

A black and white image of a city skyline, including skyscrapers and a bridge, oriented upside down. The text is overlaid on this background.

# MATTHEW

The Upside umog Kingdom

Matthew 28:1-15

Jesus proved Himself to be the victorious King



**Matthew 28:1-7**

**The Resurrection changes everything**

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## **The Resurrection changes everything**

- Each of the Gospels provides an account of the Resurrection.
- In all of them, it is women who find the empty tomb, and Mary Magdalene is always named as one of them.
- Having women be the first witnesses to the Resurrection was completely consistent with Christ's heart and His ministry.



## **The Resurrection changes everything**

- Any time divine beings appear in Scripture, they tell the humans not to be afraid, presumably because their presence was terrifying.
- Not because God is scary, but because the majesty of the divine would make any human being fall to his knees in awe.
- The angel's bright-white clothing represents purity or holiness, "like lightning" shows His glory.



## **The Resurrection changes everything**

- The angel sits on the stone as a statement of triumph or victory.
- When ancient kings won their battles, they sat on their thrones as a public statement of being finished with their battles.
- The angel represents the power and strength of God, not just in rolling away the stone, but in overcoming death and raising Jesus from the dead.



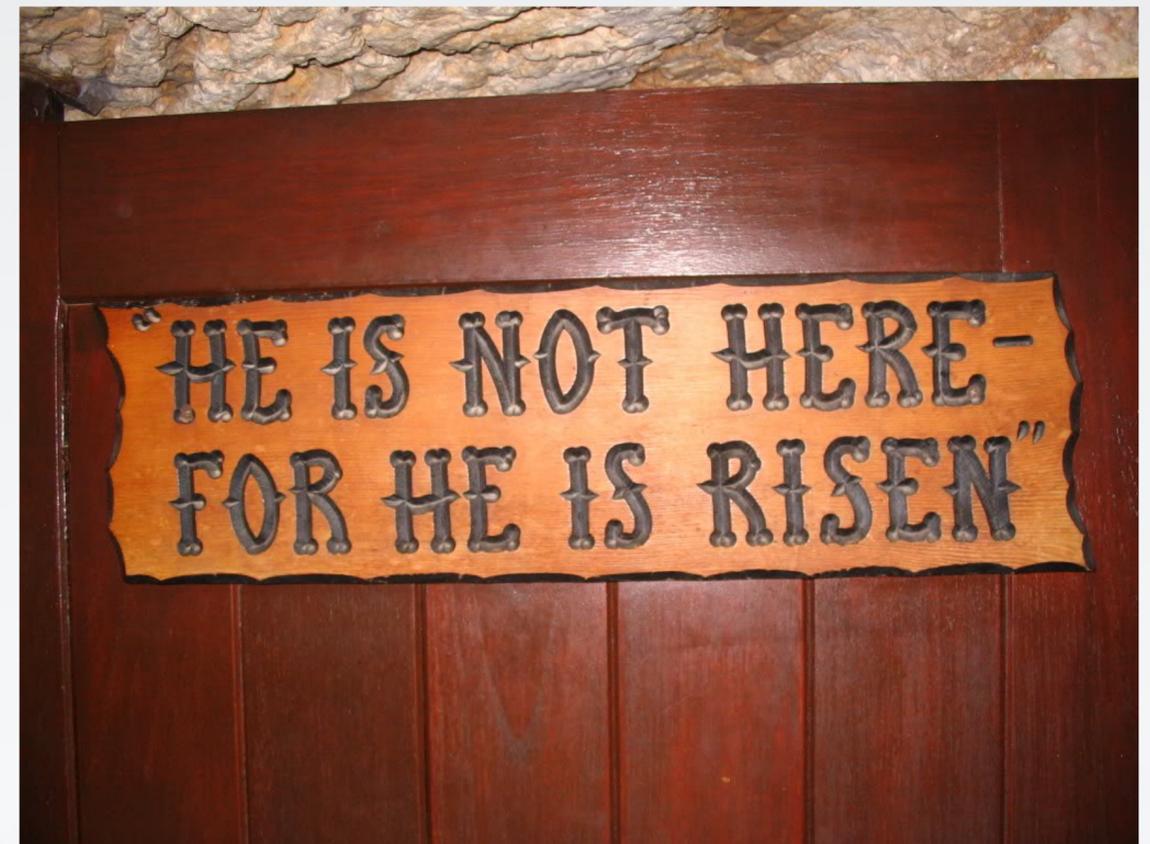
## **The Resurrection changes everything**

- Although the guards also saw the earthquake and the angel rolling the stone away, the angel spoke only to the women.
- The guards trembled and froze in fear, but the angel told the women, "Do not be afraid." He ignored the guards completely.
- It was the women he entrusted the gospel message to because they were Jesus' followers.



## The Resurrection changes everything

- The message was the one we proclaim every Easter Sunday.
- He is not here, for He is risen.
- This is the good news of the Gospel, the message that changed everything.





## **The Resurrection changes everything**

- The Resurrection changes everything.
- It's not really a surprise because Jesus told His disciples it would happen. They just didn't understand. Their mission was over.
- They thought they were participating in ushering in the kingdom of God, but the king was dead. He was gone.



## The Resurrection changes everything

- The angel didn't just tell the women He had risen.
- He showed the women the empty tomb, "the place where He lay."
- These women had seen Jesus' dead body there just a few days before when Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus buried Him there (Matthew 27:59–61).



## **The Resurrection changes everything**

- They had gone to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices.
- They knew He was really dead.
- The angel told them to go tell the eleven disciples that He had risen and to meet Him in Galilee, as He had told them to do at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:32).



## **The Resurrection changes everything**

- Jesus was always choosing and valuing those the world considered less than honorable.
- He chose unschooled, ordinary men to be His disciples.
- He chose women to be the first witnesses to His Resurrection.
- Jesus showed He values all people equally – Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free.



## **Matthew 28:8-10**

**The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

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## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- The women left the tomb quickly with great fear and great joy.
- They ran to tell the disciples the good news.
- No one else in the whole world knew yet that Jesus had risen.
- No one knew yet that He had defeated death.



## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- The women had some fear.
- They had just experienced an earthquake and seen an angel coming down from heaven to roll away the stone from the tomb.
- They had heard the angel speak and seen the empty place where Jesus' body had been.
- They only had some fear, while they had great joy.



## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- Think about all the good news we share with our friends and family on a daily basis.
- When we see a great movie or find a great new restaurant, we can't wait to tell our friends.
- We do it so easily with these day-to-day things that really don't matter in light of eternity.



## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- As they ran to the disciples, Jesus met them on the road. Again, He hadn't appeared to the disciples yet.
- They were humbled and awed. They took hold of His feet – an act of humility – and worshipped Him.
- The whole concept of Resurrection would have been unbelievable for them, even though Jesus had told them it would happen.



## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- Most Mediterranean people did not believe in a bodily resurrection after death.
- By contrast, the Jews (except the Sadducees) did believe in a bodily resurrection, but they didn't think it would happen until the last day, as Martha described when Jesus talked to her about raising Lazarus (John 11:24).



## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- Resurrection was an eschatological event, something that happened only at the end of the world, at the day of the Lord.
- The idea of a bodily resurrection in their time was unheard of.
- They would have thought this was the end times, at least on some level.



## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- Jesus told them the same thing the angel had told them.
- He didn't need to appear to them; they were already running to tell the disciples, and yet He did.
- Not only did Jesus solidify their belief with evidence, but He reminds us that He is a God of relationship.



## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- In the other Gospels, Jesus appeared several times to several different people.
- The opening of Acts tells us He appeared to His disciples many times over the course of 40 days, offering many proofs of His Resurrection



## **The Resurrection is good news for all who believe**

- But in Matthew, this is it. He appeared just this once to the women, then once to the disciples in Galilee, giving them the Great Commission.
- After three agonizing chapters, the story leads us quickly to the ending: the Great Commission (which is consistent with Matthew's focus on the kingdom of God).



## **Matthew 28:11-15**

**There will always be those who don't believe**

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## **There will always be those who don't believe**

- This paragraph might seem kind of random or unimportant, just sort of stuck in there.
- It interrupts the flow Jesus saying He would meet them in Galilee and the story of Him meeting them in Galilee.
- But these verses are not there by accident.



## **There will always be those who don't believe**

- The last chapter of Matthew is intentionally written as a contrast of three different groups of characters' reactions to the Resurrection of Jesus:
  - The women (vv. 1–10)
  - The guard/chief priests (vv. 11–15)
  - The disciples (vv. 16–20)



## **There will always be those who don't believe**

- When the guards found out about Jesus' Resurrection, they went to the chief priests to report what had happened.
- They also were witnesses to the Resurrection, but they had the opposite reaction. Instead of joy, they only had fear.
- They went to the powers: those who had killed Jesus.



## **There will always be those who don't believe**

- The chief priests were still trying to keep this revolution under control, and they manipulated the guards to get them to lie.
- The guards were worried they would get in trouble with the governor for “losing” the body.
- They didn't respond with faith and repentance. They lied to save their own skin.



## **There will always be those who don't believe**

- Verse 15 tells us, "This story has been spread among the Jews to this day."
- Even today, there are people who believe this.
- Because they don't want to believe in the Resurrection, they believe the disciples must have stolen His body and just pretended He had risen.



## **There will always be those who don't believe**

- Remember that a woman's testimony was not considered reliable in that culture.
- People would have been more likely to believe the guards, but their story was not true.
- Though men were usually believed over women, the guard's story would have been far-fetched.



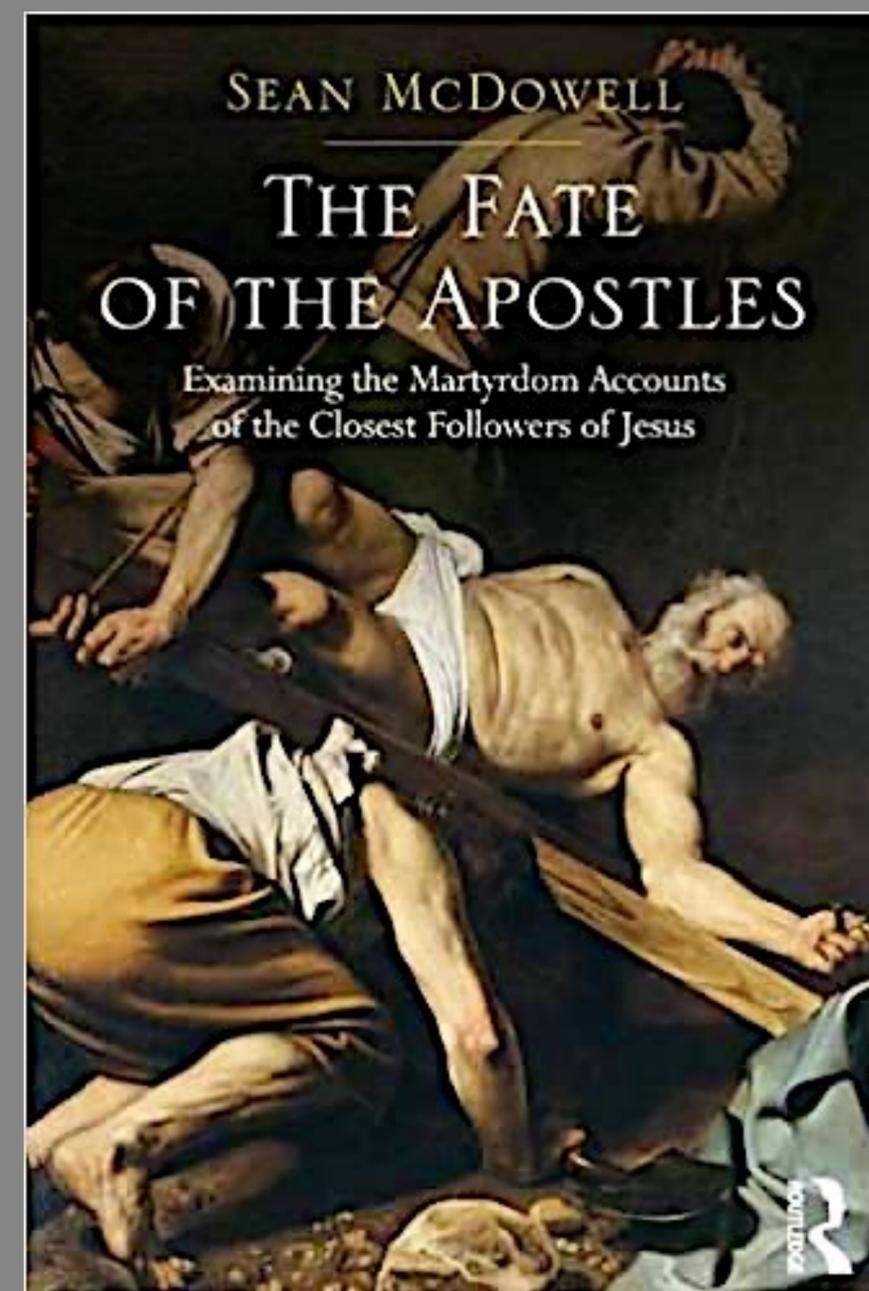
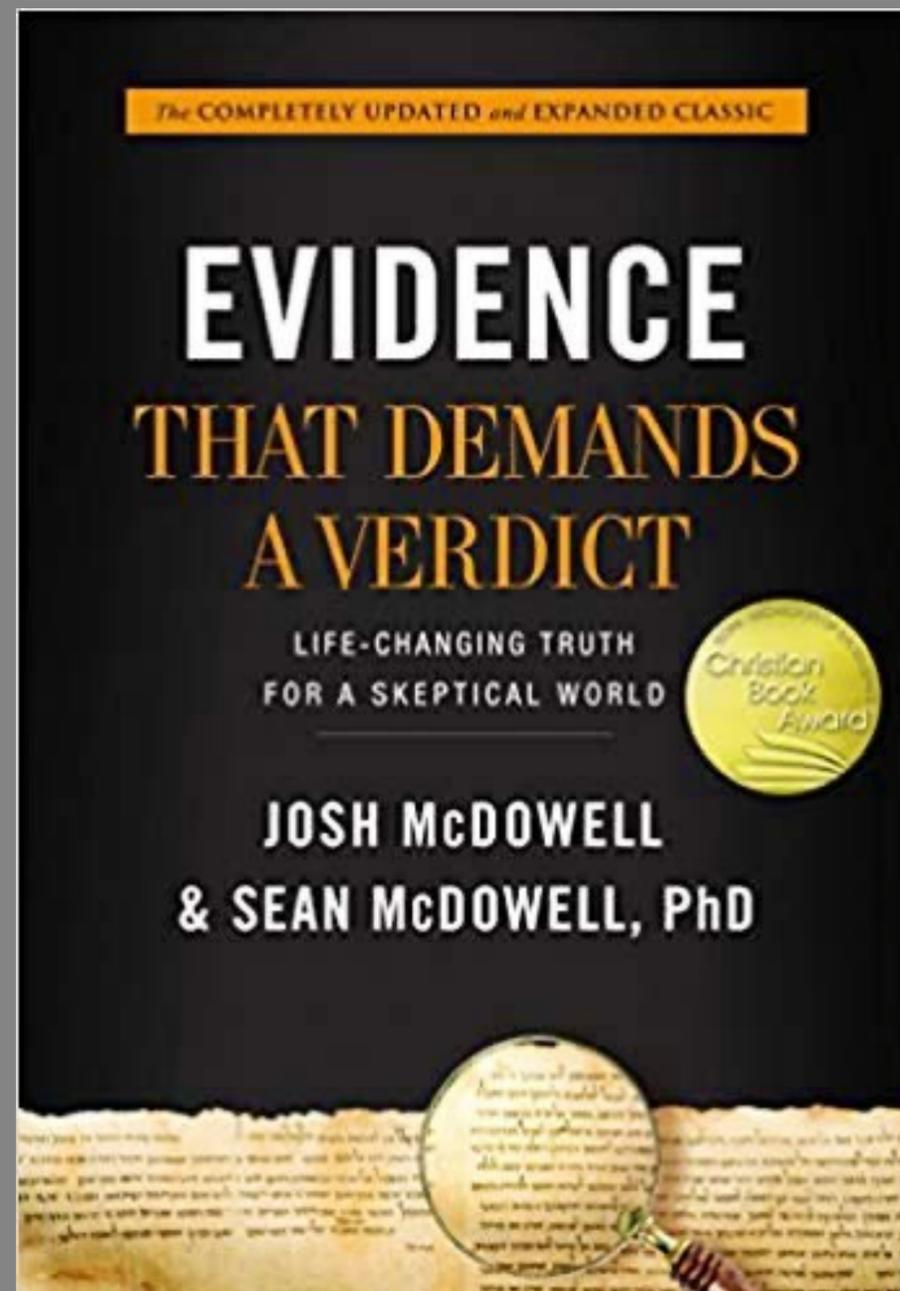
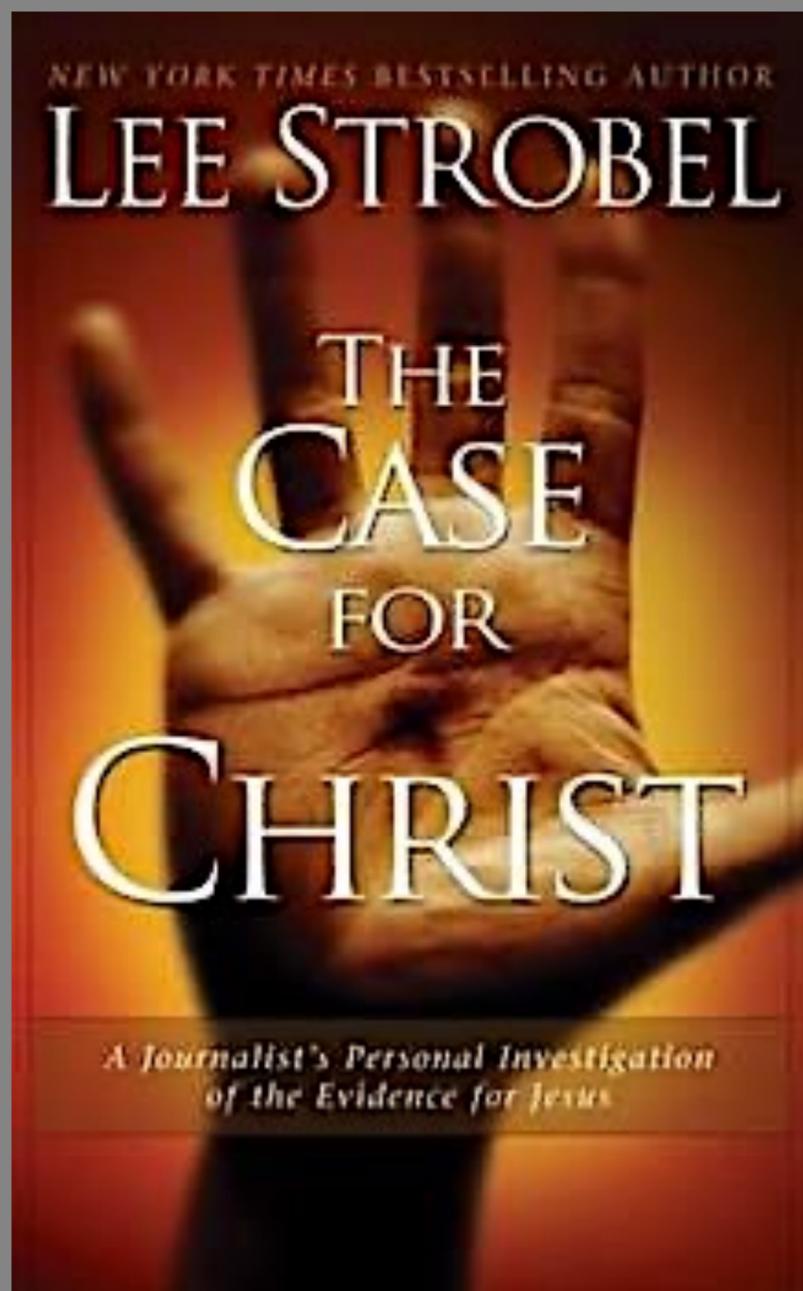
## **There will always be those who don't believe**

- How could the disciples have moved that huge stone and stolen the body without waking them?
- Their whole purpose had been to guard the tomb; why would they even sleep on the job?
- If the disciples all fled out of fear the night of Jesus' death, why would they risk their lives to steal His body afterward?

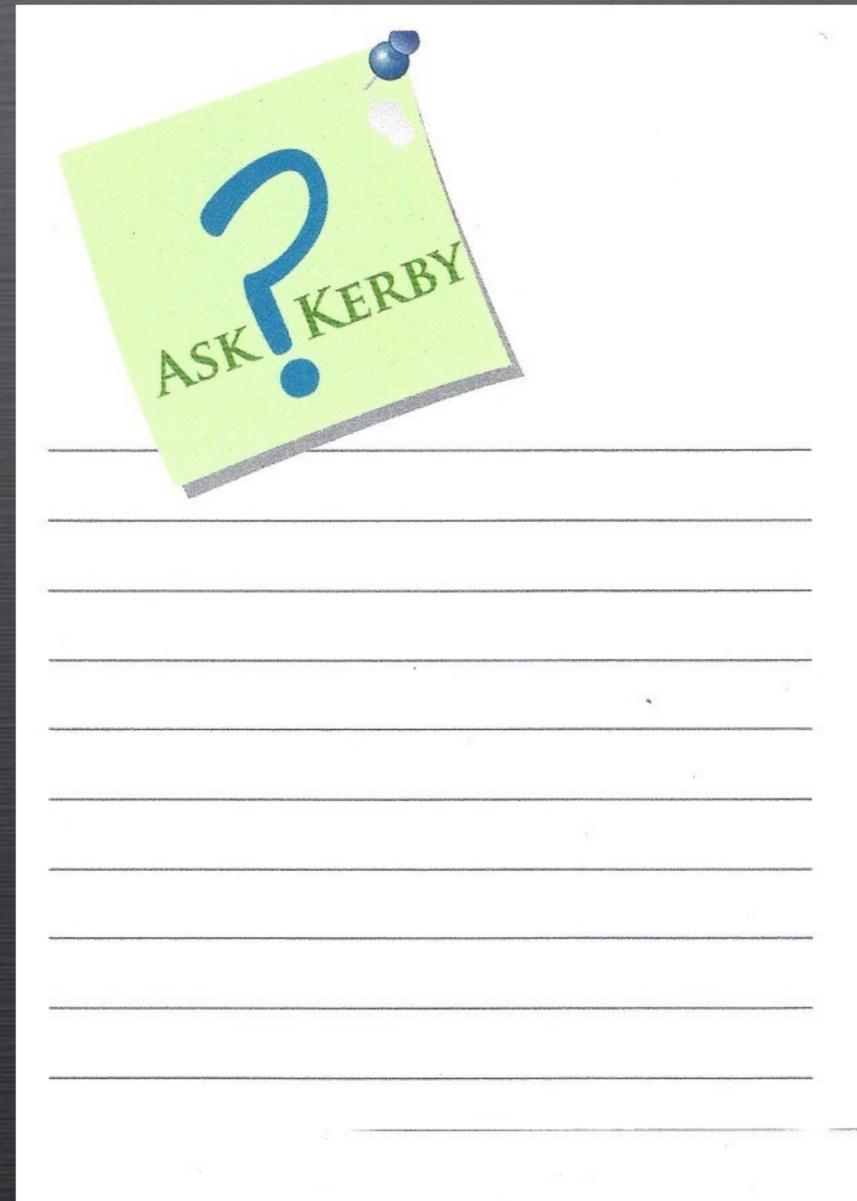


## **There will always be those who don't believe**

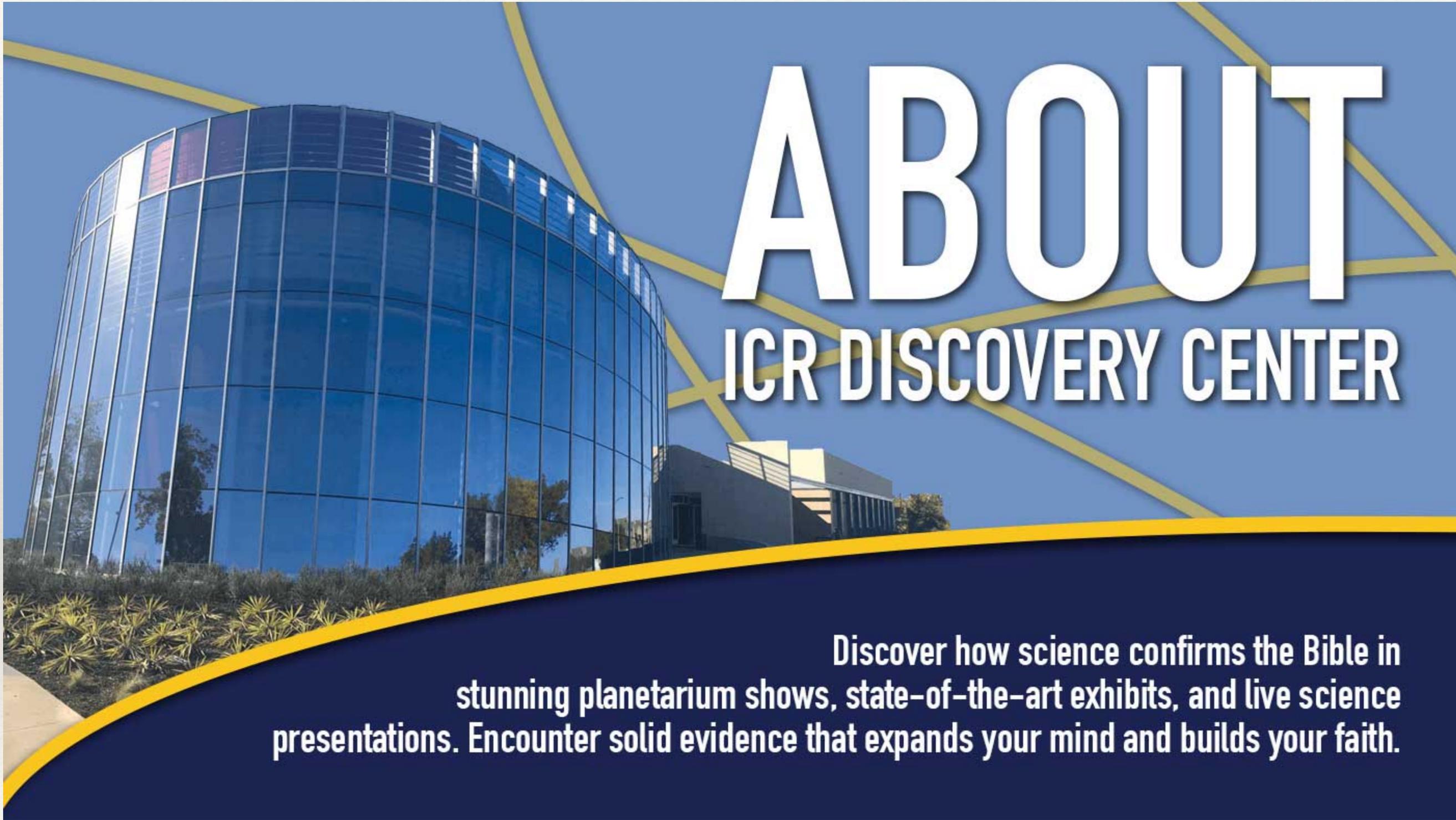
- Finally, if they stole His body and then preached that He had risen, then they knowingly preached a lie.
- Why would anyone willingly be persecuted and die for something they knew was a lie?
- Matthew laid these two reports out side by side, forcing his readers to decide for themselves what they believe.



# ASK KERBY



A graphic of a green sticky note with a blue question mark and the text "ASK KERBY" pinned to a white sheet of lined paper. The sticky note is tilted and has two blue pushpins at the top right corner. The white paper has horizontal lines for writing.



# ABOUT

## ICR DISCOVERY CENTER

Discover how science confirms the Bible in stunning planetarium shows, state-of-the-art exhibits, and live science presentations. Encounter solid evidence that expands your mind and builds your faith.

STEPHEN C. MEYER

*New York Times* bestselling author of *Darwin's Doubt*

RETURN

*of the*

GOD

HYPOTHESIS

THREE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES  
THAT REVEAL THE MIND  
BEHIND THE UNIVERSE