



**It Makes Sense to Believe  
in the Resurrection**

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**Curt Deming  
Melbourne Community Church  
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The background of the slide is a photograph taken from the interior of a tomb. The opening of the tomb is in the foreground, showing the rough, dark rock walls. Beyond the opening, a bright sunrise or sunset is visible, with a colorful sky transitioning from blue to orange and red. In the distance, a cross stands on a hill, silhouetted against the bright light. The overall scene is peaceful and symbolic of new life and resurrection.

# The resurrection of Jesus Christ

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- ❖ We believe that it happened.
- ❖ It changes everything.
- ❖ Have you received to the good news?



# Christian worldview:

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We live in a meaningful world under the providence of a good and powerful God who has given us the opportunity to side with his cause, which is assured to triumph in the end because of the matchless achievement of Jesus Christ.



# Christian worldview:

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Despite our pain and suffering, our destiny is to live forever in a restored universe with all those who share in God's goodness.

# God's revelation:

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## ❖ General revelation

❖ Nature

❖ Conscience

## ❖ Special revelation:

❖ The Bible

❖ Jesus



# What we believe about the Bible:

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- ❖ It is rooted in geography.
- ❖ It emerges from history.
- ❖ It is a unified literary work.
- ❖ It is the Word of God.



# Why we believe the Bible:

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- ❖ The Bible itself claims to be the Word of God.
- ❖ The apostles and church fathers received it as the Word of God.
- ❖ It has been remarkably well preserved over time.
- ❖ Many Bible prophecies have been fulfilled.

The background of the slide is a photograph taken from the interior of a dark, rocky cave. The cave's opening is irregular and frames a bright, hazy landscape. In the distance, a large, simple wooden cross stands on a hill. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of hope and revelation.

# Why we believe the Bible:

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- ❖ It bears up under literary and historical scrutiny.
- ❖ It explains the growth of the early church.
- ❖ Our personal experiences confirm it.





## Uncle Curt's bookmobile:

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- ❖ *How Shall We Then Live?* — Francis Schaeffer
- ❖ *Mere Christianity* — C.S. Lewis
- ❖ *The Problem of Pain* — C.S. Lewis
- ❖ *Scaling the Secular City* — J.P. Moreland
- ❖ *Reasonable Faith* — William Lane Craig



# Uncle Curt's bookmobile:

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- ❖ *The Reason for God* — Tim Keller
- ❖ *Christian Apologetics* — Douglas Groothuis
- ❖ *The Language of God* — Francis C. Collins
- ❖ *Unapologetic* — Francis Spufford



## Opposing views:

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- ❖ *The Case Against the Case for Christ* — Robert M. Price
- ❖ *The Great Courses: History of the New Testament* — Bart Ehrman
- ❖ *God is Not Great* — Christopher Hitchens
- ❖ *The God Delusion* — Richard Dawkins

The background of the slide is a photograph taken from the interior of a tomb, looking out through an opening. The scene is illuminated by a bright, golden light, likely from a sunrise or sunset, creating a hazy, atmospheric effect. The rocky walls of the tomb are visible on the left and right sides of the opening. The text is overlaid on this background.

## Historians agree:

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- ❖ Jesus was crucified by the Romans.
- ❖ His tomb was found empty a few days later.
- ❖ His disciples reported seeing Jesus alive.
- ❖ The Christian church was established based on this belief.

The background of the slide is a painting of a view from inside a tomb. The opening of the tomb is in the foreground, looking out onto a landscape at sunrise. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the distance, a cross is visible on a hill. The overall tone is dramatic and symbolic.

# Historicity of the gospels:

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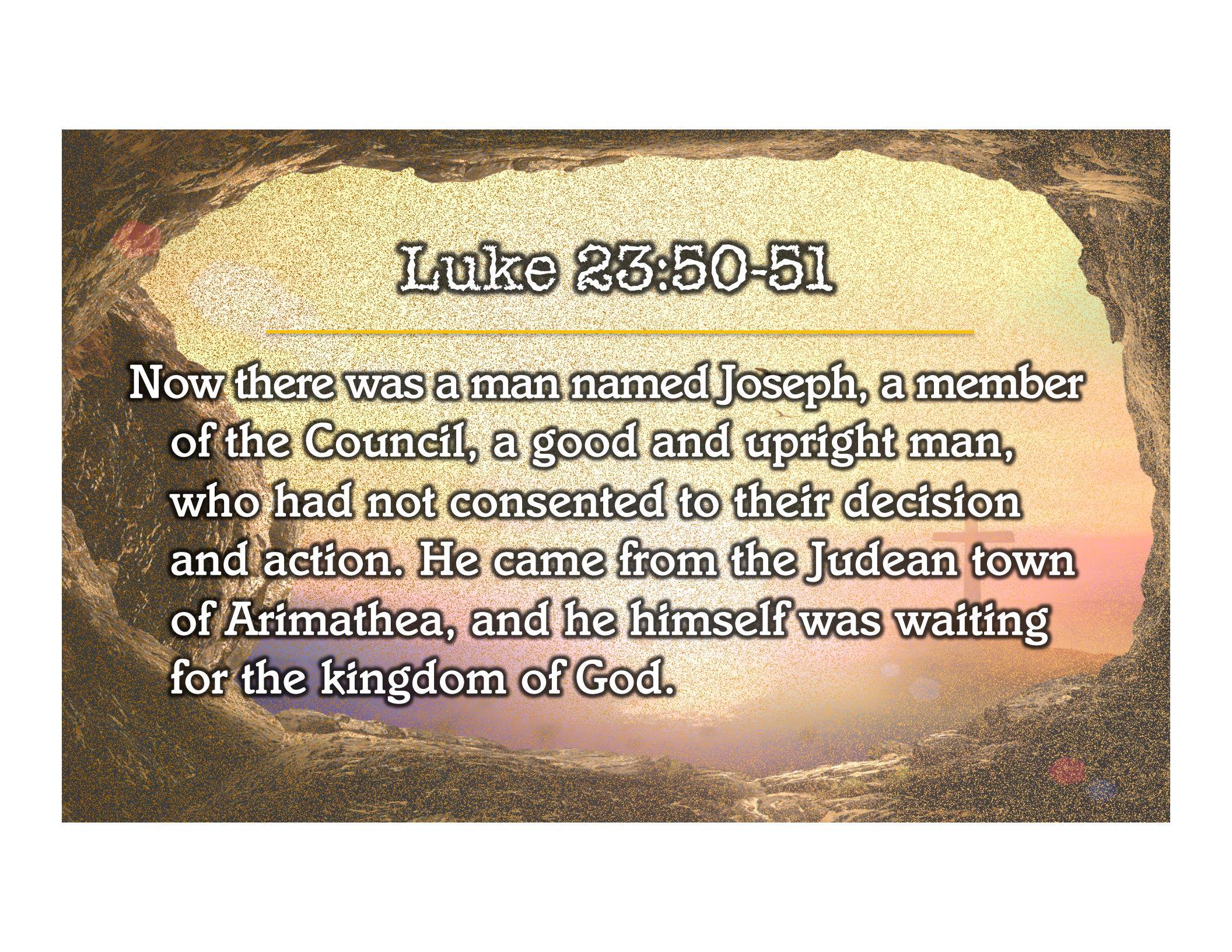
- ❖ Unlikely heroes
- ❖ Embarrassing details about future leaders
- ❖ Reads like history, not legend
- ❖ Written or told by eyewitnesses early and often

A view from inside a tomb looking out at a sunrise over a landscape with a cross on a hill.

# Natural theories for the empty tomb:

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- ❖ Wrong tomb
- ❖ Not dead yet
- ❖ Stolen body



## Luke 23:50-51

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Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God.

The background of the slide is a painting of an open tomb entrance. The entrance is a dark, irregular opening in a rock face, looking out onto a landscape. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The ground is rocky and uneven. The overall tone is somber and historical.

## Luke 23:52-54

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Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body.  
Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth  
and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock,  
one in which no one had yet been laid.  
It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath  
was about to begin.





## Luke 23:55-56

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The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

The image shows a view from the interior of a tomb, looking out through a large, irregular opening. The sky is a bright, golden-yellow color, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. In the distance, a large, dark cross stands on a hill. The foreground is dark and rocky, with some small, colorful objects (possibly flowers or stones) scattered on the ground. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and new beginnings.

## Matthew 28:11

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While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.



## Matthew 28:12-14

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When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”

The image shows a view from inside a dark, rocky tomb. The opening of the tomb is a large, irregular hole in the rock. Through this opening, a landscape is visible under a dramatic, colorful sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the bottom to a bright yellow and orange at the top, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the distance, a simple wooden cross stands on a hill. The foreground shows the rough, textured interior of the tomb. The overall mood is solemn and reflective.

## Matthew 28:15

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So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

# Natural theories of the appearances:

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- ❖ Mass hallucination
- ❖ Gullible reporters
- ❖ Intentional hoax





## John 20:24-25

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Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."



## Jon Meacham:

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“So singular was the proposition that a particular person had been resurrected from the dead and that belief in him would lead to eternal salvation; it would hardly have been the early Christians’ first choice of a narrative to share.

A painting of a cave entrance. The cave is dark and rocky, with a bright, golden light emanating from the opening. In the distance, a cross is visible on a hillside. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric.

Jon Meacham:

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“Why argue something so improbable, and so unexpected, unless they believed it had actually happened the way they told the story?”

— from *New York Times*, March 30, 2018



A view from a cave looking out at a sunset over a valley. The cave's rough, dark interior frames the scene. Outside, a golden sunset sky transitions into a purple and blue twilight over a valley with winding paths and distant hills. The text is overlaid on this scene.

## Acts 4:8-10

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Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them:  
“Rulers and elders of the people! If we are  
being called to account today for an act  
of kindness shown to a man who was lame  
and are being asked how he was healed,  
then know this, you and all the people of Israel:

The background of the slide is a textured, golden-brown image of a tomb's interior. The opening of the tomb is visible, showing a landscape with a large cross on a hill in the distance under a hazy sky. The text is overlaid on this background.

## Acts 4:10-11

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It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is  
“the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.”

The image shows a view from inside a dark, rocky cave looking out at a bright, hazy landscape. The cave's interior is dark and textured, with the light from the opening creating a strong contrast. Outside, the sky is a mix of yellow, orange, and blue, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. In the distance, a large, simple cross stands on a hill. The overall mood is one of hope and revelation.

## Acts 4:12

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**“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”**

The background of the slide is a photograph taken from the interior of a tomb, looking out through the stone opening. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunrise or sunset. In the distance, a large, simple cross stands on a hill against the bright sky. The foreground shows the rough, textured interior of the tomb.

## Acts 6:7

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So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

The image shows a view from inside a dark, rocky tomb. The opening of the tomb frames a landscape. In the distance, a large wooden cross stands on a hill. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

# 1 Corinthians 15:19

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If only for this life we have hope in Christ,  
we are of all people most to be pitied.

## 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

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For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

The background of the slide is a photograph taken from the interior of a dark, rocky tomb. The opening of the tomb is a jagged, irregular shape, and through it, a bright, golden light shines, creating a strong contrast with the dark interior. The light appears to be coming from a low angle, possibly the setting or rising sun, casting long shadows and highlighting the textures of the rock. The overall mood is one of hope and revelation.

## John 11:24-26

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Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"



## Hebrews 2:14-15

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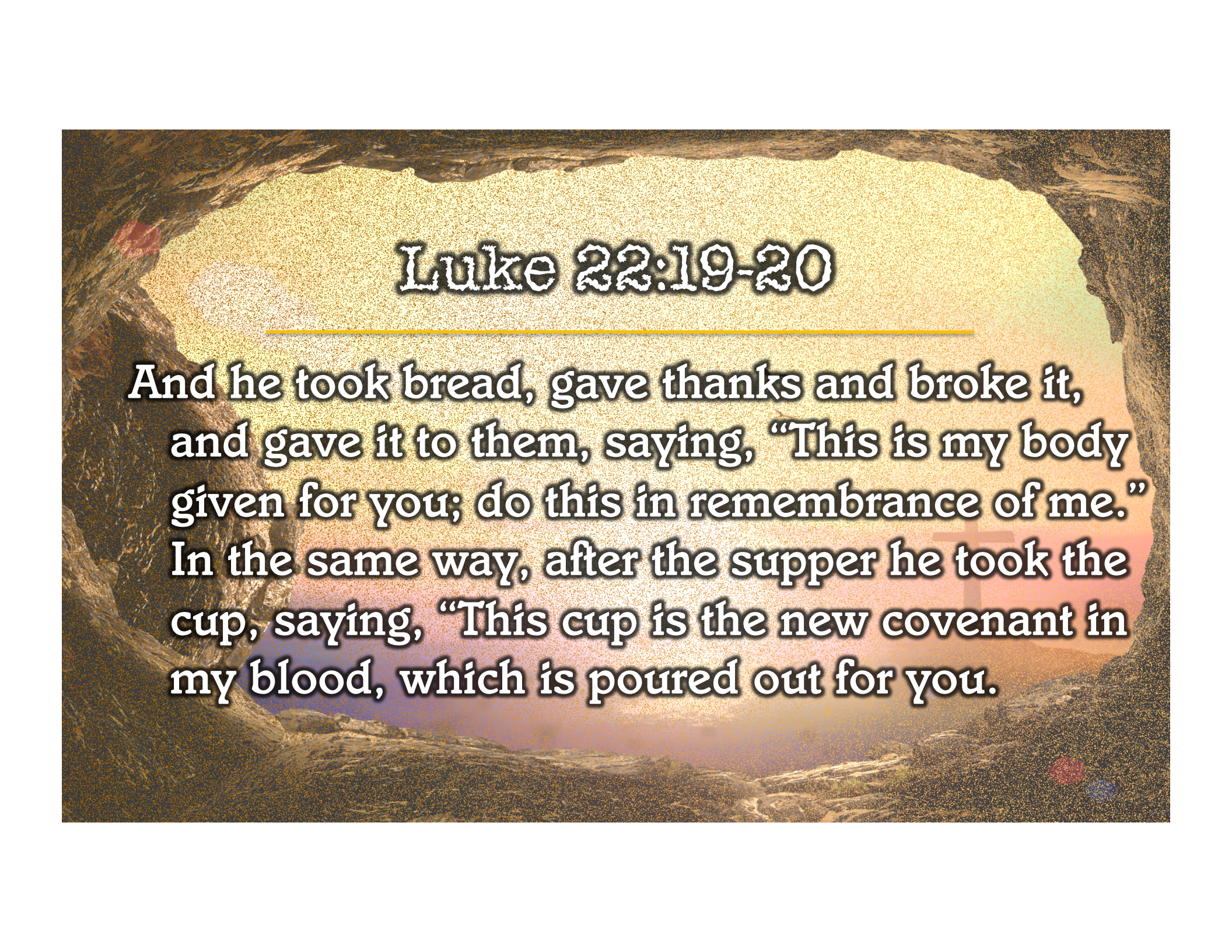
Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.



The image shows a view from the interior of a tomb, looking out through a large, irregular opening. The sky is a vibrant, golden-yellow color, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. In the distance, a large, dark cross stands on a hill. The foreground shows the rough, rocky interior of the tomb. The text "John 1:29" is centered in the upper half of the image, and a quote from the Bible is in the lower half.

## John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

The background of the slide is a photograph taken from the interior of a cave. The cave's opening is a large, irregular hole in the rock, through which a bright sunset or sunrise is visible. The light from the sun creates a warm, golden glow that fills the cave's interior. The rock walls of the cave are dark and textured, with some small red and blue spots visible. The overall atmosphere is serene and dramatic.

## Luke 22:19-20

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And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

The image shows a view from the interior of a dark, rocky cave. The cave's opening is irregular and frames a bright, hazy landscape. In the distance, a large, simple cross stands on a hill. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and yellows, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and redemption.

# Romans 3:23

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... for all have sinned and fall short  
of the glory of God,

The image shows a view from inside a dark, rocky tomb. The opening of the tomb frames a landscape. In the distance, a large wooden cross stands on a hill. The sky is filled with a vibrant sunset or sunrise, with colors ranging from deep blue and purple to bright orange and yellow. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and redemption.

## Romans 5:8

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**But God demonstrates his own love for us  
in this: While we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.**



Romans 6:23

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For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The image shows a view from inside a dark, rocky tomb. The opening of the tomb is a large, irregular hole in the rock. Through this opening, a landscape is visible. In the foreground, there are dark, rocky hills. In the middle ground, a large, simple wooden cross stands on a small hill. The background is a vast, hazy landscape under a sky with a warm, golden-orange glow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and resurrection.

## Romans 10:9

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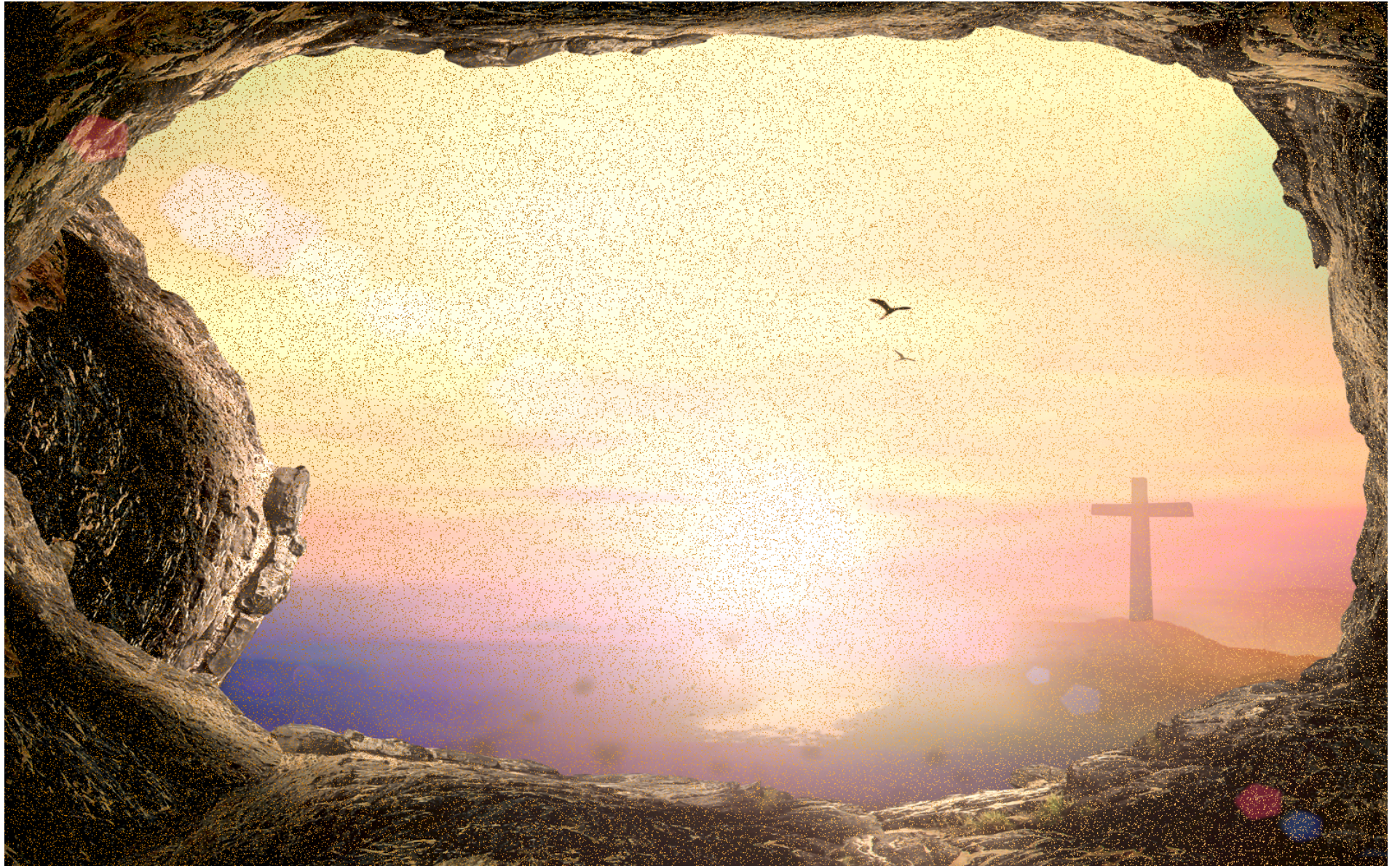
If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

The background of the slide is a digital illustration of a tomb's interior. The viewer's perspective is from inside the dark, rocky chamber, looking out through a large, irregular opening. Outside, a landscape unfolds under a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky, with colors ranging from deep purple and blue to bright orange and yellow. In the distance, a simple wooden cross stands on a hill. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and new beginnings.

# The resurrection of Jesus Christ

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- ❖ We believe that it happened.
- ❖ It changes everything.
- ❖ Have you received to the good news?







# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

