

# Any questions?

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Undershepherd *Don*

## Rabbi Pinchas Lapid (1922-1997)

- ✓ Unbeliever
- ✓ Jewish theologian
- ✓ Israeli historian
- ✓ Was instrumental in gaining recognition for the young state of Israel
- ✓ Israeli diplomat from 1951-61
- ✓ Authored more than 35 books.

## Rabbi Pinchas Lapidé on the resurrection of Jesus:

"When this scared, frightened band of apostles which was just about to throw away everything in order to flee in despair to Galilee; when these peasants, shepherds, and fishermen, who betrayed and denied their master and failed him so miserably, suddenly could be changed overnight into a confident mission society, convinced of salvation and able to work with much more success after Easter than before, then no vision or hallucination is sufficient to explain such a revolutionary transformation." (p.125, *Jewish Perspectives on the Resurrection of Jesus*).

## Rabbi Pinchas Lapide on the resurrection of Jesus:

- ✓ Believes Jesus rose from the dead, but does not believe he is the Messiah.
- ✓ Believes Jesus was a man of extraordinary righteousness.
- ✓ Believes God raised Jesus from the dead, not because Jesus was the Messiah, but out of mercy and in foresight.
- ✓ God had foresight regarding the effect that Jesus' resurrection would have on Gentiles, drawing them to faith in one God and to read the Old Testament Scriptures.
- ✓ Foresight in bringing the knowledge of the God of the OT to the world—how apropos in light of Psalm 22.

## The critical importance of Christian foundations

- It is God the Holy Spirit Who illuminates and enables us to be objective. Apart from a healthy spiritual life, the noetic effects of carnality decontextualizes us to the plan of God and distorts divine viewpoint.
- Apologetics only deals with intellectual barriers. It alone cannot bring someone to Christ. We live in a scientific age, and it is the scientists and historians that people look to for answers. A person's volition is very clever in finding excuses and alternate theories to life.
- Resurrection of Jesus more than any other doctrine can establish a permanent unassailable foundation.
- One of the most common problems among believers is when they make peripheral issues their foundation.

# Theological/Doctrinal Foundations : Eschatology (25)

## The Future Resurrected Body

**1 Cor 15:42b-44**, It [human body] is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown as a *soma psychikon* (soulish body), it is raised as a *soma pneumatikon*.

- ✓ The contrast is not between natural and spiritual: i.e. physical and spiritual as non-physical.
- ✓ See 1 Cor 3:1. Spiritual does not mean non-physical.
- ✓ The contrast is with a soul-empowered/enlivened body (hylomorphism) versus a spirit-empowered/enlivened body—soul gives life to body now, but the Holy Spirit will be the source of life in resurrected bodies—further, the HS, not our organs, will perpetuate the physical resurrected life—that transphysical body.

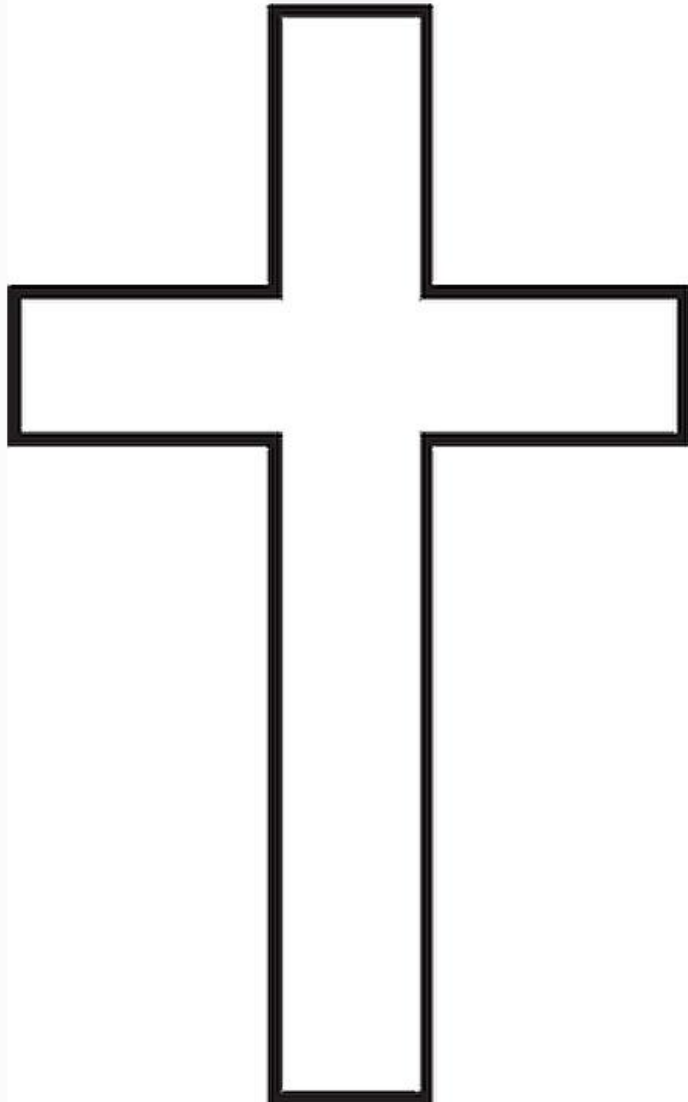
## The Future Resurrected Body of the Unbeliever

**Luke 16:19-31; Rev 6:9-11 (interim bodies); Rev 14:10-11; 20:12**

- ✓ Unbelievers will have indestructible sensate bodies.
- ✓ All of creation is maintained by the power of God. This means that the unbeliever's eternal imperishable unglorified corrupted body will be sustained by God—though without any fellowship with Him.
- ✓ Rev 14:10-11, those in torments/Hell are described as being in the presence of Christ--(wrath from the Lamb).
- ✓ Degrees of pain and suffering in Hell are related to how much divine light a person receives before his death, Matt. 11:21-24, cf. Rom 1:18-21. Greater light rejected leads to greater judgment and far greater misery. JSJC?
- ✓ Marriage counseling & marital status in heaven.

# Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

## #1 Salvation – The Work of Christ



### 4 WORD PICTURES:

**Propitiation** → **Temple**  
**Redemption** → **Market-place**  
**Justification** → **Courtroom**  
**Reconciliation** → **Family**

**= 100% BY GRACE!**



#1



#2



Salvation

#3



#4



# Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

## #2, The Spiritual Life and Testing

**1 Corinthians 10:10** Nor grumble, as some of them did [Exodus generation], and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

**\*Supergrace life is for each and every person!**

# Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

## #3: Growth in Grace through the stages of life

**Psalm 23:1** *A Psalm of David.* The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## Resurrection Special #24:

### Matthew 27:51: The Rent Veil & Falsifying Naturalism (1)

#### **The Development of the Four Gospels**

Review of the development of the four gospels and apologetics. The Scrolls were about 30' long. It has been estimated that there were about 10 scrolls of the New Testament—all under apostolic eye-witness protection.



**1. At the crucifixion of Christ, the veil separating the holy place from the Holy of Holies was ripped in two from top to bottom:**

- ✓ **Matthew 27:51** And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom,
- ✓ **Luke 23:45** the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two.
- ✓ **Mark 15:38** And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom,

**2. Following slides provide an overview of the tabernacle, the two temples, and the veil.**

# Tabernacle

**Exodus 25:8-9** "And let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. "According to all that I am going to show you, *as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.*



# Tabernacle



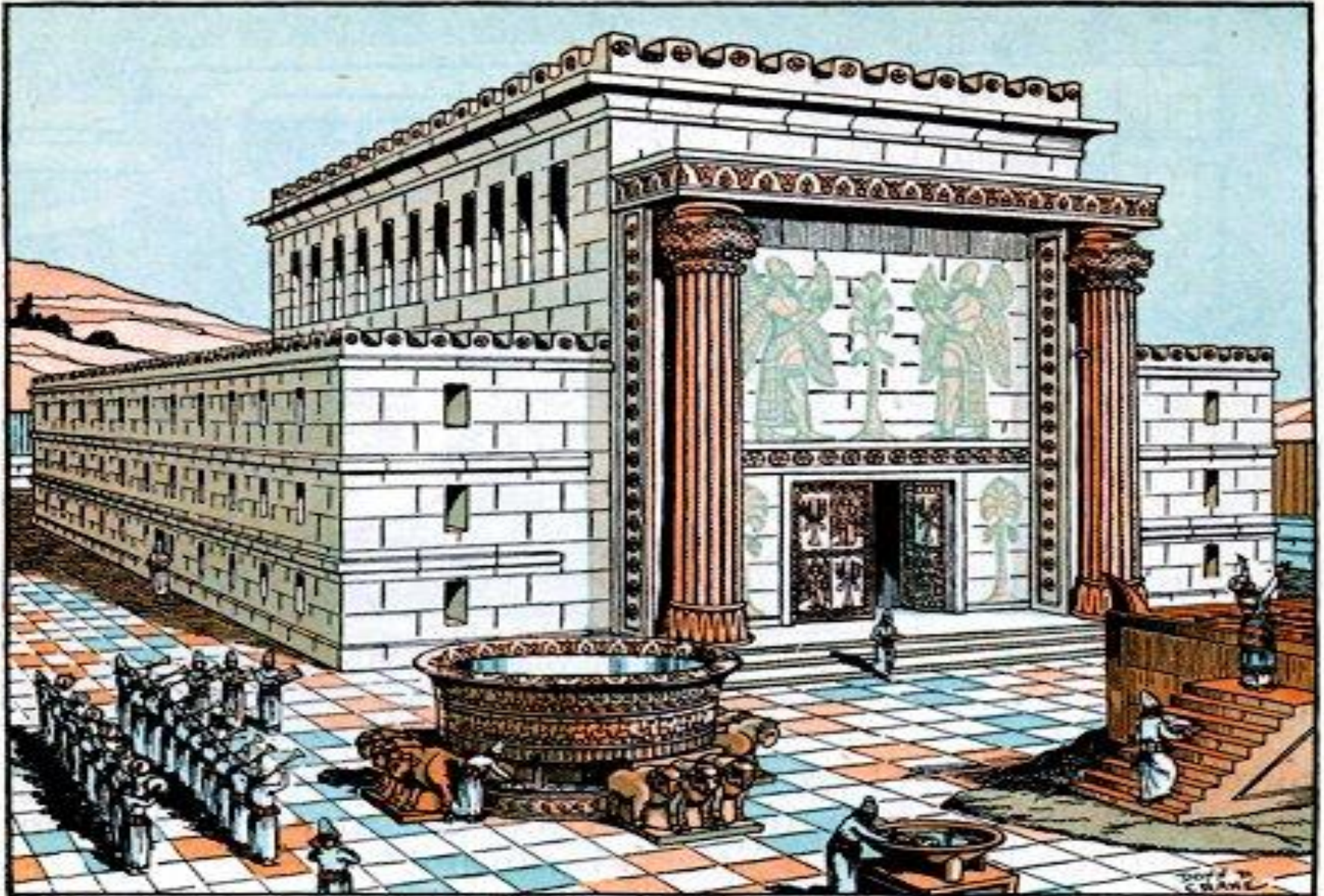
# The First Temple

**2 Samuel 7:6** "For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup> "Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"

**1 Chronicles 28:6** "And He said to me, 'Your son Solomon is the one who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be a son to Me, and I will be a father to him.'



# The First Temple (by Solomon)



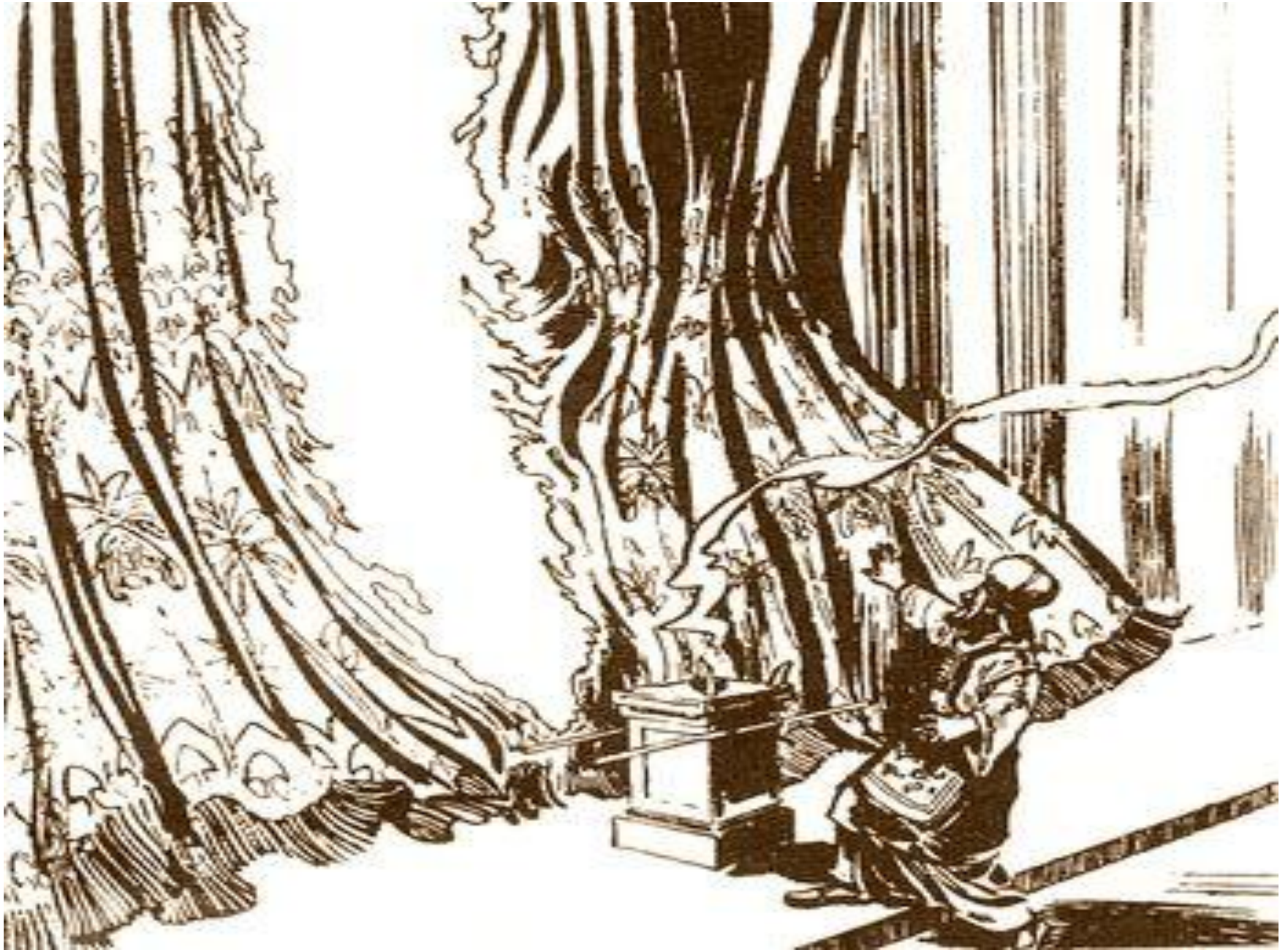
# Destruction of the First Temple by Nebuchadnezzar, 586 B.C.



# The Second Temple – 516 B.C. – A.D. 70 (Herod's Temple below, 20 B.C. – A.D. 70)



# The Tearing of the Veil before the Holy of Holies



# The Tearing of the Veil before the Holy of Holies



# Destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple



# Destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in A.D. 70

Titus carrying the contents of the Temple back to Rome



# Jewish Temple remains to this day





## The Temple Veil

3. Josephus informs us that the veil was about 4” thick. It was also 11 yards in length and 22 yards in height. This would make the weight between 4-6 tons depending upon the material. It took 300 priests to carry it. Embroidered on it was panorama of the heavens. So its tearing would depict opening access to heaven.
4. The veil was torn by God during the evening sacrifice in the Temple. It would have been obvious to the attendant priests. Many of them became believers:
  - ✓ **Acts 6:7** And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

## The Temple Veil

5. 4 mutually independent testimonies to the rent veil:
- ✓ Tacitus, Histories 5:13, The doors of the inner shrine were suddenly thrown open, and a voice of more than mortal tone was heard to cry that the gods were departing.
  - ✓ Josephus, War, 6, 5, 3. Josephus records a mysterious extinction of the light in the golden Lampstand that took place forty years before destruction in A.D. 70.
  - ✓ Talmud and Josephus refer to a supernatural opening which was regarded as a sign coming destruction of the Temple, Jer. Yoma 43 c; 39:b.
  - ✓ Christian Scriptures and tradition.

# The Temple Veil

6. The tearing of the veil symbolizes two things: one judgment and one blessings. Judgment on –volition and blessings on + volition.

#1. Judgment for -volition. Departure of God's presence and impending judgment.

#2. Blessings for + volition. The end of the old order of sacrifices and the beginning of new access directly to God though the death of Jesus Christ.

## The Temple Veil

7. Since the function of the sanctuary veil would be to shut the Holy of Holies from the profane/common, the rending the veil would mean destroying the special character or holiness of the Holy of Holies.
8. The sanctuary was considered the dwelling place of God. We have here a picture of God leaving the Temple, cf. Ezek 10. Just as God employed the Babylonians as instruments in destroying the Temple under the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of discipline, so He employs the Romans to destroy the Temple in A.D. 70.

# The Temple Veil

**9. Hebrews 6:19-20.** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,<sup>20</sup> where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**10. Hebrews 10:19** Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh.

## **The Resurrection and Historiography**

1. God has seen fit in His providence to provide undeniable historical proof for the greatest event in human history, namely the resurrection of JC.
2. Resurrection establishes the truth of Christianity at its core and makes Christianity unassailable and unaffected by any and all peripheral issues.
3. Every trace of evidence for the resurrection is also evidence for our eventual resurrection. He conquered the grave and so will we. Because of JC we can face the future without fear.
4. Resurrection sets Christianity apart from all religions of the world. Christianity does not require blind leap of faith in the dark.

## **THOSE 4 INDISPUTABLE HISTORICAL FACTS**

1. These historical facts enjoy support from over 3,400 worldwide scholars from 1972 to the present (atheists, agnostics, cynics, revisionists, moderates, conservatives, liberals):

- #1 – Jesus’ burial by Joseph of Arimathea.
- #2 – The empty tomb discovered by women.
- #3 - Christ’s postmortem appearances as experienced by disciples.
- #4 - Origin of Christianity—i.e. the disciples’ belief in Jesus’ resurrection.

2. Historiography (philosophy of history) is the objective means of establishing historical proof.

#1 - What are the facts to be explained?

#2 - What is the best explanation of those facts?

Scope, power, plausibility, less ad hoc, illumination, outrivals other theories.

3. Today the relevant historical facts are largely agreed upon by critics—almost universally.



## **4. Review of naturalistic hypotheses:**

Naturalistic hypothesis #1: Fraud theory #1

Naturalistic hypothesis #2: Fraud theory #2

Naturalistic hypothesis #3: Wrong Tomb

Naturalistic hypothesis #4: Apparent Death

Naturalistic hypothesis #5: Hallucinations

Naturalistic hypothesis #6: Delusions

Naturalistic hypothesis #7: The Passover Plot

Naturalistic hypothesis #8: The Twin Hypothesis (Hurome)

Naturalistic hypothesis #9: Muslim Hypothesis

## **Natural Hypothesis #10: Watchtower Hypothesis**

- ✓ Denial of deity and the bodily resurrection.
- ✓ Jesus was created by God as the archangel Michael
- ✓ He became a man and after crucifixion he was re-created as an immaterial spirit creature.
- ✓ Physical resurrection is viewed as hopeless eternal humiliation (in heaven as man = lower than angels)
- ✓ Human body of Jesus was disposed of by Almighty. IT either dissolved into gasses or was preserved somewhere as a grand memorial of God's love.
- ✓ The body in which he was nailed at the cross was not the same body he appeared to disciples. He came in a variety of disparate bodies—like angels or spirits (exception was made for Thomas).

# The Bankruptcy of Naturalism (physicalism/scientism)

1. Naturalism is the overriding belief that the physical natural world is all there is—the sum of reality. This really is the only *a priori* that keeps someone from accepting the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. This is the prevalent view today: if something cannot be tested empirically then it has no meaning—or reality. In our age people look to scientists for Truth.
3. What are some of the problems with naturalism?
  - ✓ It is a philosophical objection to resurrection of JC.
  - ✓ Science has its own limitations
  - ✓ It flunks its own test—no way to test this claim.

## Naturalism/physicalism/scientism

4. The “New Atheists” (e.g., Dawkins, Dennett, Harris, and Hitchens) contention is that the centuries-old “war between science and religion (read “spiritual/theistic realm”)” is now over and that religion has lost.
5. However, there is not, and never has been, any war between science and religion at all. By the way: the Bible was first witness about 1) creation singularity ex nihilo by a spaceless, timeless, immaterial Being of unimaginable power and intelligence; 2) expanding universe, 3) constant laws of physics, and 4) law of decay (2<sup>nd</sup> Law of thermodynamics, Murphy’s Law).

## Naturalism/physicalism/scientism

6. There has instead been a conflict between two entirely different *philosophical* worldviews: the classical “teleological” vision of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas, on which purpose or goal-directedness is as inherent a feature of the material world as mass or electric charge; and the modern “mechanical” vision of Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, and Hume, according to which physical reality is comprised of nothing more than purposeless, meaningless particles in motion—mindless physics.

## Naturalism/physicalism/scientism

7. This modern “mechanical” view of nature continues to have a hold over naturalists. Their reductionists philosophy saturates everything—even among Christians. Consider the untenable position that the mind can be reduced to the physical brain or brain states (cf. epiphenomenalism).
8. The mechanical view or naturalism is *demonstrably false*—and utterly incompatible with the very existence of morality, rationality, and science itself.

## Naturalism/physicalism/scientism

9. There are six major categories of arguments that falsify naturalism (kalam cosmological argument, teleological, morality, rationality, resurrection of Jesus, existential knowledge of God).

### #1 - Kalam cosmological argument falsifies

#### naturalism:

- ✓ Why do things exist? We know from mathematical reasons and scientific reasons that the universe is not eternal. Why is it here?
- ✓ We know that the universe, time, and space came out of nothing by nothing (i.e. nothing of matter, space, and time). Out of nothing nothing comes. Only the Bible, among religious books, teaches this

# #1 - Kalam cosmological argument falsifies naturalism

- ✓ We know that the Cause of the universe, time, and space was an uncaused, timeless, spaceless, and immaterial Being/Entity with unfathomable power and a personal will.
- ✓ This Cause must be personal. He must be beyond space and time. The Cause must be an abstract thing like numbers or a Mind. The mind must be a transcendent intelligent mind.
- ✓ It is not longer scientifically credible not to believe in some type of transcendent miracle at creation.



## #2 – Teleological Argument falsifies Naturalism

- ✓ This speaks to the stunning extreme precise conditions for life. Scientists no longer question design. The question is is the Designer physics and mathematics or God.
- Three 3 choices with regard to the fantastic incredible precision.
  - Chance?
  - Physical necessity?
  - Designer? A word or two about Stephen Hawking (our modern Einstein) and two of his books, *Brief History of Time* (1988, over 30 million copies sold) and *Grand Design*. He is not an atheist. He is a deist of sorts. His purpose . . .

### **#3 – Moral reality falsifies Naturalism**

- ✓ Who posits that there are no objective morals?
- ✓ Who lives as if there are no objective morals?
- ✓ Who can justify morals on the basis of naturalism?
- ✓ Who lives as though there are no morals, no virtues, no vices, nothing good or evil? No justice?
- ✓ Are morals real or illusory? Objective or subjective?

## #4 – Rationality falsifies Naturalism

- ✓ Naturalism rejects the mind as a real entity.
- ✓ Naturalism posits that thinking is only the results of *physical* brain states.
- ✓ Through reductionism naturalism essentially equates a physical bioelectrical event with thoughts, concepts, feelings, love, et al.
- ✓ If all thoughts are nothing but the results of *natural* physical causes in the brain, then the very basis of rationality is destroyed.
- ✓ Naturalism can not even pass its own test.

## #5, Resurrection of Jesus Christ falsifies naturalism

- ✓ There is no natural explanation of the combined historical data which points to the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ All of the naturalistic theories of the resurrection of Jesus Christ have been abandoned by the most intelligent unbelievers for hundreds of years.

## #6, Existential knowledge of God falsifies naturalism

- ✓ **Romans 1:18-20** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
- ✓ **John 16:8** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me;

## Quiz

**Which of the following provides a correct description of *naturalism*?**

A- Most opposing theories offered to date adequately account for Jesus' resurrection.

B- The natural world is all there is.

C- Although Jesus rose from the dead, it was by natural causes.

D – Eating all natural foods without preservatives is the best diet one can have.

## Quiz

**Some critics claim that science has shown that resurrections are impossible. Why is this position false?**

A- Scientists are always biased by their atheism and their conclusions should always be rejected.

B- Although scientific studies may reveal that resurrections are impossible, we must accept Jesus' resurrection on faith alone.

C- Science has only shown that resurrections are impossible by *natural causes*.

D- All of the above.

## Quiz

**If a skeptic told you that he could never believe that Jesus rose from the dead because his experience tells him that when people die they stay dead, how might you respond?**

A- My experience from the Bible tells me differently. So our experiences cancel each other out.

B- His experience shows that the dead do not return to life by natural causes. However, this does not eliminate the possibility of God raising someone from the dead under special circumstances.

C- His experience shows him that 5,000 cannot be fed by five loaves of bread and two fish. However, it happened. Therefore, his reasoning is problematic.

D- All of the above.



## Quiz

**Skeptics will sometimes claim that even if God exists He cannot violate the laws of nature. What could you say in response?**

A- Nature is all there is. God exists and is, therefore, included in the definition of nature. Thus, His actions within nature do not violate nature's law.

B- The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

C- God does not desire to violate nature's laws and Jesus' resurrection fits in well with those laws.

D- If God created the universe and its natural laws, there is no reason why He could not suspend or override those laws if He wanted to.

## Quiz

**If a skeptic suggested that science can explain everything and, thus, we do not have to appeal to a god, what might you say in response?**

A- Science is unable to answer the evidence for Jesus' resurrection. This attests to the extraordinary evidence for it.

B- Since appealing to a god can explain everything, we do not have to appeal to science for answers.

C- What we know from medicine, history, and psychology disprove natural explanations for Jesus' resurrection.

D- A & C.

## Quiz

**If a skeptic said that only what science proves is true, you might respond with which of the following?**

A- Since science cannot prove this position it cannot pass its own test.

B- I am only referring to religious matters, not science. So your objections fails.

C- Near death experiences (NDE's) are proof from science that resurrections are possible.

D- All of the above

## Quiz

**If a skeptic said, “I’ll grant we can know that something happened. But we cannot say that Jesus rose,” how should you respond?**

A- We can make this conclusion because the inspired Word of God reports it.

B- Since all the evidence points to a resurrection and no plausible opposing theories exist, Jesus’s resurrection is the only plausible solution to account for the known facts

C- That’s a good point. I can see why you’re not a Christian.

## Quiz

**Skeptics frequently appeal to problem passages in the resurrection accounts in the Gospels. What is a good way to respond to this tactic?**

A- This objection is irrelevant, because we know that the Bible is inspired and have no need to answer critics who claim that the Bible contains errors.

B- Jesus' resurrection would be disproved if the Bible contains errors, since it is our best source regarding the resurrection accounts.

C- A minimal facts approach keeps us focused on facts, which both sides admit. Problem passages, even in the resurrection accounts, don't at all undermine these minimal facts.

D- This objection is irrelevant, because the majority of scholars believe that Jesus rose from the dead.

## Quiz

**What are the six arguments that falsify naturalism?**

## Quiz

**What are the six canons of historiography?**

# The “Hypothesis” of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (from purely an historical perspective)

1. Great explanatory scope. The resurrection of Christ explains why the tomb was empty, why the disciples had post-mortem experiences of seeing Jesus, why the Christian faith came into being.
2. Great explanatory power. The resurrection of Christ explains why the body of Jesus was not in the tomb, and why people repeatedly saw Him alive. It explains their willingness to be tortured and murdered for this faith.



3. It is not ad hoc. It is not contrived; it only requires one hypothesis: God exists. Even that need not be an additional hypothesis if you already believe in God.
  
4. Plausibility. It is in accord with accepted beliefs. Christians readily accept that *naturally* dead men do not rise. Given His unparalleled life, wisdom, claims, and prophecy, the resurrection serves as divine confirmation. Christ was either God or a blasphemer.

5. Illumination Thus, it is in accord with accepted beliefs and provides illumination to *all* facts.
6. It far outstrips all rival theories in meeting the canons of 1-5 above. This is why alternate theories continue to be abandoned for the last 200 years. This is precisely why all other theories have not attracted wide scholarship and most “pop” theories have been almost universally rejected.

All alternate theories fail miserably to meet the canons of history as to the best explanation.

- 1) Explanatory scope.
- 2) Explanatory power.
- 3) Plausibility.
- 4) Less ad hoc.
- 5) Illumination.
- 6) Outstrips all rival theories.