

Simply teaching the Word simply

THE SECOND EPISTLE GENERAL

# 2 Peter OF PETER.



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## Chapter 1

### VS. 16-18

YEAR OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA, CIV. 60.—YEAR OF THE WORLD, CIV. 4064.

#### CHAPTER I.

Confirming them in hope of the increase of God's graces, 1—4, he exhorteth them, by faith and good works, to make their calling sure, 5—11; whereof he is careful to remember them, knowing that his death is at hand, 12—16; and warneth them to be constant in the faith of Christ, who is the true Son of God, by the eye-witness of the apostle beholding his majesty, and by the testimony of the Father, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, 16—21.

**S**IMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us, through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of

A.M.4064. A.D.60.	A.M.4064. A.D.60.
CHAP. I.	John 12.24; Ro. 12.13;
A.M.4064. A.D.60.	1Pe.1.22; 1John.3.14.
1 Or, Symon, Ac. 13. 14.	2 1Co.13.4-8; Ga.6.10;
2 Mat.4.18; John 1.42;	Co.3.14; 1John 4.31.
3 11.16-17; 1Pe.1.1.	4 John 5.42; 1Co.3.14.
4 John 12.26; Ro.1.1.	5 Phil.1.5; Co.3.7.
5 Ro.11.49; John 20.21;	6 John 18.7; 1Co.8.18.
6 11.4-11.	7 1Pe.1.6, 7; 1Th.1.10.
7 Ro.1.15.	8 1Pe.1.10; 1Th.1.10.
8 Ro.3.17.	9 1Pe.1.10; 1Th.1.10.
9 Or, by God and	10 ver.5-7; Mar. 10.21;
10 Ro.1.14; 1Th.1.10.	11 Lu.18.27; Ga.5.6.
11 1Co.13.11; John 17.3.	12 John 9.40, 41; 1Co.4.
12 Ps.110.2; Mal.28.14;	13 1John 9-11.
13 1Co.15.2; Co.1.16.	14 ch.2.18-20; 1Pe.3.21.
14 1Pe.4.11; Ro.8.23.	15 ver.5.
15 ver.2.	16 1Th.3.10; Ro.6.11,18;
16 Ro.8.28-29; 1 Co.1.9;	17 Ro.8.28-31; 2 Th.2.
17 Ep.4.1; 1Th.2.13.	18 12.14; 1Pe.1.2.
18 Or, by	19 Since the difference
19 Ro.3.11; Phil.4.3.	between real and nominal
20 According as, in his	Christians is so
21 almighty power and	great, and since so

7 And to godliness, brotherly-kindness; and to brotherly-kindness, charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and ye shall not be made you that shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

A verse by verse study...

# Peter's Exhortation

- Peter has been exhorting us to live a Godly life...
  - Faith > Virtue > Knowledge > Temperance > Patience > Godliness > Brotherly Kindness > Love
- He has told us that this will not 'just happen', but that it takes diligence “
  - *“careful and persistent work or effort”*.
- *“Giving all diligence: These beautiful qualities are not things that the Lord simply pours into us as we passively receive. Instead, we are called to give all diligence to these things, working in partnership with God to add them. (Guzik)*
- He knew he end was approaching... 1 Cor 4:9
- So wanted to sow into their lives things they would not forget when he had gone

# Peter's Exhortation

- Now Peter returns to the 'bedrock' and seeks to strengthen the foundation.
- *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* Psalm 11:3
- *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, **even our faith**".* 1 John 5:4

# Basis for Belief

- H. L. Mencken naively said:
  - “Faith may be defined as an illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable”.
- But a more accurate description of Faith is encapsulated in the words of Dr George Eldon Ladd:
  - “Faith does not mean a leap in the dark, an irrational credulity, a believing against evidences and against reason. It means believing in the light of historical facts consistent with the evidences, on the basis of witnesses”



“I’m not a Christian today because I was raised that way or because it satisfies some need or accomplishes some goal.

I’m simply a Christian because it’s evidentially true.”

PUREFLIX PRESENTS  
**GOD'S  
NOT  
DEAD 2**  
IN THEATERS APRIL 1, 2016

J. WARNER WALLACE  
COLD-CASE DETECTIVE  
AND AUTHOR OF  
*COLD-CASE CHRISTIANITY*

16 For we have not followed **cunningly devised** fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

**2 Peter 1:16**

- **Gr.** 'Sophizo' - from where we get 'sophisticated'
- *'We didn't make this stuff up!'*

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2 Peter 1:16

- The Power...
  - *The power to perform the miraculous*
  - *The power to raise the dead*
  - *The power to be raised from the dead*
  - *The power to save*
  - *The power to change lives*

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2 Peter 1:16

- The Power & Coming

- Just as the things Peter saw and experienced we true
- So will be Jesus return
- Jesus had told the disciples personally He would return
- Not one thing Jesus had said had been proven untrue
- Peter had absolutely no doubt Jesus IS coming back



16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

**2 Peter 1:16**

- The testimony of an eyewitness is powerful!

# Eyewitnesses

- *“Fables’ translates the ancient Greek word mythos. Some people think the Gospel and the Biblical record are just ancient myths. They may admire their power as myths, but Peter rightly insisted that his message was no myth. It was history, seen by eyewitnesses” – David Guzik*

# Eyewitnesses

- 1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
- 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:
- 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion **by many infallible proofs**, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

**Acts 1:1-3**

# Eyewitnesses

- 21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
- 22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

**Acts 1:21-22**



# Eyewitnesses

<sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

**1 John 1:1**

- Empirical evidence!

# Eyewitnesses

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them.

**Luke 24:39-43**

# Truthful Testimony

- *“We can reliably reconstruct historical events from the testimony of eyewitnesses, who must be checked for truthfulness. The apostles and writers of the New Testament have been checked for centuries and have been found truthful.”*

- David Guzik

# Truthful Testimony

- Sir William Ramsay is regarded as one of the greatest archaeologists ever to have lived.
- He was a student in the German historical school of the mid-19th century.
- As a result, he believed that the Book of Acts was a product of the mid-second century AD. He was firmly convinced of this belief.
- In his research to make a topographical study of Asia Minor he was compelled to consider the writings of Luke.



# Truthful Testimony

- As a result he was forced to do a complete reversal of his beliefs due to the overwhelming evidence uncovered in his research.
- He spoke of this when he said: *"I may fairly claim to have entered on this investigation without prejudice in favour of the conclusion which I shall now seek to justify to the reader. On the contrary, I began with a mind unfavourable to it...It was gradually borne upon me that in various details the narrative showed marvelous truth"*.

# Truthful Testimony

- Concerning Luke's ability as a historian, Ramsay concluded after 30 years of study that:
- *"Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy...this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."*
- Ramsay adds: *"Luke's history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness."*

– Taken from *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*: Josh McDowell

# Truthful Testimony

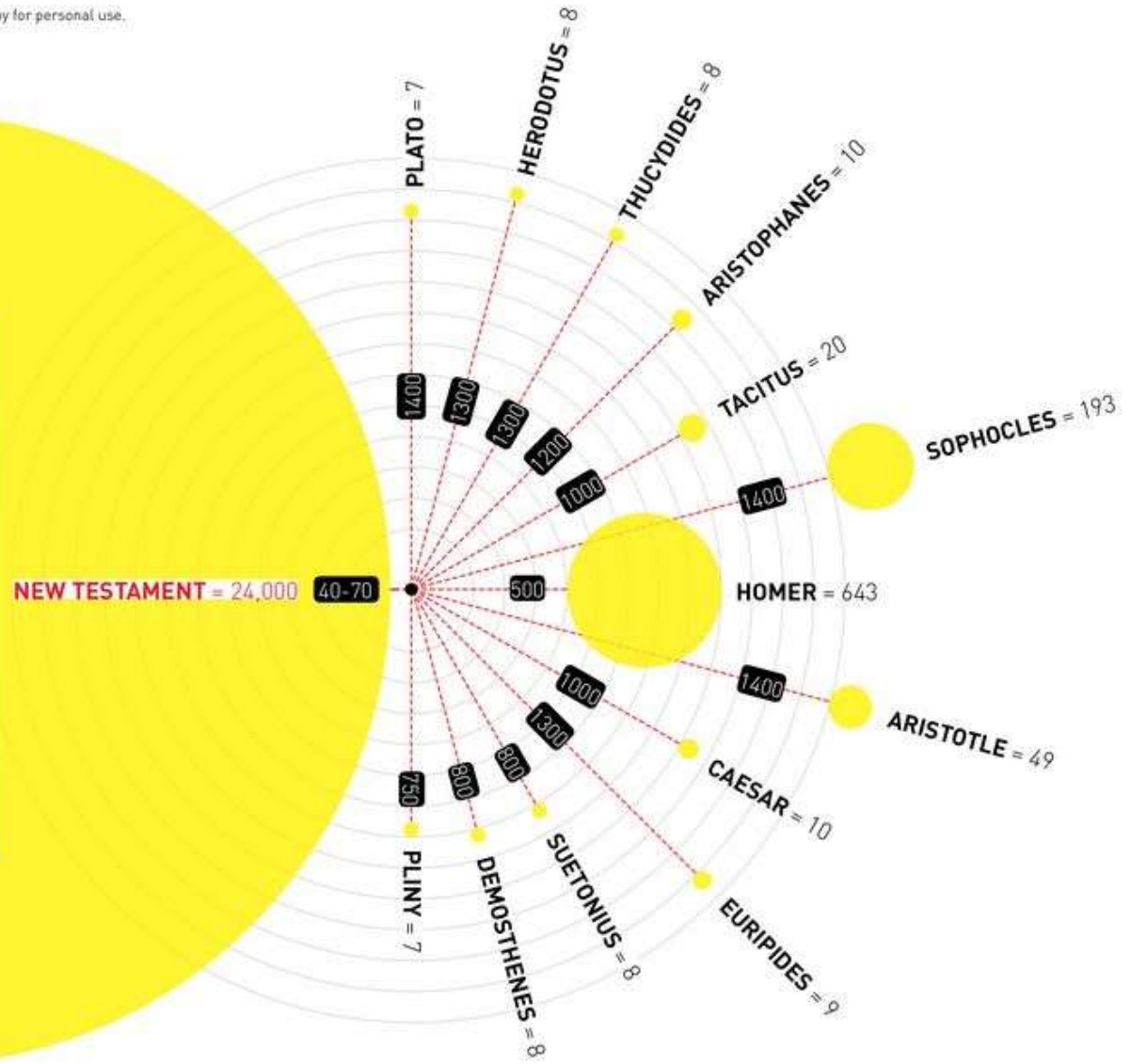
- *“After trying to shatter the historicity and validity of the Scripture, I came to the conclusion that it is historically trustworthy. If one discards the Bible as being unreliable, then he must discard almost all literature of antiquity”.*
- *“One problem I constantly face is the desire on the part of many to apply one standard or test to secular literature and another to the Bible. One needs to apply the same test, whether the literature under investigation is secular or religious”.*
- *Having done this, I believe one can hold the Scriptures in his hand and say, “The Bible is trustworthy and historically reliable.”*

- Josh McDowell

# THE RELIABILITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT COMPARED TO OTHER ANCIENT TEXTS

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AUTHOR / TEXT	EXISTING COPIES	YEARS BETWEEN ORIGINAL & EARLIEST SURVIVING COPIES
<b>NEW TESTAMENT</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>40-70</b>
HOMER / ILIAD	643	500
SOPHOCLES	193	1400
ARISTOTLE	49	1400
TACITUS	20	1000
CAESAR	10	1000
ARISTOPHANES	10	1200
EURIPIDES	9	1300
SUETONIUS	8	800
DEMOSTHENES	8	800
THUCYDIDES	8	1300
HERODOTUS	8	1300
PLINY	7	750
PLATO	7	1200





# Truthful Testimony

- *“As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidence for the events of the first Easter Day. To me the evidence is conclusive, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling. Inference follows on evidence, and a truthful witness is always artless and distains effect. The Gospel evidence for the resurrection is of this class, and as a lawyer I accept it unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts they were able to substantiate”*

Sir Edward Clarke

# Truthful Testimony

*“History records that two young men, Gilbert West and Lord Lyttleton, went up to Oxford. They were friends of Dr. Johnson and Alexander Pope, in the swim of society.*

*They were determined to attack the very basis of the Christian faith.*

*So Lyttleton settled down to prove that Saul of Tarsus was never converted to Christianity, and West to demonstrate that Jesus never rose from the tomb”*

# Truthful Testimony

*“Some time later, they met to discuss their findings. Both were a little sheepish. For they had both come to similar and disturbing conclusions. Lyttleton found, on examination, that Saul of Tarsus did become a radically new man through his conversation to Christianity, and West found that the evidence pointed unmistakably to the fact that Jesus did rise from the dead.*

– Observations on the History and Evidence of  
the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – Published 1747

# Truthful Testimony

*“After more than 700 hours of studying this subject, and thoroughly investigating its foundation, 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”*

– Josh McDowell

"Professor McDowell, why can't you intellectually refute Christianity?"

"For a very simple reason. I am not able to explain away an event in history - the resurrection of Jesus Christ"



# Truthful Testimony

Lord Lyndhurst (1772-1863), recognised as one of the greatest legal minds in British history wrote:

*“I know pretty well what evidence is; and I tell you, such evidence as that for the Resurrection has never broken down yet.”*

# The Resurrection Myth?

- Throughout history, people have gone to extraordinary lengths to silence, obfuscate or deny the resurrection!
- The Jews threw everything they had at silencing the resurrection of Jesus
- The Roman Catholic church has bent over backwards to obfuscate this truth
- Today's Atheists have shouted as loud as they can – to no avail!

- *“Nobody knows who the four evangelists were, but they almost certainly never met Jesus personally. Much of what they wrote was in no sense an honest attempt at history. . . . The gospels are ancient fiction.”*

– Richard Dawkins, *“The God Delusion”*



A group of people are seated around a table in a dimly lit setting, possibly a restaurant or cafe. The table is cluttered with various items including a white box, a brown paper bag, a green bottle, and other food-related items. The people are engaged in conversation, with some looking towards the camera and others looking at each other. The overall atmosphere is casual and social.

If Dawkins is correct, one  
might imagine the following  
conversation . . . .

A group of men are seated around a table in a restaurant. They are engaged in conversation and eating. The scene is dimly lit, with warm tones from the interior lighting. The men are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. One man in the foreground is holding a glass, and another is looking towards him. The table is set with plates of food, glasses, and napkins.

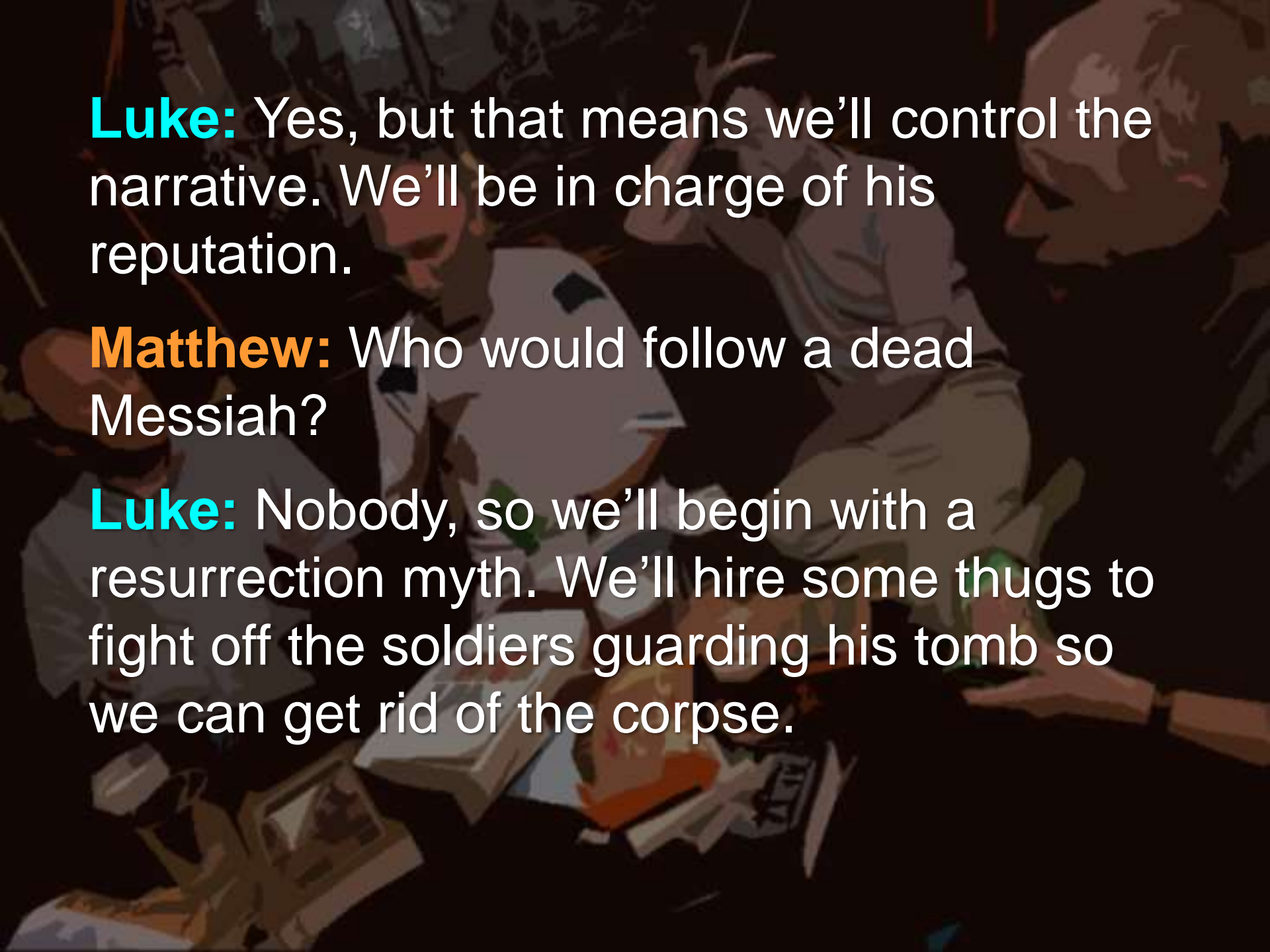
**Luke:** Let's have another round of drinks. I've an idea I want to run past you.

**John:** Sure. What's on your mind?

**Luke:** You probably heard about the Nazarene named Jesus who was crucified yesterday. I think he could be the perfect candidate for our fake Messiah project.

**Mark:** One tiny problem: he's dead!



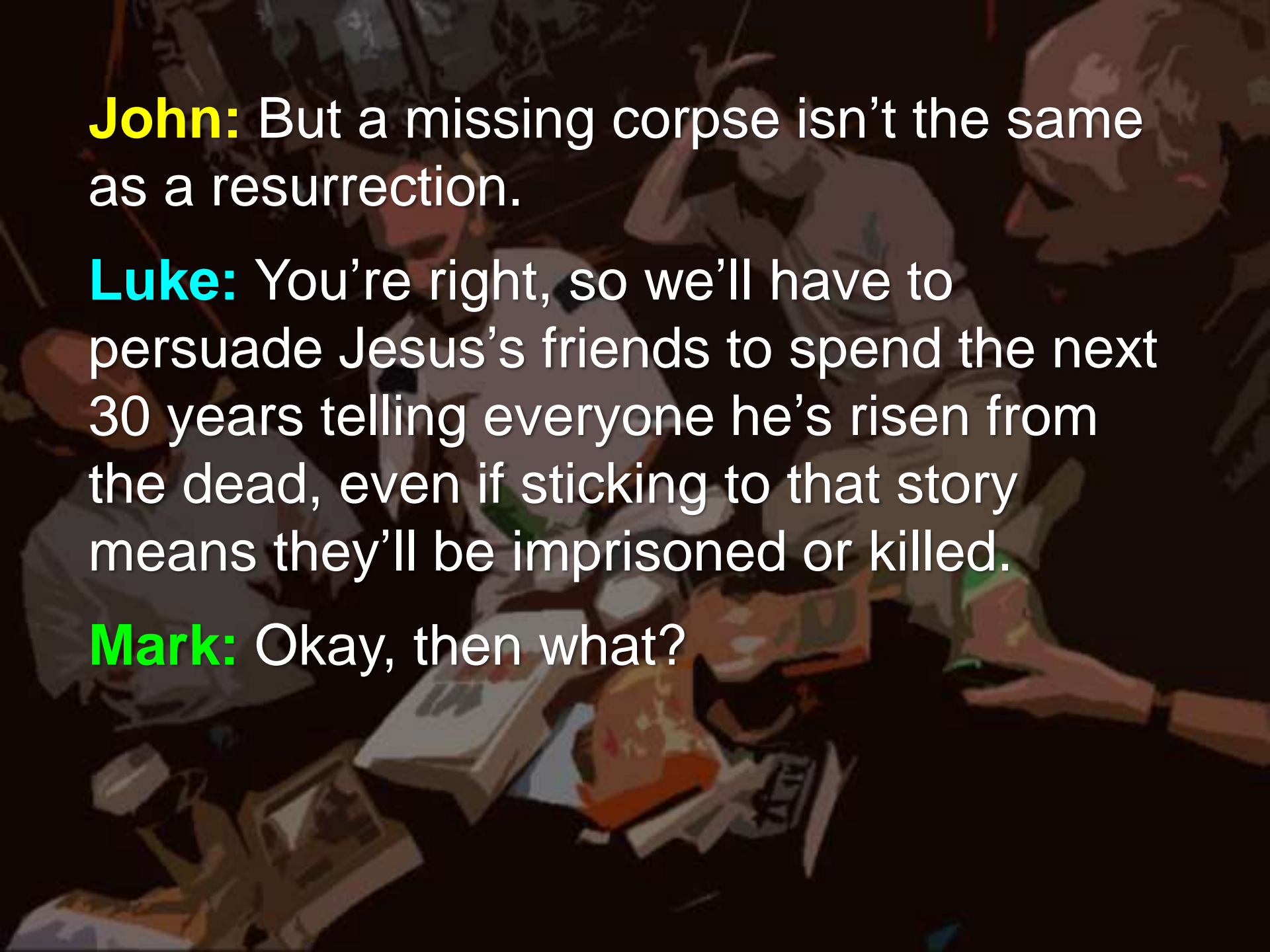


**Luke:** Yes, but that means we'll control the narrative. We'll be in charge of his reputation.

**Matthew:** Who would follow a dead Messiah?

**Luke:** Nobody, so we'll begin with a resurrection myth. We'll hire some thugs to fight off the soldiers guarding his tomb so we can get rid of the corpse.

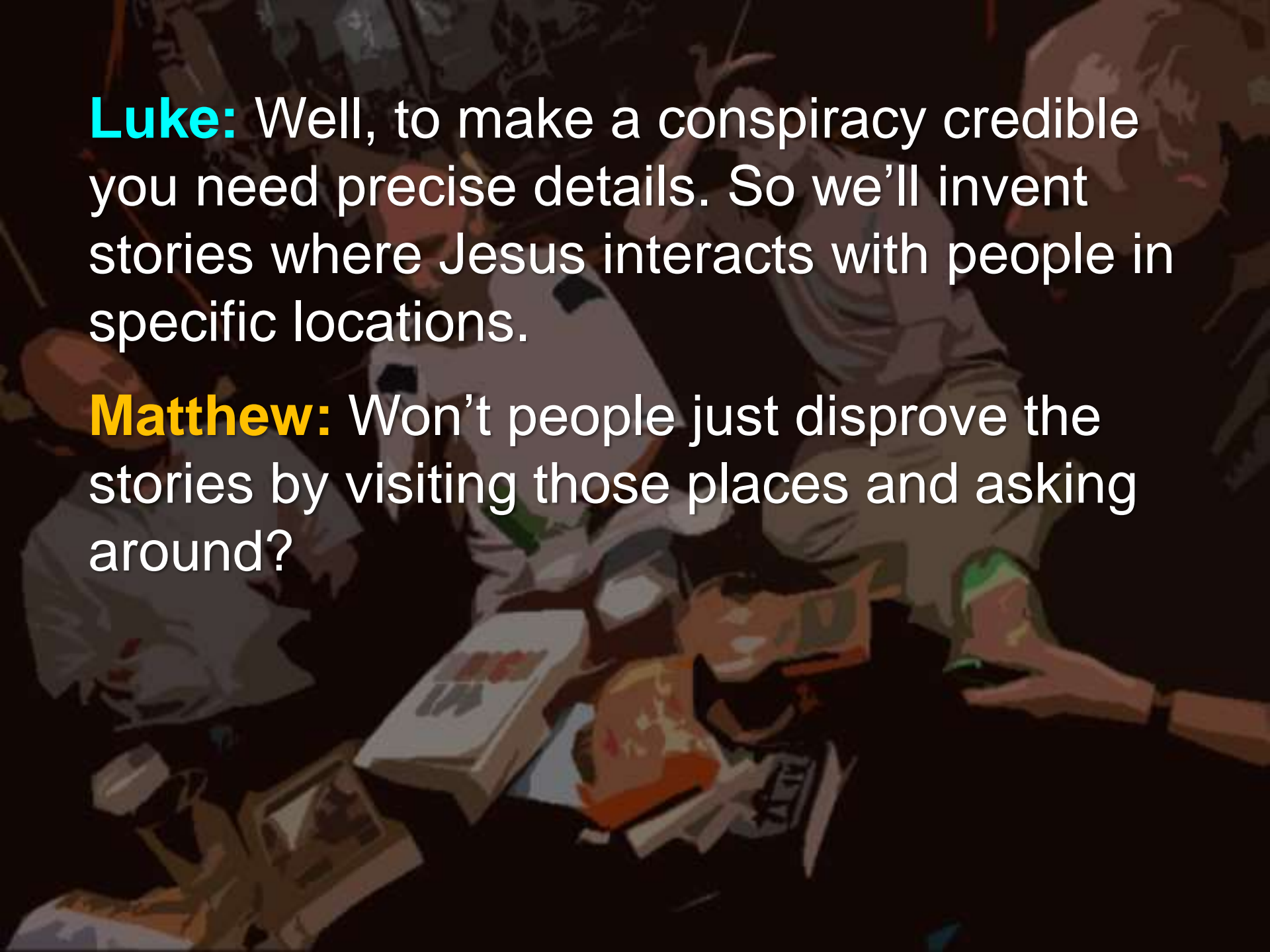


A group of people are sitting around a table, engaged in a meal. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from above, creating a warm, intimate atmosphere. The people are dressed in casual attire, and the table is set with various dishes, including what appears to be a pizza or a large flatbread, and some beverages. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the group in the foreground.

**John:** But a missing corpse isn't the same as a resurrection.

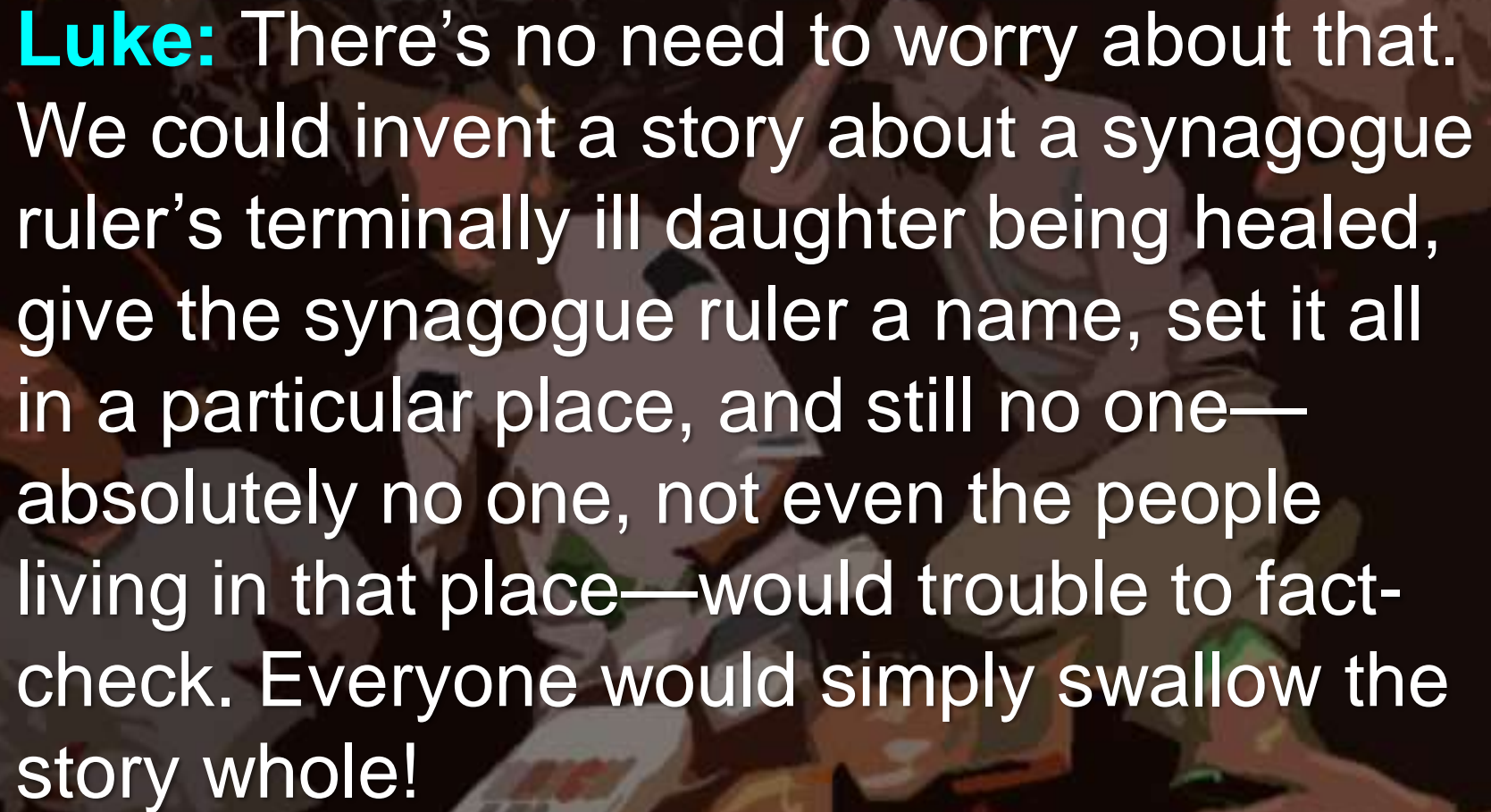
**Luke:** You're right, so we'll have to persuade Jesus's friends to spend the next 30 years telling everyone he's risen from the dead, even if sticking to that story means they'll be imprisoned or killed.

**Mark:** Okay, then what?

A group of people are sitting around a table, eating and talking. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light. There are plates of food, including what looks like a burger and some bread. The people are dressed in casual, modern clothing. The overall atmosphere is relaxed and social.

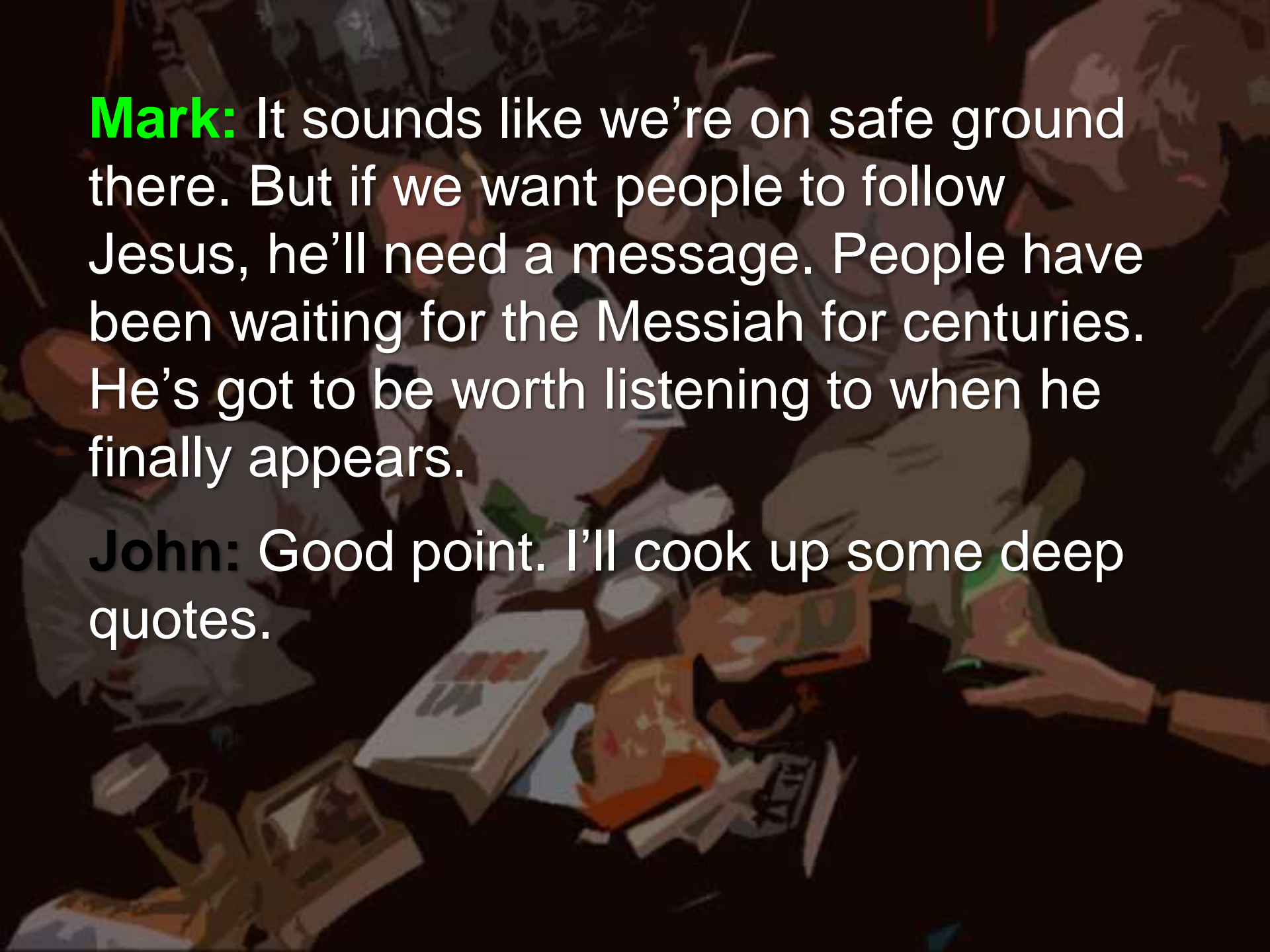
**Luke:** Well, to make a conspiracy credible you need precise details. So we'll invent stories where Jesus interacts with people in specific locations.

**Matthew:** Won't people just disprove the stories by visiting those places and asking around?

A group of people are seated around a table, engaged in a meal. The table is set with various dishes, including what appears to be a large pizza or flatbread, and several white takeout containers. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, slightly dark atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, starting with the name 'Luke' in a bright cyan color.

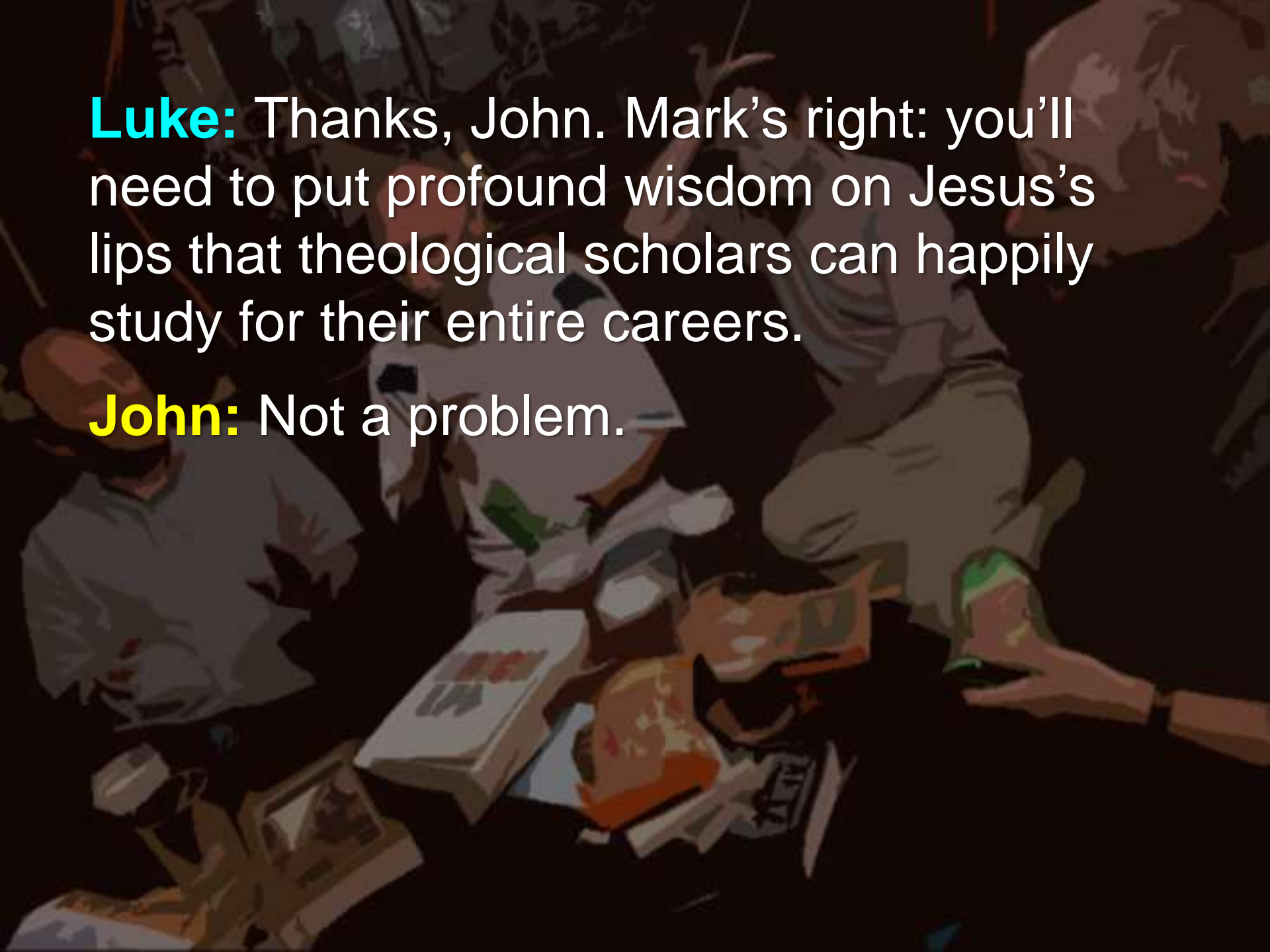
**Luke:** There's no need to worry about that. We could invent a story about a synagogue ruler's terminally ill daughter being healed, give the synagogue ruler a name, set it all in a particular place, and still no one—absolutely no one, not even the people living in that place—would trouble to fact-check. Everyone would simply swallow the story whole!



A group of people are seated around a table, engaged in a meal. The table is set with various dishes, including what appears to be a burger, fries, and a drink. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, intimate atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

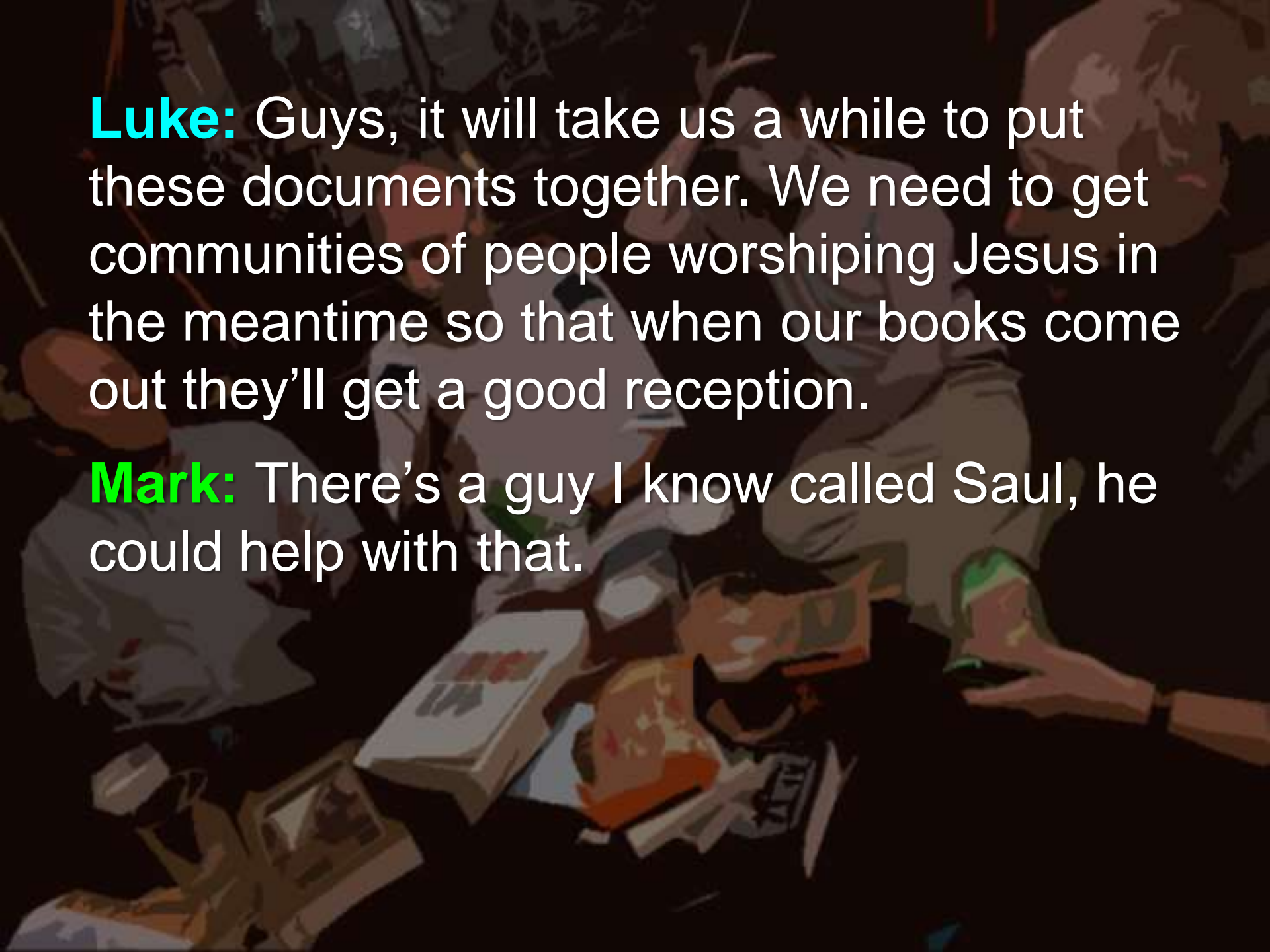
**Mark:** It sounds like we're on safe ground there. But if we want people to follow Jesus, he'll need a message. People have been waiting for the Messiah for centuries. He's got to be worth listening to when he finally appears.

**John:** Good point. I'll cook up some deep quotes.

A group of men are sitting around a table, eating and drinking. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, brownish glow. In the foreground, a man is holding a green bottle. The table is cluttered with food, including a large orange sandwich or burger, and a white box. The men are dressed in simple, light-colored clothing. The overall atmosphere is casual and communal.

**Luke:** Thanks, John. Mark's right: you'll need to put profound wisdom on Jesus's lips that theological scholars can happily study for their entire careers.

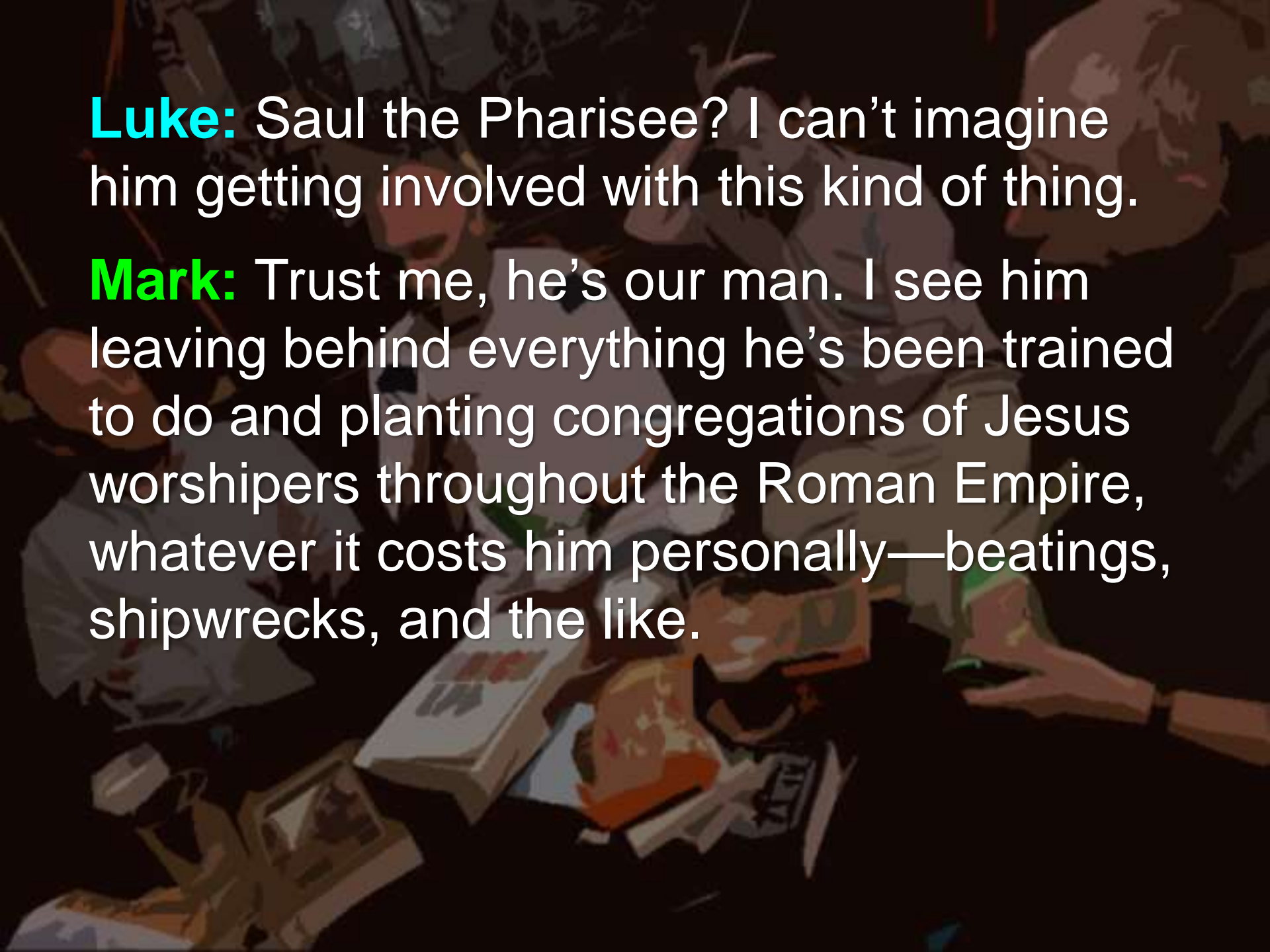
**John:** Not a problem.

A group of people are sitting around a table, possibly in a restaurant or cafe. There are several plates of food, including what looks like a burger and some fries, and some drinks. The scene is dimly lit, and the overall tone is somewhat somber or reflective. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font. The name 'Luke' is highlighted in cyan, and 'Mark' is highlighted in green.

**Luke:** Guys, it will take us a while to put these documents together. We need to get communities of people worshiping Jesus in the meantime so that when our books come out they'll get a good reception.

**Mark:** There's a guy I know called Saul, he could help with that.

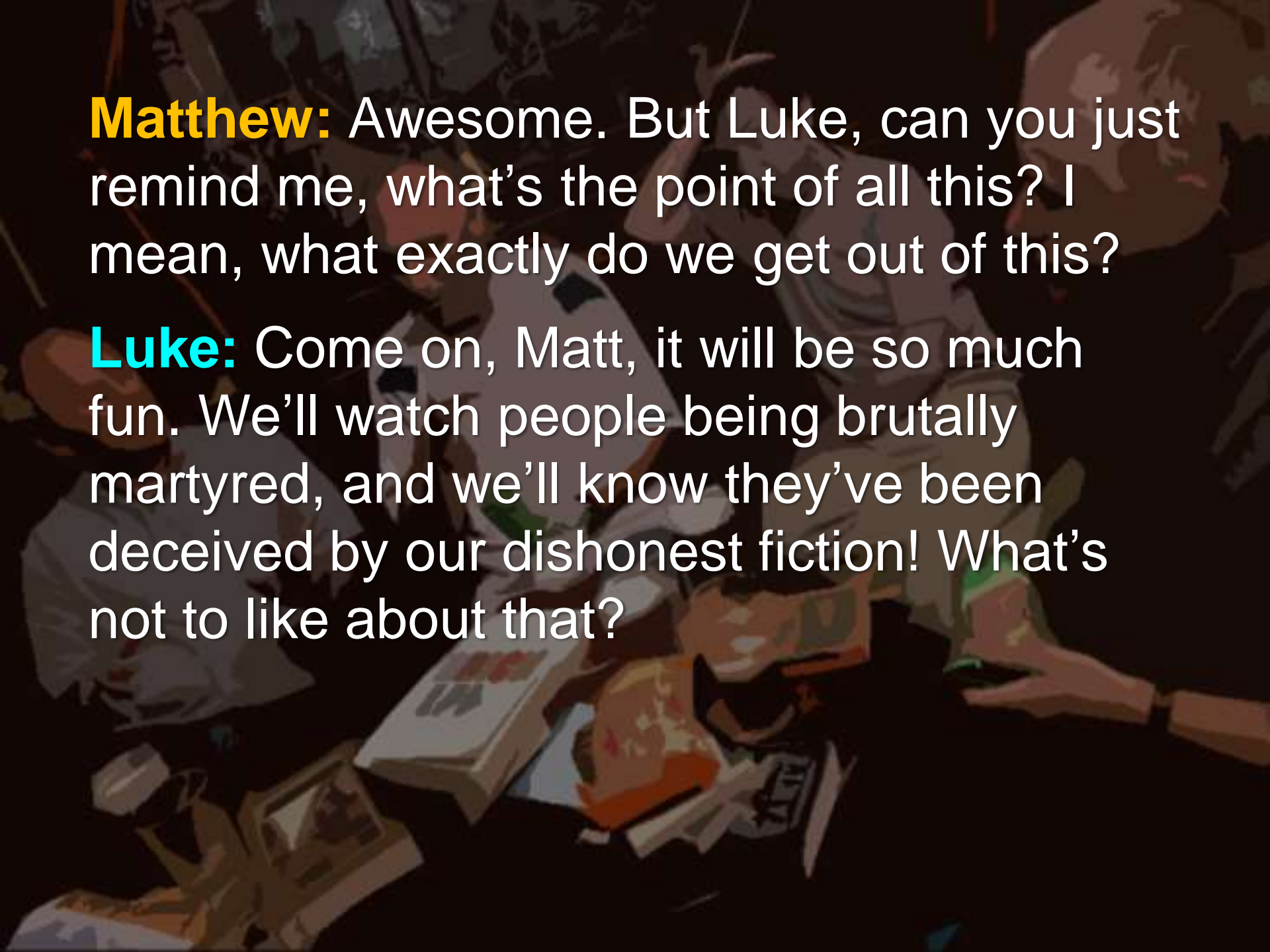


A group of men in suits are seated around a table, engaged in a meal. The table is set with various dishes, including what appears to be a burger, fries, and a drink. The men are looking towards each other, suggesting a conversation. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the group and their interaction.

**Luke:** Saul the Pharisee? I can't imagine him getting involved with this kind of thing.

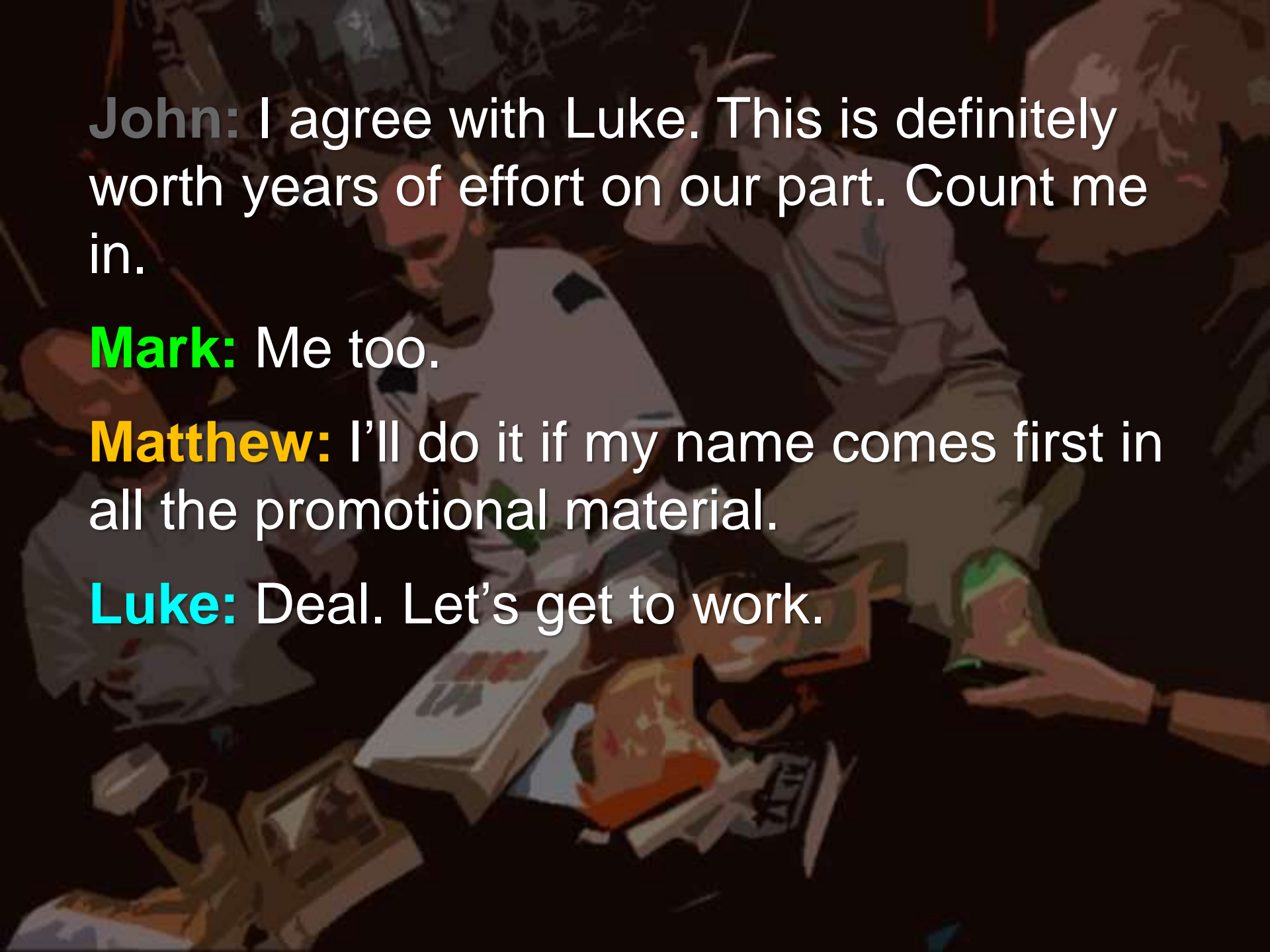
**Mark:** Trust me, he's our man. I see him leaving behind everything he's been trained to do and planting congregations of Jesus worshipers throughout the Roman Empire, whatever it costs him personally—beatings, shipwrecks, and the like.



A group of people are seated around a table, engaged in a meal. The table is cluttered with various food items, including burgers, fries, and drinks. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, slightly desaturated color palette. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**Matthew:** Awesome. But Luke, can you just remind me, what's the point of all this? I mean, what exactly do we get out of this?

**Luke:** Come on, Matt, it will be so much fun. We'll watch people being brutally martyred, and we'll know they've been deceived by our dishonest fiction! What's not to like about that?

A group of men in a meeting room, some holding papers and others looking at a screen. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from a screen or monitor in the background. The men are dressed in business attire, and the overall atmosphere is professional and focused.

**John:** I agree with Luke. This is definitely worth years of effort on our part. Count me in.

**Mark:** Me too.

**Matthew:** I'll do it if my name comes first in all the promotional material.

**Luke:** Deal. Let's get to work.

# The Resurrection Foretold

- Specifically, over a thousand years before!
- The Feast of Passover foreshadows Christ's sacrificial death
  - An innocent lamb taken on the 10<sup>th</sup>, killed on 14<sup>th</sup>
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread, His burial
  - Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground...
- The Feast of Firstfruits, His resurrection
  - Paul states that Christ is the 'firstfruit' to God of those who are destined to rise from the dead!

# The Basis of Christianity

- Paul contends that the very basis for the Christian faith is firmly rooted in an historical event that occurred in a garden in Judea some 2000 years ago!
- If that event did not take place, Paul says we might as well just pack up and go home!
- There is no point just believing this thing 'cos it gives us a warm fuzzy feeling'.
- It is either true, and we can substantiate it, or it's false and we should just get on with our lives and stop being so silly. (Read 1 Corinthians 15:13-19)



# The Basis of Christianity

- Paul says that if you (or your skeptic friend) want to disprove Christianity, simply show that the Resurrection did not take place; show that it was all a hoax or some elaborate plot.
  - Paul was that confident in the historical and factual basis of the Resurrection and knew that without it there could be no Christianity, because everything we believe hangs on that one event.
- Christian apologist and international speaker Josh McDowell said: “Everything that Jesus Christ taught, lived and died for depended upon His resurrection”
- B. L. Shelley, in his thorough treatment of the history of the Christian church stated: “First Corinthians fixes belief in the historical resurrection of Jesus as the indispensable basis of salvation”

# The Power to Change Lives

- “We did not follow cunningly devised fables”:
- *“Peter solemnly declared that the testimony of the apostles – testimony they endured torture and gave their lives for – was not based on clever fables or even half truths, but on eyewitness testimony; that they were eyewitnesses of His majesty”.* – David Guzik

# The Power to Change Lives

- Stephen — stoned to death
- James — beheaded
- Matthias — tied down & vultures eat him alive
- Jude (Thaddeus) — crucified & shot with arrows
- Nathaniel — skinned alive & crucified
- Philip — hanged
- Andrew — crucified in Egypt
- Mark — dragged behind chariots



# The Power to Change Lives

- Matthew – flayed & beheaded
- Luke – Crucified
- James (Alpheus) – thrown from the temple
- Thomas – Impaled in India
- Simon Zelotes – Sawn in pieces
- Peter – Crucified upside down
- Paul – Beheaded in Rome

# Faithful Transmission

- The Talmud lists more than a dozen rules for copying the Torah
- Built-in security system!
- If even just one of these factors is lacking, it does not possess the sanctity of a Torah scroll, and is not to be used for a public Torah reading.
- The meticulous process of hand-copying a scroll takes about 2,000 hours (a full-time job for one year).
- Throughout the centuries, Jewish scribes have adhered to the following guidelines:

# Faithful Transmission

- 1. The parchment must be made from the skin of a clean animal (clean meaning ceremonially clean according to the Old Testament sanitary laws); must be prepared by a Jew only, and the skins must be fastened together by strings taken from clean animals.
- 2. Each column must have no less than forty-eight, nor more than sixty lines.
- 3. The entire copy must be first lined.

# Faithful Transmission

- 4. A Torah Scroll is disqualified if even a single letter is added.
- 5. A Torah Scroll is disqualified if even a single letter is deleted.
- 6. The scribe must be a learned, pious Jew, who has undergone special training and certification.
- 7. All materials (parchment, ink, quill) must conform to strict specifications, and be prepared specifically for the purpose of writing a Torah Scroll.



# Faithful Transmission

- 8. The scribe may not write even one letter into a Torah Scroll from memory. Rather, he must have a second, kosher scroll opened before him at all times.
- 9. The scribe must pronounce every word out loud before copying it from the correct text.
- 10. Every letter must have sufficient white space surrounding it. If one letter touched another in any spot, it invalidates the entire scroll.

# Faithful Transmission

- 11. If a single letter was so marred that it cannot be read at all, or resembles another letter (whether the defect is in the writing, or is due to a hole, tear or smudge), this invalidates the entire scroll.
- 12. Each letter must be sufficiently legible so that even an ordinary schoolchild could distinguish it from other, similar letters.
- 13. The scribe must put precise space between words, so that one word will not look like two words, or two words look like one word.

# Faithful Transmission

- 14. The scribe must not alter the design of the sections, and must conform to particular line-lengths and paragraph configurations.
- 15. The ink must be of no other colour than black, and it must be prepared according to a special recipe.
- 16. He must reverently wipe his pen each time before writing the word for "God" (Elohim), and he must wash his whole body before writing the name "Jehovah" (LORD in KJV), lest the Holy Name be contaminated.



# Faithful Transmission

- 17. Each Hebrew letter has a numerical value; each column when completed must be added up and be the exact numerical value as the scroll you were copying from.
- 18. Each page must also add up numerically
- 19. The revision (to correct any errors) of a roll must be made within thirty days after the work was finished; otherwise it was worthless.
- 20. One mistake on a sheet condemned the entire sheet. If three mistakes were found on any page, the entire manuscript was condemned.

# Faithful Transmission

A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing in a book with a quill pen. The person is wearing a white shirt. The book is open, and the text is written in a cursive script. The background is dark and out of focus.

- Critics favourite challenge:  
“you can’t trust the Bible, it’s been changed so many times”
- 304,805 letters in the Torah
- How many errors in 1900 years?

# Faithful Transmission

*“The fact is, that after all the trials and tribulations, communal dislocations and persecutions, only the Yemenite Torah scrolls contain any difference from the rest of world Jewry. For hundreds of years, the Yemenite community was not part of the global checking system, and a total of nine letter-differences are found in their scrolls.*

*These are all spelling differences. In no case do they change the meaning of the word.”*

# Overwhelming Proof

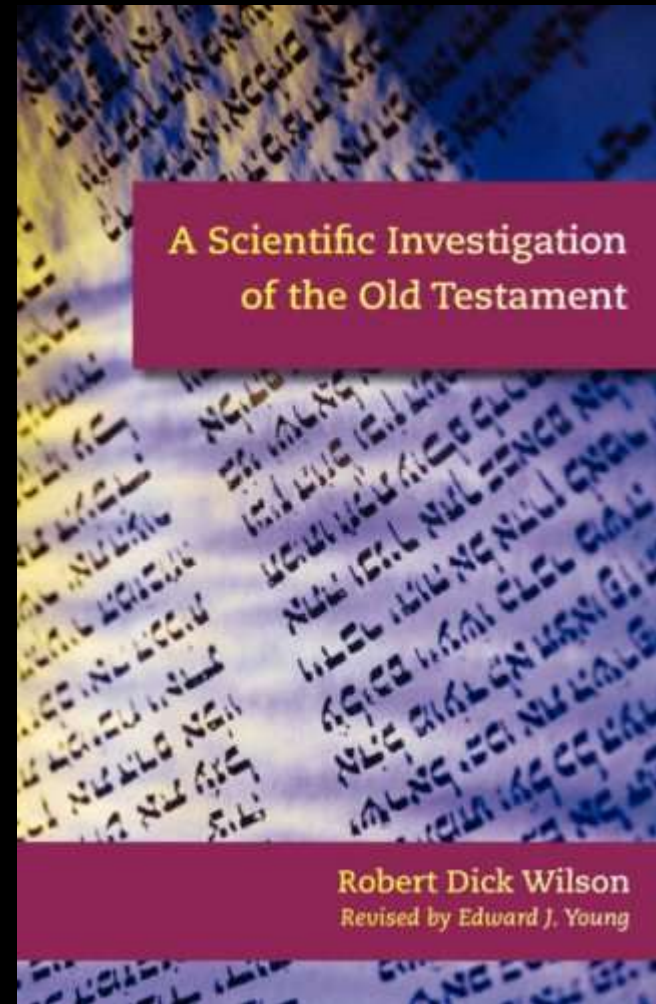
- Apologetic Arguments
  - Historical
  - Scientific
  - Mathematical
  - Geographical
  - Biological
  - Astronomical
  - Archeological
  - The Bible
  - The Greatest Mystery?
- Logical reasons for faith
  - Verified & Supported
  - Scientifically Accurate
  - Provable certainties
  - Locationally Accurate
  - Medically Confirmed
  - Cosmologically Correct
  - Demonstrably True
  - Internal Proof
  - The Jubilee Phenomena



# Overwhelming Proof

- Could we put the Bible to the test?
- Is it possible to prove it's accuracy and reliability?
- The following is the testimony of two world renowned scholars who did just that!
- Their conclusions provide a powerful rebuttal to anyone who would claim the Bible is a myth or fable!

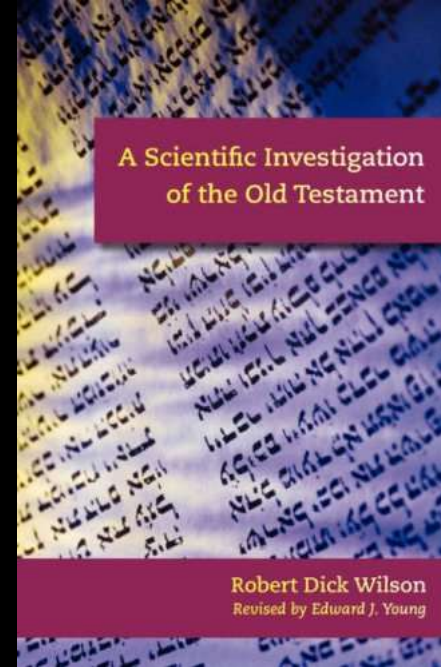
- Professor Robert D Wilson
  - “Scientific Investigation of The Old Testament”
  - He could read & write 45 ancient Semitic languages
  - At 25 yrs old he could read the NT in 9 languages
  - He had memorised the NT from Matthew – Revelation
  - He also had many of the OT book memorised in Hebrew





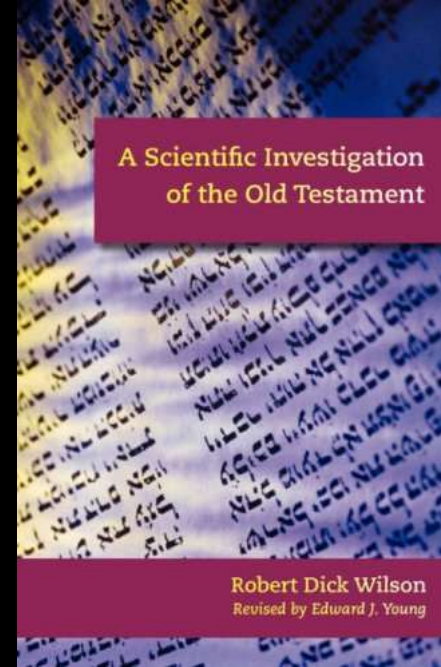
“For 45 years continuously I have devoted myself to one great study of the Old Testament. In all of its languages, in all of its archaeology, in all of its translations.

The critics of the Bible who go to it in order to find fault claims to themselves all knowledge, all virtue, all love of the truth. One of their favourite phrases is ‘*all scholars agree*’. Well, when a man says that I wish to know who the scholars are and what they agree on? Where do they get their evidence? I defy any man to make an attack on the Old Testament on the ground of evidence that I cannot investigate.”

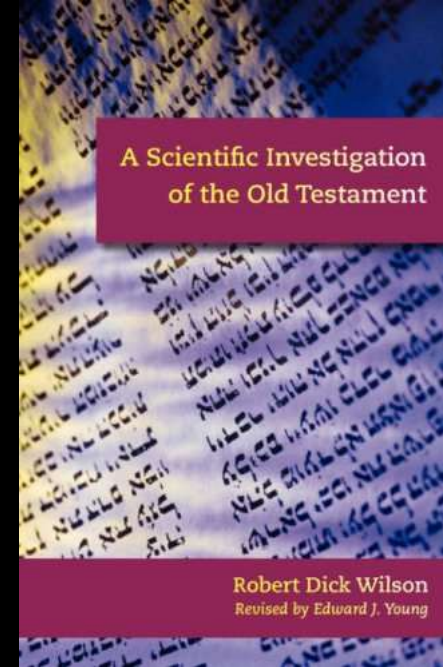


“After I learned the necessary languages, I set about the investigation of every single consonant in the Hebrew Old Testament – there are about one million, two hundred and fifty thousand of them.

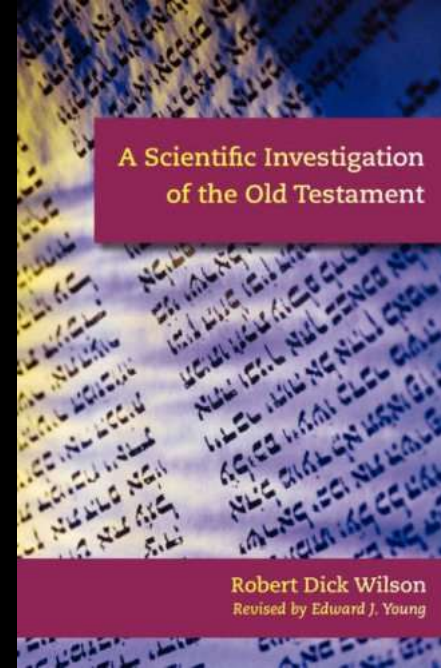
It took me many years to achieve my task. I had to observe variations in the text, in the manuscripts, notes of the masorites in all their various versions, parallel passages, and contextual emendations of critics; and then I had to classify the results of every character, every consonant, to reduce the Old Testament criticism to an absolutely objective science, something that is based on evidence and not opinion.



The result of those 45 years of study which I have given to the text has been this:

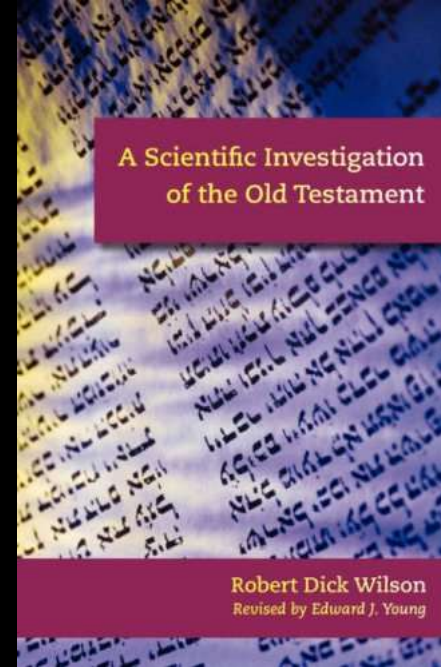


“I can affirm that there is not a page of the Old Testament concerning which you need have any doubt!”



“For example, to illustrate its accuracy: there are 29 ancient kings whose names are mentioned, not only in the Bible, but also on monuments we’ve uncovered of their own time.

There are 195 consonants in those 29 proper names. Yet we find that in the documents of the Hebrew Old Testament there are only two consonants out of the 195 that have ever been called into question.”

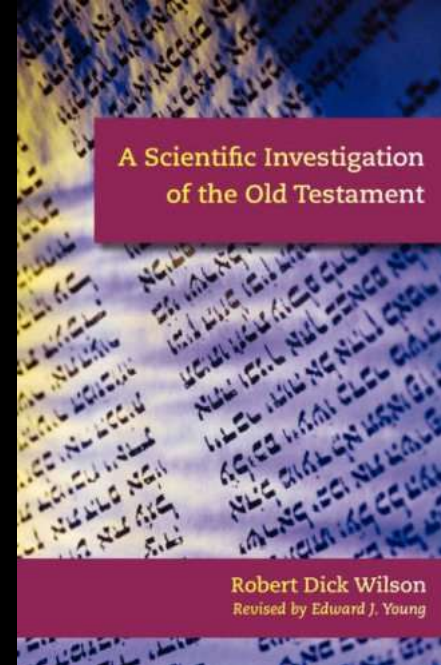




“[The names] are all in exactly the same way as they have been inscribed on their monuments which archaeologists have dated and discovered. Some of these go back four thousand years.

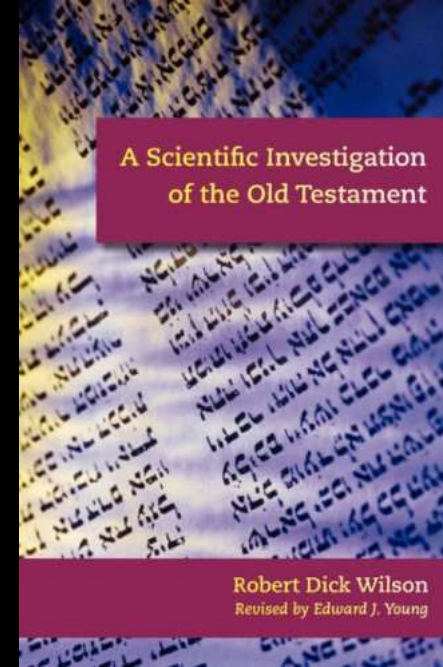
Compare this accuracy with the greatest scholar of his age, the librarian at Alexandria in Egypt, (200 B.C.) He compiled a catalogue of the kings of Egypt, 38 in all. Of the entire number only three or four were recognisable.

He also made a list of the kings of Assyria and in only one case can we tell who he's talking about - and that one is not spelt correctly!





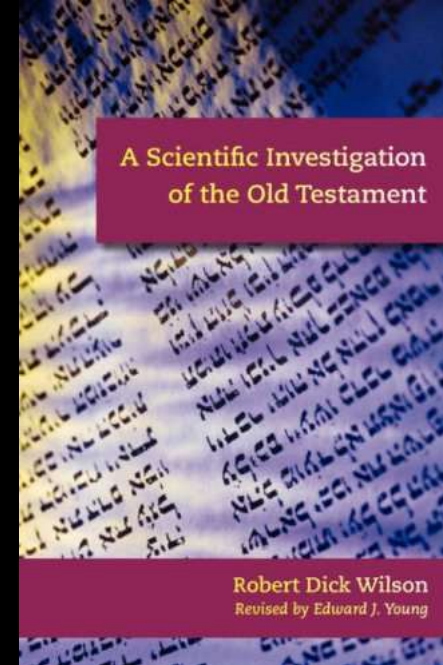
“Or take Ptolemy who drew up a register of eighteen kings of Babylon; not one of them is properly spelt. You could not make them out at all if you did not know some of the outside sources.”



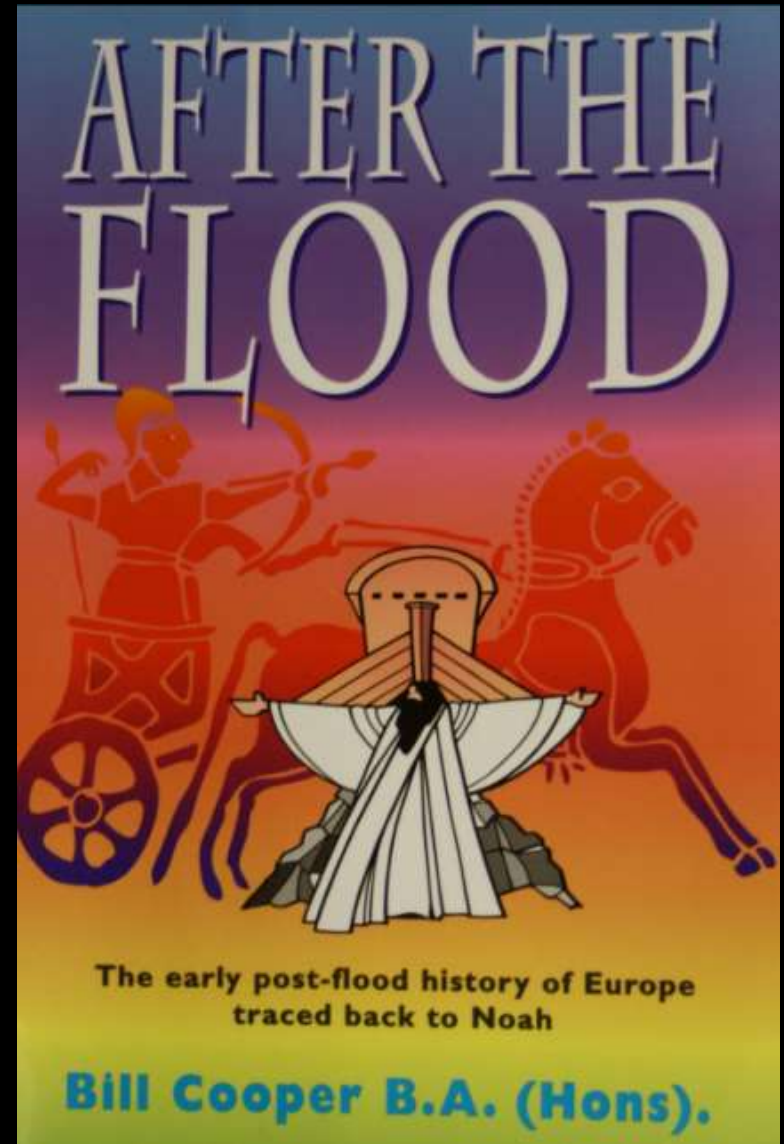
“If anyone talks about the Bible, ask him about the kings mentioned in it. There are 29 kings referred to, 10 different countries among these 29, all of which are included in the Bible and on the monuments.

Every one of these is give their right name in the Bible, their right country and their right place in correct chronological order.

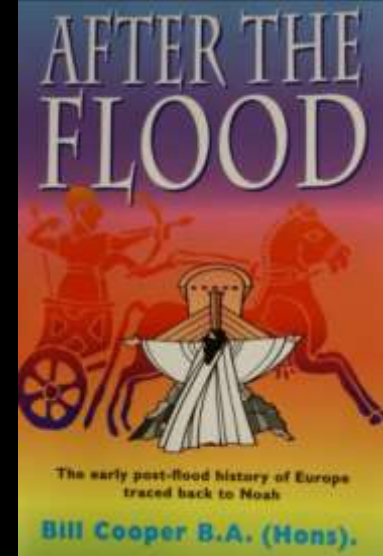
**Think what this means!”**



- **Dr Bill Cooper**
- Dr Bill Cooper is a Vice President of the Creation Science Movement in England. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor on the Master Faculty at the Institute for Creation Research School of Biblical Apologetics.
- Bill's in-depth research has led to some ground-breaking discoveries.
- In this book Bill traces the kings and queens of England all the way back to Noah & demonstrates the historical accuracy of the Biblical record.

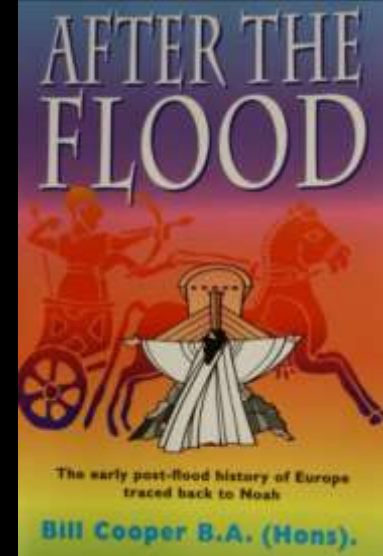


- Dr Bill Cooper
- “It is commonly thought in this present age that nothing is worthy of our belief unless first it can be scientifically demonstrated and observed to be true.
- ...it was assumed without further enquiry that nothing in especially the earlier portions of the biblical record could be demonstrated to be true and factual. This applied particularly to the book of Genesis.
- In other words, we were solemnly assured in the light of modern wisdom that, historically speaking, the book of Genesis was simply not worth the paper it was written on.



On the one hand I had the Bible itself claiming to be the very Word of God, and on the other I was presented with numerous commentaries that spoke with one voice in telling me that the Bible was nothing of the kind. It was merely a hotch-potch collection of middle-eastern myths and fables that sought to explain the world in primitive terms.

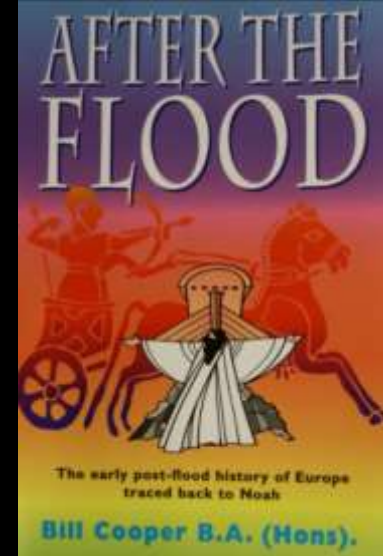
Now, it simply was not possible for both these claims to be valid. Only one of them could be right...





So it was then that I decided to select a certain portion of Genesis and submit it to a test which, if applied to any ordinary historical document, would be considered a test of the most unreasonable severity. And I would continue that test until either the book of Genesis revealed itself to be a false account, or it would be shown to be utterly reliable in its historical statements.

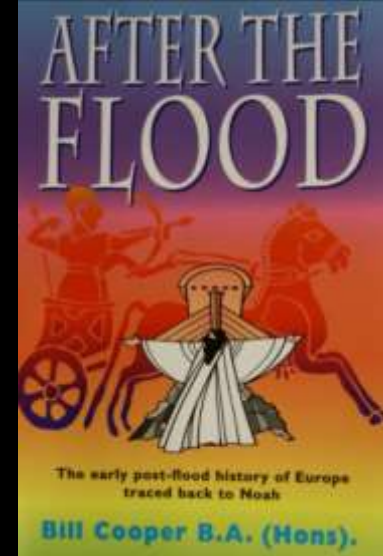
What I had not expected at the time was the fact that the task was to engage my attention and energies for more than twenty-five years...



The test that I devised was a simple one. If the names of the individuals, families, peoples and tribes listed in the Table of Nations were genuine, then those same names should appear also in the records of other nations of the Middle East.

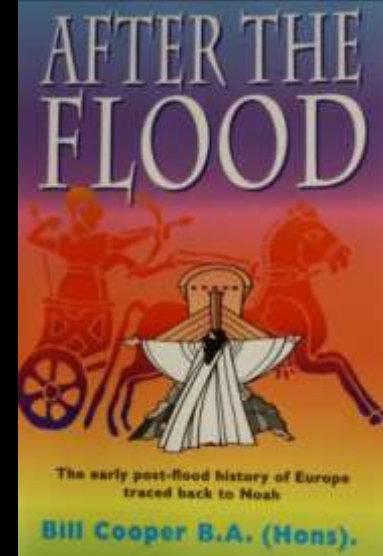
It simply was not realistic to expect that every name would have been recorded in the annals of the ancient Middle East and would also have survived to the present day.

I therefore would have been content to have found say 40% of the list vindicated.



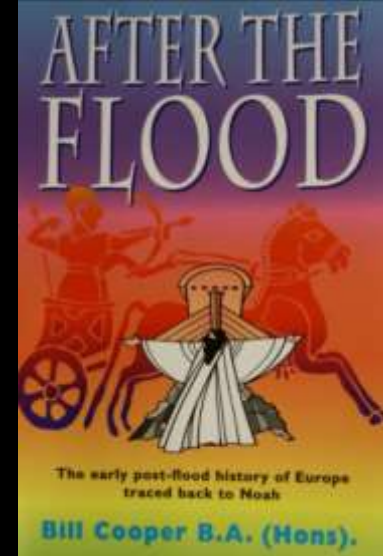
In fact that would have been a very high achievement given the sheer antiquity of the Table of Nations itself and the reported scarcity of the surviving extra-biblical records from those ancient times.

But when, over my twenty-five years of research, that confirmatory evidence grew past 40% to 50%, and then 60% and beyond, it soon became apparent that modern wisdom in this matter was wide of the mark. Very wide of the mark indeed.



Today I can say that the names so far vindicated in the Table of Nations make up over 99% of the list,

...and I shall make no further comment on that other than to say that no other ancient historical document of purely human authorship could be expected to yield such a level of corroboration as that!



- THE BIBLE WAS INSCRIBED OVER A PERIOD OF 2000 YEARS
- IN TIMES OF WAR AND IN DAYS OF PEACE
- BY KINGS, PHYSICIANS, TAX COLLECTORS, FARMERS FISHERMEN, SINGERS AND SHEPHERDS
- THE MARVEL IS THAT A LIBRARY SO PERFECTLY COHESIVE COULD HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY SUCH A DIVERSE CROWD OVER A PERIOD OF TIME...
- WHICH STAGGERS THE IMAGINATION



16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

**2 Peter 1:16**

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**2 Peter 1:17**

- Peter was in no doubt that the voice he heard was from God
- Jesus humbled Himself & became of no reputation (took the lowest seat at the table)...
- Now God exalts Him and gives Him a name above every other name!

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

2 Peter 1:18

- The 'holy mount' ?
- Probably Mt Hermon (Northern Israel)
  - Near Caesarea Philippi
  - See Matt 17 / Mark 9
  - Moses & Elijah appear with Jesus to discuss what would soon happen in Jerusalem (His death & resurrection)
    - It would seem that they were called to be 'eye-witnesses' of the resurrection
    - We see them again at the Tomb & Ascension



# CANAAN AS DIVIDED AMONG THE TWELVE TRIBES

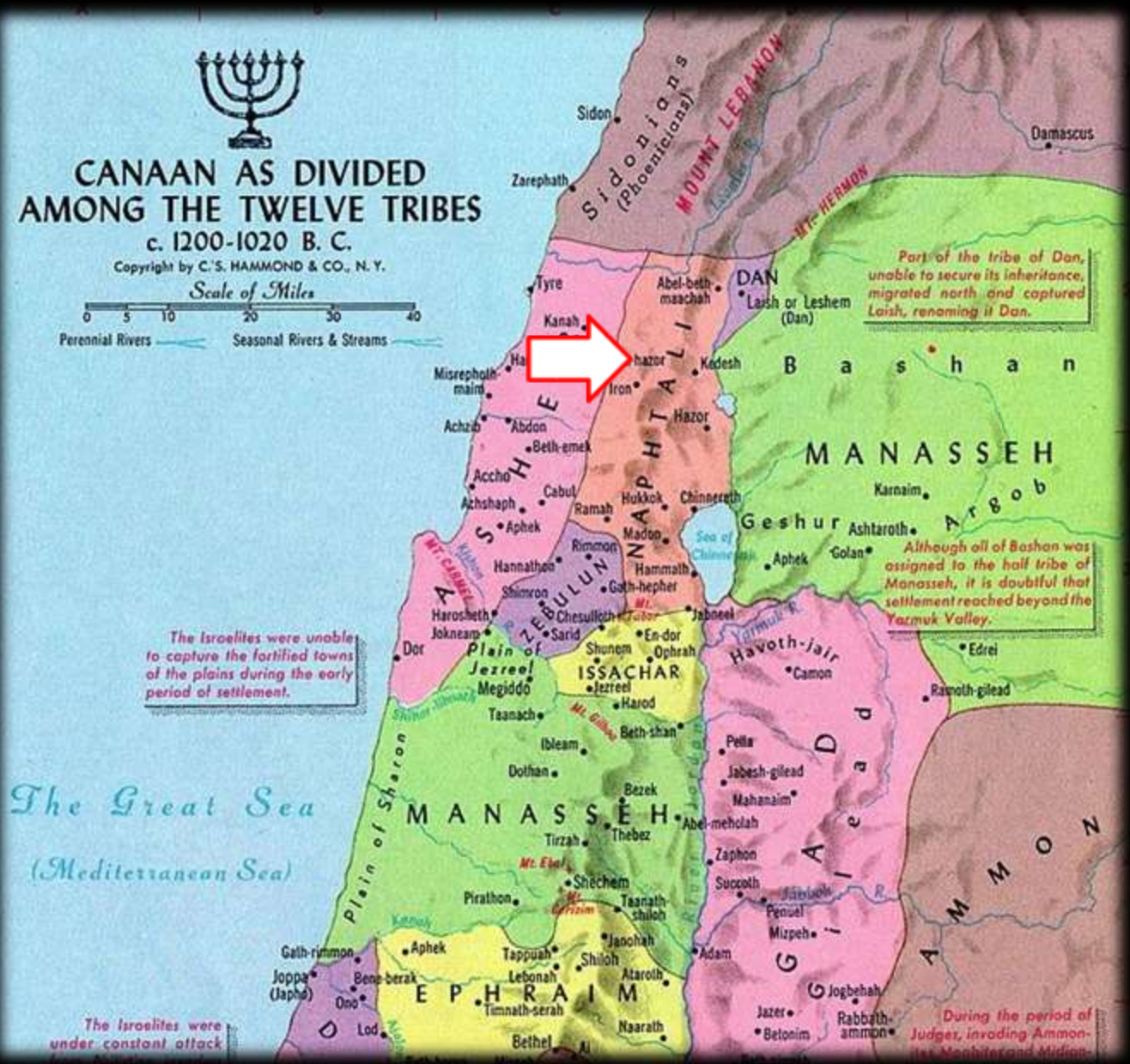
c. 1200-1020 B. C.

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Scale of Miles



Perennial Rivers Seasonal Rivers & Streams



Part of the tribe of Dan, unable to secure its inheritance, migrated north and captured Laish, renaming it Dan.

Although all of Bashan was assigned to the half tribe of Manasseh, it is doubtful that settlement reached beyond the Yarmuk Valley.

The Israelites were unable to capture the fortified towns of the plains during the early period of settlement.

The Israelites were under constant attack

During the period of Judges, invading Ammonites, Moabites and Midianites

The Great Sea (Mediterranean Sea)



# Mt Hermon





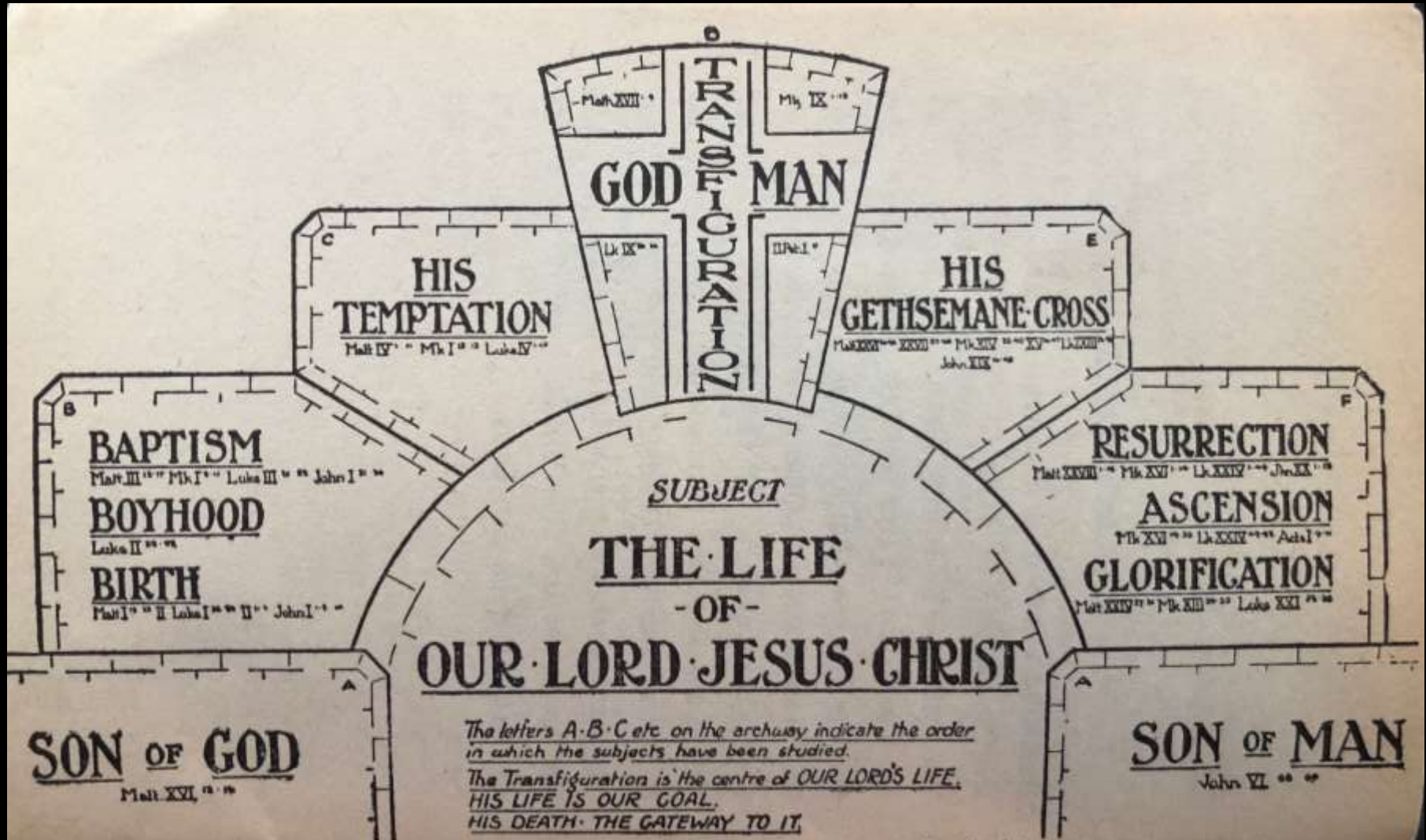
# Our Lord's Transformation & Ours

- *According to the revelation of the Bible, our Lord is not to be looked upon as an individual Man, but as the One Who represents the whole human race. At His Baptism our Lord accepted His vocation as sin-bearer, the Holy Ghost descended upon Him as Son of Man, and the voice of God came with the Divine approval; and at the Transfiguration the voice of God came again. The Baptism and the Transfiguration reveal Who our Lord is, and the secret of the Christian is that he knows the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ.*

# Our Lord's Transformation & Ours

- *The Transfiguration occurs practically in the centre of our Lord's earthly ministry. The fulfilment of the Transfiguration is the Ascension. These two mountain peaks, without the Cross and the Resurrection, would portray the development of human life had there been no sin. The Cross and the Resurrection deal with sin and the need of Redemption.*

# Our Lord's Transformation & Ours



# Our Lord's Transformation & Ours

- *It was required of Adam, the Federal Head of the human race, that he should turn his natural life into a spiritual life by obedience. That is, he was to have dominion over the life in the air and in the earth and in the sea, but he was not to have dominion over himself; God was to have dominion over him, and as he obeyed God his natural life would be turned into a spiritual life. Adam represented what Jesus Christ represents, viz., the whole human race, and if Adam had obeyed and transformed his innocence into holiness by a series of moral choices, the transfiguration of the human race would have happened in due course*

# Our Lord's Transformation & Ours

- *But Adam disobeyed, and there entered in the disposition of sin, the disposition of self-realisation—I am my own God. This disposition may work out in a hundred and one different ways, in decorous morality or in indecorous immorality, but it has the one basis—my claim to my right to myself. That disposition was never in our Lord. Self-will, self-assertiveness, self-seeking were never in Him.*



# Our Lord's Transformation & Ours

- *When we become rightly related to God, we are not simply put back into the relationship Adam was in, but into a relationship Adam was never in; we are put into the Body of Christ, and then God does not shield us from any of the requirements of sons. We have the notion at first that when we are saved and sanctified by God's supernatural grace, He does not require us to do anything, but it is only then that He begins to require anything of us.*

# Conclusion?

- *What we believe is true!*
- *Because it is true, it demands a transformed life!*





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