

“3BQ”

Three Big Questions

CLASS 2

“DID JESUS RISE?”

Did it happen, and if it did - so what?

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. “But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

-(1 Peter 3:15-16 NIV11)

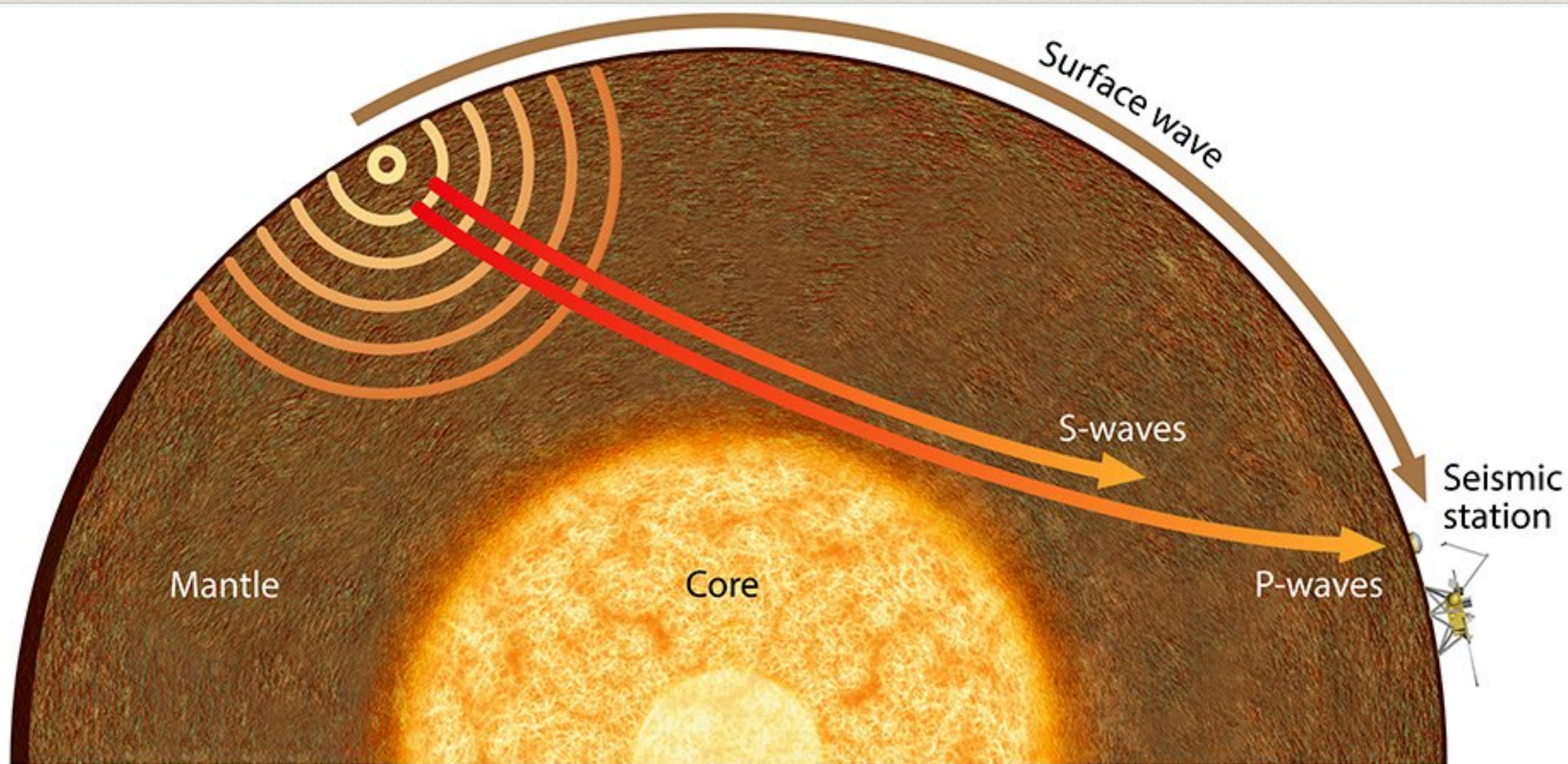




TACITUS



JOSEPHUS



WHY THIS MATTERS

1. JESUS

2. CHURCH

3. FAITH

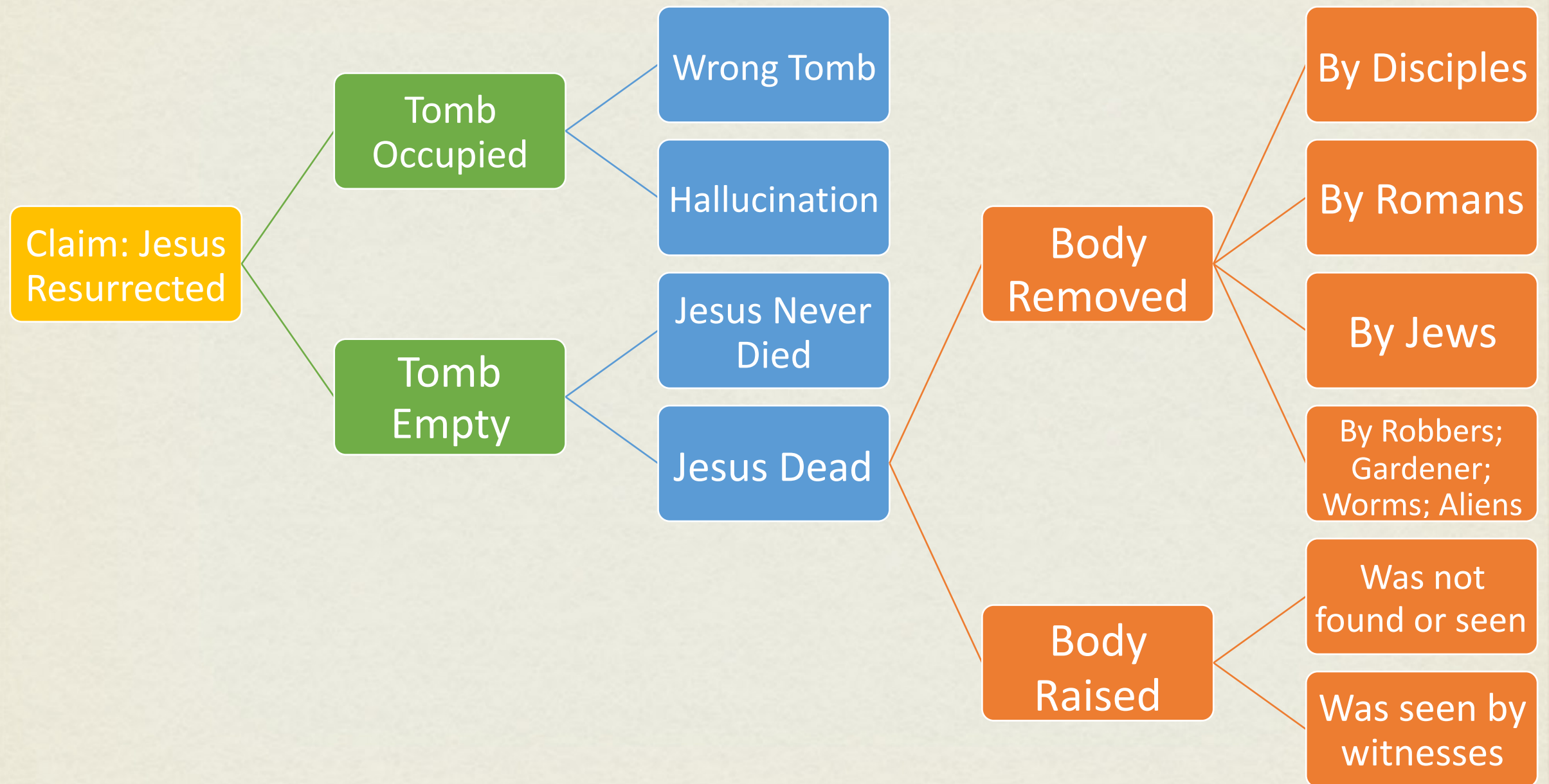
“But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is **useless** and so is your **faith**. More than that, we are then found to be **false** witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is **futile**; you are still in your **sins**. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are **lost**. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be **pitied**.”

-(1 Corinthians 15:12–19 NIV11)



OBJECTIONS

- They went to the **wrong** tomb
- They **hallucinated**
- Jesus never **died**
- Someone **took** the body (Romans; Jews; Disciples; Robbers; Aliens)
- **Worms** ate the body





EVIDENCE

1. CHURCH

2. UNLIKELY

EMERGENCE OF CHURCH

- Conviction
- Conversion
- Growth
- Sunday
- Opponents

PINCHAS LAPIDE, JEWISH SCHOLAR

- Concerning the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, I was for decades a Sadducee [a Jewish sect which denies the afterlife]. I am no longer a Sadducee since the following deliberation has caused me to think this through anew.... [W]hen these peasants, shepherds, and fishermen, who betrayed and denied their master and then failed him 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 Easter, then no vision or hallucination is sufficient to explain such a revolutionary transformation....

PINCHAS LAPIDE

- If the defeated and depressed group of disciples overnight could change into a victorious movement of faith, based only on autosuggestion or self-deception—without a fundamental faith experience—then this would be a much greater miracle than the resurrection itself. In a purely logical analysis, the resurrection of Jesus is “the lesser of two evils” for all those who seek a rational explanation of the worldwide consequences of that Easter faith.
- Pinchas Lapide, *The Resurrection of Jesus: A Jewish Perspective* (Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 1982), 125–126.

JUSTIN MARTYR, C. 160

“And on the day called Sunday, all who live in the cities or in the country gather together to one place...because it is the first day on which God...made the world. And Jesus Christ our Saviour rose from the dead on that same day.”

MATT. 28:12-15 & *DIALOGUE* *WITH TRYPHO* 108

- ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴ And if this should come to the governor’s ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, *and is to this day.*
- ...yet you not only have not repented, after you learned that He rose from the dead, but, as I said before you have sent chosen and ordained men throughout all the world to proclaim that a godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilean deceiver, whom we crucified, but his disciples stole him by night from the tomb, where he was laid when unfastened from the cross, and now deceive men by asserting that he has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven.

2. UNLIKELY

“criterion of embarrassment”

“evidence against interest”

UNLIKELY DOCTRINE

- Women
- Disciples
- Variations
- Numbers
- Messiah
- Jerusalem

WOMEN'S TESTIMONY

“From women let no evidence be accepted, because of the fickleness and impertinence of their sex” (Josephus, Jewish Antiquities 4.219).

Similarly, an ancient legal ruling from Palestine reads, “The law governing an oath of testimony applies to men and not to women, to those who are suitable to bear witness and not to those who are unsuitable to bear witness” (Mishnah Shabuot, 4:1).



SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

1. How does this evidence effect your view of Jesus?
2. How does this evidence effect your view of Christianity?
3. Would you like to know more?

“Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

-(John 7:17 NIV11)

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

-2 Corinthians 5:14-15

“3BQ”

Next week: “Why suffering?”