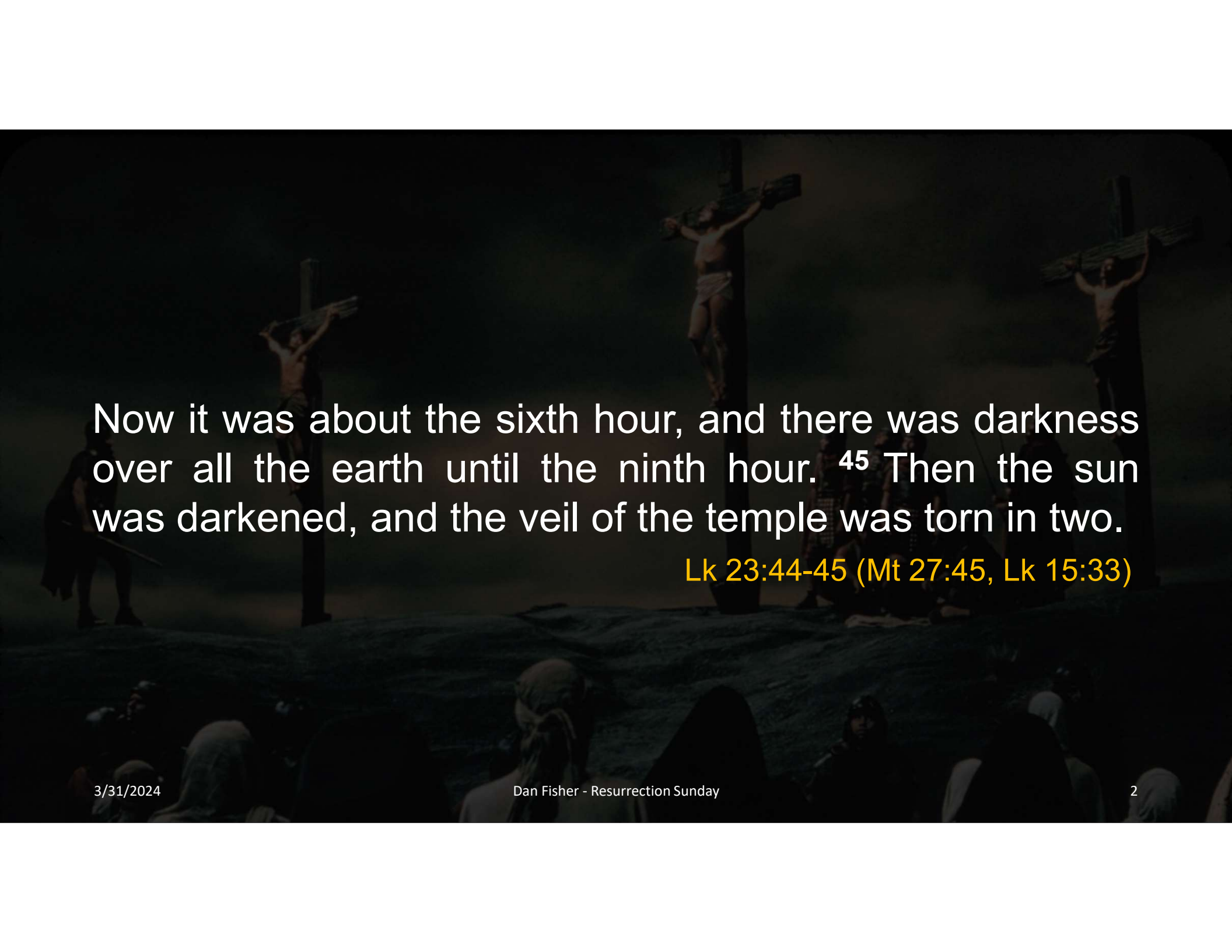


The darkness that illuminated the world

3/31/2024

Dan Fisher - Resurrection Sunday

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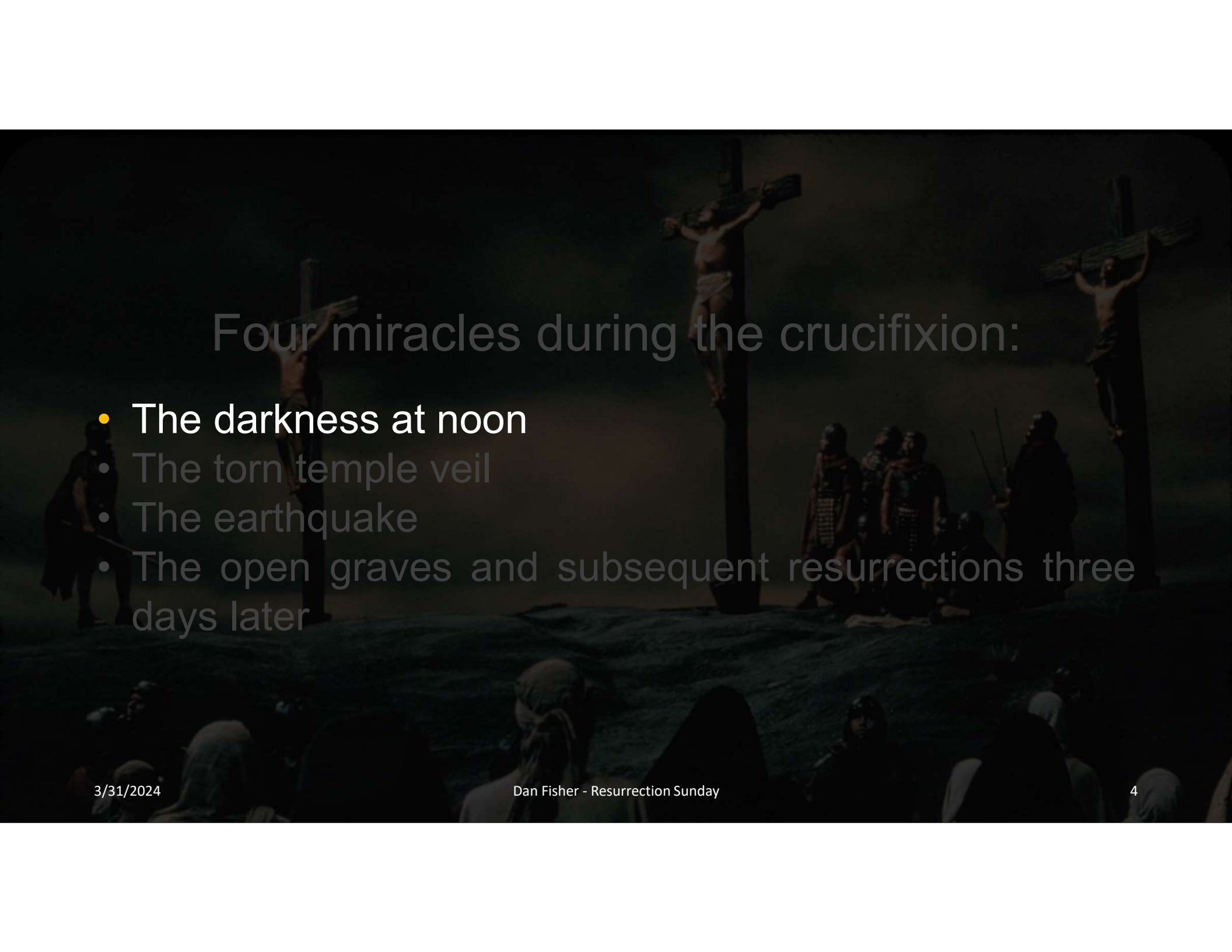
Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. ⁴⁵ Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

Lk 23:44-45 (Mt 27:45, Lk 15:33)



Four miracles during the crucifixion:

- The darkness at noon
- The torn temple veil
- The earthquake
- The open graves and subsequent resurrections three days later



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Why darkness when Jesus “is” light?

Is 9:2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light.

Jn 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

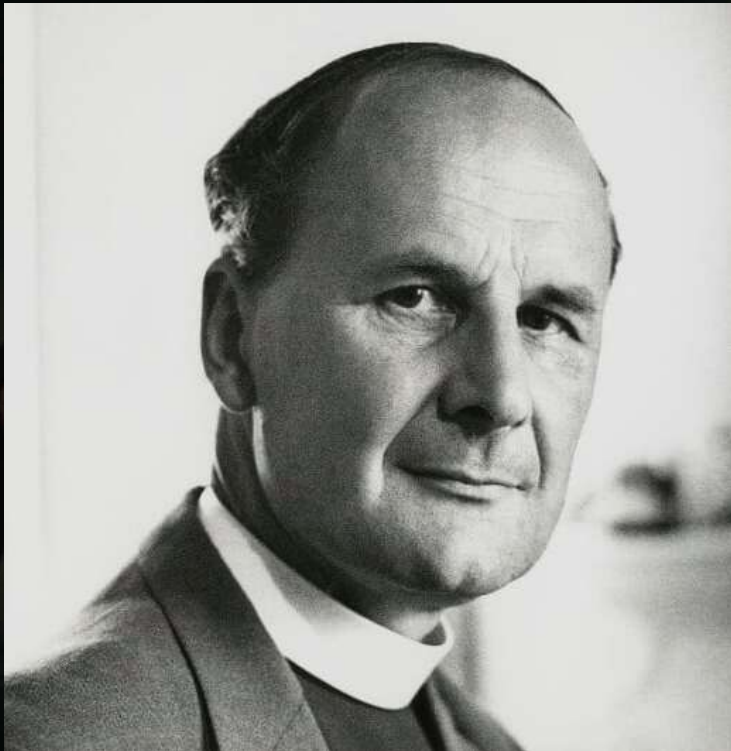
Jn 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

1 Jn 1:10 God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 Tim 6:16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see

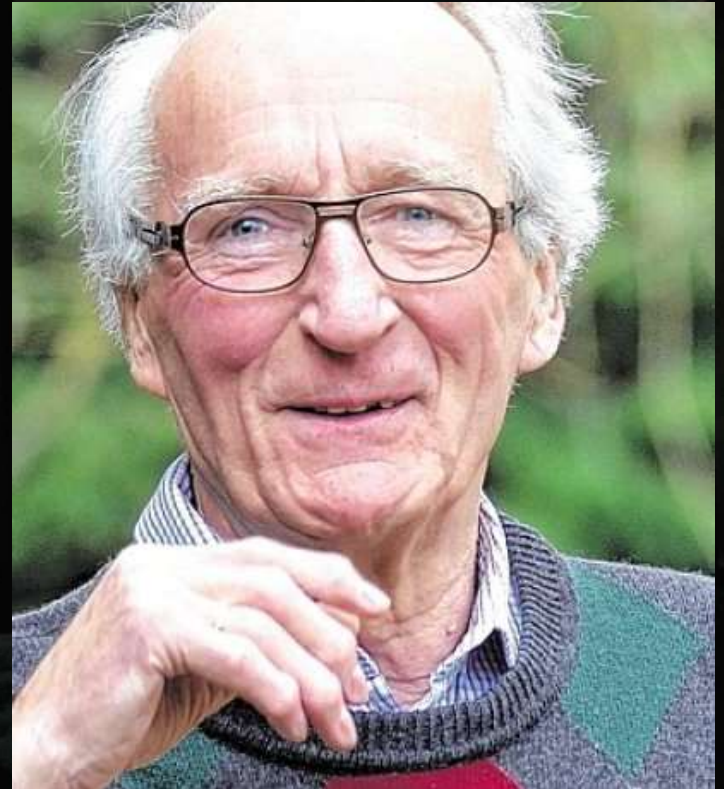
A dark, atmospheric scene of the Crucifixion. Three crosses are visible against a dark, hazy sky. The central cross is the most prominent, with a figure hanging from it. To the left and right, other crosses are visible, though less detailed. In the foreground, a crowd of people is gathered, their forms mostly in silhouette. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

How reliable are the biblical accounts of the Darkness?



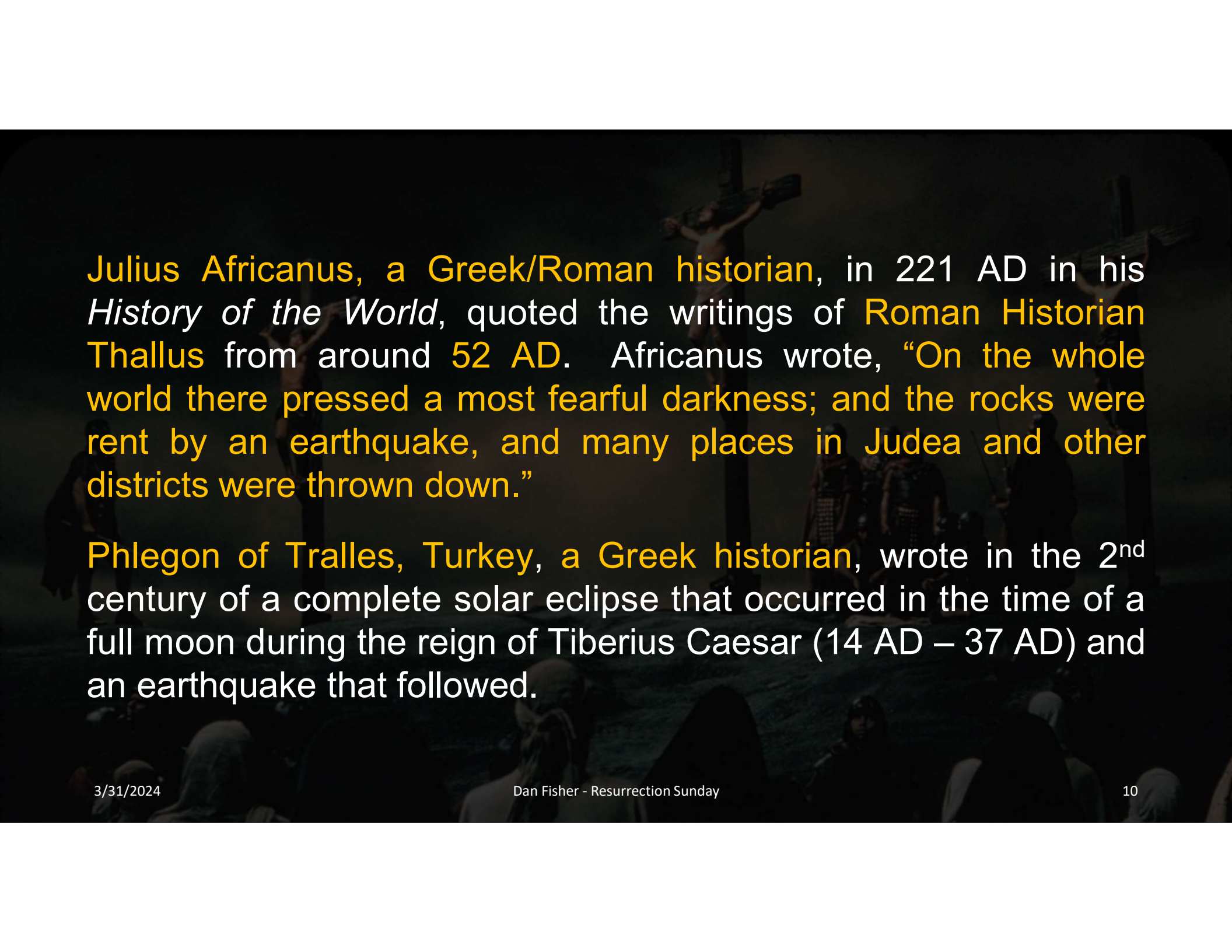
John A. T. Robinson, a liberal New Testament scholar and no friend of conservative biblical Christianity, conducted an in-depth study in which he discovered strong historical, textual, and logical evidence for dating all of the gospels between **AD 40–65**.

Rudolph Pesch, German New Testament scholar, dates the source for Mark's passion narrative no later than **AD 37** based on language, style, grammar, and personal references.



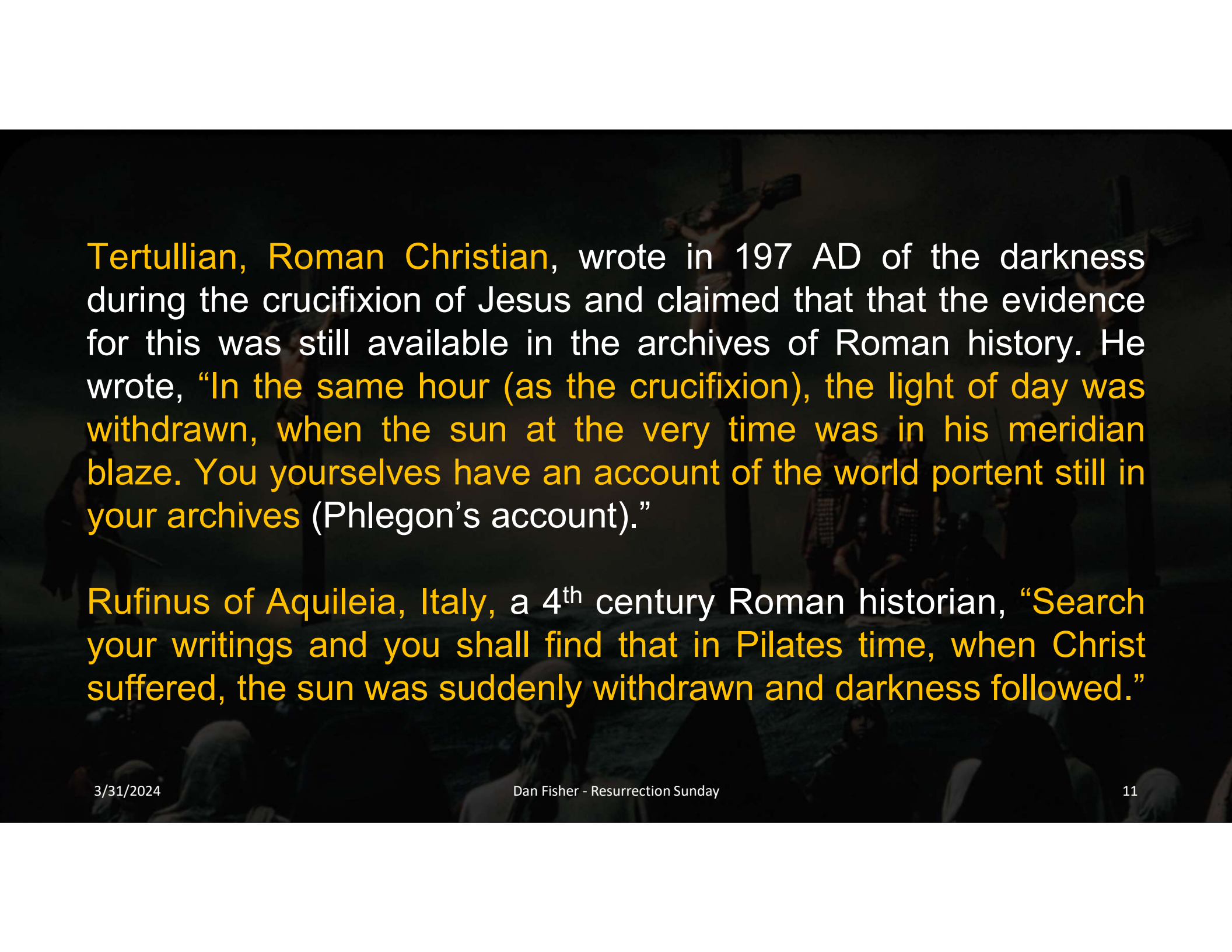
A dark, atmospheric scene depicting three crucifixions. The figures on the crosses are silhouetted against a slightly lighter, hazy background. In the foreground, a crowd of people is visible, their forms mostly in shadow, looking towards the crosses. The overall mood is somber and historical.

Does secular history record the
darkness?



Julius Africanus, a Greek/Roman historian, in 221 AD in his *History of the World*, quoted the writings of Roman Historian Thallus from around 52 AD. Africanus wrote, “On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down.”

Phlegon of Tralles, Turkey, a Greek historian, wrote in the 2nd century of a complete solar eclipse that occurred in the time of a full moon during the reign of Tiberius Caesar (14 AD – 37 AD) and an earthquake that followed.



Tertullian, Roman Christian, wrote in 197 AD of the darkness during the crucifixion of Jesus and claimed that the evidence for this was still available in the archives of Roman history. He wrote, “**In the same hour (as the crucifixion), the light of day was withdrawn, when the sun at the very time was in his meridian blaze. You yourselves have an account of the world portent still in your archives (Phlegon’s account).**”

Rufinus of Aquileia, Italy, a 4th century Roman historian, “**Search your writings and you shall find that in Pilates time, when Christ suffered, the sun was suddenly withdrawn and darkness followed.**”

A dark, atmospheric scene of the crucifixion. Three crosses are visible, with figures on them. The scene is dimly lit, with a crowd of people in the foreground. The text "What was the darkness?" is overlaid in the center.

What was the darkness?



- **It was not an eclipse**

A solar eclipse can occur only at a **new moon**, but Jesus was crucified at the time of Passover which is always at the time of a **full moon**. (Ex 12:1-11; Lev 23:5)

The maximum duration for a total solar eclipse is **seven minutes**, not **three hours**, and at the latitude of Jerusalem the maximum duration is even less.

- It was the absence of the light of God

Ex 10:21-23 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which **may even be felt.**” ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was **thick darkness** in all the land of Egypt three days. ²³ They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Mt 6:23 If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, **how great is that darkness!**

2 Cor 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

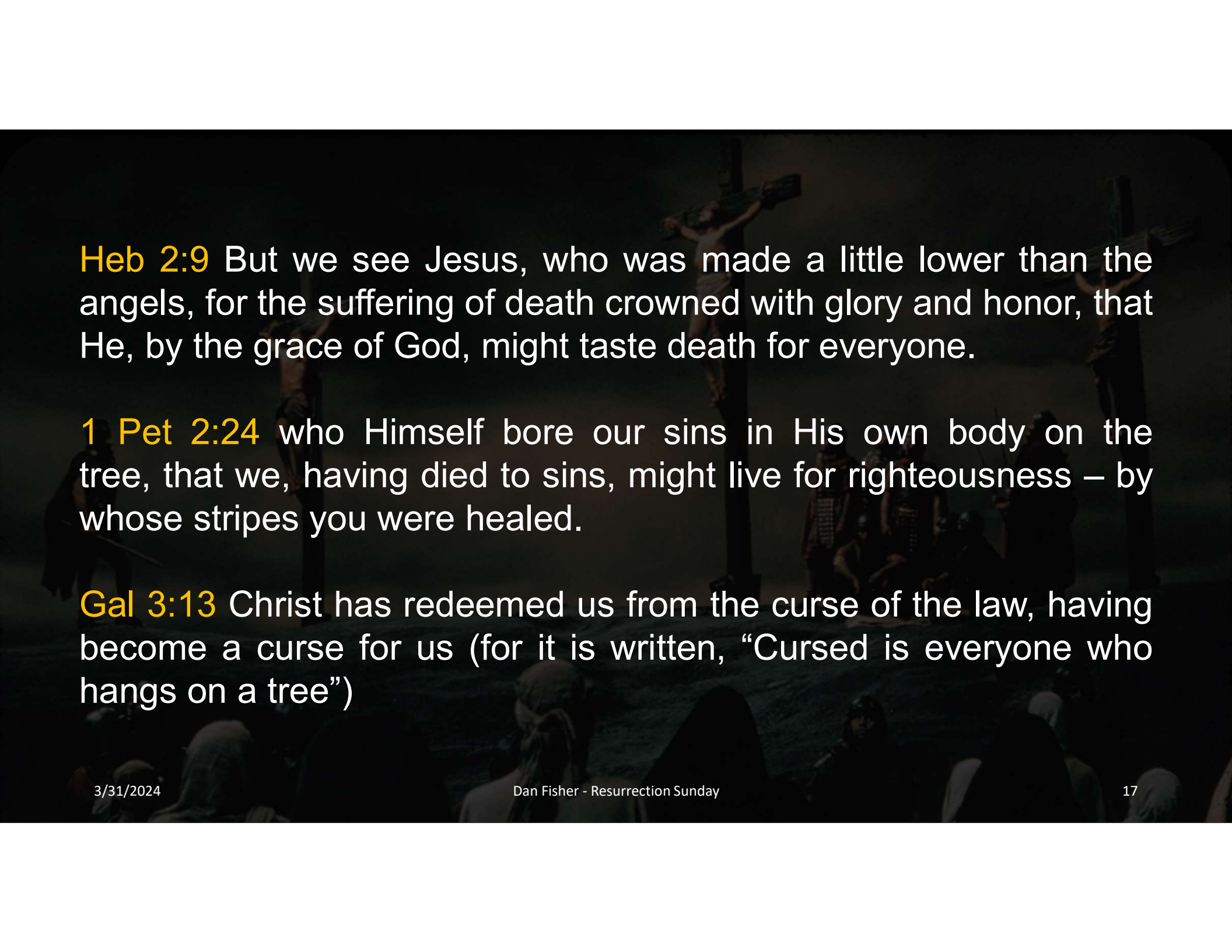
Eph 4:18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Mt 22:13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into **outer darkness**; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Mt 25:30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the **outer darkness**. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

A dark, atmospheric scene of the crucifixion. Three crosses are visible against a dark, hazy background. The central cross is the most prominent, with a figure on it. To the left and right, other crosses are visible, also with figures. In the foreground, a crowd of people is gathered, their forms mostly in silhouette. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

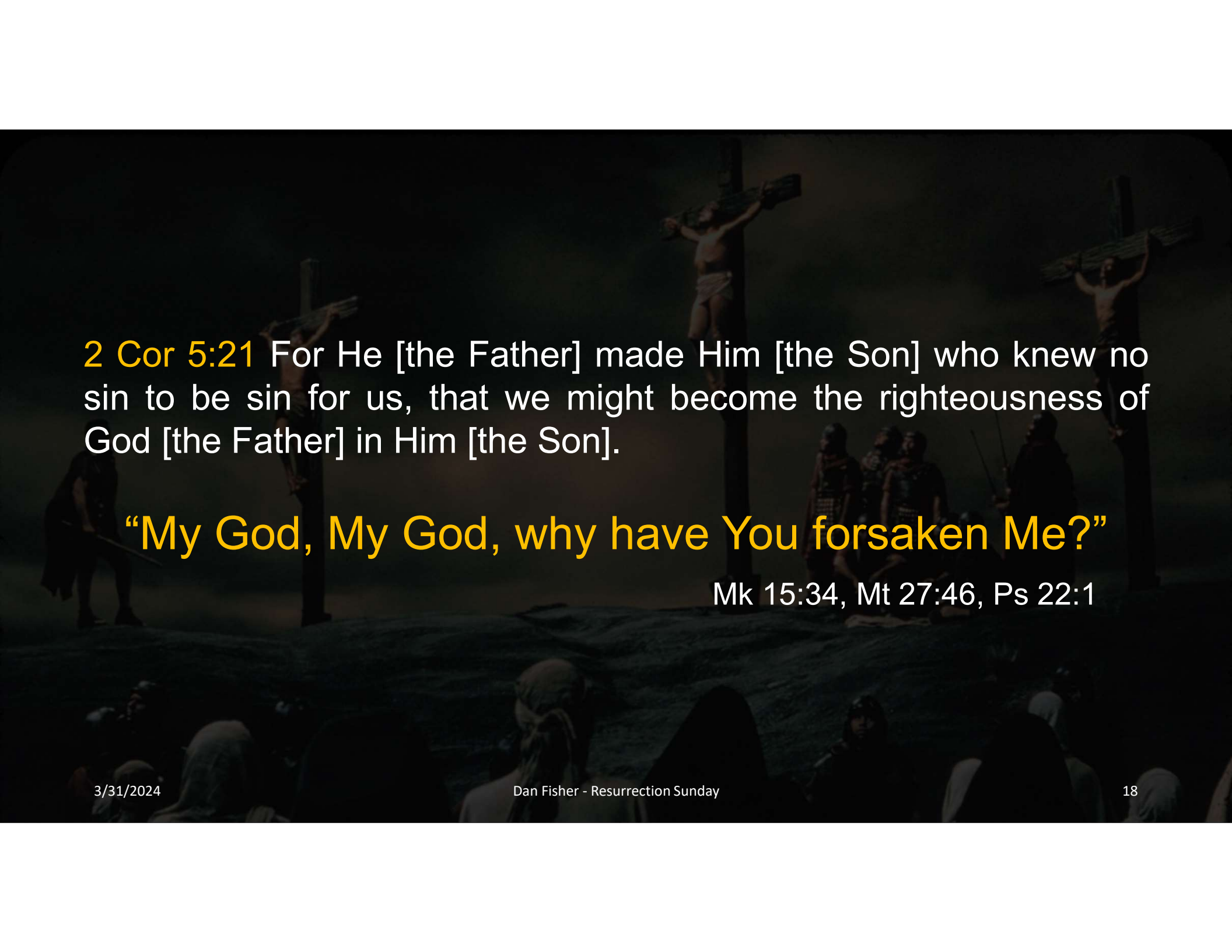
1. The Light gave way to the darkness



Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

1 Pet 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)



2 Cor 5:21 For He [the Father] made Him [the Son] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God [the Father] in Him [the Son].

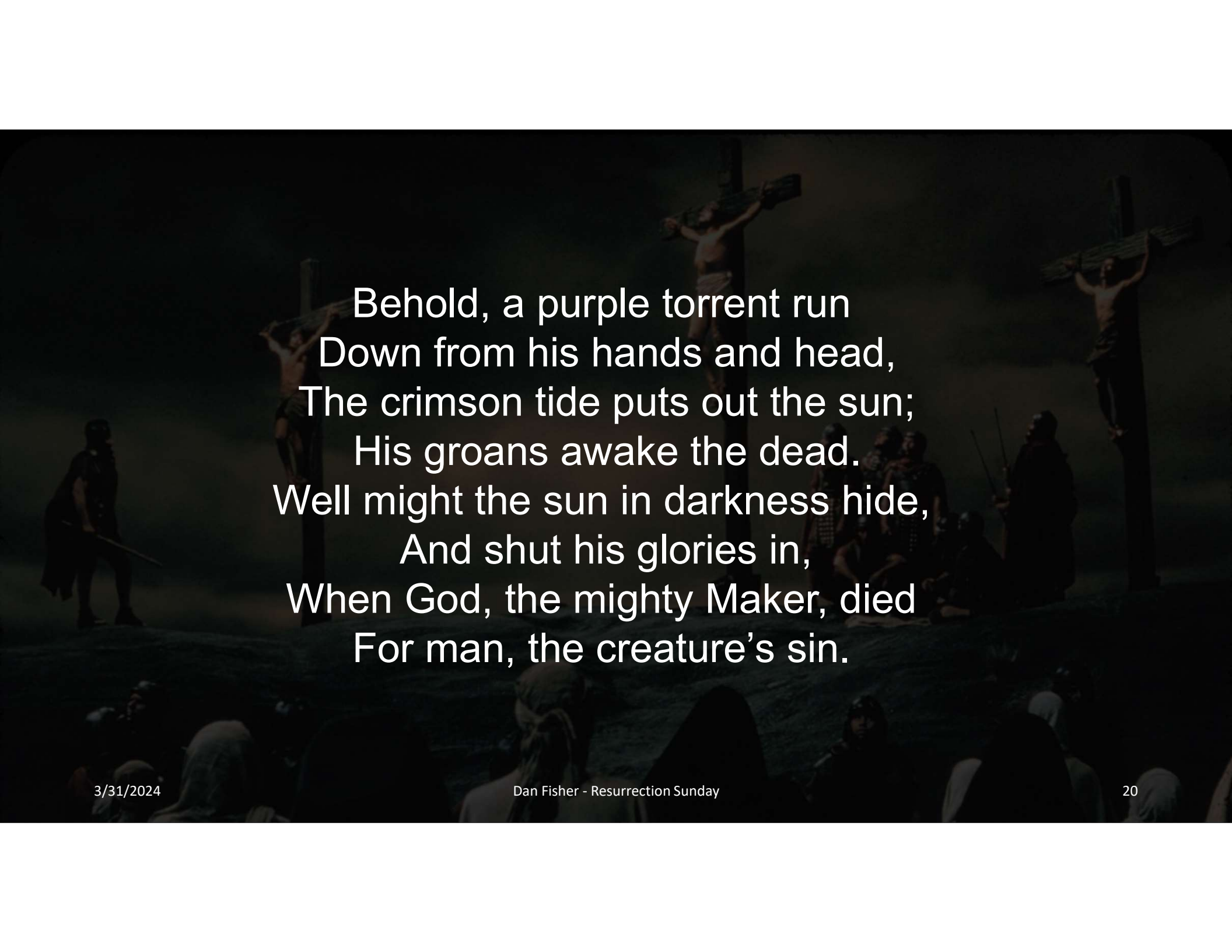
“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Mk 15:34, Mt 27:46, Ps 22:1



Shut out the world
Shut up the world
Showed the world

“surely this was the Son of God”
“But men loved darkness rather than light” (Jn 3:19)



Behold, a purple torrent run
Down from his hands and head,
The crimson tide puts out the sun;
His groans awake the dead.
Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut his glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker, died
For man, the creature's sin.

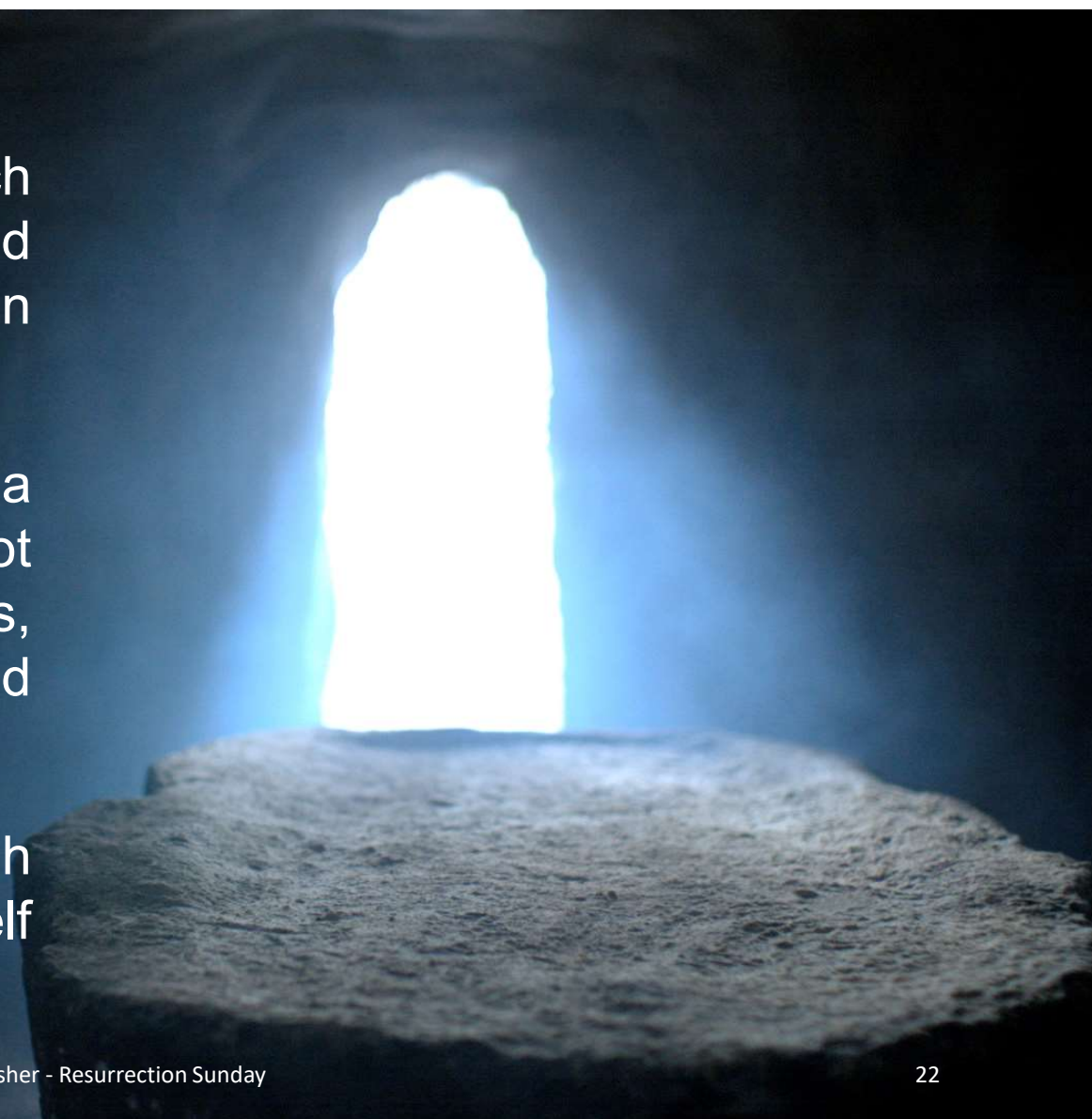


2. The darkness gave way to the Light

Jn 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Heb 9:14 ... Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God,



1 Pet 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

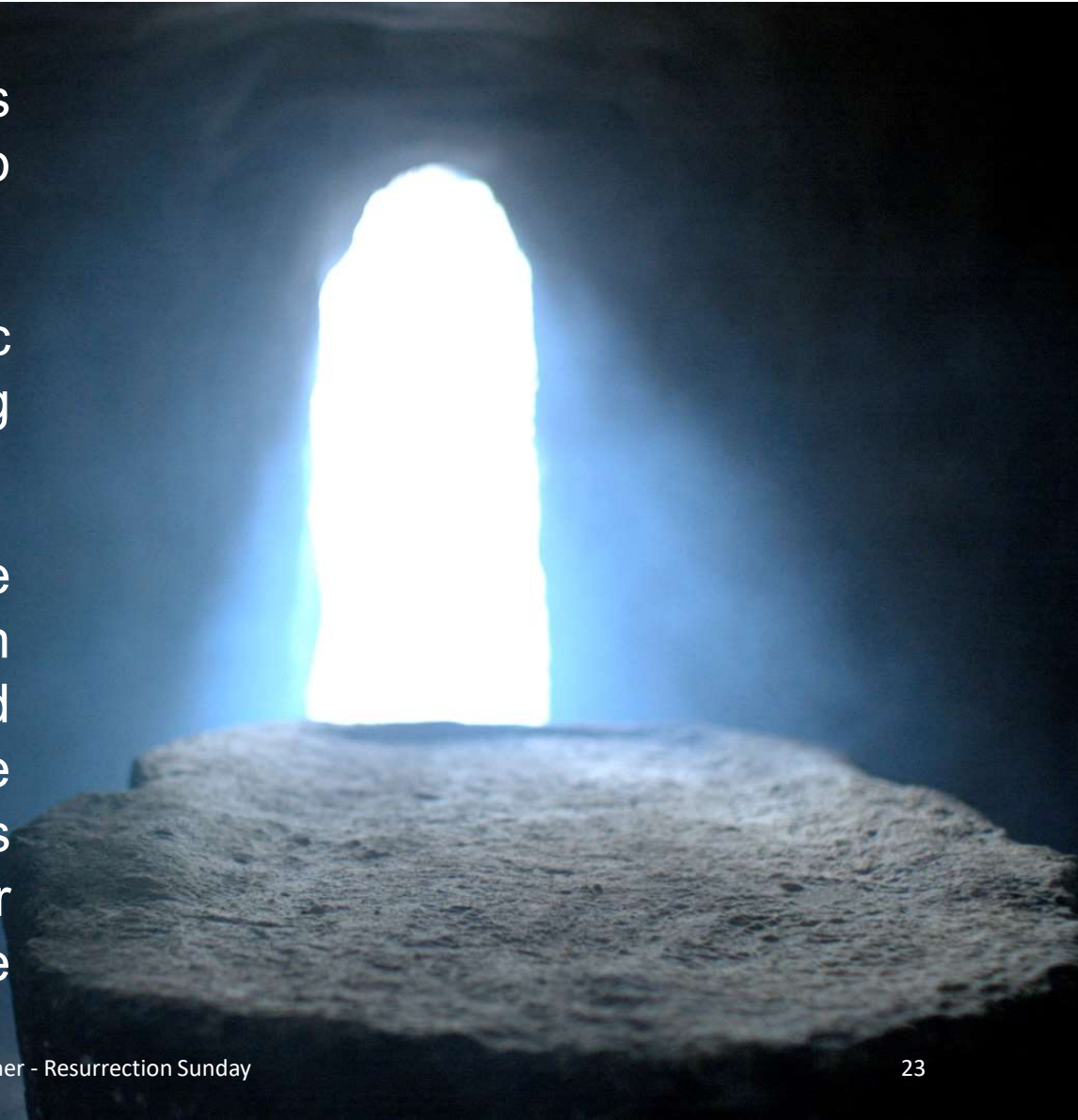
Col 2:15 He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

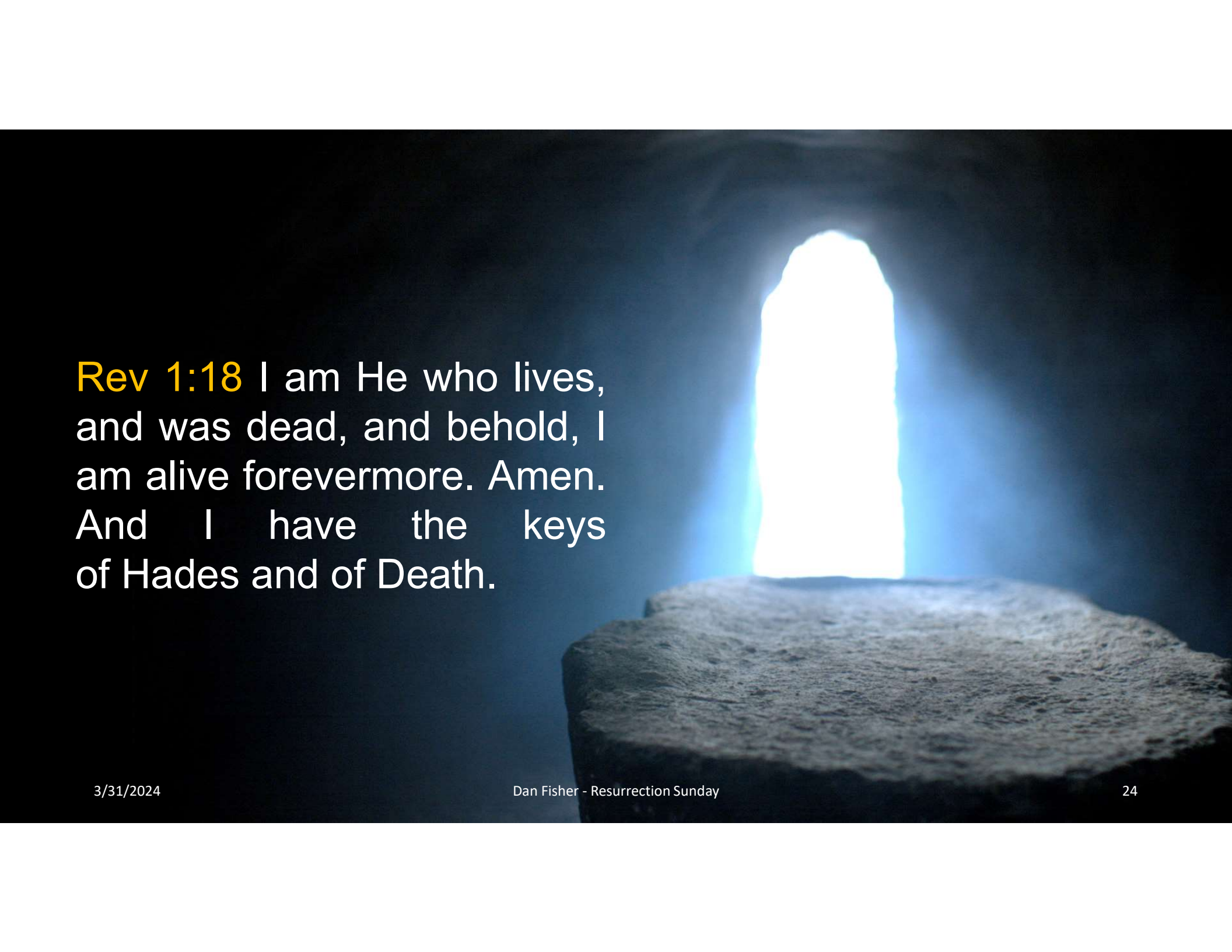
Eph 4:9-10 (Now this, “He ascended” – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

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Dan Fisher - Resurrection Sunday

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Rev 1:18 I am He who lives,
and was dead, and behold, I
am alive forevermore. Amen.
And I have the keys
of Hades and of Death.

A photograph of a stone slab, likely the tombstone, with a bright light shining through an opening behind it, symbolizing resurrection. The light is a bright, glowing white and yellow, creating a strong contrast with the dark, shadowed interior of the tomb. The stone slab is in the foreground, and the light source is in the background, creating a sense of depth and hope.

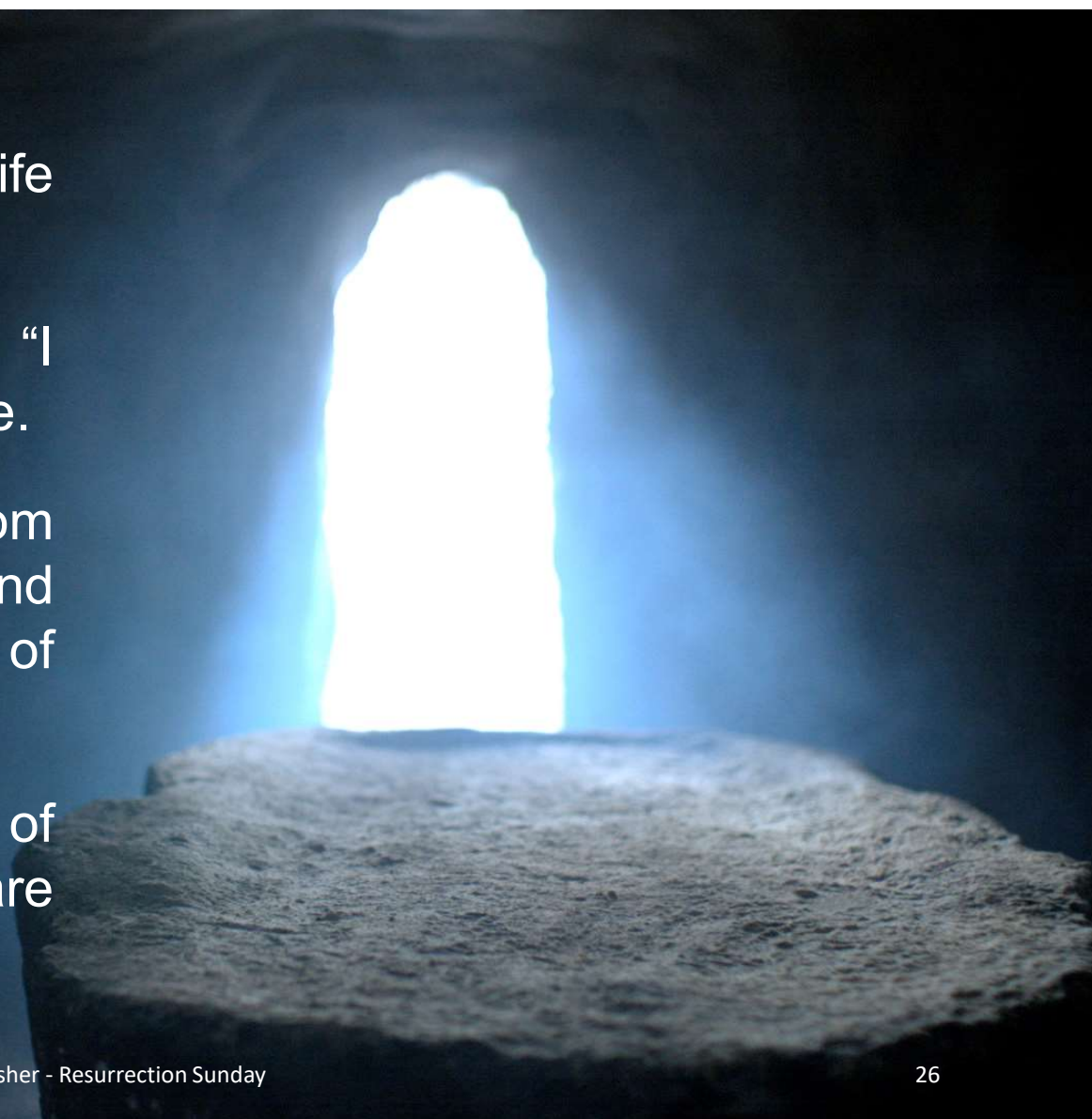
3. The Light gives a way to Life

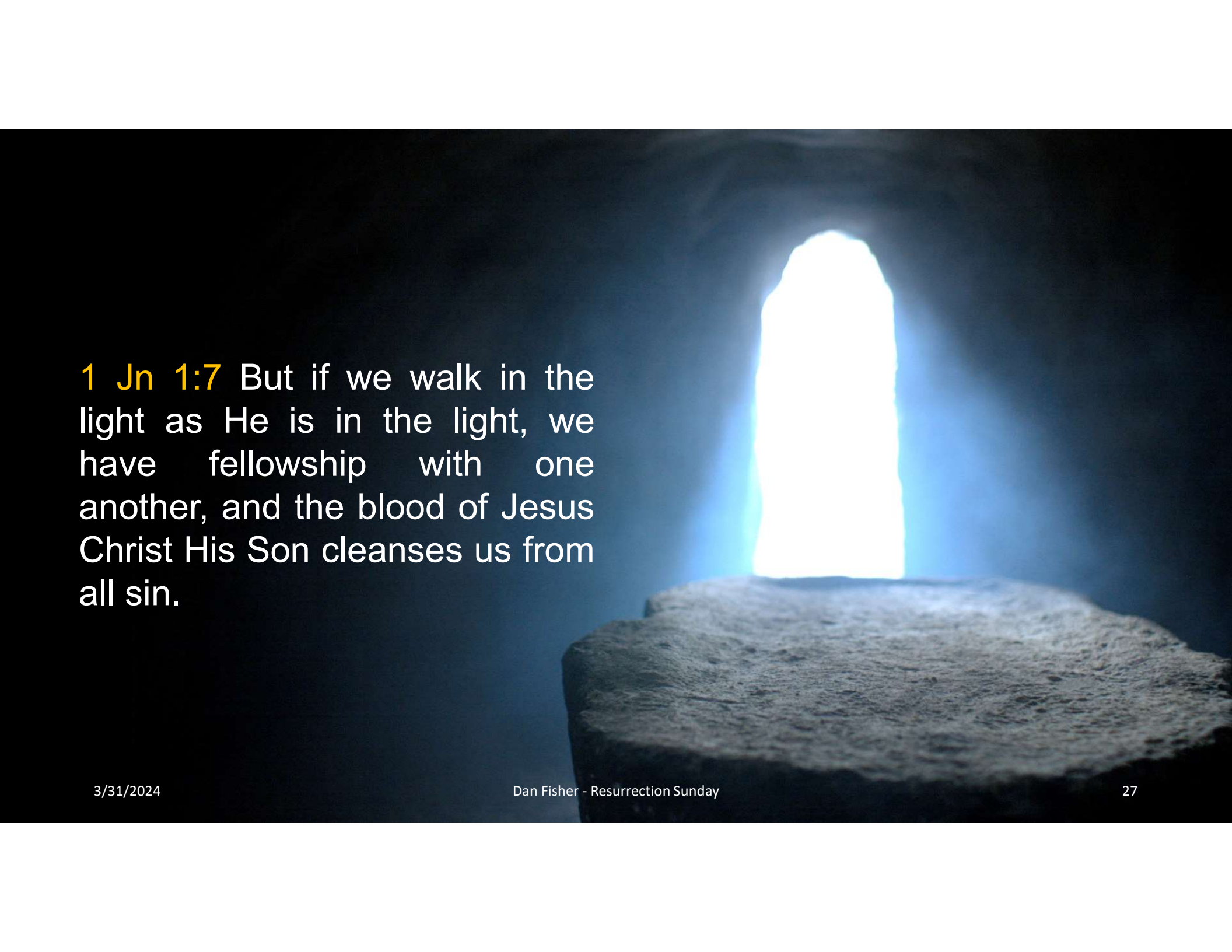
Jn 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.

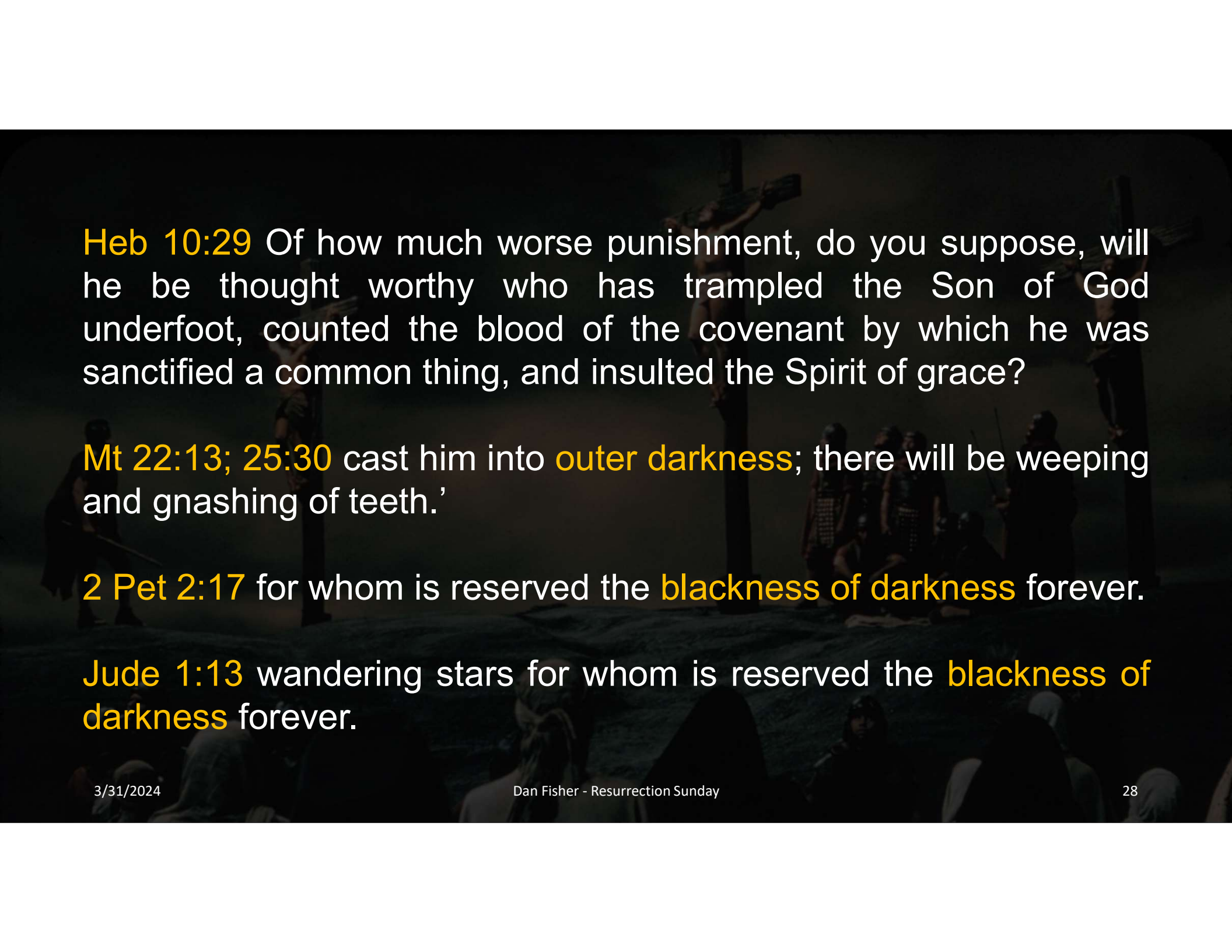
Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

1 Thess 5:5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.



A photograph of a tomb entrance, likely the tomb of Jesus, with a bright light shining through the opening. The light is a vibrant blue-white, creating a strong contrast with the dark, shadowed interior of the tomb. The foreground shows the rough, textured surface of the stone slab that has been rolled away. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and divine light.

1 Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

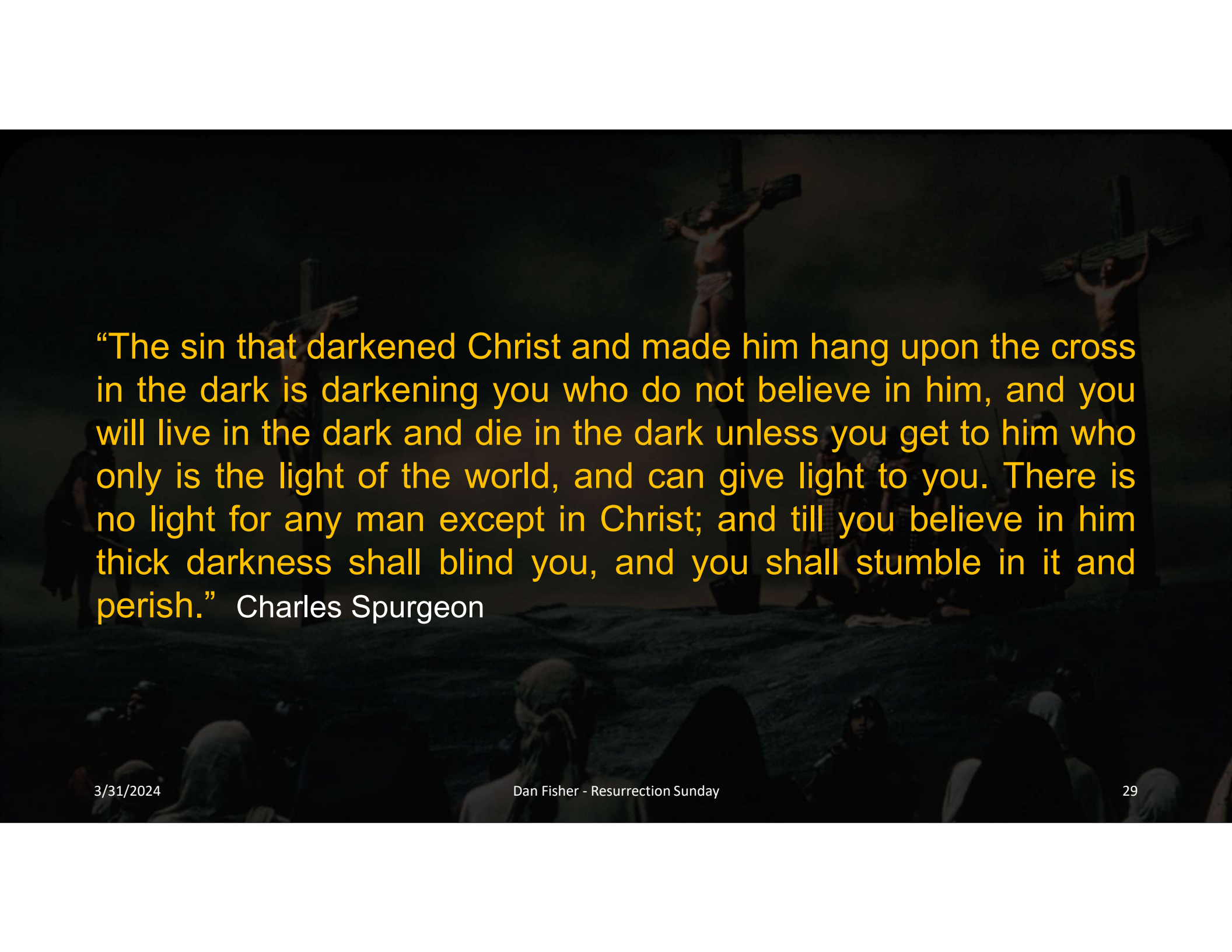


Heb 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Mt 22:13; 25:30 cast him into **outer darkness**; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

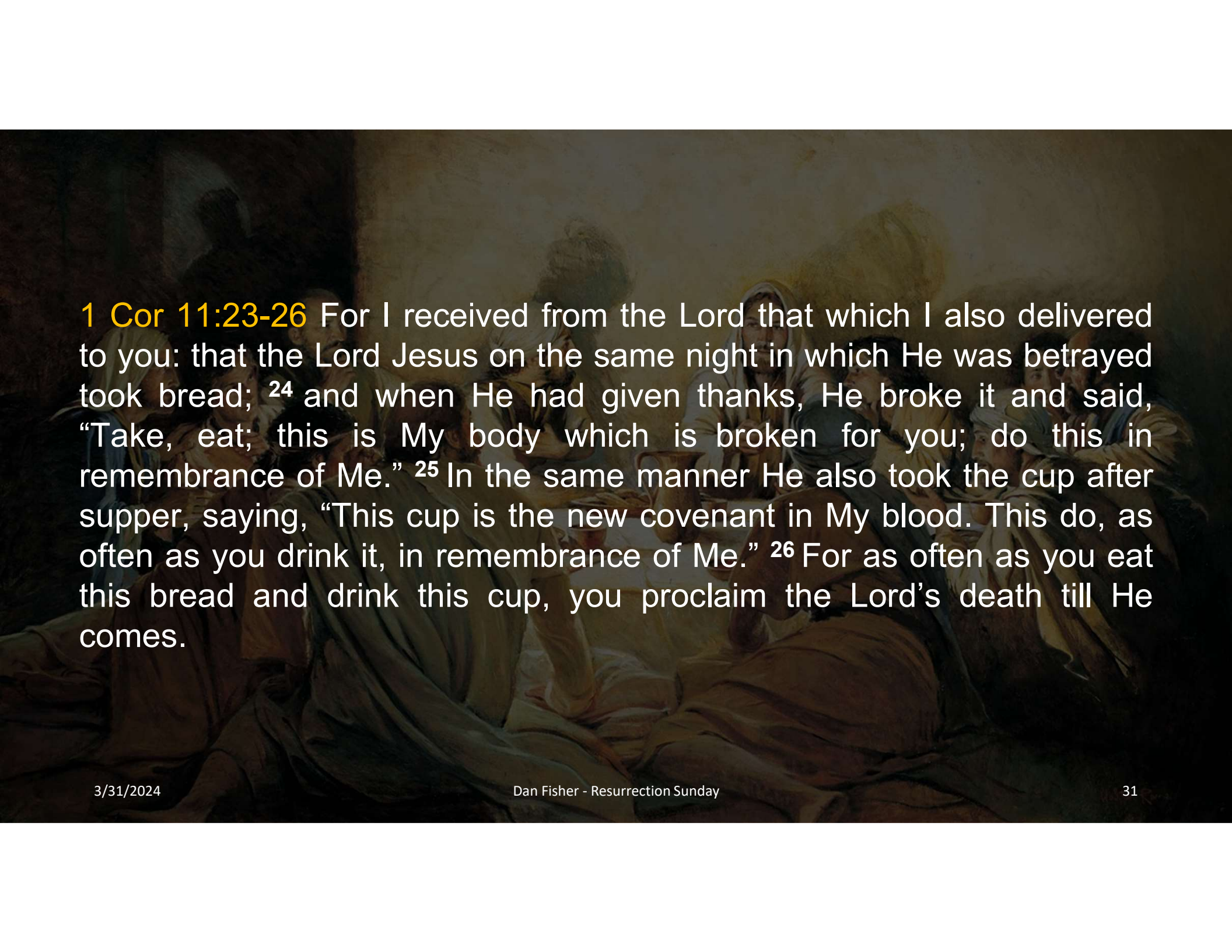
2 Pet 2:17 for whom is reserved the **blackness of darkness** forever.

Jude 1:13 wandering stars for whom is reserved the **blackness of darkness** forever.

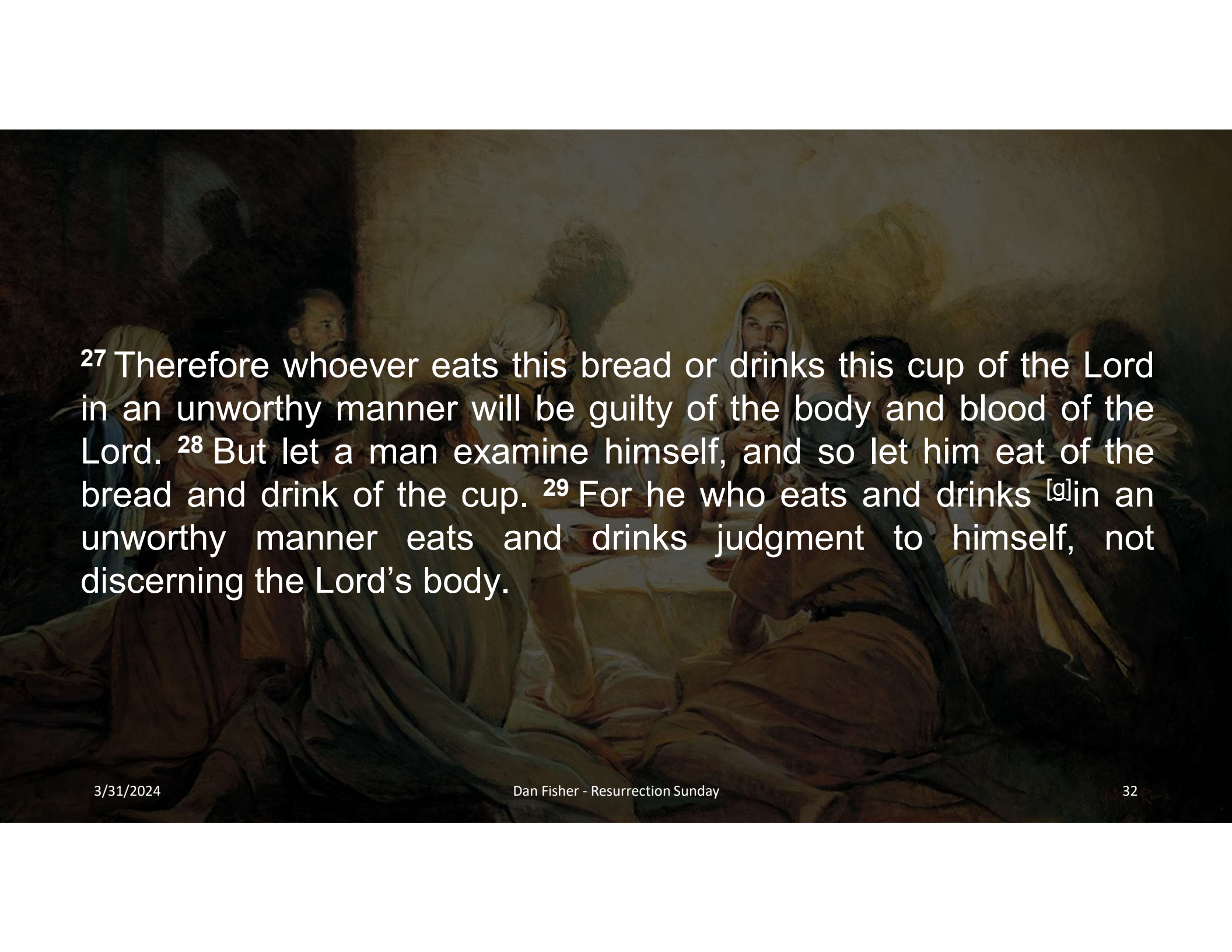


“The sin that darkened Christ and made him hang upon the cross in the dark is darkening you who do not believe in him, and you will live in the dark and die in the dark unless you get to him who only is the light of the world, and can give light to you. There is no light for any man except in Christ; and till you believe in him thick darkness shall blind you, and you shall stumble in it and perish.” Charles Spurgeon





1 Cor 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.



²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks [g] in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.