



QUESTIONS that need answering

[Is Jesus Alive?](#)

Col. 2:9-13

Wayne Braudrick

April 5, 2026

Life Change: We live in Jesus

Russian humor is rather dark...

Paul's famous parallel reasoning:

Colossians 2:9-13

Jesus died for us

Jesus rose from the dead

At the Tomb Raphael 1519 courtesy Ashmolean Museum, Oxford



Paul's famous parallel reasoning:

Colossians 2:9-13

Those who trust him are incorporated into his life

We live forever in the fullness of Jesus

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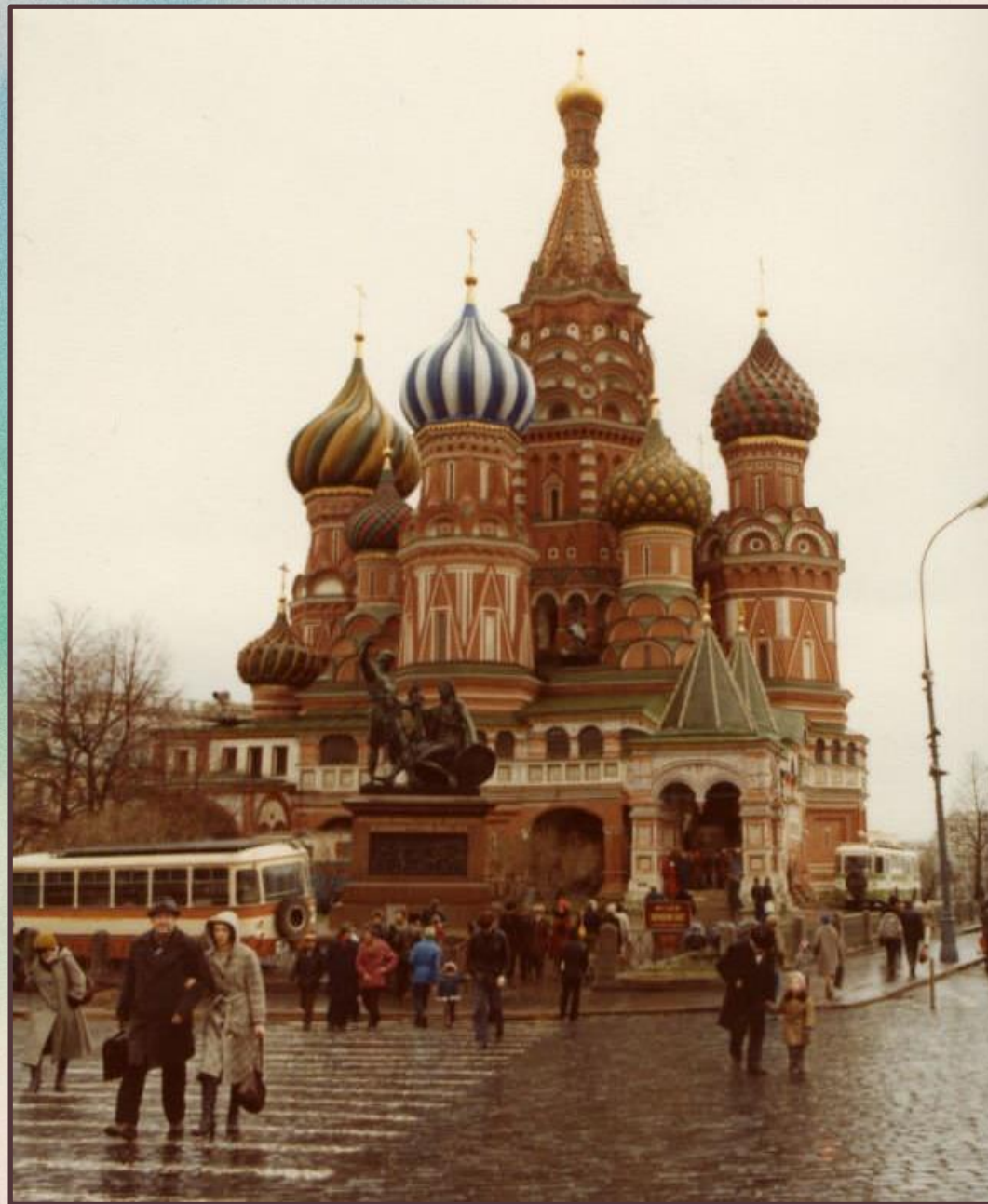
EASTER

QUESTIONS
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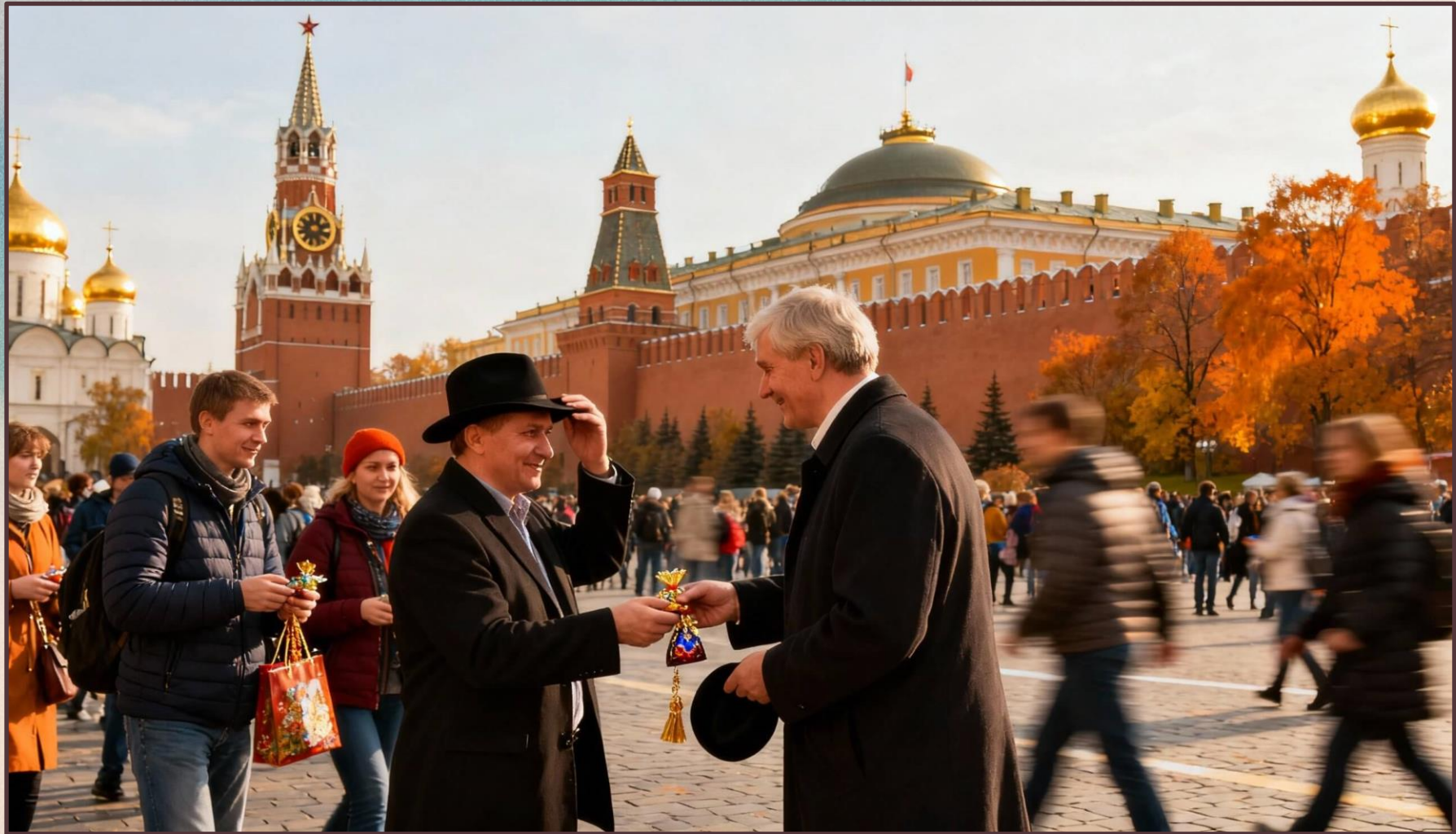
Please Silence
Your Phone



courtesy azemedia



Courtesy WB – St. Basil's 1990



courtesy Moscowpass



Andre: That is like our new experience with elections. Ours are very biblical.
Wayne: I don't understand.
Andre: Our leaders are like God. He put one woman before Adam and said, "You are free to choose your wife."

Creation of Eve
Vladimir Baranoff-Rossiné
1938



Andre: "A year ago, that was a full orchestra. Now, it is much smaller."

Wayne: "What happened?"

Andre: "They went on a tour of the United States."



courtesy NYPost



HE IS RISEN,
AS HE SAID

remains to be seen

2:9 For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, ¹⁰ and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. ¹¹ You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses.

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1:19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Greek: εὐδοκέω eudokeo = legal term for approving price; by Paul's day meant the authority being very pleased with a planned price.

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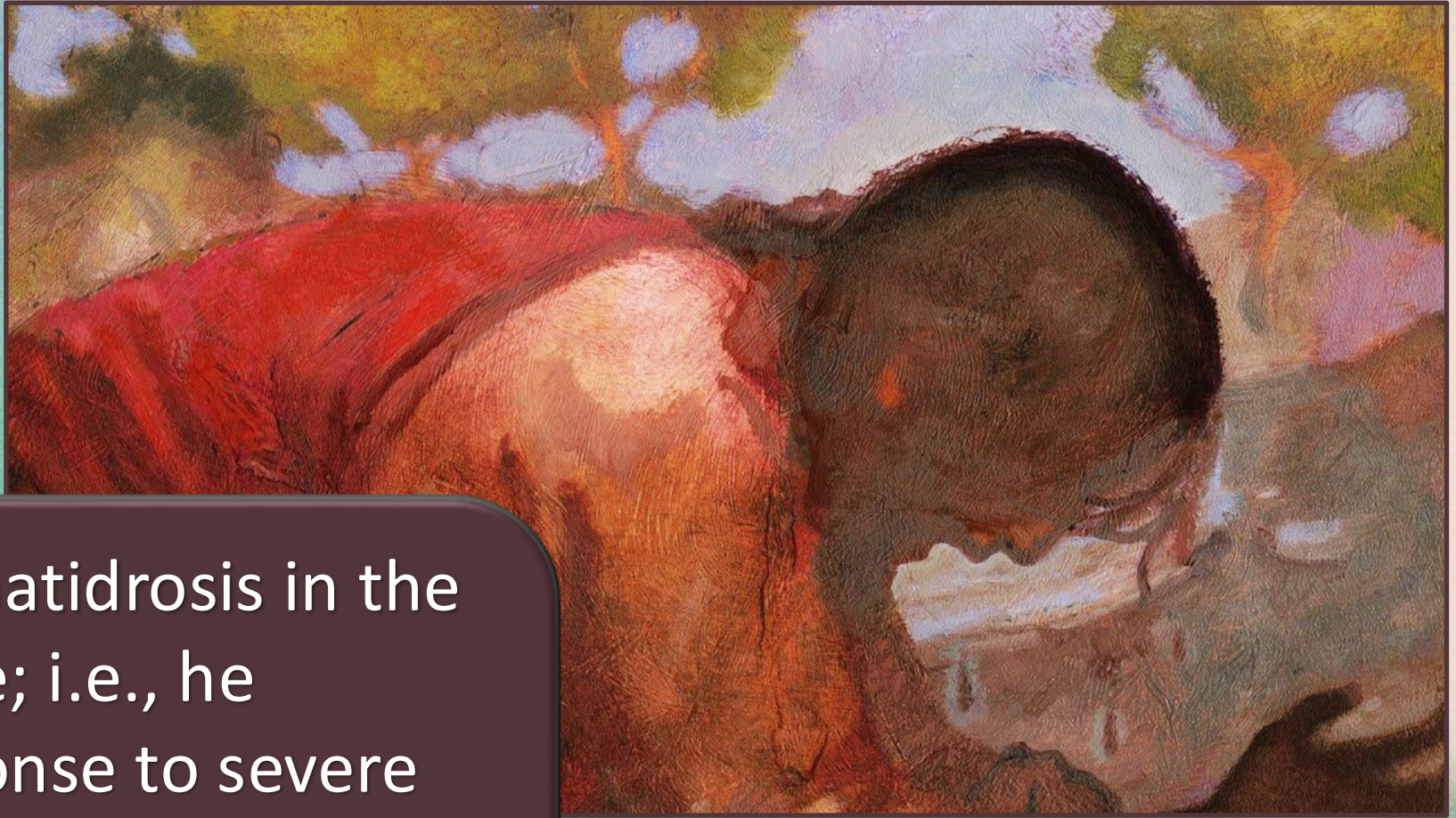
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Colossians 2 CSB

- Jesus was dead by choice.
- The Triune God raised Him from the dead.
- Jesus' circumcision is a spiritual identity.
- Jesus lives forever in the fullness of Godhead unity.

- We were dead by nature.
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Jesus experienced hematidrosis in the Garden of Gethsemane; i.e., he sweated blood in response to severe psychological stress. That makes the skin more fragile – a terrible set-up for the flogging that followed.



The victim's veins were exposed and the very muscles, sinews, and bowels of the sufferer were laid bare.
– Eusebius of Caesarea,
Demonstratio Evangelica

Nails were driven through Jesus' wrists into the patibulum – the crossbar. The pain was so intense that Latin developed a new word for it: excruciating – literally, from the cross. [Note: wrists were considered part of the hands in the anatomical language of that era.]



Sternocleidomastoid Muscle

Scalenus Musculi

Parasternal Intercartilaginous Muscles

External Intercostal Muscles

Pectoralis Musculus (Major)

Inhalation

Active: Normal Breathing
Passive: Crucified Victims

Internal Intercostal Muscles

External Oblique Muscle

Internal Oblique Muscle

Transverse Abdominus Musculus

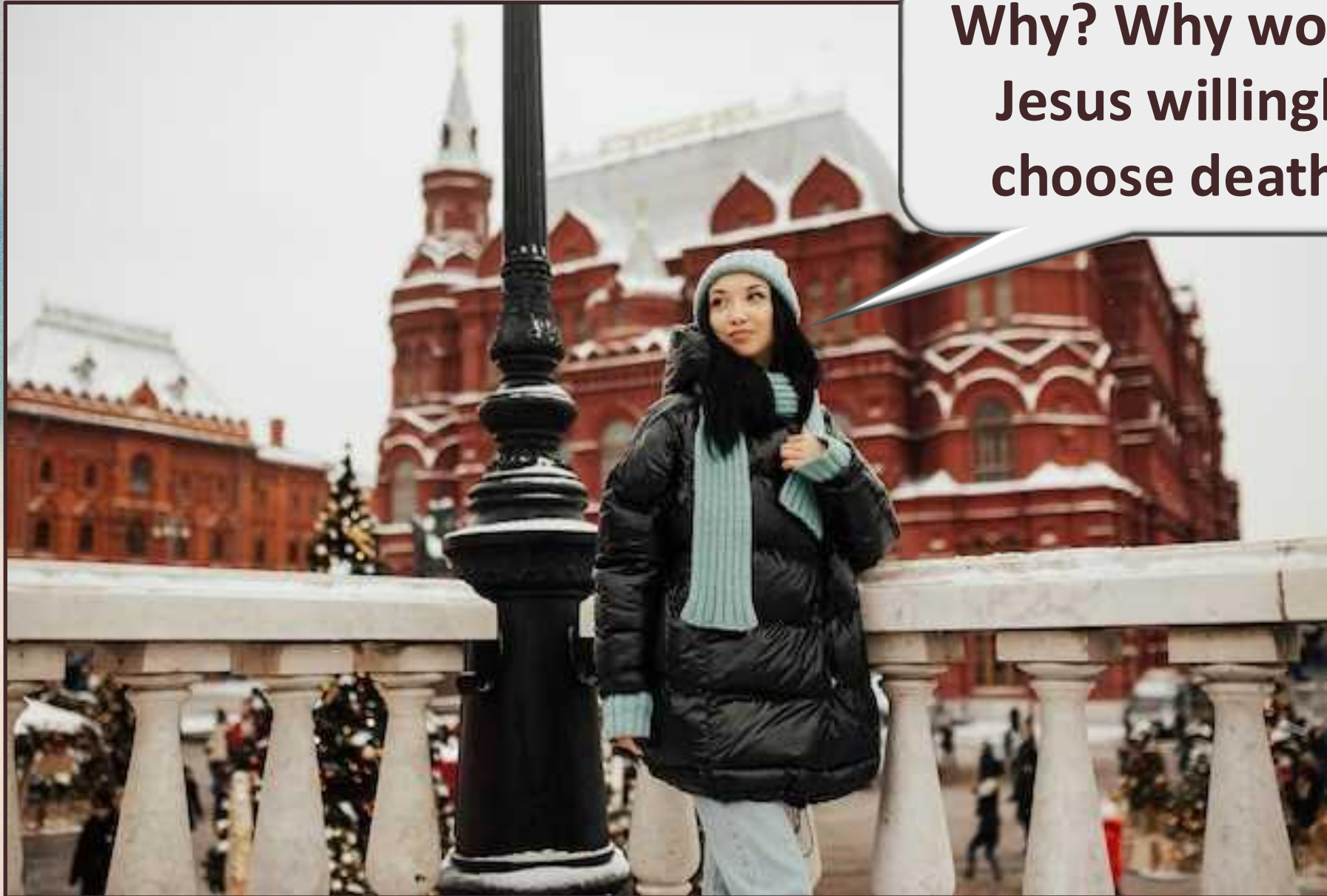
Rectus Abdominus Musculus

Exhalation

Passive: Normal Breathing
Active: Crucified Victims

Clearly the weight of the historical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to his side was inflicted...Accordingly, interpretations that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge. – William D. Edwards, W.J. Gabel, F.E. Hosmer, “On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ” Journal of the American Medical Association March 21, 1986.

**Why? Why would
Jesus willingly
choose death?**



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Colossians 2 CSB



courtesy Nolan Ryan Foundation

Jesus was dead by choice.

We were dead by nature.

²¹ You were his [the Father's] enemies,
separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself
through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result,
he has brought you into his own presence,
and you are holy and blameless as you stand
before him without a single fault.

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The starting point seemed obvious to me: clearly, the resurrection was the linchpin of the Christian faith. After all, anyone can claim to be the Son of God. But if someone could substantiate that assertion by returning to life after being certifiably dead and buried -- well, that would be a compelling confirmation that he was telling the truth. Even for a skeptic like me.

– Lee Strobel, *The Case for Easter*



courtesy Daily Trib



One of the things that moved him is how the disciples of Jesus were determined to tell truth, even when it made them look bad. And the resurrection of Jesus was not the disciples' finest hour.

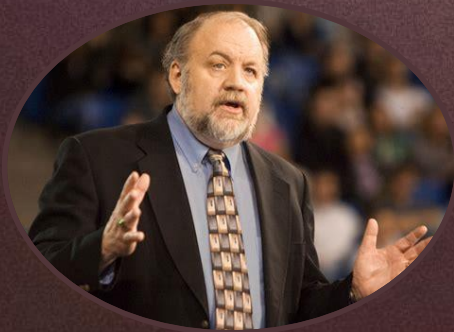
When Jesus predicted his resurrection from the dead, we are told that the disciples did not seem to have a clue what he was talking about or simply did not believe (Mark 8:31-33; 9:31-32; 14:27-31; Luke 24:13-24). Even when his empty tomb was discovered, it is reported that the first conclusion was that someone had stolen the body (John 20:2, 13-15). When the women reported that they had seen him risen, the disciples thought they were telling an idle tale (Luke 24:10-12). Upon viewing the empty tomb, they still did not know what to think (John 20:9). [Gary R. Habermas]



At the Tomb
Raphael
1519

Now it seems quite unlikely that the disciples or early Christians who highly respected them would invent sayings of Jesus that would place them in such a bad light. This is what is referred to as the “principle of embarrassment” ...and argues strongly in favor of the authenticity of [Jesus’] resurrection. — Gary R. Habermas,

The Case For The Resurrection Of Jesus





courtesy Susan Fletcher

**How can Jesus be alive
when the gospel accounts
have different details?**



Those secondary details actually argue for the validity of the resurrection. If it was all a made-up tale, the conspirators would surely have gotten all their stories aligned. – WB

True, the discovery of the empty tomb is described differently by the various gospels, but if we apply the same sort of criteria that we would apply to any other ancient literary sources, then the evidence is firm and plausible enough to necessitate the conclusion that the tomb was, indeed, found empty.

– Michael Grant, *Jesus: An Historian's Review of the Gospels*

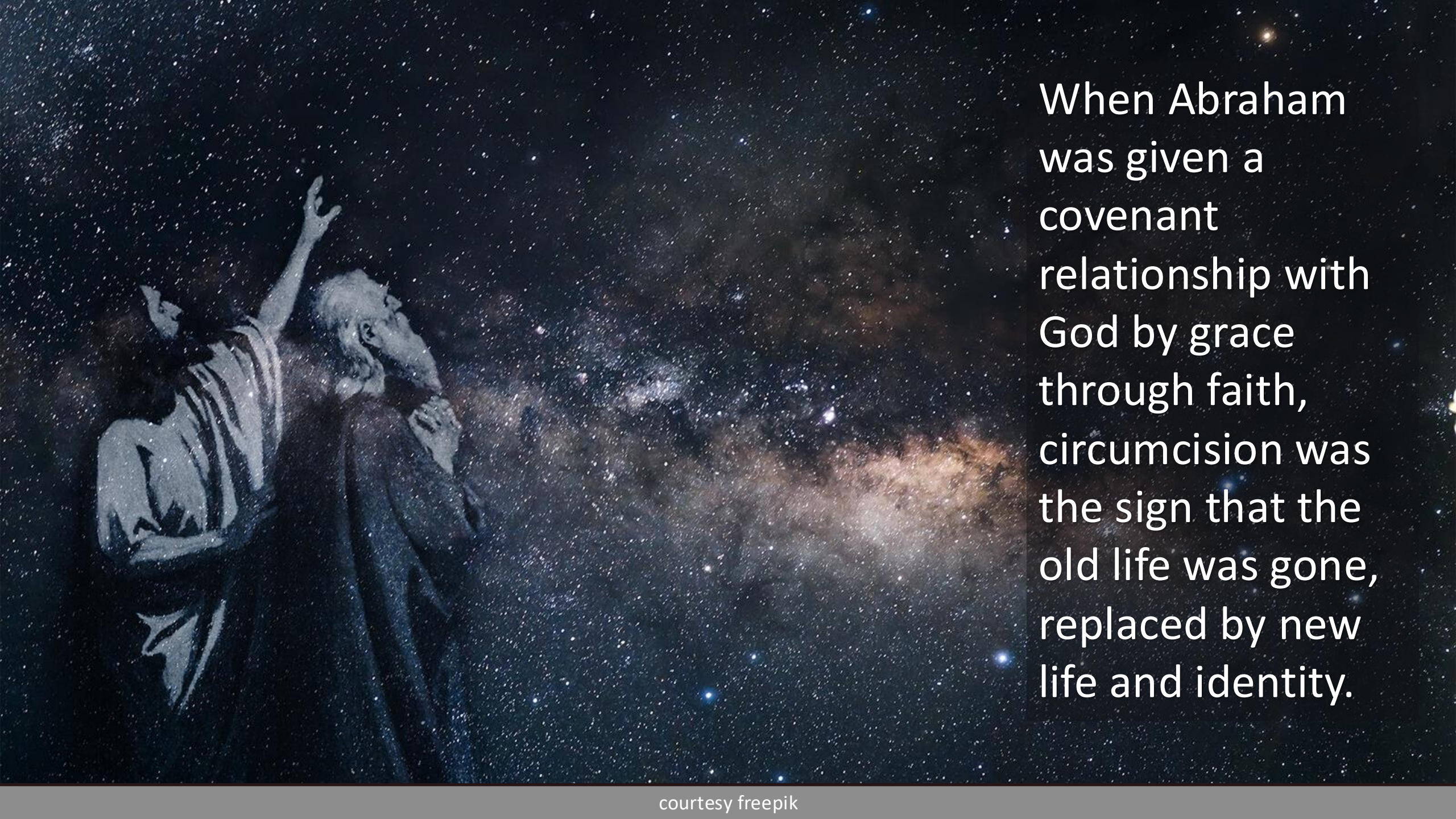
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When Abraham was given a covenant relationship with God by grace through faith, circumcision was the sign that the old life was gone, replaced by new life and identity.

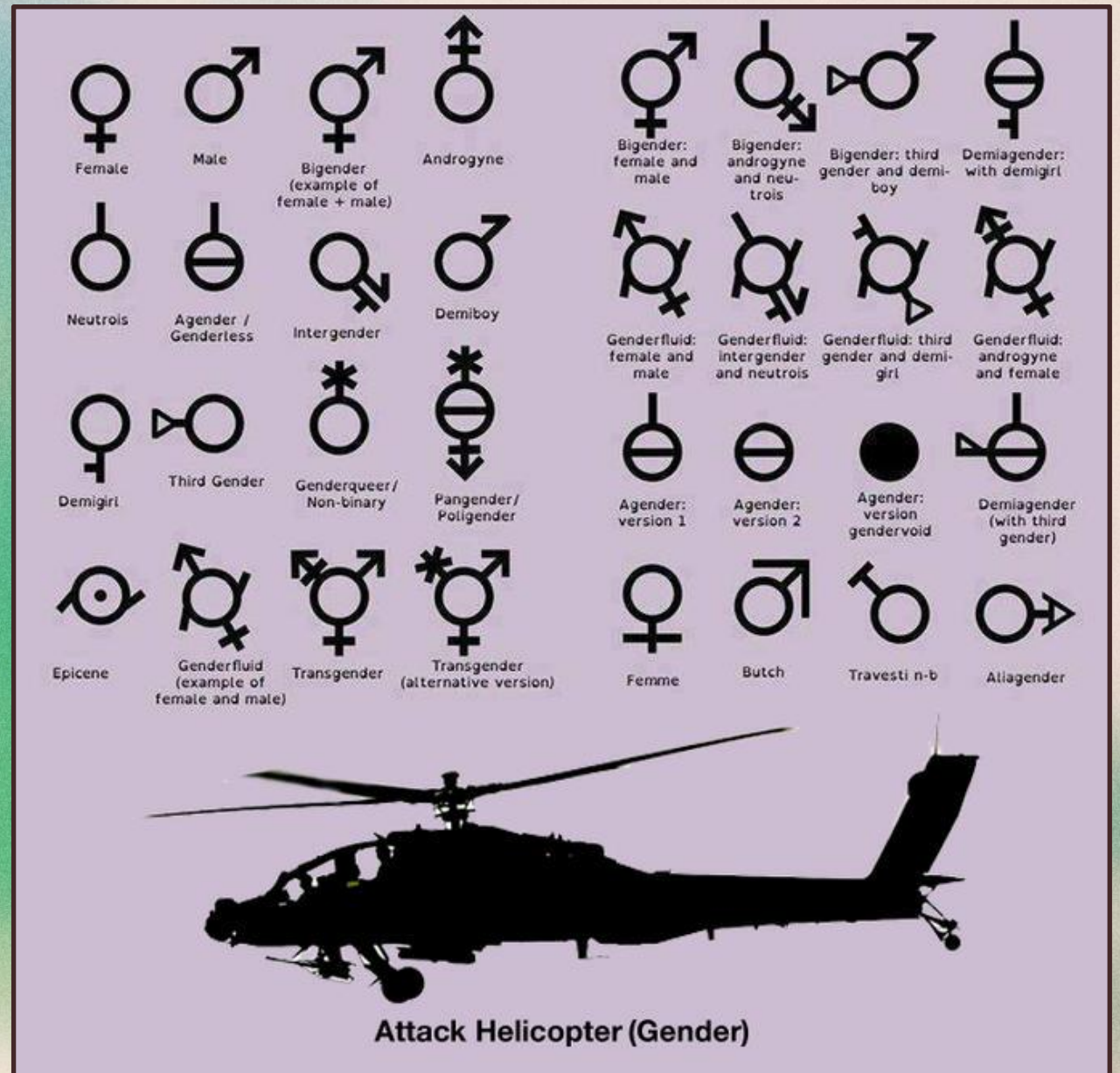
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Colossians 2 CSB

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Greek: βαπτισμός baptismos = to be immersed or placed into identification with something/someone

The problem is that we are so self-centered that our identification tends to be AS something. We don't really think in terms of identifying WITH something.



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¹ So if you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3 CSB

How could a sinful
bobblehead like
me end up as a
heavenly citizen?
How could my life
culminate in the
fullness of Christ?



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In the New Testament...the fact of Jesus' resurrection is closely linked to our own ultimate resurrection, which isn't life after death – it's life after life after death...Paul shares the view of the Old Testament prophets that God will one day flood the world with justice and joy – and that this has begun to be fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus. The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it. – N.T. Wright,
Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church





EASTER

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