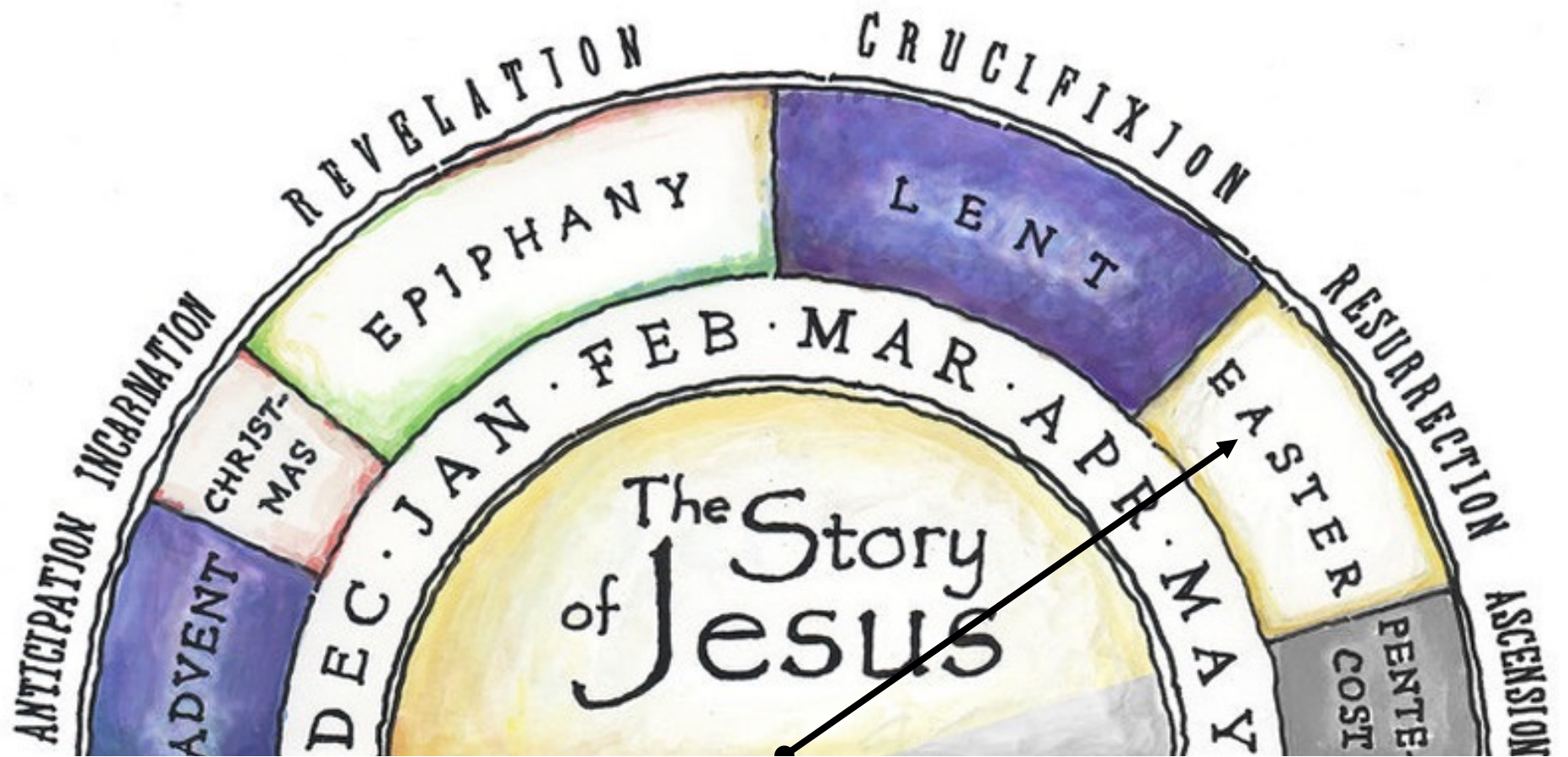


Living God, long ago, faithful women
proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep, and our faith as true.
In the name of Jesus we pray,
Amen.

Opening Prayer

A decorative banner at the bottom of the page. It features a dark background with several hands of different colors (red, blue, green, purple) reaching out and holding each other. There are also colorful circles (red, green, blue, purple) scattered throughout the design.

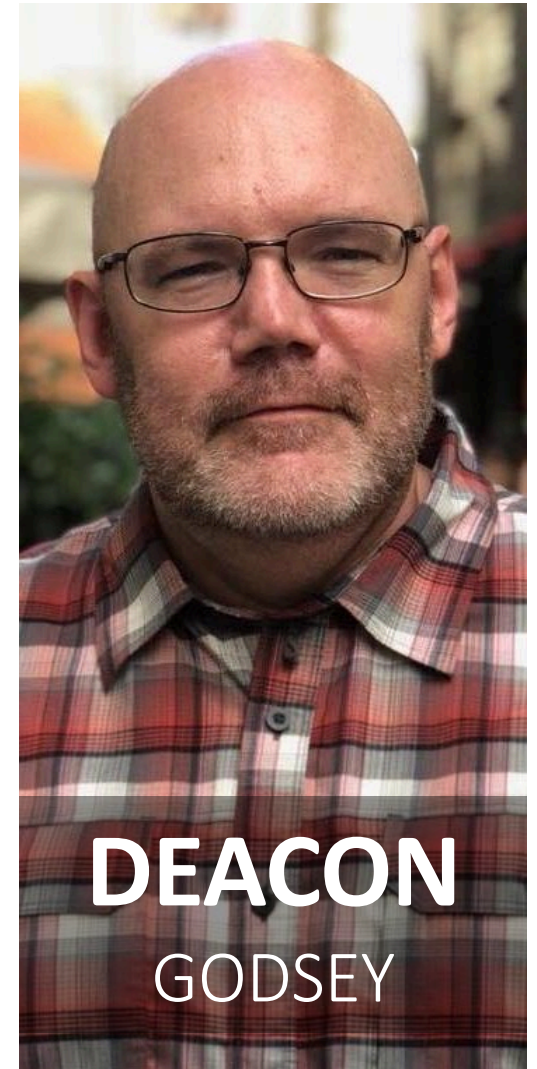
CHURCH CALENDAR

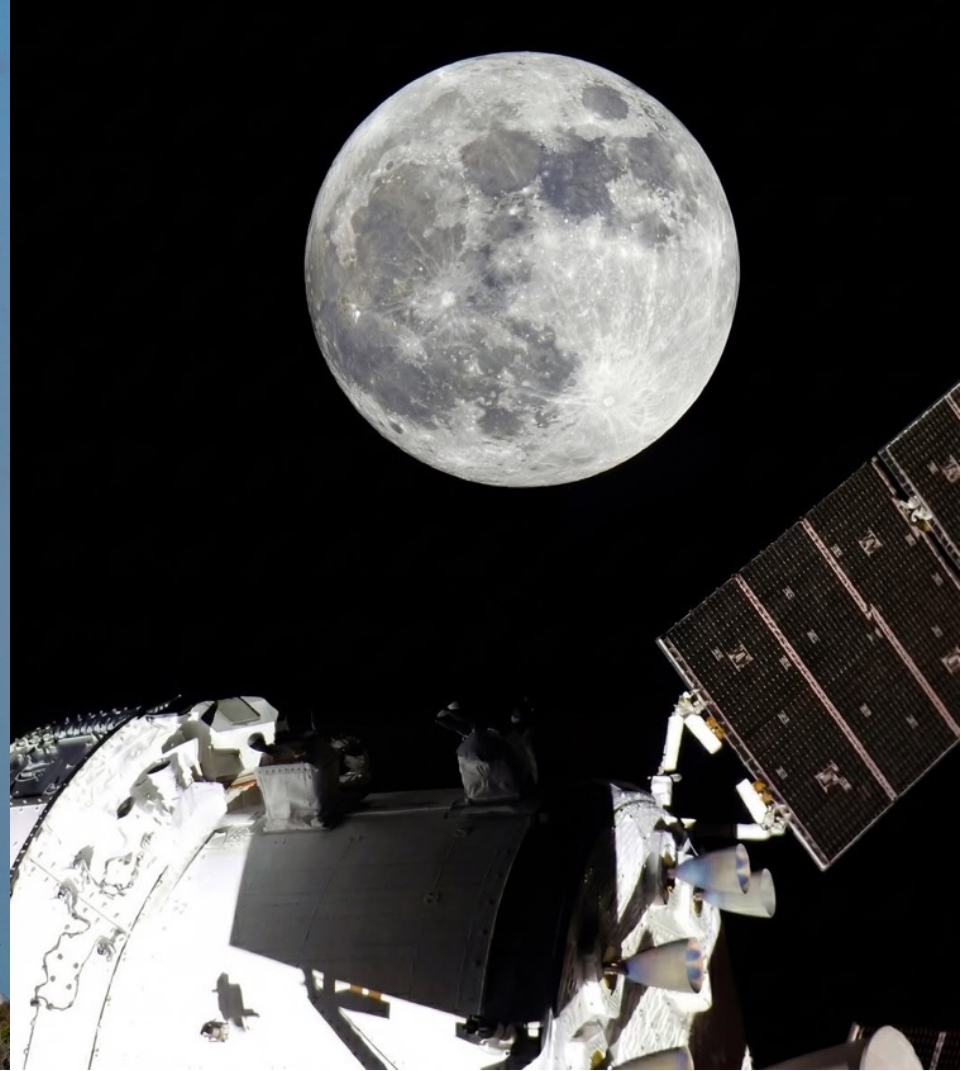


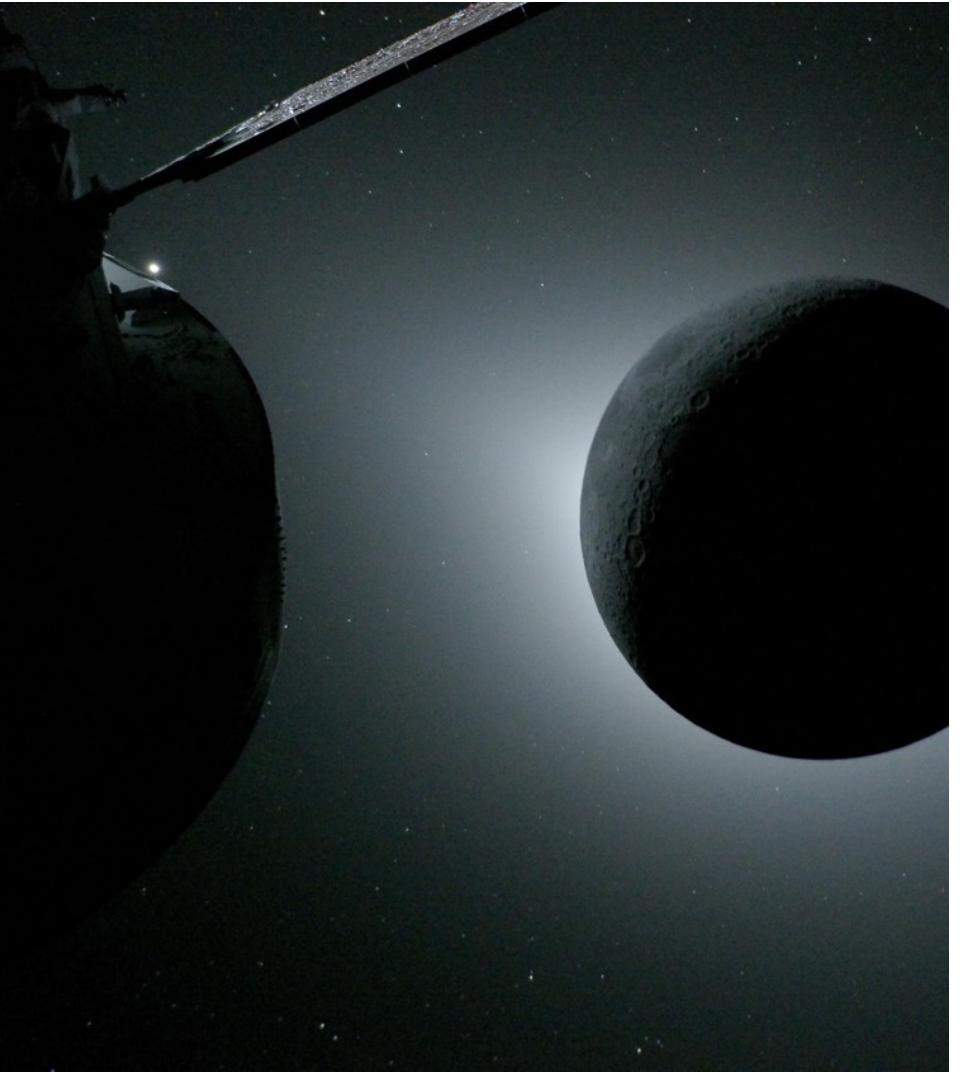
Two groups of people who admittedly test my Christian convictions on what it means to “love my enemies”:

1. Christians who actively support our current President/administration
2. People who believe in a flat earth and that the Apollo moon landing and Artemis II mission were faked

So, when I preach today, I am preaching to myself as much as anyone else.







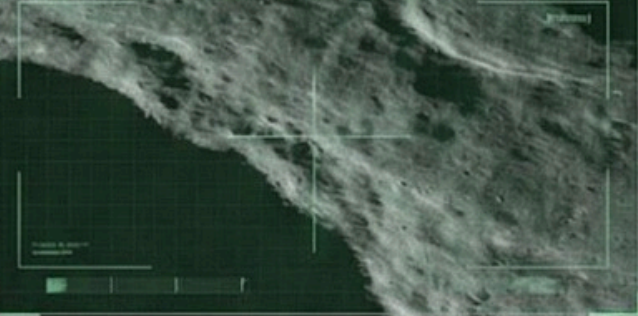


GNC

LIVE

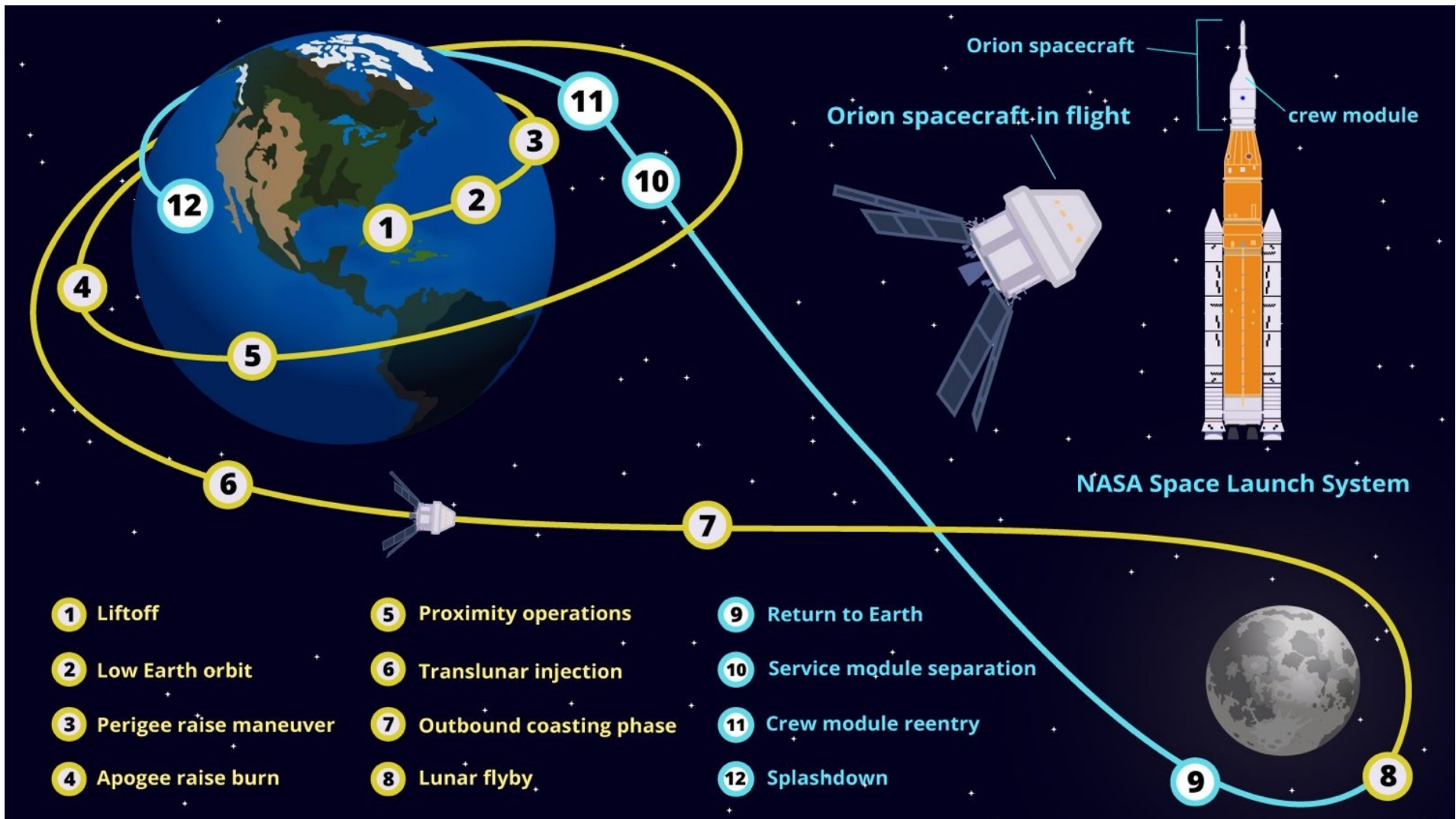
04:12 AM EDT

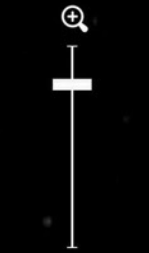
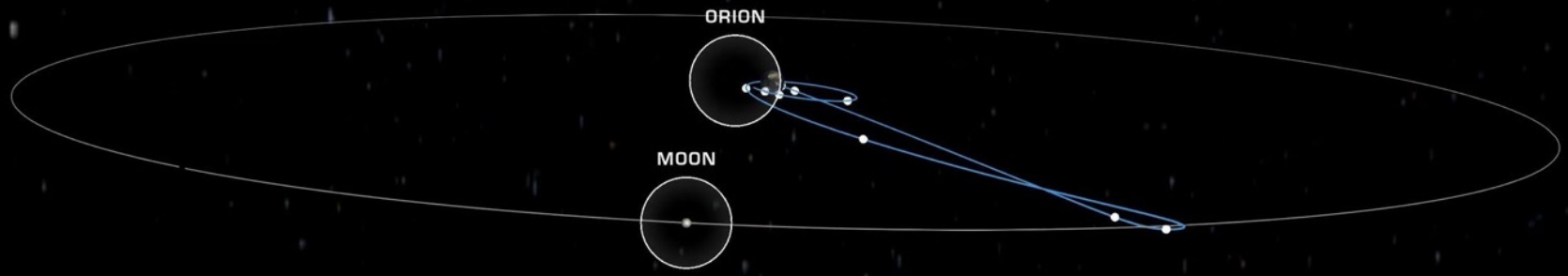
CAMERA 01: LUNAR ORBITER - DISTANCE: 43km



BREAKING NEWS

NASA Lunar Orbiter Discovers Unknown Spacecraft on Far Side of Moon. Scientists baffled by unidentified ship resembling science-fiction craft.





MISSION
VIEW



MISSION
ELAPSED TIME



VELOCITY



DISTANCE
FROM EARTH



DISTANCE
TO MOON





GOD
Heaven of Heavens

WATERS ABOVE THE FIRMAMENT

THE SKY

WINDOWS AND
DOORS OF HEAVEN

MOON



CLOUDS

STARS

SUN



EARTH

MOUNTAINS

SEA

SEA

MOUNTAINS

FIRMAMENT

FIRMAMENT





So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in his name.

HOLY
BIBLE

JOHN

20:30-31

what to do with


THE EVIDENCE
FOR THE RESURRECTION



MEDICAL REALITY

Jesus wasn't simply "resuscitated"

**EVIDENCE
FOR THE
RESURRECTION**



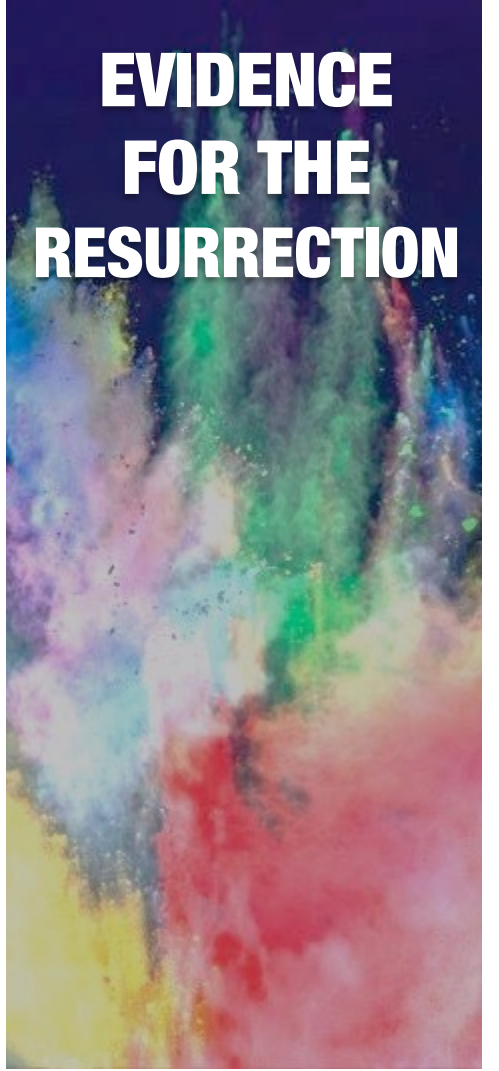
MEDICAL REALITY

Jesus wasn't simply "resuscitated"

THE EMPTY TOMB

Jesus was there, then he wasn't

**EVIDENCE
FOR THE
RESURRECTION**



MEDICAL REALITY

Jesus wasn't simply "resuscitated"

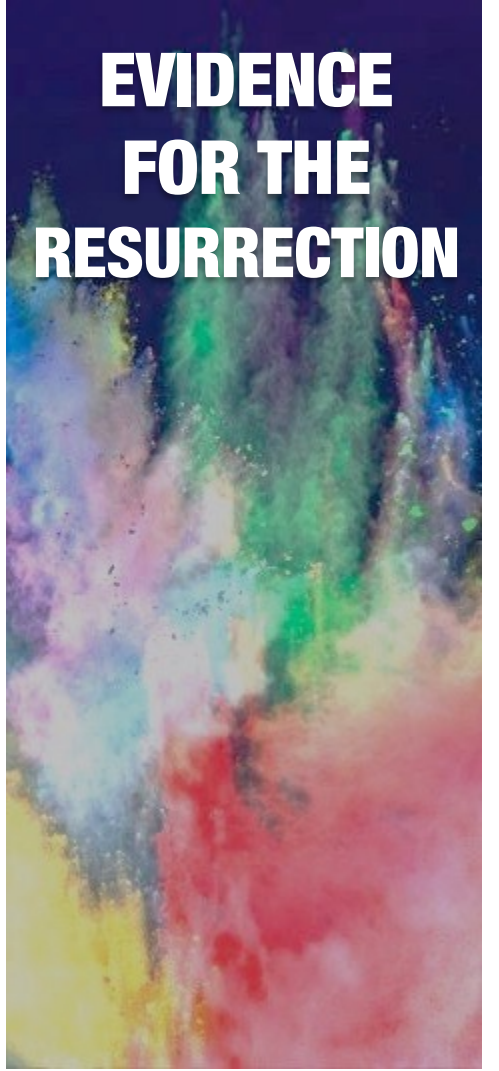
THE EMPTY TOMB

Jesus was there, then he wasn't

EYEWITNESSES

Jesus was seen after his death

**EVIDENCE
FOR THE
RESURRECTION**



MEDICAL REALITY

Jesus wasn't simply "resuscitated"

THE EMPTY TOMB

Jesus was there, then he wasn't

EYEWITNESSES

Jesus was seen after his death

NEW LIVES/IDEAS

Disciples radically changed after-the-fact

**EVIDENCE
FOR THE
RESURRECTION**



COGNITIVE DISSONANCE

The disciples just wanted it to be true...

*The disciples weren't EXPECTING
Jesus' resurrection at all!*

*This doesn't explain the radical SHIFT
in Jewish perspectives on resurrection*

**ARGUMENTS
AND
RESPONSES**





**JEWISH
THOUGHTS ON**
RESURRECTION
AFTER JESUS

NOT SIMPLY “CENTER STAGE”

Bodily resurrection became THE stage

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

It was anticipated for ALL, at the END...



JERUSALEM

Just over the Mount of Olives from Bethany...



**JEWISH
THOUGHTS ON**
RESURRECTION
AFTER JESUS

NOT SIMPLY “CENTER STAGE”

Bodily resurrection became THE stage

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

It was anticipated for ALL, at the END...

A NEW STRENGTH OF PURPOSE

Transform PRESENT in light of FUTURE

INSEPARABLE IDEA IN THE CHURCH

Resurrection key element of faith/practice

A NEW EXPERIENCE OF LOVE/GRACE

Felt a new level of faith/conviction

Doesn't take you one STEP closer to saying your leader had been raised from the dead, and being willing to give your life for that belief

**ARGUMENTS
AND
RESPONSES**



JESUS DIDN'T REALLY DIE

He was drugged, just looked like he did

Roman soldiers KNEW how to kill someone, and the disciples wouldn't have been easily fooled

There's no way Jesus could have revived or appeared "normal" given the physical TRAUMA he experienced before/during his crucifixion

**ARGUMENTS
AND
RESPONSES**



THE WOMEN MET SOMEONE ELSE

Like, maybe James, Jesus' brother

Well, they CERTAINLY would have noticed their mistake soon enough!

**ARGUMENTS
AND
RESPONSES**



JESUS' LIMITED REAPPEARANCES

He only appeared to those who believed

After he died, it's likely NONE of his disciples believed he was the Messiah, much less Divine! And what about Thomas, or the Apostle Paul?

**ARGUMENTS
AND
RESPONSES**



THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS ARE BIASED

Too subjective, not trustworthy

*ALL history, ALL journalism is biased
in one way or another, because it's
generated from someone's perspective,
but that doesn't negate it outright*

**ARGUMENTS
AND
RESPONSES**



A RICH SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

Jesus was still “alive,” “in touch” w/them

*That’s a very Greek/Platonic notion,
not at all a Jewish way of thinking/
speaking; for them, resurrection =
the DEFEAT of death in a new BODILY
reality, not simply a re-description
of ghosts/bodiless death or purely
subjective spiritual experiences*

**ARGUMENTS
AND
RESPONSES**



LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE VISIONS

“Seeing” loved ones who have died

They knew of such things and had language for it (“angel,” “spirit,” or “ghost”) – they would NOT have said, “He’s risen from the dead” if that’s not what they meant and had experienced

**ARGUMENTS
AND
RESPONSES**

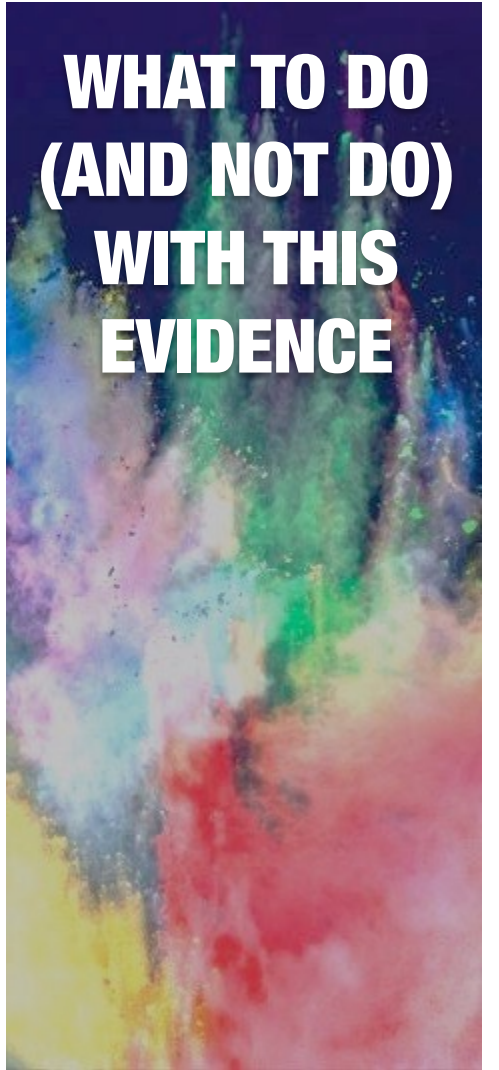


what to do with

THE EVIDENCE
FOR THE RESURRECTION

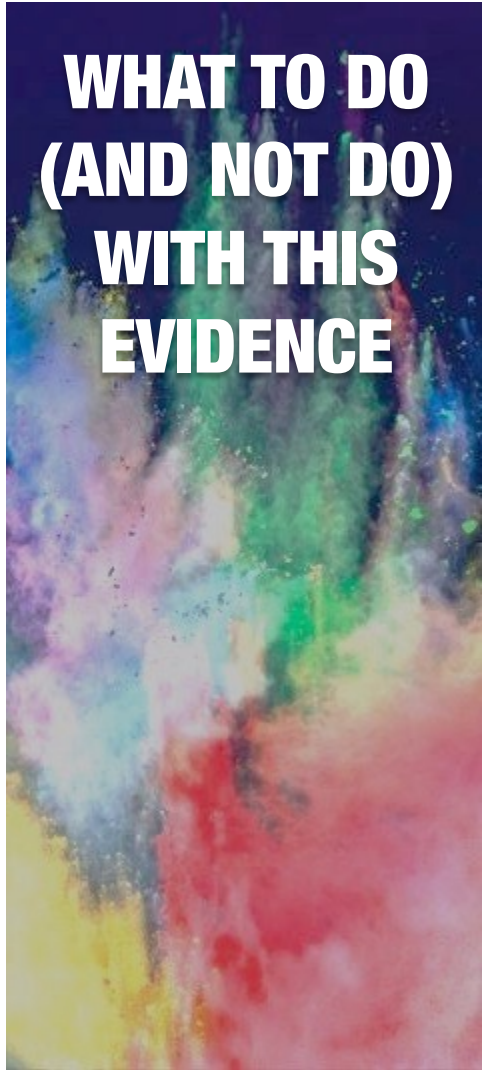


- **DO NOT** think of it as a set of bullets in a rhetorical or theological gun to help shoot down your enemy and their perspectives
- **DO** think of it as a source of hope to assist you in your faith



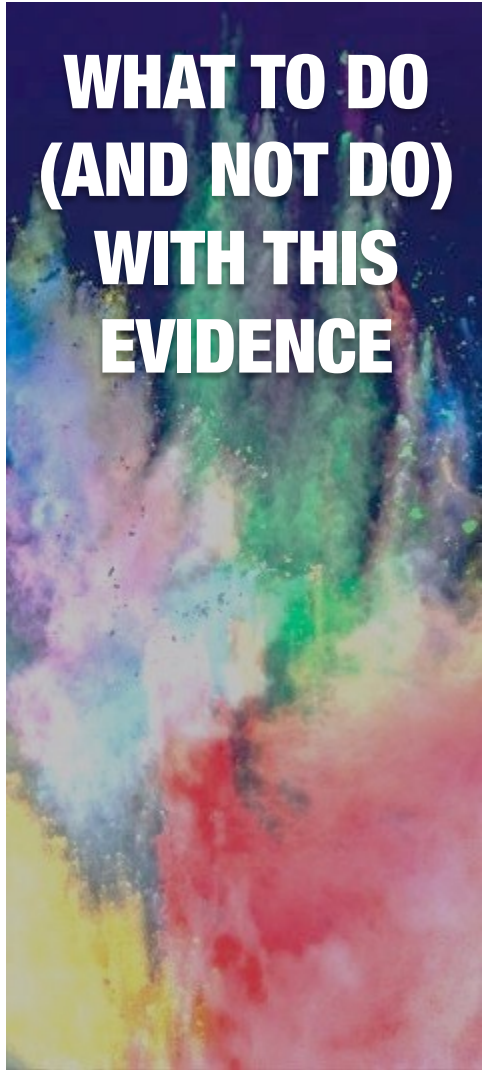
**WHAT TO DO
(AND NOT DO)
WITH THIS
EVIDENCE**

- **DO NOT** use it as a way of justifying the mockery and dehumanization of those who don't share your faith convictions
- **DO** use it as part of a genuinely curious conversation w/others...



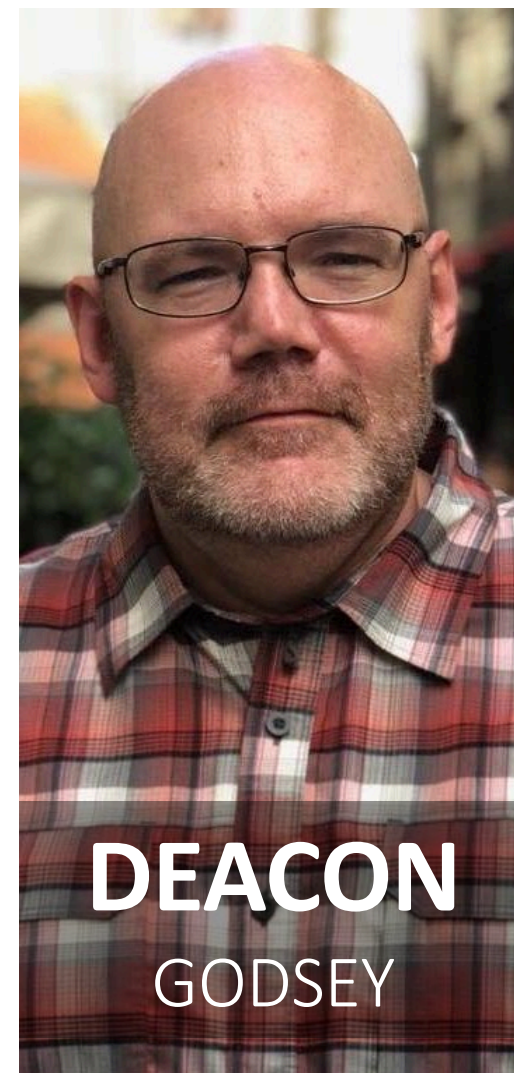
**WHAT TO DO
(AND NOT DO)
WITH THIS
EVIDENCE**

- **DO NOT** labor under the weight of assuming that because the evidence is convincing to you, it will be equally convincing to everyone else
- **DO** live in the freedom that it's not your job/responsibility to make people agree with you, or to save them from the God who already loves them more than you ever could



**WHAT TO DO
(AND NOT DO)
WITH THIS
EVIDENCE**

As a follower of Jesus, and a believer in his resurrection, I have to acknowledge that, to some, I am the “flat-earther” who believes the impossible in light of the vast majority of available evidence. But that doesn’t have to put me on the defensive, or on the attack, and that certainly doesn’t give me license to treat those folks any differently than I’d treat anyone else.



DEACON
GODSEY

Nor does it erase the valid historical, medical, archaeological, and philosophical evidence up for consideration. In the end, I am able to respectfully contend there is no evidence for a flat earth, but there is SOME evidence for the resurrection, and for me, that is enough. I understand and respect that, for others, it is not. And I will seek to love them just the same, as I hope they will for me.



We stand in your love, O God of the living, for you made the tomb of death the womb from which you brought forth your Son, the first-born of a new creation, and you anointed the universe with the Spirit of his resurrection. Make us joyful witnesses to this good news, that all humanity may one day gather at the feast of new life in the kingdom, where you reign in the glory of the power of love, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

A decorative banner at the bottom of the page features a dark background with white line art of hands reaching out. Overlaid on this are several overlapping circles in red, green, blue, and purple, symbolizing unity and diversity.