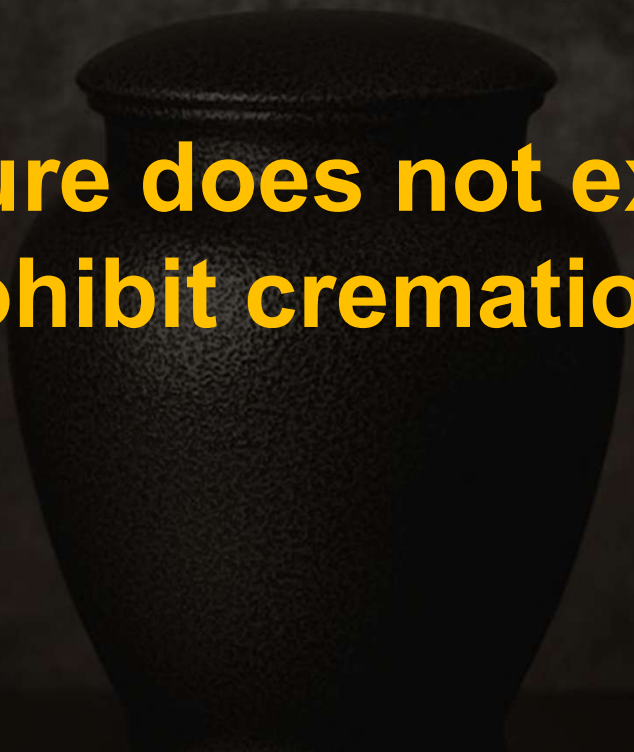


Is it unbiblical to cremate the body of a believer?



2026Feb18 Dan Fisher - Is it unbiblical to cremate the body of a believer?



1. Scripture does not explicitly prohibit cremation

- Burial was the common practice in the Bible, and cremation was rare

Abraham (Gen 25:10)

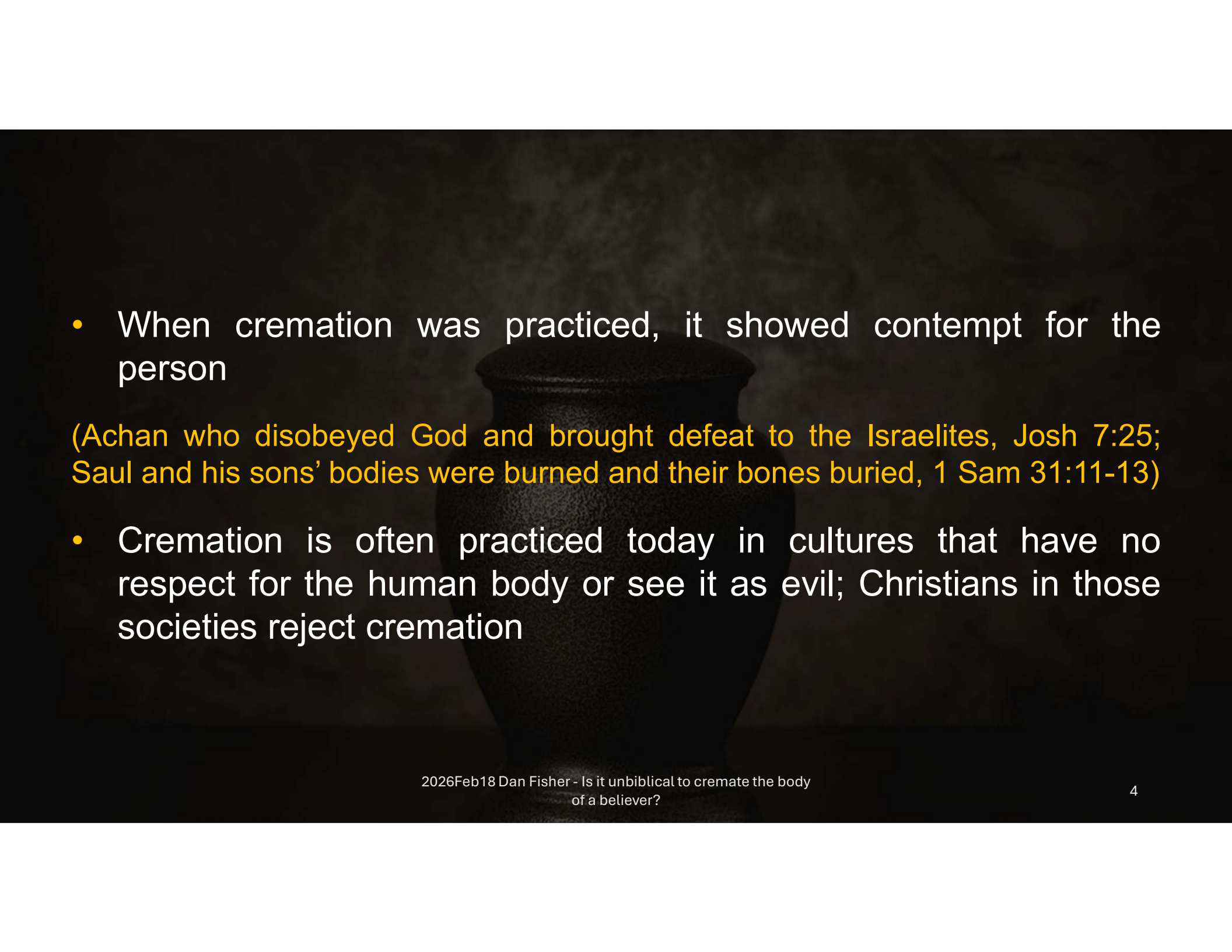
Moses (Deut 34:6)

David (1 Kings 2:10)

John the Baptist (Mk 6:29)

Stephen (Acts 8:2)

Jesus (Mt 27:57-61; 1 Cor 15:4)

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- When cremation was practiced, it showed contempt for the person

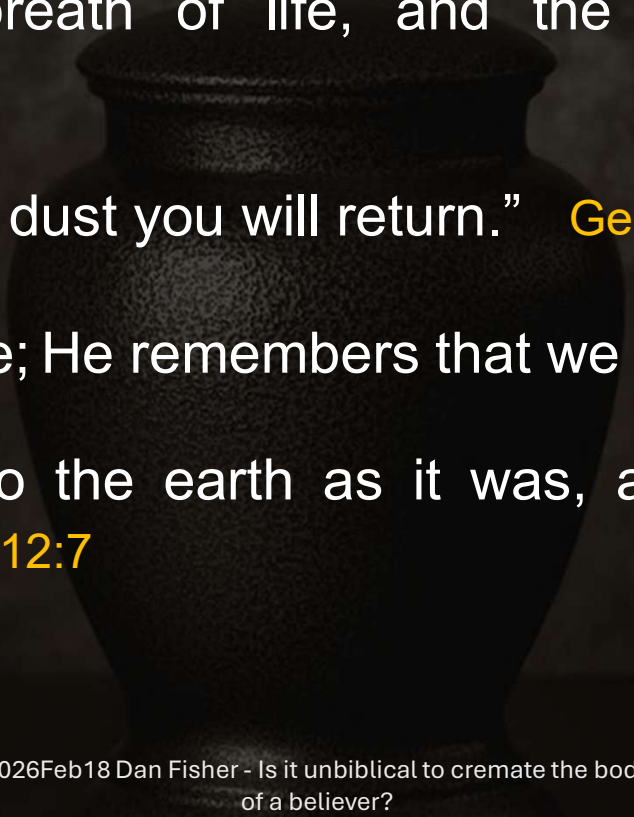
(Achan who disobeyed God and brought defeat to the Israelites, Josh 7:25; Saul and his sons' bodies were burned and their bones buried, 1 Sam 31:11-13)

- Cremation is often practiced today in cultures that have no respect for the human body or see it as evil; Christians in those societies reject cremation



2. Our bodies are essentially dust

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of a believer?



“then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” **Gen 2:7**

“For dust you are and to dust you will return.” **Gen 3:19**

“For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” **Ps 103:14**

“and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.” **Ecc1 12:7**



“Obviously, any buried body will eventually decompose. So, cremation isn’t a strange or wrong practice. It merely accelerates the natural process of oxidation. The believer will one day receive a new body... thus the state of what remains of the old body is unimportant.” John MacArthur

“Does the Bible Prohibit Cremation?”

<https://ca.gty.org/library/questions/QA177/does-the-bible-prohibit-cremation>

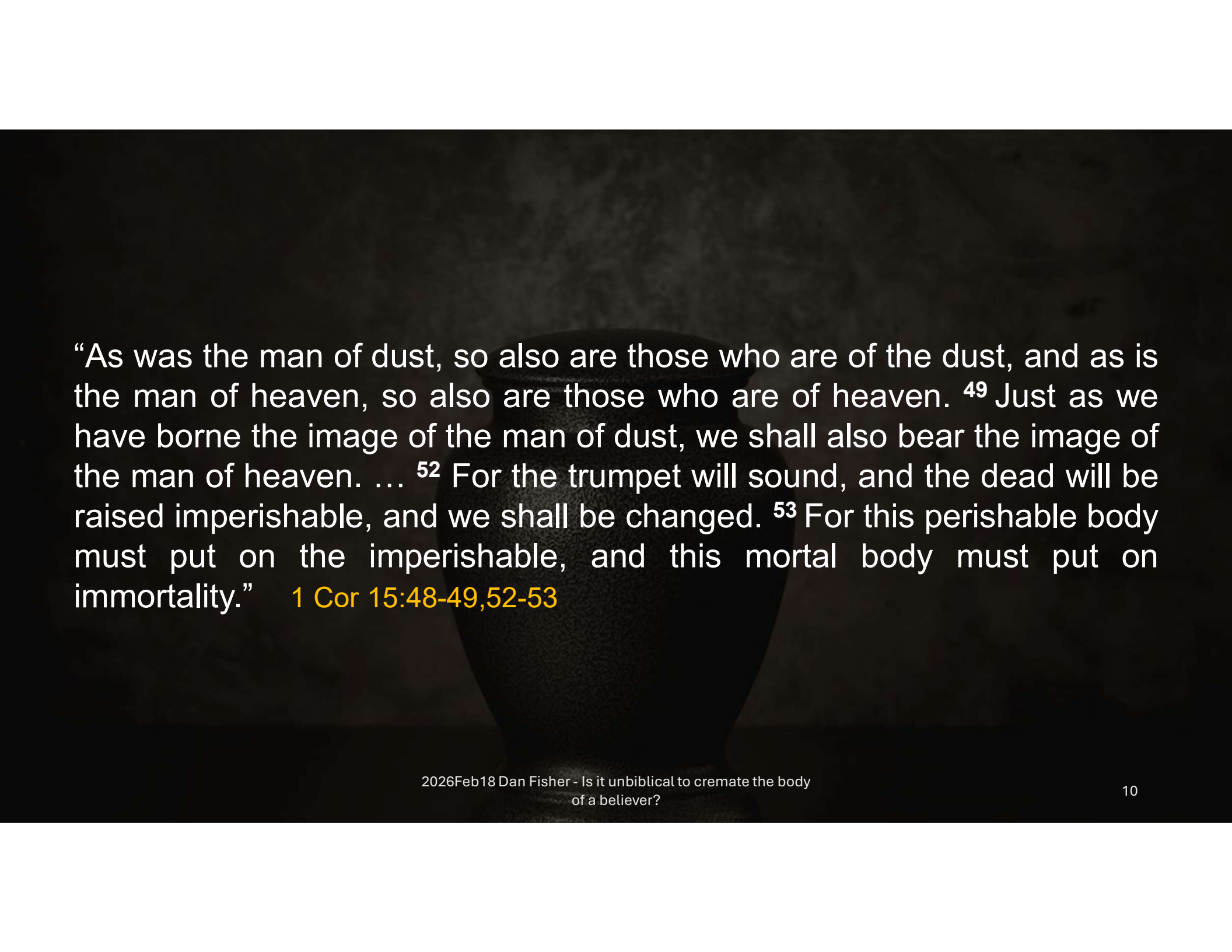
3. God will have no trouble resurrecting the body, regardless of what happens to it

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.^[d] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,’” Jn 11:25

“And He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Mt 24:31

“Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out ...” Jn 5:28-29

“So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.” 1 Cor 15:42-44

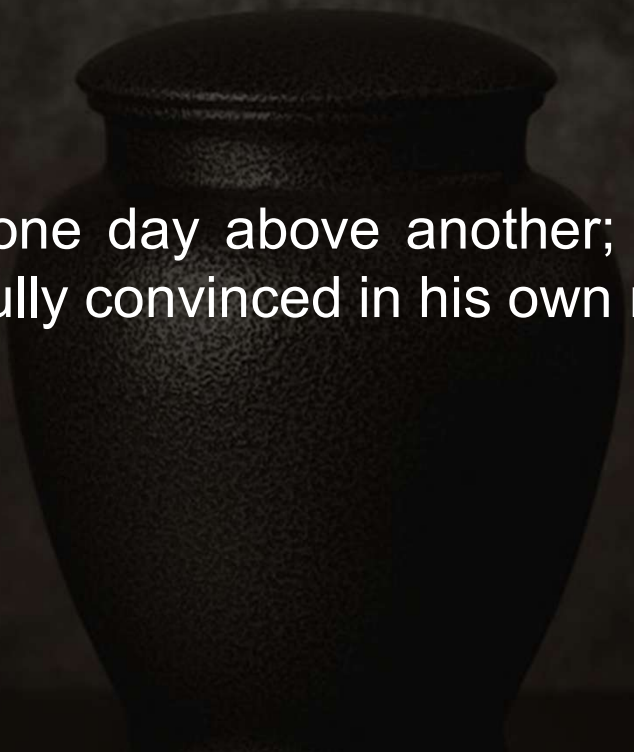


“As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. ... ⁵² For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.” 1 Cor 15:48-49,52-53

**4. It is important to preserve the symbolism
of the resurrection of the body**

Burial is like a farmer planting a seed in the hope of life eventually springing forth

“But someone will say, ‘How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?’ ³⁶ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain – perhaps wheat or some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. ... ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.” 1 Cor 15:35-38,42



“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.” Rom 14:5