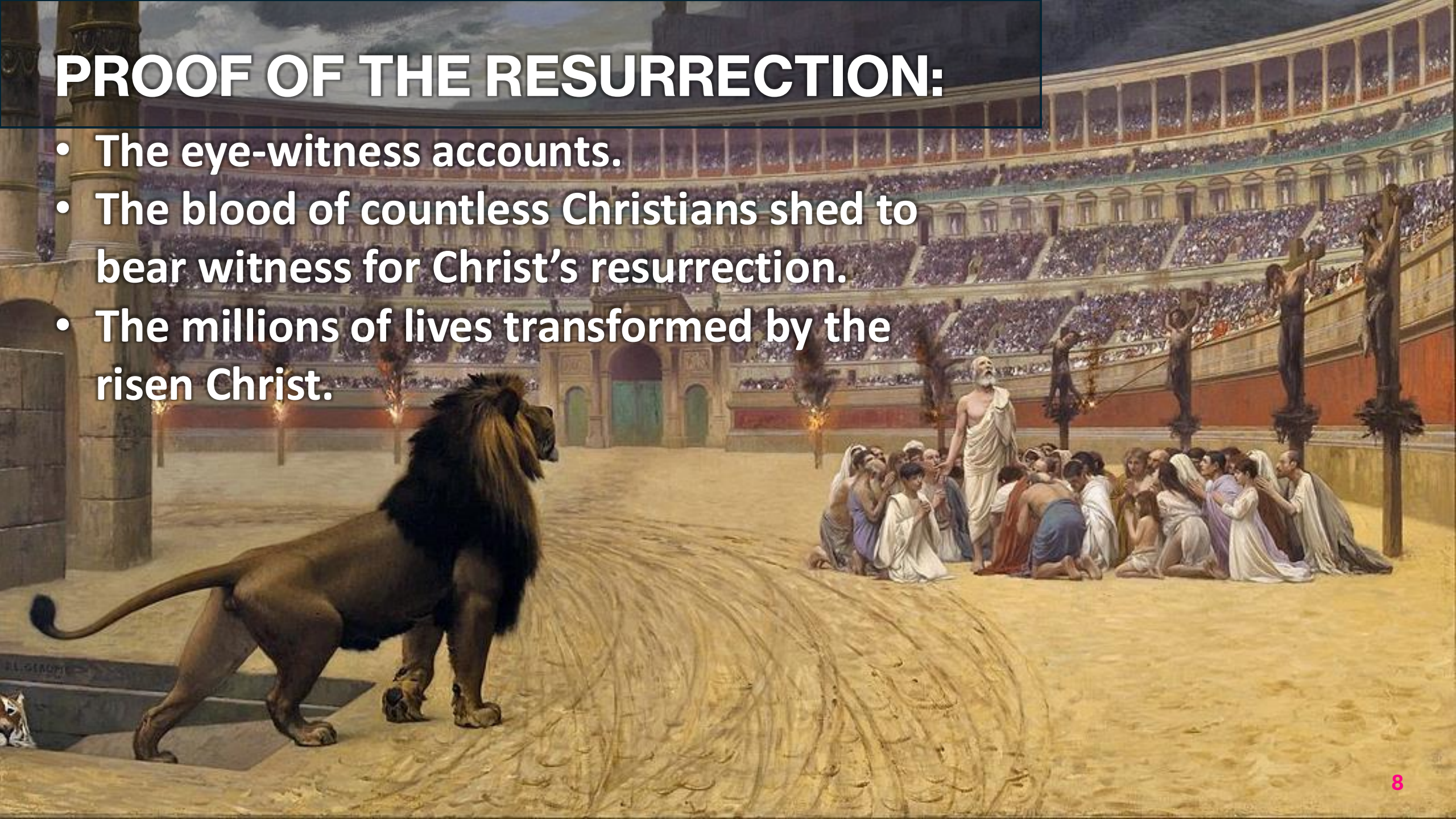
...**he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time**, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then **he appeared to James, then to all the apostles**. (1 Cor 15:6-7)

Jesus presented himself alive for 40 days, before ascending to heaven, giving assurance of his return.

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering **by many proofs**, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God... as they were looking on, **he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight...** "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**" (Acts 1:3-11)

PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION:

- The eye-witness accounts.
- The blood of countless Christians shed to bear witness for Christ's resurrection.
- The millions of lives transformed by the risen Christ.



Three ways the Resurrection of Christ has changed my life



1. The Resurrection proves that Jesus is who He claimed to be – fully man, fully God, came to save us from our sins.

Jesus said, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)**

...there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

2. The Resurrection enables me to live by faith in the risen Christ who is living in me.

It is no longer I who live, but **Christ who lives in me**. And the life I now live in the flesh I live **by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)

I count everything as loss ... **that I may gain Christ... and be found in him...** having a **righteousness... that depends on faith — 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection...(Phil 3:7-10)**

3. The Resurrection gives me a glorious hope for an eternal destiny beyond this life, with God and my loved ones forever.

Behold! I tell you a mystery... For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.** When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: **“Death is swallowed up in victory.”** “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” (1 Cor 15:51-55)

Let's choose today, to live in the power and hope of His resurrection!

Jesus said...

"I am the resurrection and the life.

**Whoever believes in me,
though he die, yet shall he live,
and everyone who lives and believes
in me shall never die.**

(John 11:25-26)