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*The
Agony
& Glory
of
the Cross*

by Charles B. Hodge, Jr.¹

The Resurrection

No Man Witnessed
the RESURRECTION



No Man Witnessed the RESURRECTION

- **Texts:** Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20; 21
- “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is” (1John 3:2).
- **Resurrection!** *It sets Christianity apart from all other religions!*
- It has been said if there had been no resurrection, *our world today would never have heard of Jesus.*



No Man Witnessed the RESURRECTION

- Angels asked, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen” (Luke 24:5b, 6a).
- Jesus was not resuscitated, reincarnated, or recreated; He was resurrected!
- He went “through death and out the other side into a new world, a world of new and deathless creation, still physical only somehow transformed” (N. T. Wright, Luke for Everyone (Louisville, Ky.: W/JK Press, 2004), 296–97.).
- Our Christian hope is not just immortality of the soul, but the resurrection & transformation of our bodies.



No Man Witnessed the RESURRECTION

- No man witnessed the resurrection.
- WHO WAS THERE?
- God was there to resurrect Jesus (See Acts 2:24, 32, 36; 3:15, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 33, 34; 17:31; Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:20).
- Holy Spirit was there to raise Jesus (Romans 8:10, 11).
- We do not know if angels were there?
- We know that Man was not!



No Man Witnessed the RESURRECTION

- Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God because of an empty tomb!
- Christianity stands or falls upon an empty tomb!
- Paul said, “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection” (Philippians 3:10a).
- Jesus physically died and literally was resurrected.
- This is the gospel! *The Christian hope is not life after death, but **LIFE**, period!*



No Man Witnessed the RESURRECTION

- He said, “I am the resurrection and the life . . .” (John 11:25, 26); “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6a).
- Resurrection faith is built upon the resurrection fact.
- The cross is not fiction; it is not a *myth* or an *allegory*.
- His death and burial were real.
- His resurrection was real.
- Jesus is historical and His tomb is empty.

The Resurrection



THE BURIAL



THE BURIAL

- The gospel is the *death, burial, and resurrection of Christ* (1 Corinthians 15:1–4).
- Angels pointed out where Jesus' corpse was placed (Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6).
- Resurrection demands a *death & a burial*.
- A burial demands a body.
- Baptism is a burial into the *death, burial, and resurrection of Christ* (Rom 6:1–5; Col 2:12).
- A sinner's greatest burial is to be buried by baptism *with Christ and into Christ!*

The Resurrection

THE THREE DAYS



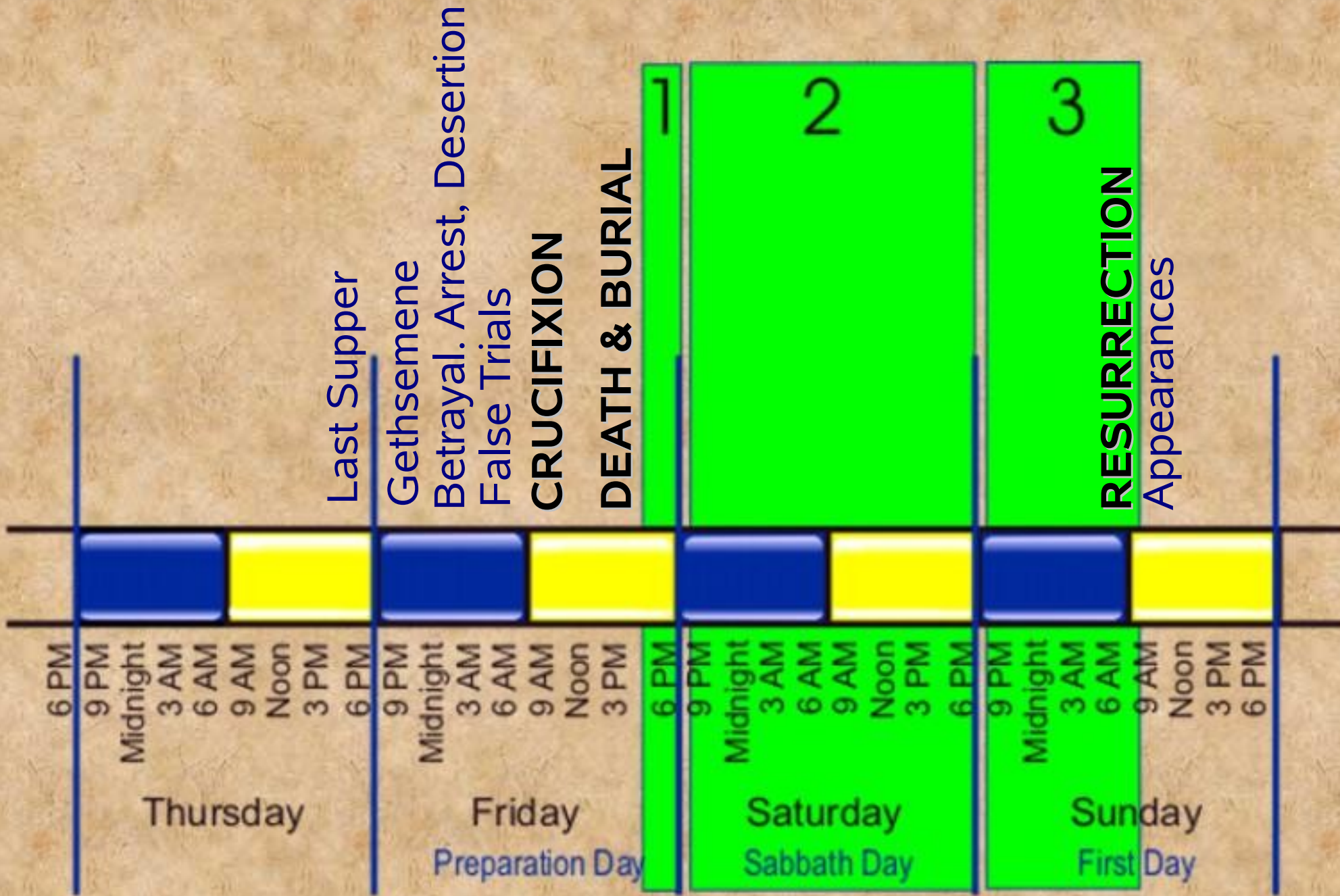
THE THREE DAYS

- Jesus was raised on “the third day”—*not “the 4th day” or “the 5th day.”*
- Jesus spoke figuratively of three days & three nights in relation to Jonah (Matt 12:40).
- Man counts hours; the Bible simply refers to “the third day” - *Friday, Saturday, Sunday.*
- The Jewish leaders knew this (Matt 27:63).
- The apostles remembered this after His resurrection (Luke 24:8; John 2:18–22).



THE THREE DAYS

- Jesus spoke harshly about Herod: “Go, tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and **the third day** I reach My goal” (Luke 13:32).
- He indeed reached His goal on the third day—**Sunday**, the day He rose from the dead!
- Follow me through part of the **Passion Week** on this chart.



The Resurrection



INFALLIBLE PROOFS
of the **RESURRECTION**



INFALLIBLE PROOFS of the RESURRECTION

- “To these [Jesus] also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many **convincing proofs**, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).
- **Christianity is built upon tangible, reliable evidence.**
- **If Jesus can't do anything about death, then whatever else He does amounts to nothing.**
- “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has **risen,**” **an angel said** (Luke 24:5b, 6a).



INFALLIBLE PROOFS of the RESURRECTION

- The Book of Acts **does not debate the resurrection**—*it declares it!*
- A dead Savior did **not produce Christianity.**
- The resurrection is the most **certified fact in all history.**
- **Lyman Abbott said,** “The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best attested fact in history” (The Theology of an Evolutionist (NY: Outlook Co., 1925), 129).
- **Jewish law refused circumstantial evidence.**



INFALLIBLE PROOFS of the RESURRECTION

- The verdict came from two or more witnesses (2 Corinthians 13:1).
- The gospel is the *death, burial, and resurrection* (1 Corinthians 15:1–4).
- God gave considerable space in the Scriptures to the witnesses.
- The resurrection will stand in any court of law.
- Consider these witnesses:



INFALLIBLE PROOFS of the RESURRECTION

- The Apostle Paul: saw and preached the resurrected Jesus (1 Cor 9:1; 15:8-11).
- The Enemies of Jesus: Believed in the resurrection when disciples doubted.
 - The Jews were worried about the 3rd Day.
 - Pilate said, “. . . make [the tomb] as secure as you know how” (Matt 27:65).
 - They used a huge stone & Roman guards.
 - Throughout history *no skeptic, Jew, or Roman* has found Jesus’ body!



INFALLIBLE PROOFS of the RESURRECTION

- The Apostles: Transformed from *cowards* to *martyrs* because of the Resurrection.
- The Women: first saw the risen Savior!
- The Appearances: Most scholars list ten resurrection appearances, while some 12.
 - to Mary Magdalene (Mk 16:9–11; see Jn 20:1–18)
 - to other women (Matt 28:1–10)
 - to two men on the Emmaus Road (Lk 24:13–32; see Mark 16:12)
 - to Simon Peter (Luke 24:34)



INFALLIBLE PROOFS of the RESURRECTION

- to ten apostles, without Thomas (Jn 20:19–25; see Mk 16:14; Lk 24:36–49)
- to eleven apostles, with Thomas (Jn 20:26–28)
- to seven disciples at the Sea of Galilee (Jn 21:1–23)
- to eleven apostles in Galilee (Matt 28:16–20; see Mk 16:15–18)
- to more than five hundred brethren (1 Cor 15:6)
- to James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- to eleven apostles (Luke 24:50–53)
- to Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8; see Acts 9; 26).



INFALLIBLE PROOFS of the RESURRECTION

- The Apostle John: Saw the grave clothes in the empty tomb and believed (Jn 20:24-29).
- “Doubting” Thomas: Touched the wounds of the risen Jesus and declared, “My Lord and My God!”
- The Witnesses have spoken!

The Resurrection



GRAVEYARD

HUMOR



GRAVEYARD

HUMOR

- The Women:
 - They went to the grave with spices but didn't think about who would move the sealed stone.
 - Then it occurred to them: *Who would roll away the rock?*
 - Several strong men would have been needed, *but it required only one angel!* (Matt 28:2).
- The Soldiers: Could not stop the Resurrection & had to lie about it (Matt 28:11-15)
- The Disciples on the Emmaus Road: Recognized Jesus at the meal (Lk 24:13-32)

The Resurrection



RESURRECTION
POWER



RESURRECTION

P O W E R

- Paul said, “. . . that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection” (Phil 3:7–11).
- The heart and soul of the church is to seek and save the lost through the power of the gospel of a risen Lord.
- The cross was the victory won; the resurrection was the sacrificial death accepted, validated, and endorsed by God.
- Death could not hold Jesus (Acts 2:22–36).
- In death Jesus defeated death.



RESURRECTION

P O W E R

- The cross marks the “death of death.”
- Jesus freed us from the “sting” of death (1Cor 15:54–57).
- Sinners are saved by Christ’s death—not *by His resurrection.*
- By His death, Jesus saved us from the law of sin and death (Rom 8:1, 2).
- To conquer sin is to eliminate death.
- Jesus appeared in heaven with His blood (Hebrews 10).



RESURRECTION

P O W E R

- He is “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25, 26), not merely “immortality and life.”
- Hell is immortal.
- Our souls are immortal.
- Jesus is eternal “resurrection”!
- Paul promised our change (1 Cor 15:50–58).
- On the cross Jesus abolished death (2Timothy 1:10).



RESURRECTION

P O W E R

- He took the power of death from Satan (2Timothy 1:10).
- We are saved “. . . since a death has taken place” (Hebrews 9:15).
- Jesus’ resurrection guarantees ours.
- What God did in a Jerusalem cemetery for Jesus, *He will do for us.*
- We were not made to die, but to live.
- What is the doctrine, *the hope of the resurrection, right now?*




RESURRECTION


P O W E R

- Nothing on earth is irreversible!
- My life is not futile; *it has a purpose.*
- My failures are not fatal; *they are forgiven.*
- My death is not final; *there is a resurrection to be like Jesus!*
- When He was on the cross, Satan was defeated, sin was overcome, and death was abolished.
- “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1Cor 15:57).

The Resurrection

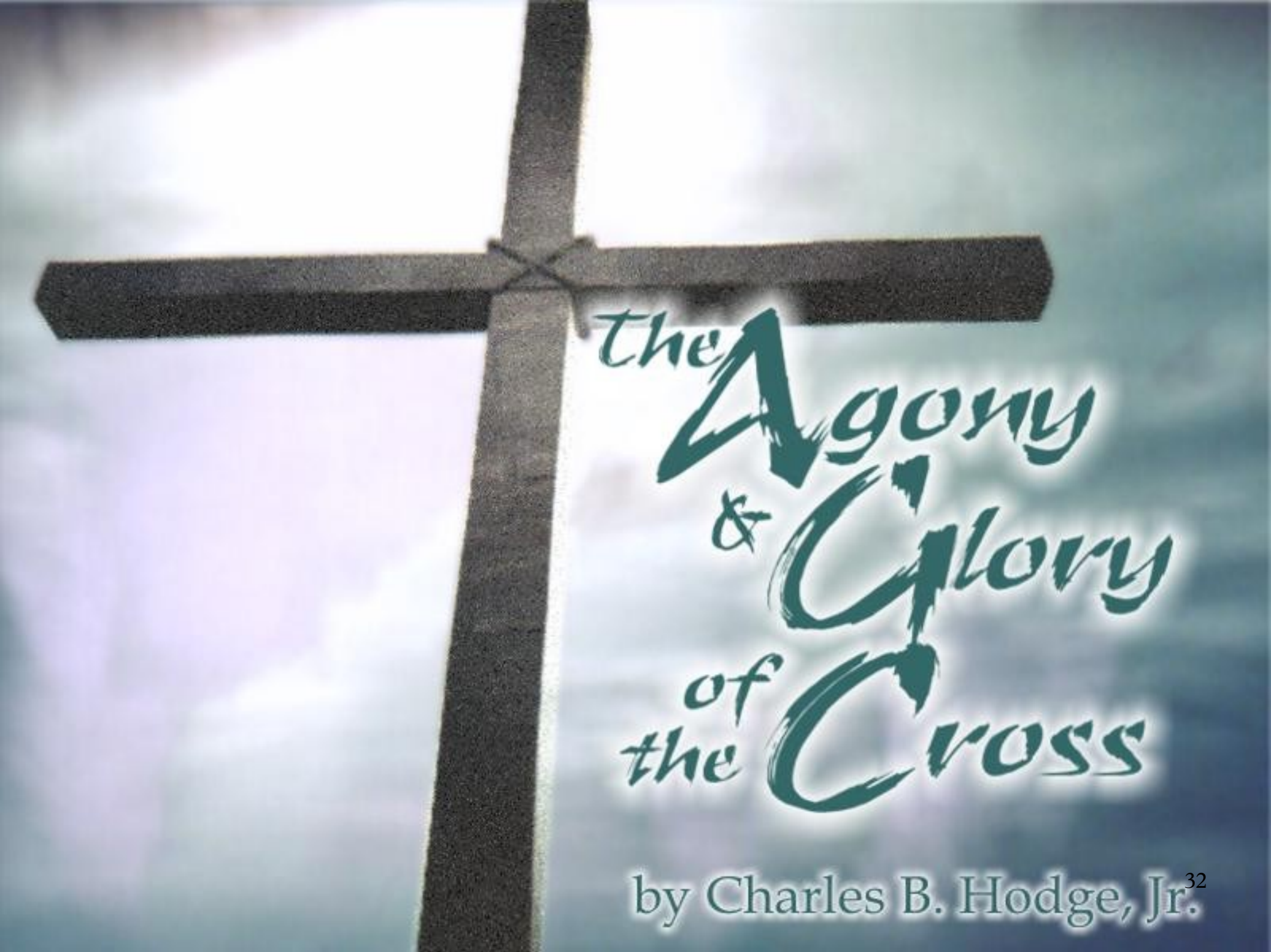


DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What sets **Christianity** apart from every other world religion?
- What **evidence** do we have that Jesus was resurrected?
- List the resurrection **appearances** of Christ. *Why do you think He chose to appear to these people in particular?*
- What is the **great guarantee** for Christians in Jesus' resurrection?

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