

PROOF CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE



*PART I: FROM NOTHING TO
THEISM IN 5 STEPS*

STEP 1: THE KALAM COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

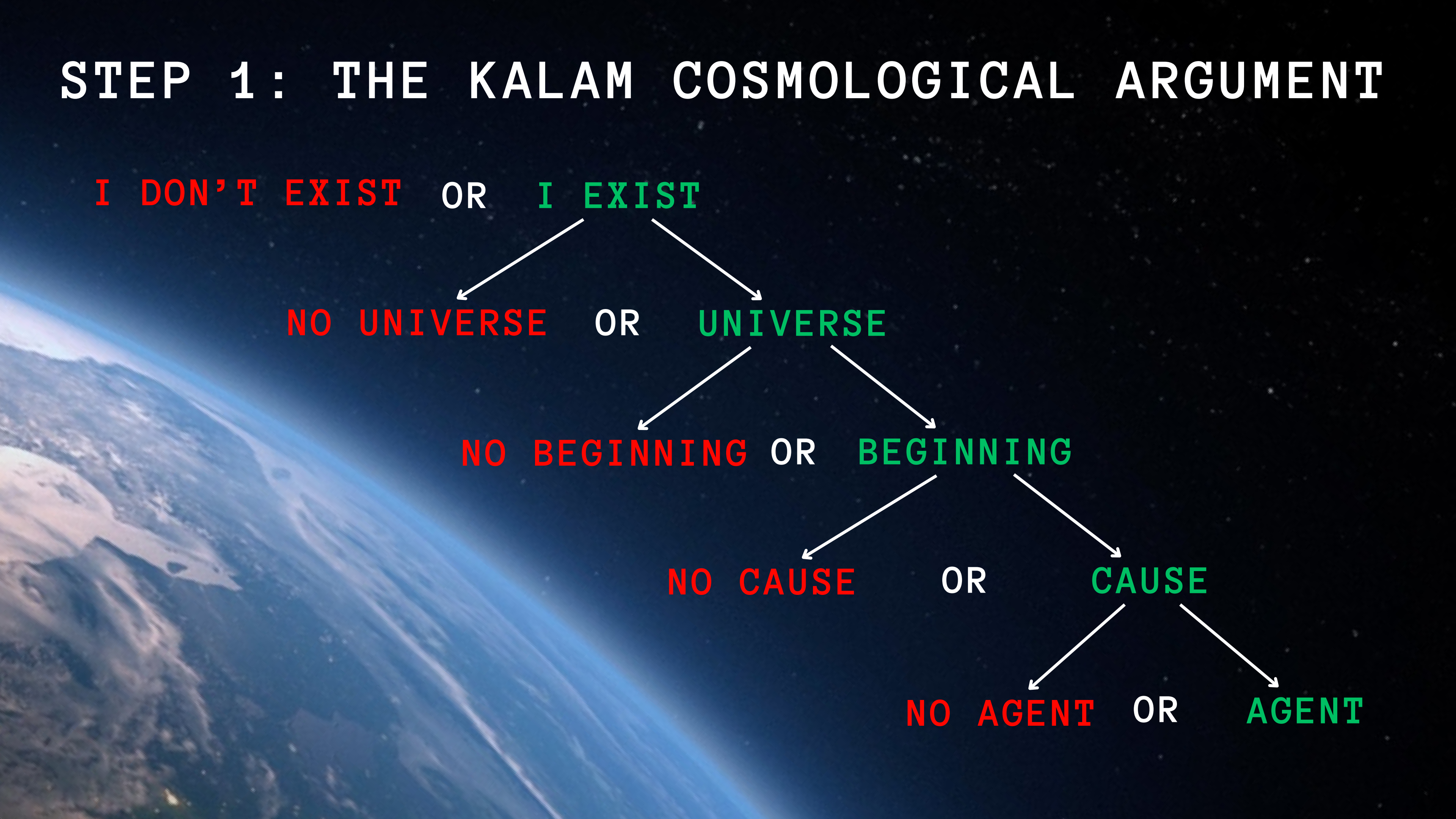
I DON'T EXIST OR I EXIST

NO UNIVERSE OR UNIVERSE

NO BEGINNING OR BEGINNING

NO CAUSE OR CAUSE

NO AGENT OR AGENT



STEP 2: THE TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

P1: THE FINE-TUNING OF THE INITIAL
CONDITIONS OF THE UNIVERSE IS DUE TO
EITHER NECESSITY, CHANCE, OR DESIGN

P2: THE FINE-TUNING IS NOT DUE TO
NECESSITY OR CHANCE

P3: THEREFORE, THE FINE-TUNING IS
DUE TO DESIGN

STEP 3: THE MORAL ARGUMENT

**P1: PEOPLE HAVE
INTRINSIC VALUE**

**P2: NATURALISM CANNOT
EXPLAIN INTRINSIC VALUE**

**P3: GOD MUST EXIST FOR
INTRINSIC VALUE TO EXIST**



STEP 4: THE MIND & REASON ARGUMENT

ARGUMENT FROM CONSCIOUSNESS:

P1. NON-PHYSICAL MENTAL STATES EXIST AND
ARE CORRELATED WITH BRAIN STATES

P2. THE EXPLANATION FOR P1 IS
EITHER NATURAL OR PERSONAL

P3. THE EXPLANATION IS NOT NATURAL

P4. THEREFORE, THE EXPLANATION IS PERSONAL



STEP 4: THE MIND & REASON ARGUMENT

ARGUMENT FROM REASONING:

P1: HUMAN REASONING IS INFLUENCED EITHER RANDOMLY, BY SIMPLE ORDER, OR BY INFORMATION

P2: RANDOM REASONING WOULDN'T BE COHERENT OR VERIFIABLE

P3: SIMPLE ORDER DOESN'T REQUIRE ACCURATE INFORMATION

P4: THEREFORE, A PERSONAL AND INTELLIGENT AGENT MUST BE THE SOURCE OF REASON



STEP 5: THE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE ARGUMENT

2 ARGUMENTS FROM RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE:

1. CAUSAL ARGUMENT: CLAIMING THE BEST EXPLANATION OF AN EVENT IS DIVINE INTERVENTION

2. DIRECT PERSPECTIVE ARGUMENT: CLAIMING TO BE DIRECTLY AWARE OF OR INTERACTING WITH A DIVINE BEING

STEP 5: THE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE ARGUMENT

7 EXAMPLES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES:

- 1. CHANGED LIFE**
- 2. ANSWERS TO PRAYER**
- 3. HEALINGS**
- 4. RAISING THE DEAD**
- 5. ENCOUNTERS WITH ANGELS OR DEMONS**
- 6. HEARING GOD VOICE OR GUIDANCE**
- 7. NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES (NDE)**

STEP 5: THE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE ARGUMENT

THE DESIGN FILTER: TWO CRITERIA NEEDING TO BE MET TO IDENTIFY AN EVENT REQUIRED A PERSONAL AGENT:

(1) SMALL PROBABILITY

(2) INDEPENDENT SPECIFIABILITY – YOU CAN DESCRIBE THE RESULT AND MARK IT AS A SPECIAL RESULT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE FACT THAT IT HAPPENED

THEISM

DEFINITION:

BELIEF IN THE EXISTENCE OF A GOD OR GODS,
SPECIFICALLY BELIEF IN THE EXISTENCE OF ONE GOD
VIEWED AS THE CREATIVE SOURCE OF THE HUMAN RACE AND
THE WORLD WHO TRANSCENDS YET IS IMMANENT IN THE WORLD

EXAMPLES:

MONOTHEISM: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM, MORMONISM,
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, AND A FEW EASTERN RELIGIONS.
POLYTHEISM, PANTHEISM, AND DEISM ARE VARIATIONS.

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*PART 2: FROM THEISM TO
CHRISTIANITY IN 3 STEPS*

STEP 1: OCCAM'S RAZOR OF JUDEO-CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEWS

P1: THE 5 STEPS FROM NOTHING TO THEISM LEAVE ALMOST
ONLY JUDEO-CHRISTIAN-BASED WORLDVIEWS TO CHOOSE FROM

P2: ENTITIES MUST NOT BE MULTIPLIED BEYOND NECESSITY

P3: JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY ARE THE SIMPLEST
WORLDVIEWS OUT OF WHAT IS LEFT

STEP 2: THE HISTORICITY OF THE NT

P1: NUMBER OF MANUSCRIPTS

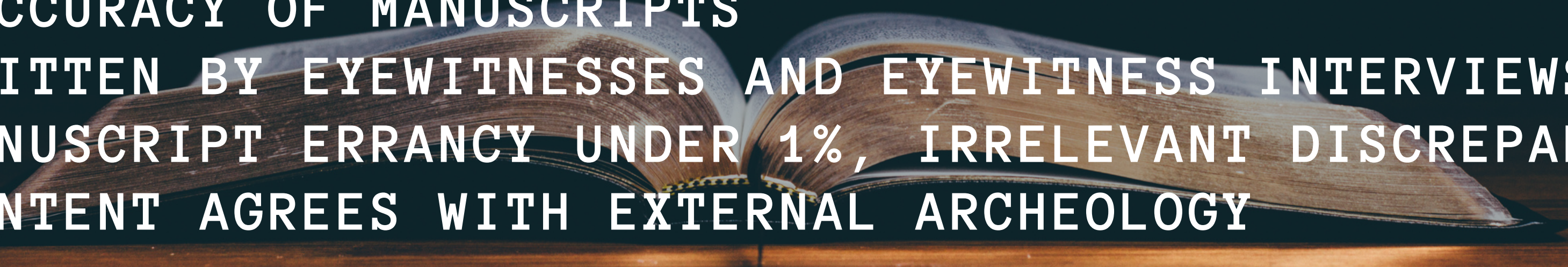
- OVER 24,000 FRAGMENTS, OVER 5,000 FULL COPIES
- CLOSEST COMPETITORS FROM TIME PERIOD UNDER 2,000

P2: QUALITY OF MANUSCRIPTS

- SPANNING 12+ CENTURIES, STARTING WITHIN 40 YEARS
- CLOSEST COMPETITORS WITHIN 500 YEARS OF ORIGINAL

P3: ACCURACY OF MANUSCRIPTS

- WRITTEN BY EYEWITNESSES AND EYEWITNESS INTERVIEWS
- MANUSCRIPT ERRANCY UNDER 1%, IRRELEVANT DISCREPANCIES
- CONTENT AGREES WITH EXTERNAL ARCHEOLOGY



STEP 3: THE HISTORICITY OF THE RESURRECTION

(1) THE HISTORICAL JESUS CRUCIFIED

- WIDELY ACCEPTED BY MODERN NON-CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS
- NON-CHRISTIAN 1ST/2ND CENTURY SOURCES MENTION JESUS CRUCIFIED
- THE RELIABILITY OF THE NT AS A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT



STEP 3: THE HISTORICITY OF THE RESURRECTION

(2) THE EMPTY TOMB

WAS THE BODY STOLEN?

- ROMAN GUARDS WOULD BE KILLED
- JEWS HAD NO CONCEPT OF A RESURRECTING MESSIAH
- ROMANS AND JEWS WOULD PRODUCE THE BODY TO STOP CHRISTIANITY
- DISCIPLES WOULDN'T DIE FOR SOMETHING THEY KNEW WAS A LIE
- TOMB WAS SEALED, HEAVELY GUARDED
- FOLDED CLOTHES, NO SIGN OF STRUGGLE
- FAMILY TOMB WITH MANY WITNESSES



STEP 3: THE HISTORICITY OF THE RESURRECTION

(3) EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS

JESUS NOT FULLY DEAD?

- ROMANS WERE KILLERS + VISUAL DESCRIPTION

MASS-HALLUCINATIONS?

- IMPOSSIBLE FOR OVER 500 WITNESSES
TO HAVE THE SAME HALLUCINATION

ALL THE WITNESSES ARE LIARS?

- DIED FOR WHAT THEY SAW
- WOULD HAVE CHOSEN MORE CREDIBLE WITNESSES

STEP 3: THE HISTORICITY OF THE RESURRECTION

(4) THE FAST SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

- THE TRUTH MUST HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS AT THE TIME
- EYEWITNESSES STILL ALIVE
- 50 YEARS TO SPREAD THROUGH MUCH OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
- 350 YEARS TO BECOME THE OFFICIAL RELIGION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

STEP 3: THE HISTORICITY OF THE RESURRECTION

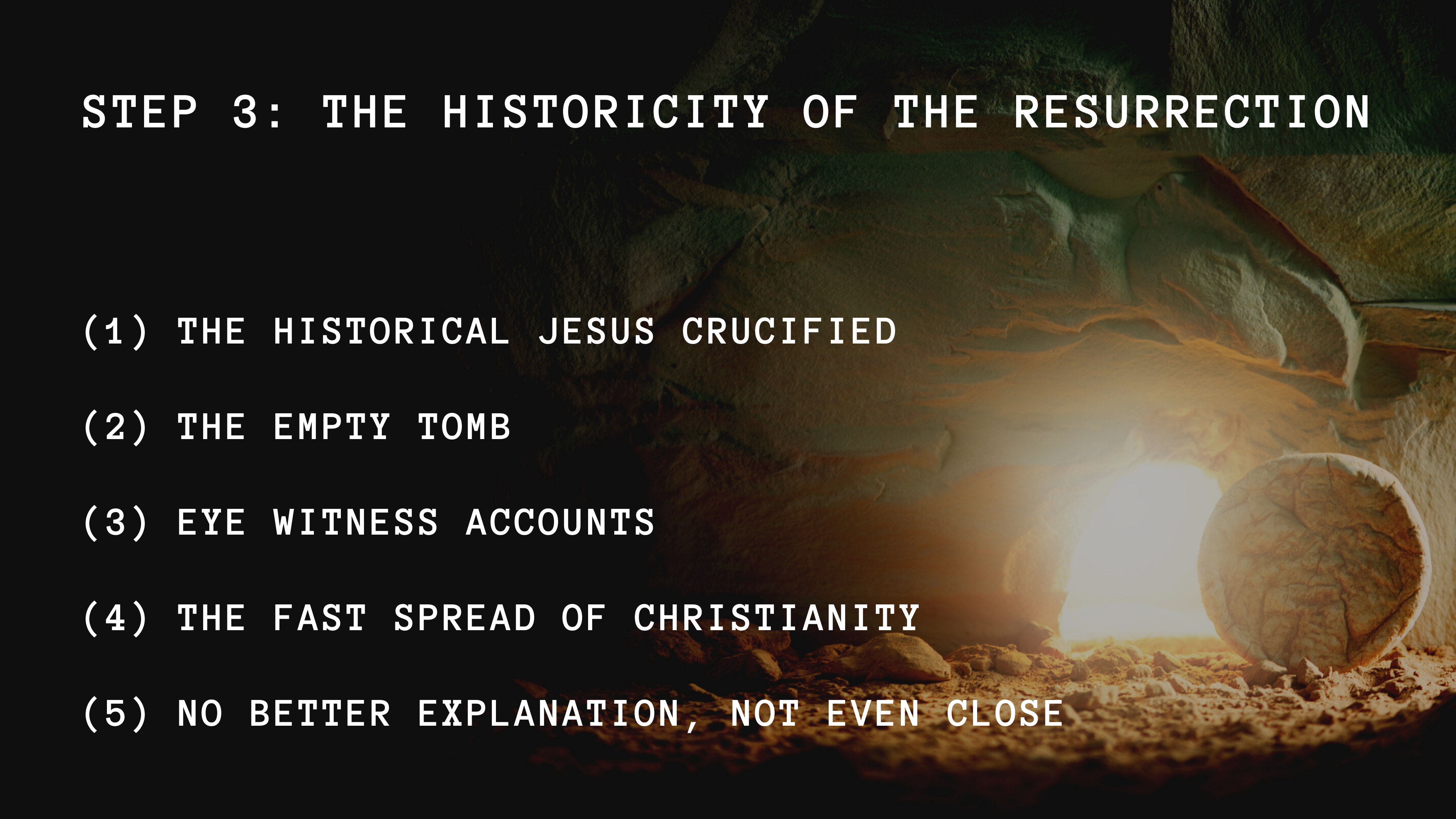
(1) THE HISTORICAL JESUS CRUCIFIED

(2) THE EMPTY TOMB

(3) EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS

(4) THE FAST SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

(5) NO BETTER EXPLANATION, NOT EVEN CLOSE



CHRISTIANITY

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS. BELIEVING IN ONE GOD: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. BELIEVING IN THE PHYSICAL DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH. CONFESSING JESUS AS LORD. TRUSTING IN JESUS FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND GRANTING OF ETERNAL LIFE.

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PART 3: COMMON
OBJECTIONS

1. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

WHAT IS EVIL?

EVIL IS A PRIVATION OF SOMETHING THAT OUGHT TO BE THERE. MISSING A MARK. YOU CAN HAVE GOOD WITHOUT EVIL, BUT YOU CANNOT HAVE EVIL WITHOUT GOOD. GOOD AND EVIL ARE NOT OPPOSITES.

WHERE DID EVIL COME FROM?

EVIL BECAME A REALITY BY THE FALL OF ADAM AND EVE AND THE ANGELIC FALL. GOD GAVE HUMANS FREE WILL TO LOVE HIM OR REJECT HIM, EVIL IS THE ACT OF REJECTING GOD.

1. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

THE LOGICAL PROBLEM OF EVIL:

P1. IF GOD IS BOTH GOOD AND OMNIPOTENT,
THEN EVIL SHOULD NOT EXIST

P2. EVIL EXISTS

P3. THEREFORE, GOD CANNOT BE BOTH GOOD AND OMNIPOTENT

THE ANSWER TO THE LOGICAL PROBLEM OF EVIL:

P1. GOD CAN ONLY ACT WITH LOGICAL CONSISTENCY

P2. THEREFORE, GOD CANNOT BOTH CREATE BEINGS WITH
FREE WILL AND ALSO FORCE THEM TO NOT COMMIT EVIL

P3. SO, GOD CAN BE BOTH GOOD AND OMNIPOTENT WHILE EVIL
EXISTS IF EVIL IS A PRODUCT OF OTHER'S FREE WILL

1. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

THE REAL PROBLEM OF EVIL:

QUESTION 1: WHY DOES GOD LET EVIL HAPPEN?

ANSWER 1: GOD CAN WORK OUT EVIL FOR GOOD.

QUESTION 2: WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL IN THE WORLD THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO SERVE ANY GREATER PURPOSE?

ANSWER 2: FIRST, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCURATELY JUDGE IF THINGS HAVE A GREATER PURPOSE OR NOT, BECAUSE WE WOULD HAVE TO BE OMNISCIENT. SECOND, GOD CAN ONLY STOP EVIL SO MUCH WITHOUT DESTROYING EVERYTHING. HE WAITS TO DESTROYING EVERYTHING SO MORE PEOPLE CAN BE SAVED. THIRD, THE CHRISTIAN GOD INTERS INTO THE SITUATION AND SUFFERS TOO.

1. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

BUT EVEN IF THERE WAS NO ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL, THE PROBLEM OF EVIL DOES NOT PROPOSE ANY REASON FOR NOT BELIEVING IN GOD, IT MERELY QUESTIONS GOD'S GOODNESS AND ABILITY.

NOR DOES THE PROBLEM OF EVIL DISPROVE ANY POSITIVE REASONS FOR BELIEVING IN GOD.

2. THE PROBLEM OF THE UNEVANGELIZED

1. THE TESTIMONY OF GENERAL REVELATION. GOD RESPONDS TO PEOPLE WHO SEEK.
2. THE TESTIMONY OF SPECIAL REVELATION. GOD GIVES DREAMS, VISIONS, AND VISIONS.
3. THE POSSIBILITY OF LAST MOMENT CHOICE. GOD GIVING ANOTHER CHANCE AT THE END OF LIFE.
4. THE POSSIBILITY OF A PARTIAL RESPONSE TO PARTIAL EVIDENCE. LIMITED CHOICE TO FOLLOW GOD SECURES FAITH.
5. THE POSSIBILITY OF PARDON FOR THOSE WITHOUT CHOICE. GOD LETTING CHILDREN GO TO HEAVEN.
6. THE GOODNESS OF GOD IN THE MYSTERY AND UNKNOWN. GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING, EVEN IF WE DON'T.

3. THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

P1: YOU CAN HOLD TO THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE
AT THE SAME TIME

P2: THERE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS OF ANSWERING
THE APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS

3. THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

EXAMPLE OF AGE OF THE EARTH PROS VS. CONS:

1. SCIENCE IS WRONG, YOUNG EARTH CREATIONISM IS CORRECT
PROBLEM: THERE IS NO REASON TO ASSUME SCIENCE IS INCORRECT
STRENGTH: IT IS THE EASIEST INTERPRETATION OF GENESIS
2. SCIENCE IS CORRECT, YOUNG EARTH CREATIONISM IS WRONG
PROBLEM: IT IS DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET GENESIS THAT WAY
STRENGTH: IT IS MOST RATIONAL TO ASSUME SCIENCE IS CORRECT
3. SCIENCE AND YOUNG EARTH CREATIONISM ARE CORRECT – AGED EARTH
PROBLEM: GOD'S CREATION DOES NOT REFLECT SCIENTIFIC REALITY
STRENGTH: IT HOLDS TO THE EASIEST INTERPRETATION OF GENESIS
STRENGTH: IT ASSUMES SCIENCE IS CORRECT, WORKS IF IT ISN'T
STRENGTH: IT IS REFLECTED IN THE CREATION OF ADAM – AGED

4. SCIENTIFIC-NATURALISM

STRONG SCIENTISM: THE ONLY TRUTHS WE CAN KNOW ABOUT REALITY ARE THOSE THAT CAN BE TESTED BY THE HARD SCIENCES.

WEAK SCIENTISM: THERE MAY BE SOME RATIONAL BELIEFS OUTSIDE OF SCIENCE BUT THE HARD SCIENCE ARE VASTLY SUPERIOR TO THOSE OTHER FIELDS.

STRONG PHYSICALISM: EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD THAT EXISTS IS NOTHING BUT MATTER.

WEAK PHYSICALISM: EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD THAT EXISTS IS NOTHING BUT MATTER, BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN OBJECTS (LIKE BRAINS) WHEN STRUCTURES ARE ARRANGED IN A PARTICULAR WAY, NON-PHYSICAL (CONSCIOUSNESS) EMERGES BUT IS SUBJECT TO THE PHYSICAL.

4. SCIENTIFIC-NATURALISM

SELF REFUTING: IT FALSIFIES ITSELF BECAUSE IT FAILS TO MEET ITS OWN STANDARDS OF ACCEPTABILITY.

1. IT DOESN'T ALLOW FOR DEFENDING THE CURRENT ASSUMPTIONS.
2. THERE ARE THINGS WE KNOW OUTSIDE OF SCIENCE WITH GREATER CERTAINTY THAN THINGS WE THINK WE KNOW INSIDE OF SCIENCE.
3. KNOWLEDGE CAN BE GAINED FROM THE 3RD PERSON PERSPECTIVE AND THE 1ST PERSON PERSPECTIVE.
4. THERE IS TOO MUCH EVIDENCE OF THE NON-PHISICAL.

5. POST-MODERNISM

4 TYPES OF RELATIVISM:

1. CULTURAL RELATIVISM: DIFFERENT CULTURES DISAGREE ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL MORAL PRINCIPLES
2. MORAL RELATIVISM: ALL MORALITY IS ONLY TRUE FOR THE CULTURAL OR INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS IT
3. ETHICAL SKEPTICISM: NO ONE KNOWS WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG (AND THERE IS NO WAY TO FIND OUT)
4. PRINCIPLE OF TOLERANCE: LET OTHERS BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT TO BELIEVE (OR AS LONG AS IT AGREES WITH CERTAIN BASIC MORALS)

5. POST-MODERNISM

PROBLEMS WITH MORAL RELATIVISM:

1. THERE ARE SELF-EVIDENT OBJECTIVE MORAL VALUES:
KINDNESS VS. GREEDINESS
2. PEOPLE ARE OFTEN NOT RELATIVISTS BUT SELECTIVE RELATIVISTS
3. THE REFORMERS DILEMMA: IF CULTURAL RELATIVISM IS TRUE, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORAL REFORMER IN THE WORLD (E.G. JESUS, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., ETC.)
4. IT LEADS TO MORAL CONTRADICTIONS: ONE'S MORAL RIGHT IS ANOTHER'S MORAL WRONG

5. POST-MODERNISM

THE PROBLEM WITH ETHICAL SKEPTICISM:

IT IS BASED ON SELF-REFUTING ARGUMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU SAY YOU CANNOT KNOW SOMETHING IS TRUE, IS THAT STATEMENT TRUE?

THE PROBLEM WITH CONTEMPORARY TOLERANCE:

CONTEMPORARY TOLERANCE SAYS THAT THE VERY ACT OF JUDGING SOMETHING IS WRONG IS INTOLERANT. BUT THAT IS ITSELF IMMORAL BECAUSE IT SILENCES THE PROTEST OF EVIL. IT IS ALSO SELF-CONTRADICTORY AND SELECTIVELY APPLIED INCONSISTENTLY.

5. POST-MODERNISM

CULTURAL RELATIVISM:

THE FACT THAT DIFFERENT CULTURES DISAGREE ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL MORAL PRINCIPLES IS TRUE, BUT DOES NOT PROVIDE A SOURCE FOR OBJECTIVE TRUTH.

CLASSICAL TOLERANCE:

THE BELIEF "I AM RIGHT AND YOU ARE WRONG ABOUT AN IMPORTANT ISSUE, BUT I WILL TREAT YOU WITH RESPECT, BE CIVIL, AND RECOGNIZE YOUR RIGHT TO PROPAGATE YOUR VIEW (BUT NOT ALWAYS PRACTICE).

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

1. MORAL DISAGREEMENTS WITH CHRISTIANITY
 - WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR MORALITY FROM?
2. CHRISTIANS HAVE HISTORICALLY DONE EVIL
 - THE TRUTH OF A BELIEVE ISN'T DETERMINED BY THE MORALITY OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT
3. OTHER RELIGIONS CLAIM TO BE TRUE
 - BURDEN OF PROOF IS ON THEM

THE POINT OF APOLOGETICS

TO REMOVE ALL INTELLECTUAL BARRIERS
AND EXCUSES THAT STOP PEOPLE FROM
BELIEVING, SO ALL THAT REMAINS IS
THEIR PERSONAL AND EMOTIONAL
REJECTION OF GOD.



PROOF
CHRISTIANITY

CASE CLOSED



PROOF
CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE