

2-“Eyewitness Evidence”

2 Peter 1:16-21



Pastor Greg Mansur

October 26-27, 2019

October 19-20 – “The Investigation of a Lifetime”

October 26-27 – “Eyewitness Evidence”

November 2-3 – “Evidence Outside the Bible”

November 9-10 – “Analyzing Jesus”

November 16-17 – “Evidence of the Resurrection”

November 23-24 – “Reaching Your Verdict”

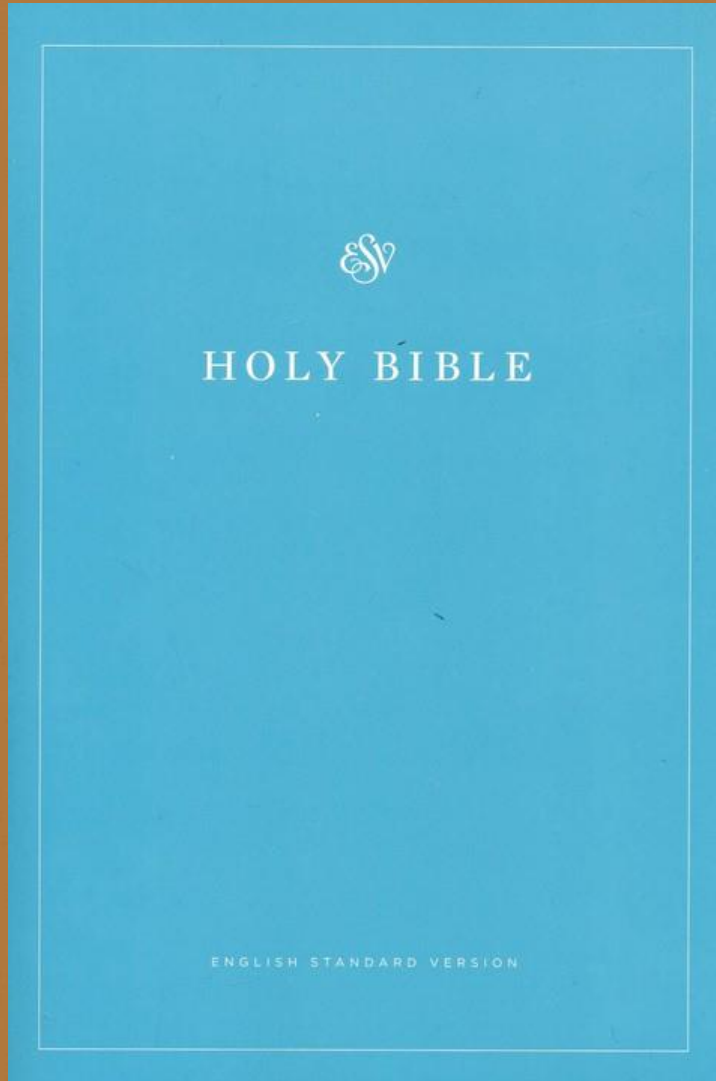


The Case for Christ #2: “Eyewitness Evidence”









2 Peter

1:16-21



Jesus was either a
Liar, a Lunatic, or Lord.

C. S. Lewis

quote fancy



The “Trilemma”

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity



What about Legend?

Jesus was either a
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The Critical Question: Are the Gospels Reliable?



MATTHEW



- Tax collector
- Apostle

Matthew's gospel

- Jesus = King of Jews
- Emphasis on the teachings of Jesus
- Jesus fulfills the words of the Law + Prophets (basis of Jewish faith)



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MARK



- Aided PETER
- Missionary
- Probably first

Mark's gospel

- Jesus = Suffering Servant
- Shows Jesus' authority
- The whole book is a declaration of Jesus' work
- Probably a source for Matthew + Luke



LUKE



- Physician
- Aided Paul
- Interviewed others

Luke's gospel

- Jesus = savior for all
- Educational: seeks to arrange details of Jesus' life + ministry in order
- Written by a non-Jewish person for another non-Jew

Pt. 2: ACTS



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Pt. 2: ACTS

JOHN



◦ Apostle

John's gospel

- Jesus = God
- Written to inspire belief
- Written long after the other gospels
- Mostly unique content
- Focus on signs/statements



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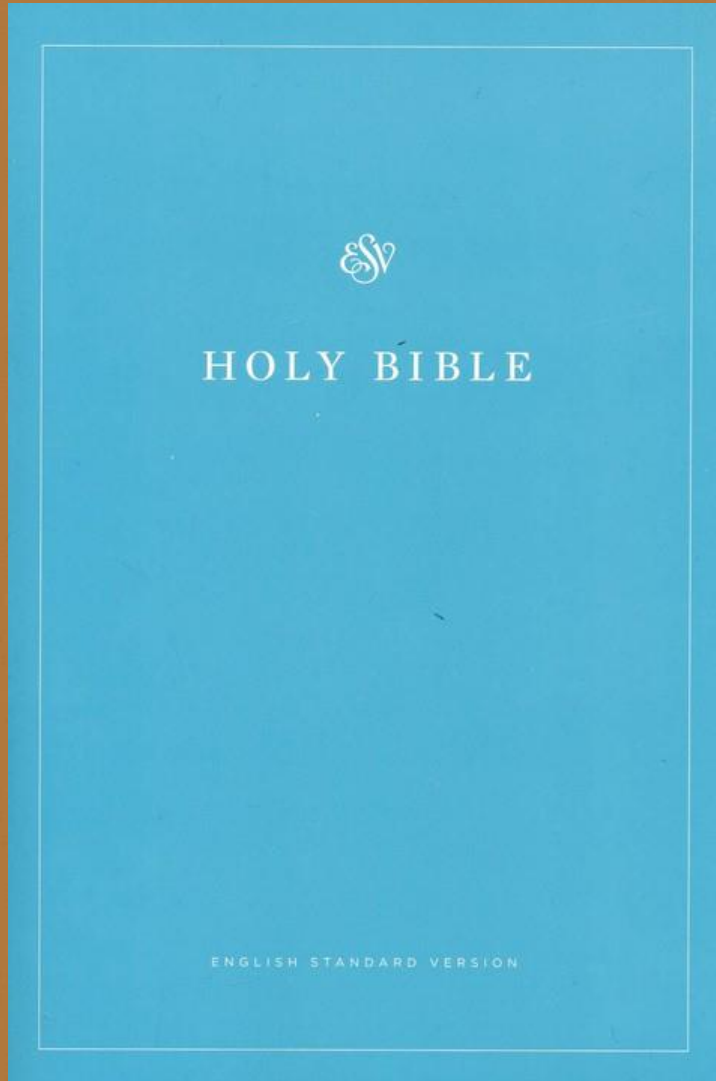
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"SYNOPTIC GOSPELS"
(They cover the same material)





Luke

1:1-4



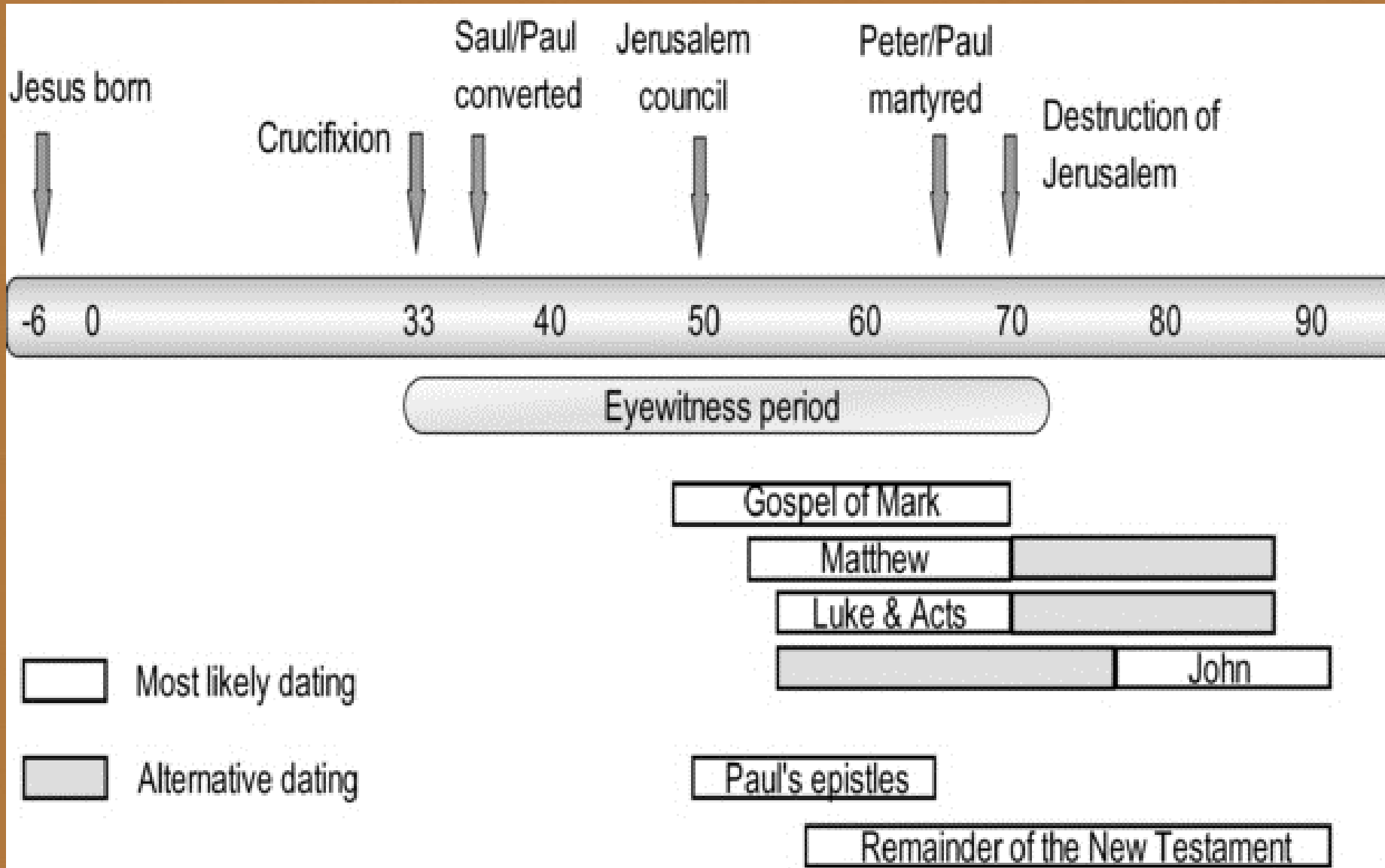
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1. They were written early





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1. They were written early
2. They are corroborated





Agriculture
Architecture
Botany
Culture
Economics
Geography
Language

Law
Personal Names
Politics
Religion
Social Structure
Topography
Weather



FOUR REASONS THE GOSPELS ARE RELIABLE:

1. They were written early
2. They are corroborated
3. They haven't changed over time



Bruce Metzger: “The quantity of New Testament material is almost embarrassing in comparison with other works of antiquity.”



Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings

Author	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# Mss.
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs	7
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs	8
Tacitus	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1,000 yrs	20
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643
New Testament	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.	25-50 yrs	24,000



FOUR REASONS THE GOSPELS ARE RELIABLE:

1. They were written early

2. They are corroborated

3. They haven't changed over time

4. They are not biased



J. Warner Wallace: “None of the Gospel writers gained anything from their testimony and instead suffered persecution and death for their claims. The writers lacked motive and bias.”



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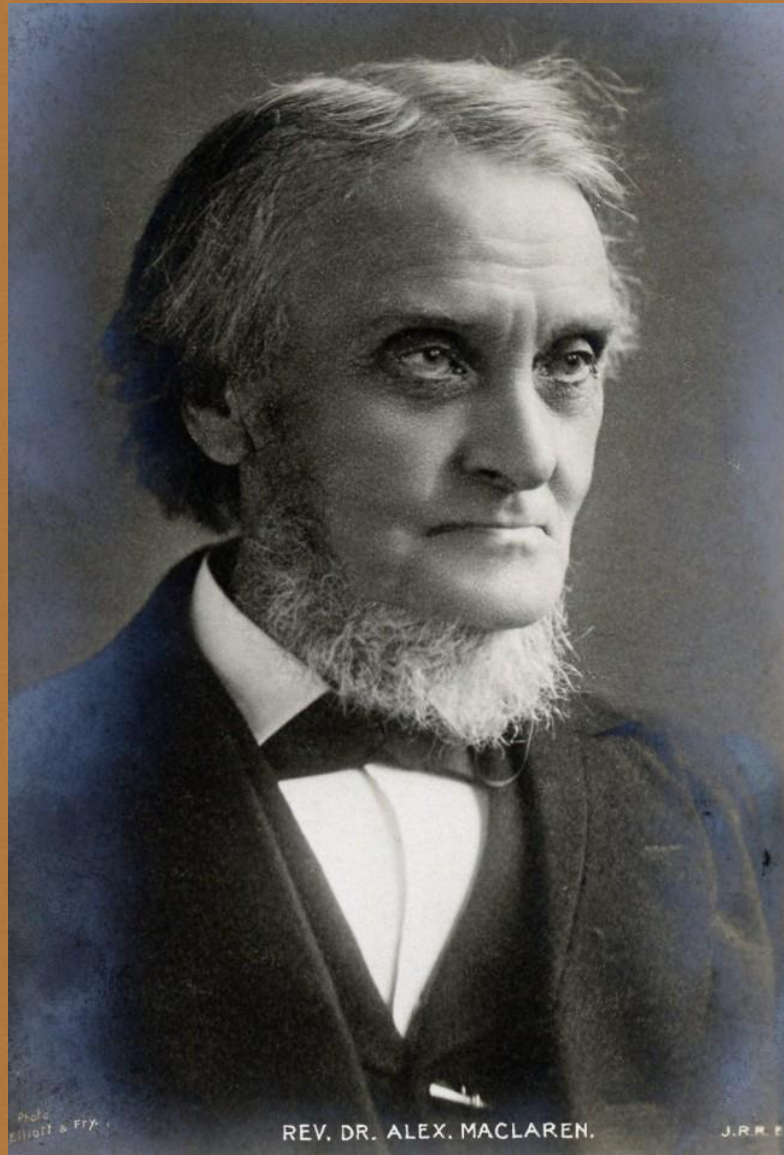
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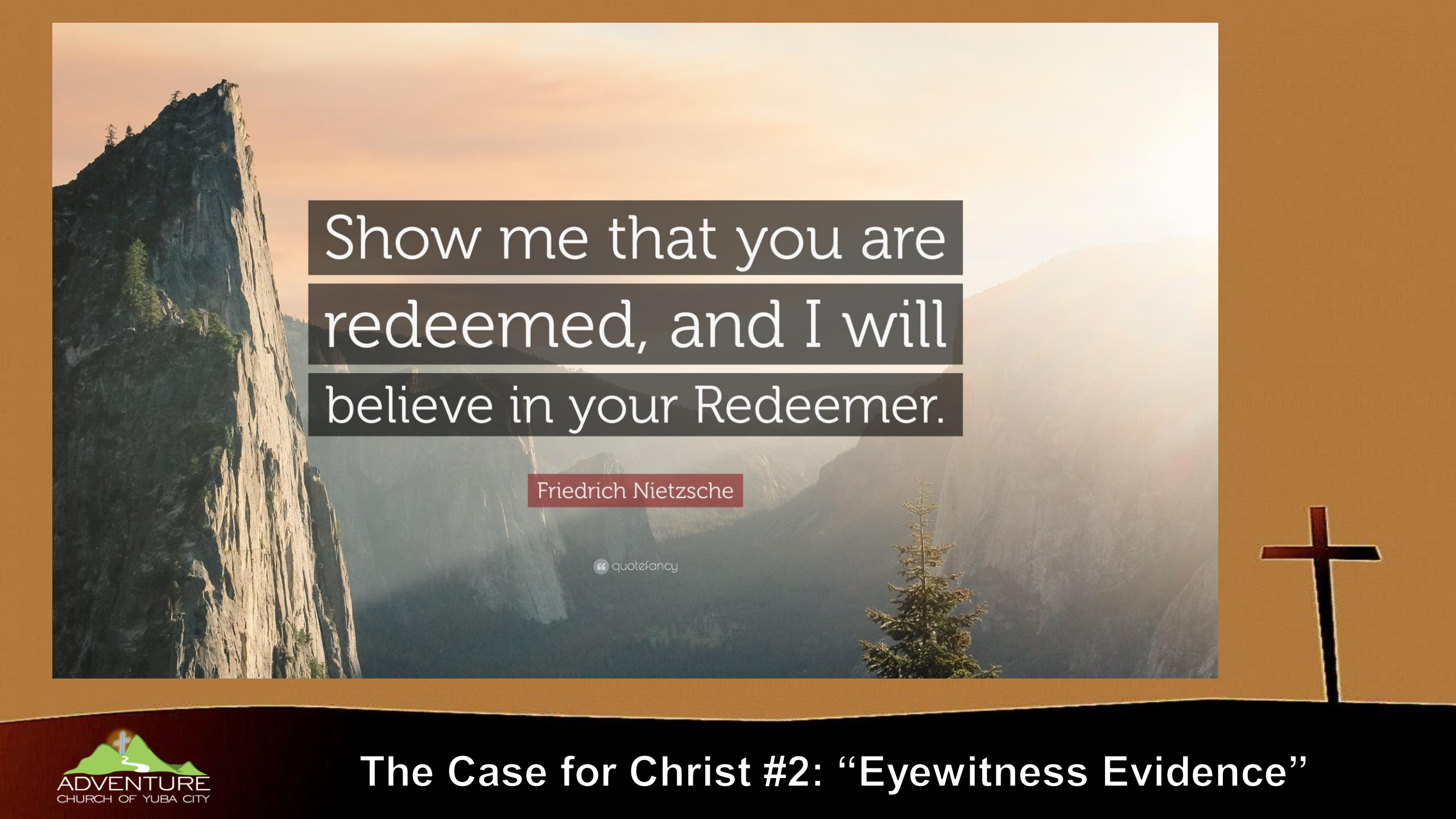
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Show me that you are
redeemed, and I will
believe in your Redeemer.

Friedrich Nietzsche

quote fancy

THE CASE FOR
Christ

LEE
STROBEL

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



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