

Why
Jesus
MATTERS

2026

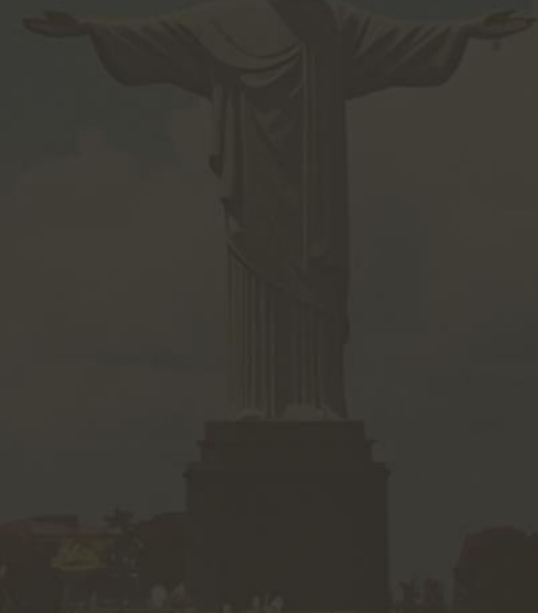
March - April

A scenic view of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, featuring the Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado Mountain. The statue stands with arms outstretched against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Below the statue, the city's buildings and a bridge are visible, along with the bay and distant hills.

JESUS DEFEATS DEATH & OFFERS NEW LIFE

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

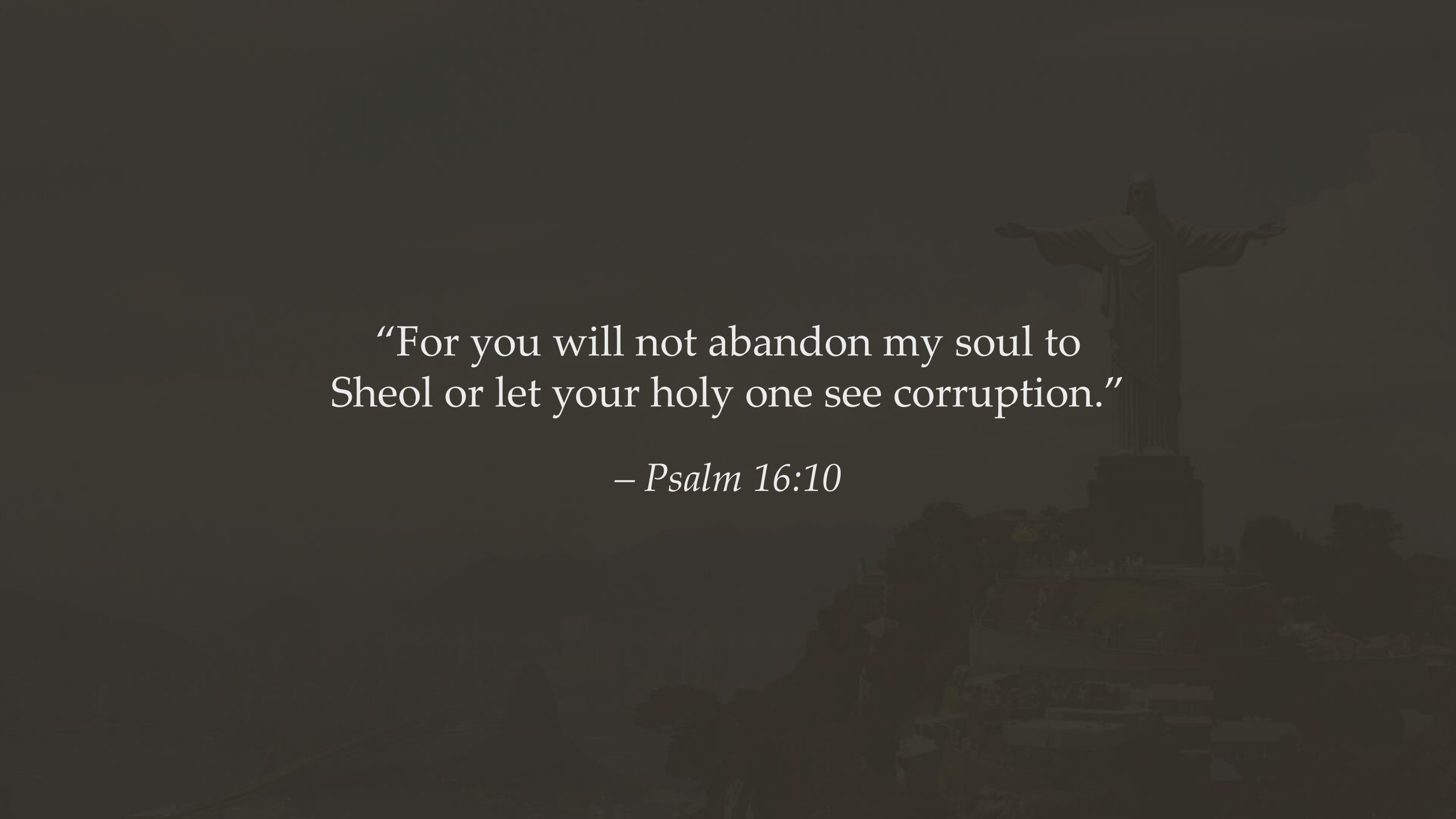
***I. PAUL CONFIRMS THE FACTS OF THE RESURRECTION
(15:1-4)***





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A. *Scripture Predicted It.*

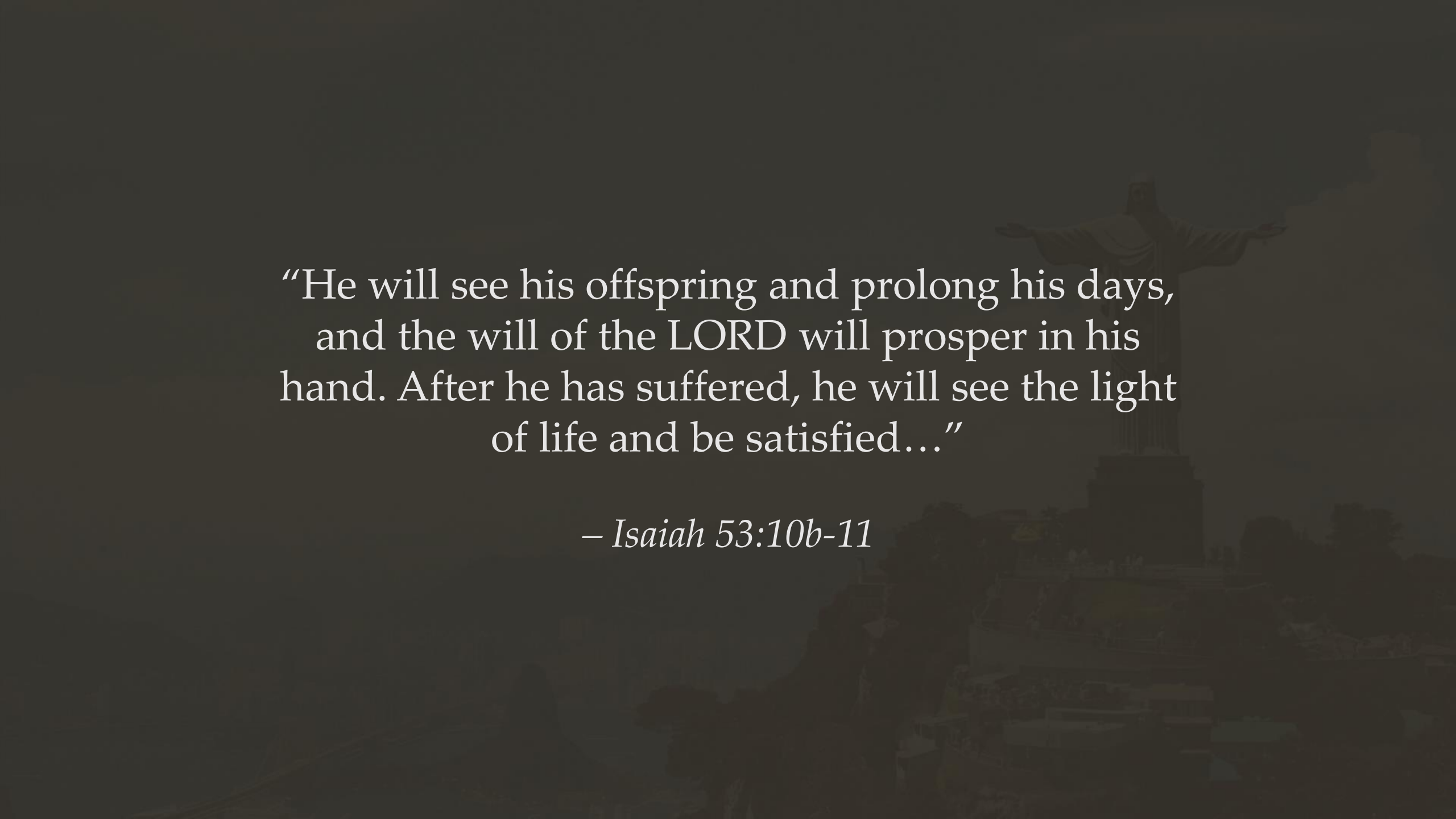


“For you will not abandon my soul to
Sheol or let your holy one see corruption.”

– *Psalm 16:10*

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin...”

– *Isaiah 53:7-10a*



“He will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his
hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light
of life and be satisfied...”

– *Isaiah 53:10b-11*



**I. PAUL CONFIRMS THE FACTS OF THE RESURRECTION
(15:1-4)**

A. Scripture Predicted It. (ref: Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:7-11)

B. *The Language Used Confirms It.*

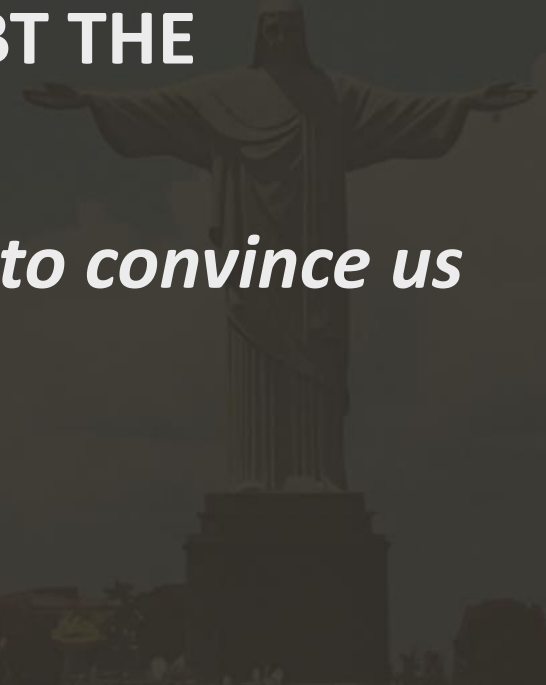
"The third day." Not a long time ago...

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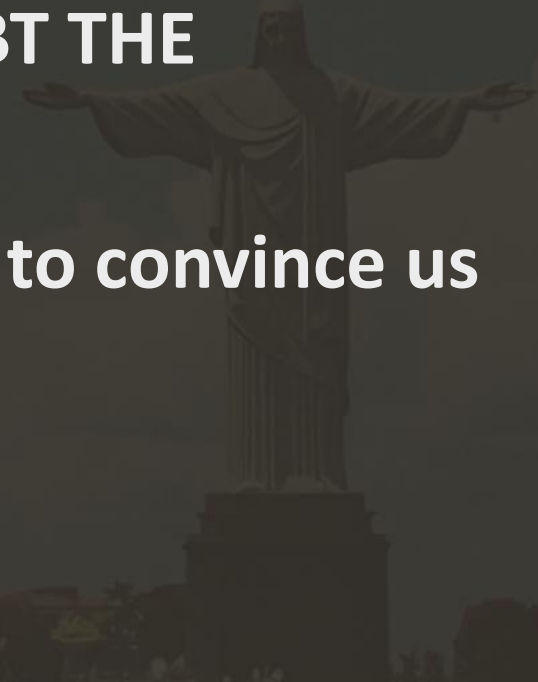
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B. *Huge Number of Eyewitnesses*

II. PAUL CHALLENGES THOSE WHO DOUBT THE RESURRECTION (15:5-11)

Paul lays out three pieces of evidence to convince us that Jesus rose from the dead:

- A. The Empty Tomb
- B. Huge Number of Eyewitnesses
- C. Impact of Jesus' Disciples

“The disciples had nothing to gain by lying and starting a new religion. They faced hardship, ridicule, hostility and martyr’s death...each one dying a terrible death rather than recanting their story of the resurrection. In light of this, they could have never sustained such unwavering motivation if they knew what they were preaching was a lie.”

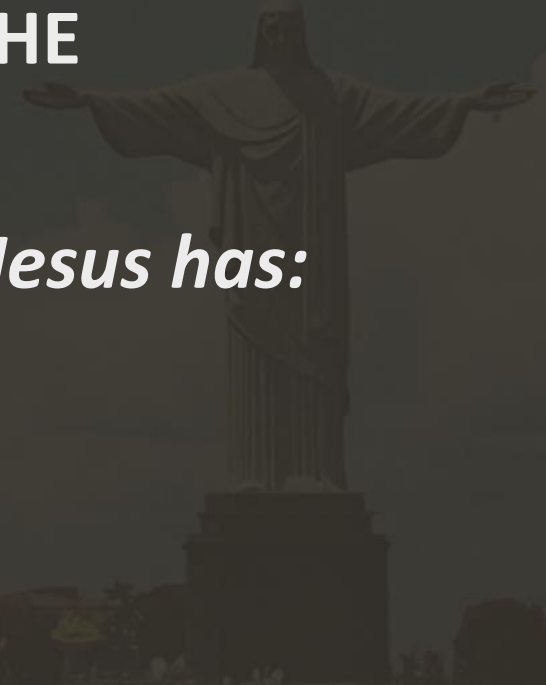
– *J.P. Moreland, Professor of Philosophy
at Talbot School of Theology*

***III. CHRISTIAN: REST IN THE REALITY OF THE
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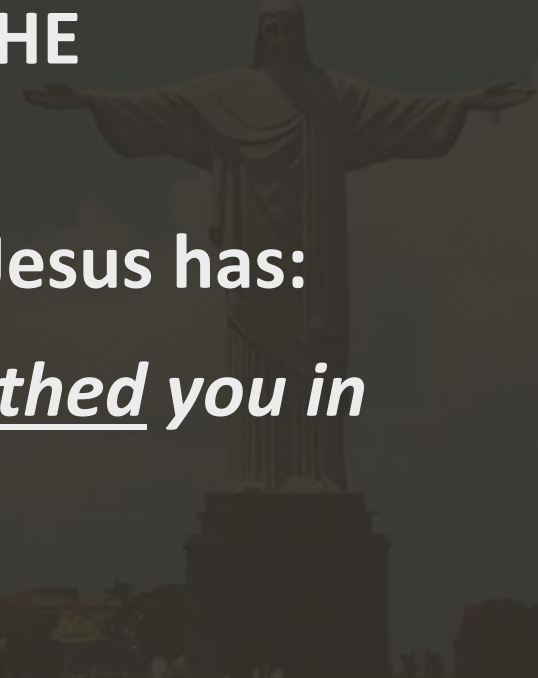
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III. CHRISTIAN: REST IN THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION

Through His Death and Resurrection, Jesus has:

- A. Cleansed you of your sin and clothed you in His righteousness.

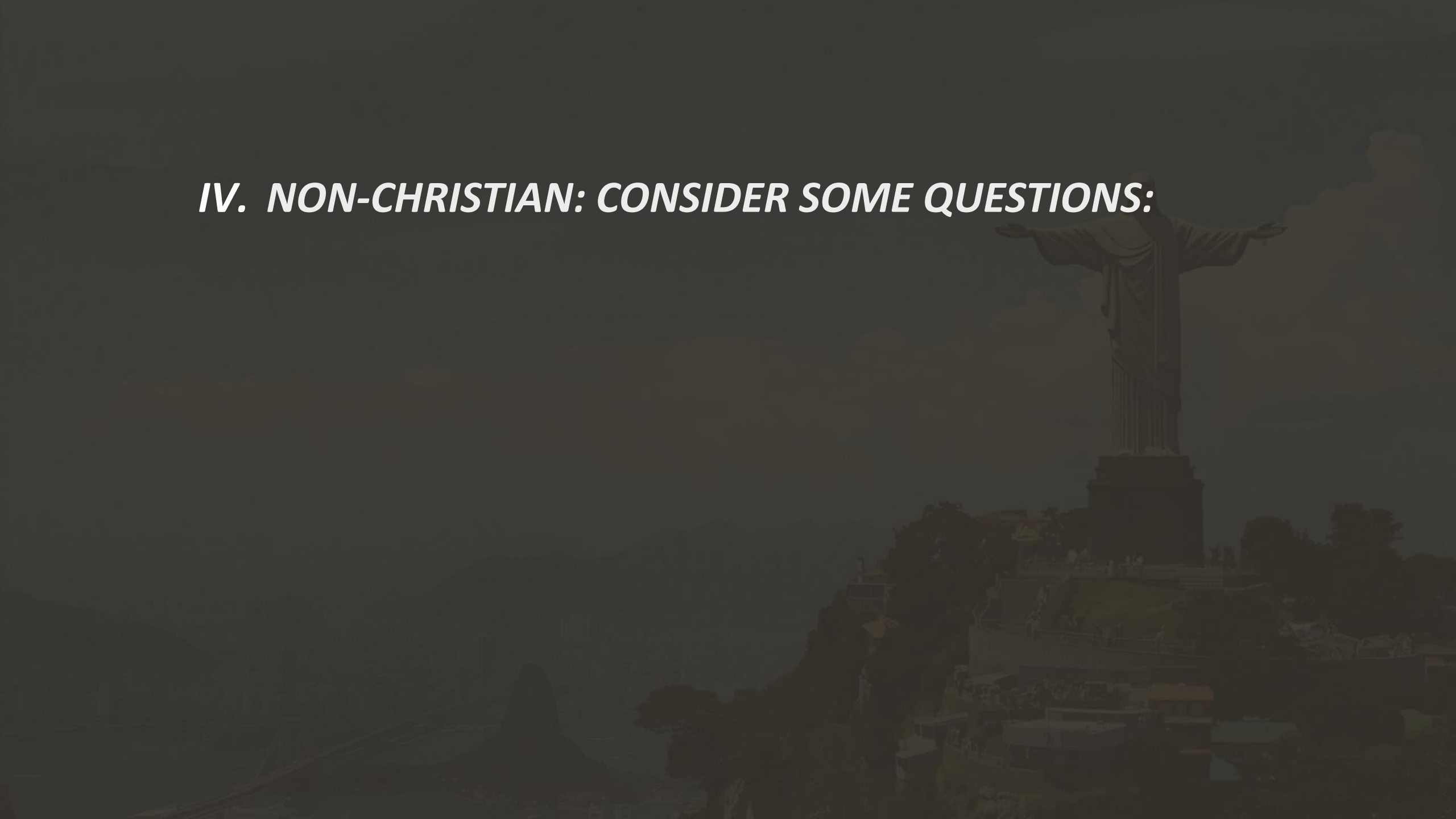


III. CHRISTIAN: REST IN THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION

Through His Death and Resurrection, Jesus has:

- A. Cleansed you of your sin and clothed you in His righteousness.
- B. Given you new life in His name.

IV. NON-CHRISTIAN: CONSIDER SOME QUESTIONS:



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- ***Why did Christianity emerge so rapidly and with such power?***
- ***Why did a group of Jewish people start worshiping a human being as God?***

IV. NON-CHRISTIAN: CONSIDER SOME QUESTIONS:

- ***How do you account for the hundreds of eyewitnesses who lived on for decades and publicly maintained their testimony?***
- ***How do you account for Jesus' greatest enemies converting out of Judaism and into belief in the risen Christ?***

V. CONSIDER THE TRANSFORMED LIVES:

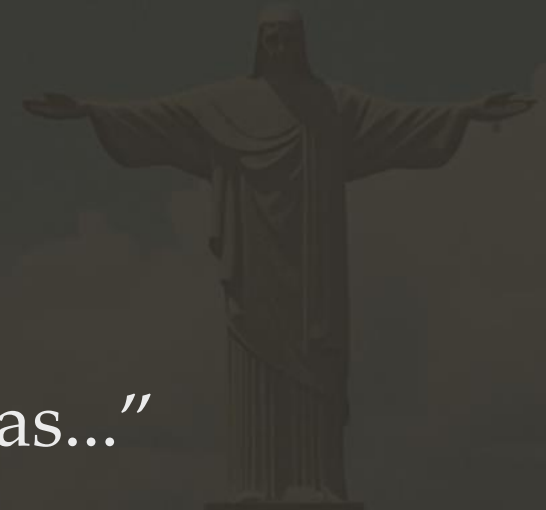


V. CONSIDER THE TRANSFORMED LIVES:

A. Peter, the Guilty One



“And then he appeared to Cephas...”



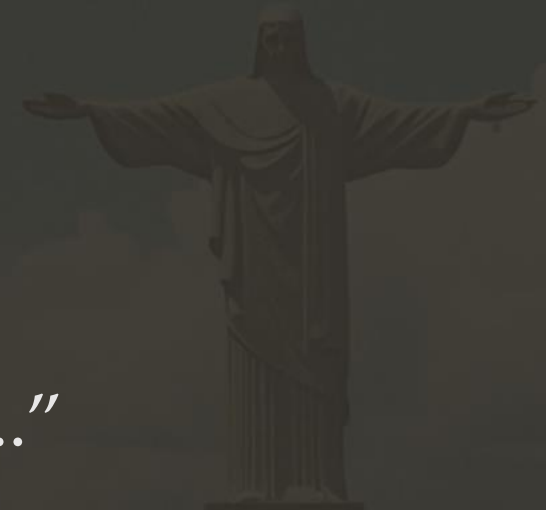
V. CONSIDER THE TRANSFORMED LIVES:

A. Peter, the Guilty One (v.5)

B. James, the Skeptical One



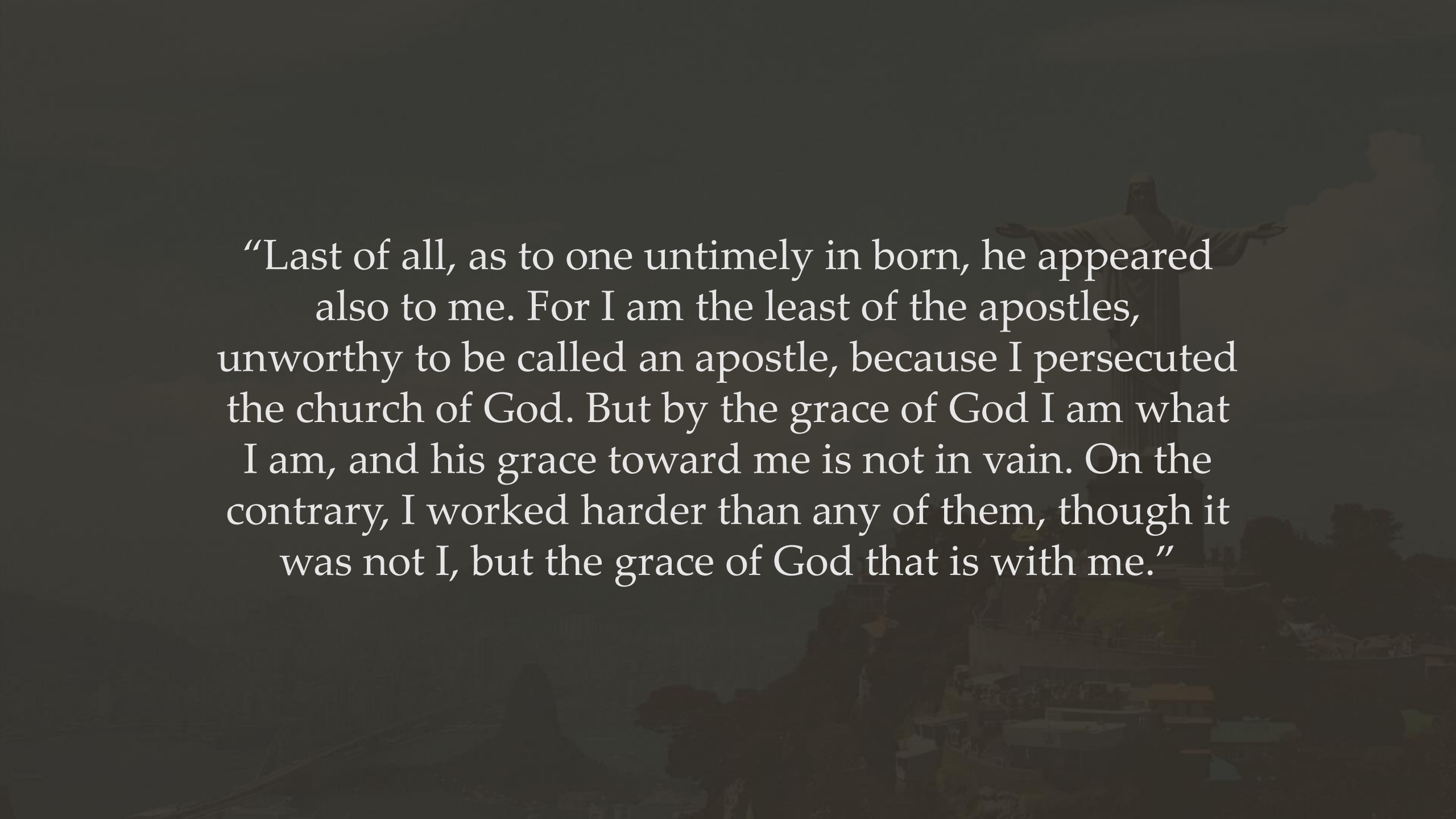
“Then he appeared to James...”



V. CONSIDER THE TRANSFORMED LIVES:

- A. Peter, the Guilty One
- B. James, the Skeptical One (v.7)
- C. Paul, the Hostile One (vss.8-10)





“Last of all, as to one untimely in born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me is not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

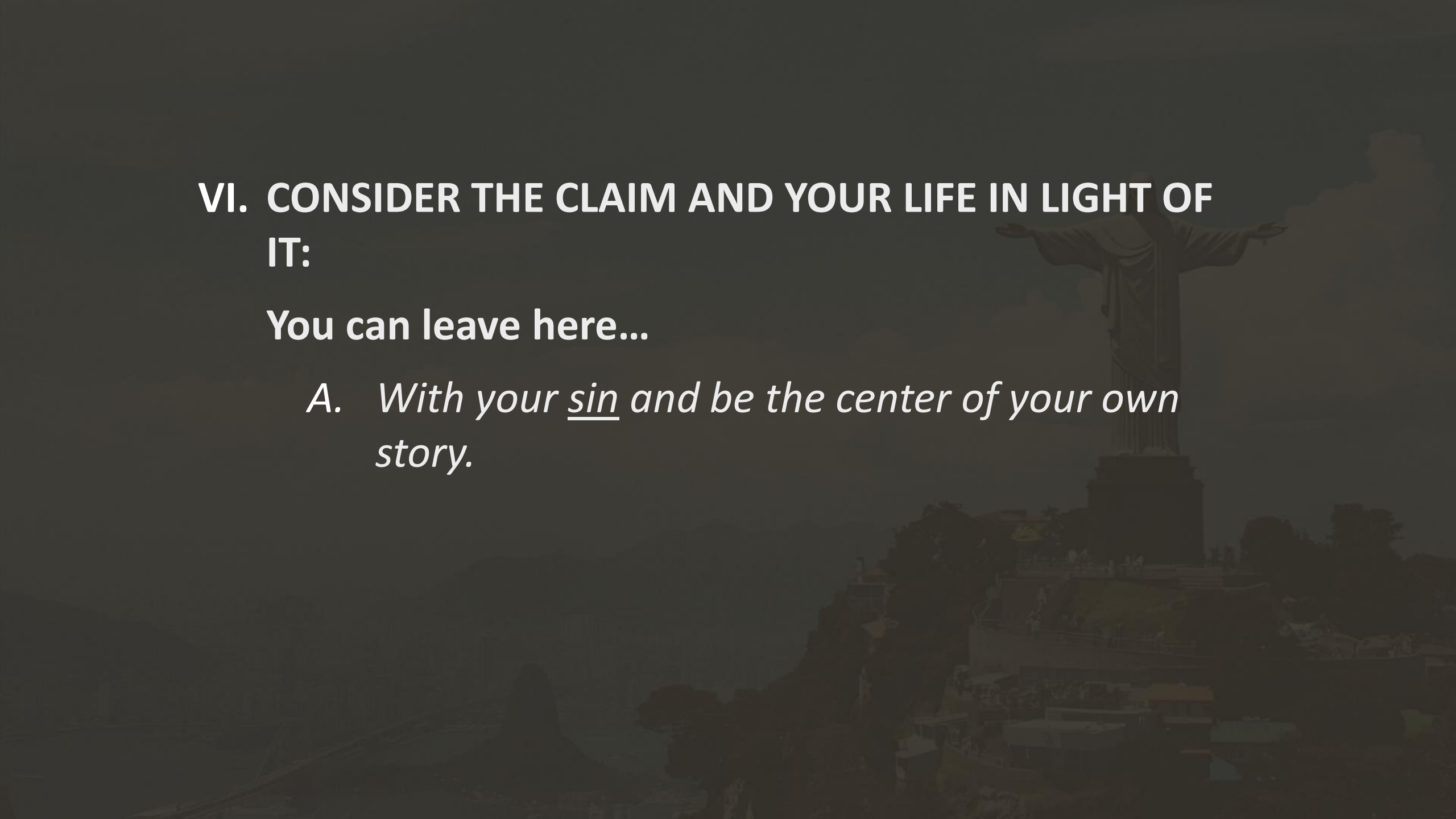
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You can leave here...

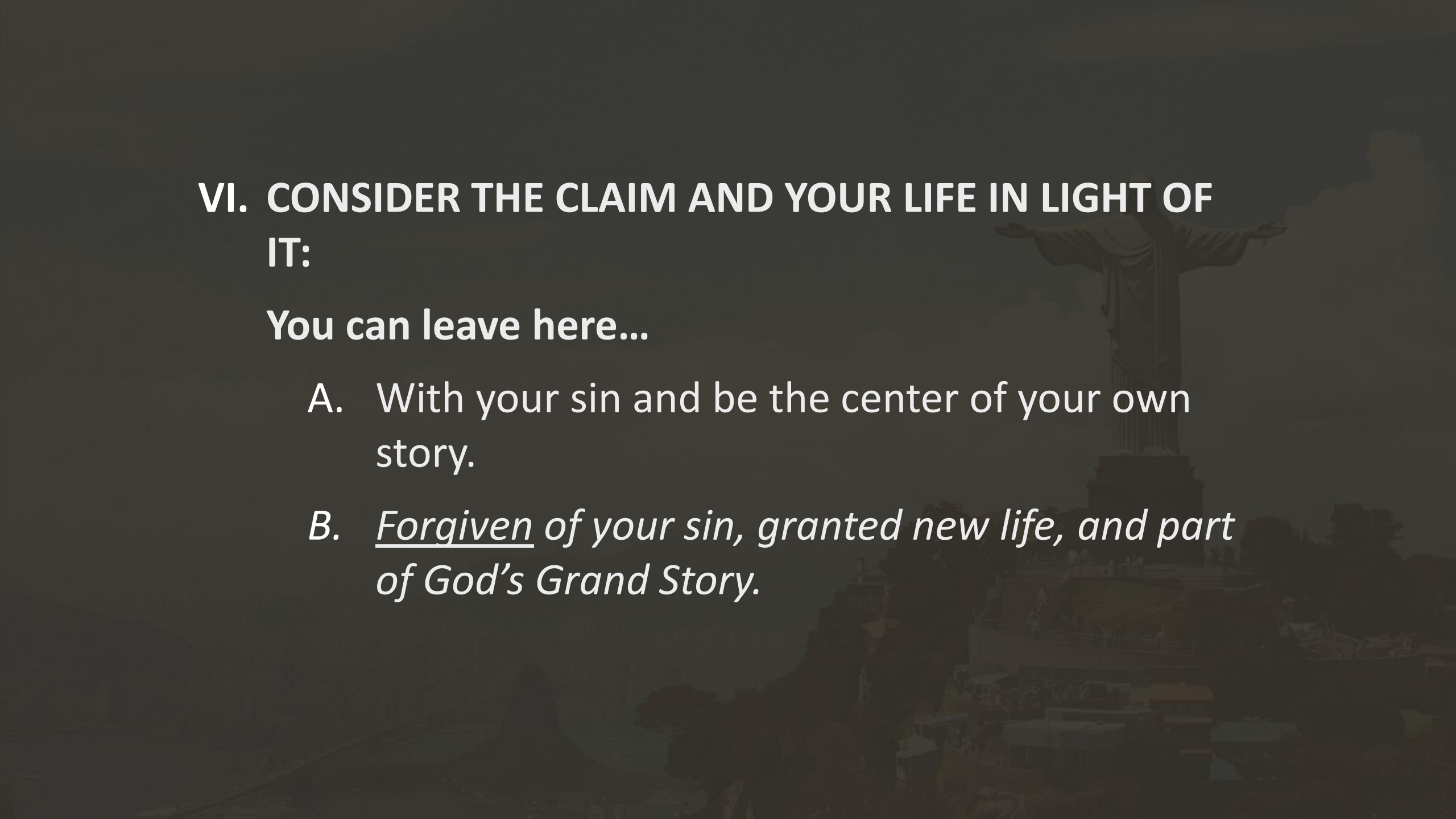




**VI. CONSIDER THE CLAIM AND YOUR LIFE IN LIGHT OF
IT:**

You can leave here...

- A. With your sin and be the center of your own story.*



VI. CONSIDER THE CLAIM AND YOUR LIFE IN LIGHT OF IT:

You can leave here...

- A. With your sin and be the center of your own story.
- B. *Forgiven of your sin, granted new life, and part of God's Grand Story.*