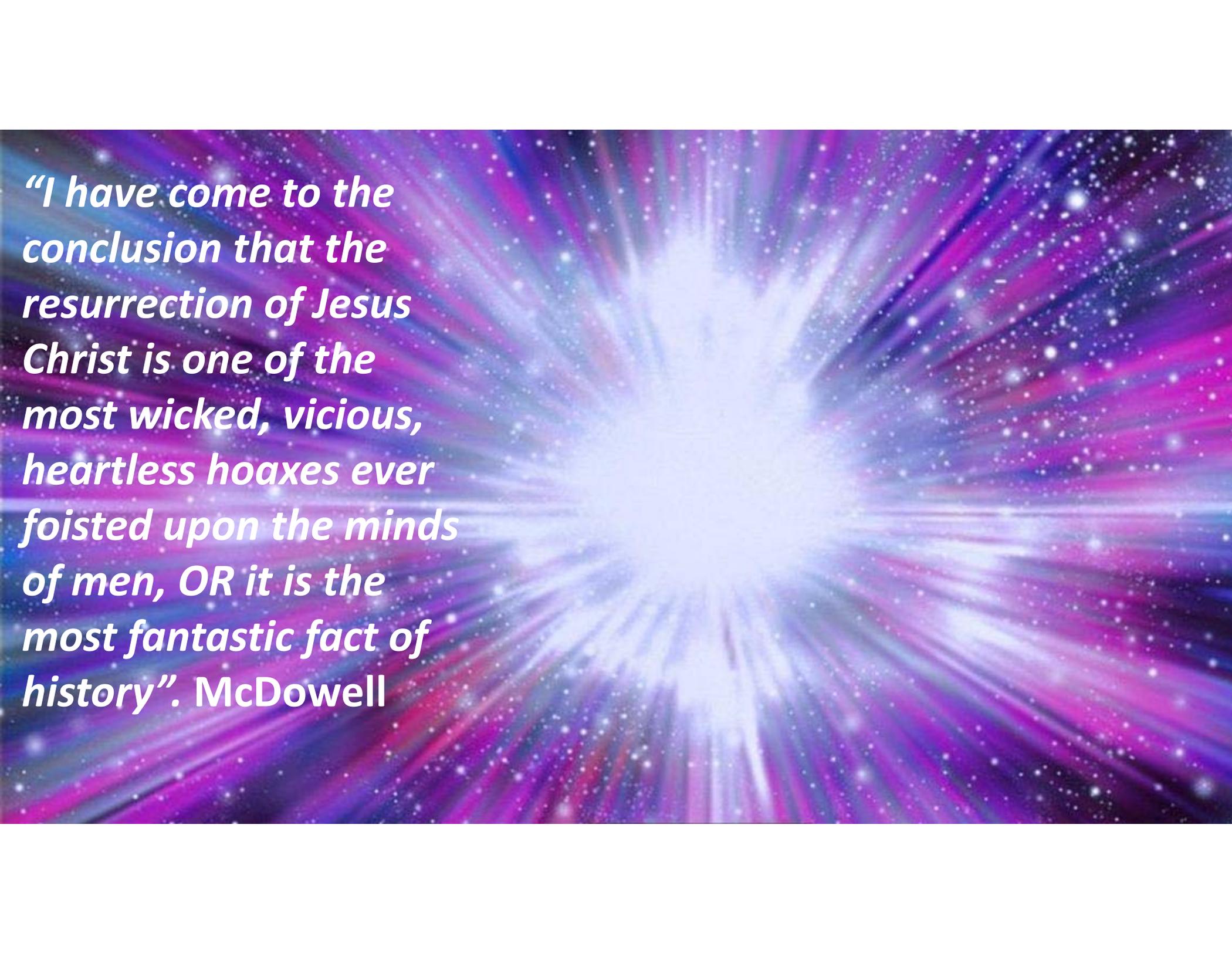


# DID HE REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

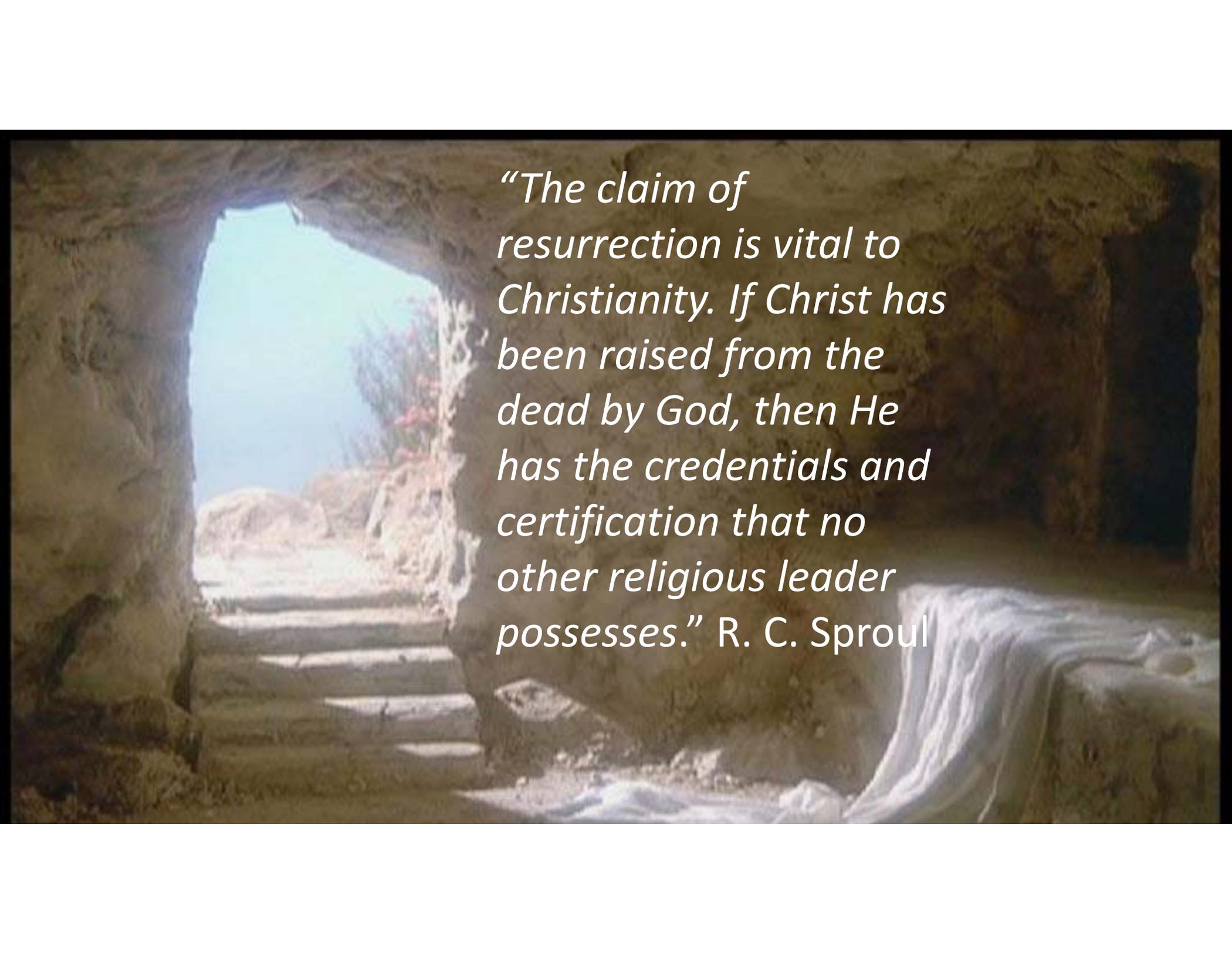
What made a group of mourning, hiding disciples in John 20:19 change to a group boldly proclaiming Christ in Acts 2:36.



*“I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, OR it is the most fantastic fact of history”. McDowell*

## Starting point:

- Jesus was a real person/religious leader.
- No doubt that Jesus was dead on the cross. Medically/historically
- Bible is a trustworthy source.
- Over 300 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus.
- Events happened in a short period of time.
  - Jesus died around 30-33 AD,
  - Paul converted 33-34 AD,
  - Mark was written around 53-55 AD,
  - Jerusalem destroyed 70 AD.
  - Cynic vs. Skeptic?



*“The claim of resurrection is vital to Christianity. If Christ has been raised from the dead by God, then He has the credentials and certification that no other religious leader possesses.” R. C. Sproul*

## Three Truths:

1. The tomb was discovered empty by a group of women.
2. Jesus' disciples had real experiences with one whom they believed was the risen Christ.
3. As a result of the preaching of these disciples, the Church was established and grew.

## Evidence for the Empty Tomb:

- Preaching about resurrection happened in Jerusalem, where the crucifixion happened.
- Jews acknowledged the empty tomb. Matt 28:11-15
- Historical reliability of burial story. Joseph of Arimethea
- Romans/Jews had no motive.
- Roman guard would not have failed.
- Disciples would not be teaching resurrection while knowingly lying about empty tomb.
- Tomb discovered empty by women.



## Evidence that Jesus' disciples had real experiences with one whom they believed was Christ.

- 1 Cor. 15:3-8 - All believed they saw Jesus
- Acts 10:39-41 – Peter
- Only three explanations:
  - They were lying
  - Hallucinations
  - They really saw him



## As a result of the preaching, the Church was established and grew.

- Disciples believed that Jesus was raised from the dead.
  - Since its foundational, can't be a legend.
  - Can't be from pagan influences.
  - Can't be from Jewish influences.
- Acts 17:29-31

“Within twenty years, the claim of these Galilean peasants had disrupted the Jewish church ... In less than fifty years it had begun to threaten the peace of the Roman Empire. When we have said everything that can be said ... we stand confronted with the greatest mystery of all. Why did it win?” Morison



**PUSH START BUTTON**

**Webster:** a story coming down from the past; *especially* : one popularly regarded as historical although not verifiable

## Was it a Legend?

- First, legends simply don't develop while multiple eyewitnesses are alive to refute them. One historian of ancient Rome and Greece, A. N. Sherwin-White, argued that the resurrection news spread too soon and too quickly for it to have been a legend.
- Second, legends develop by oral tradition and don't come with contemporary historical documents that can be verified. Yet the Gospels were written within three decades of the resurrection.
- Third, the legend theory doesn't adequately explain either the fact of the empty tomb or the historically verified conviction of the apostles that Jesus was alive.
- Also, Can't explain the conversion of Paul or why Early Church was preaching it.

“With an event so well publicized, don't you think that it's reasonable that one historian, one eye witness, one antagonist would record for all time that he had seen Christ's body? ... The silence of history is deafening when it comes to the testimony against the resurrection.” Tom Anderson

## Resources

- **Historical Evidence for the Resurrection**, Matt Perman
- **The Case for Christ**, Lee Strobel
- **Did Jesus Rise from the Grave**, Y-Jesus Magazine, Larry Chapman