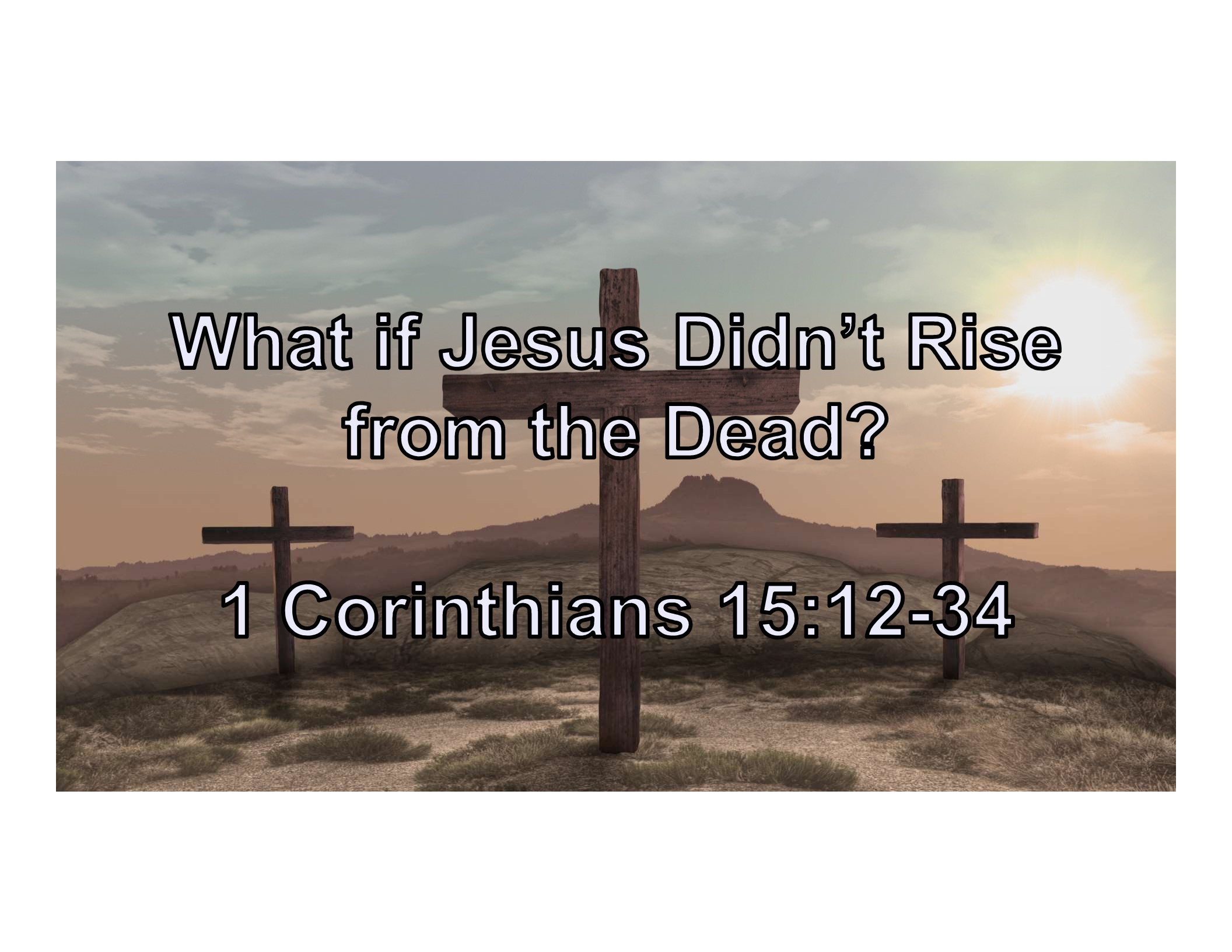


A background image showing a sunrise over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a mountain peak, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and some clouds. The overall tone is warm and hopeful.

**Resurrection
Sunday
Message**

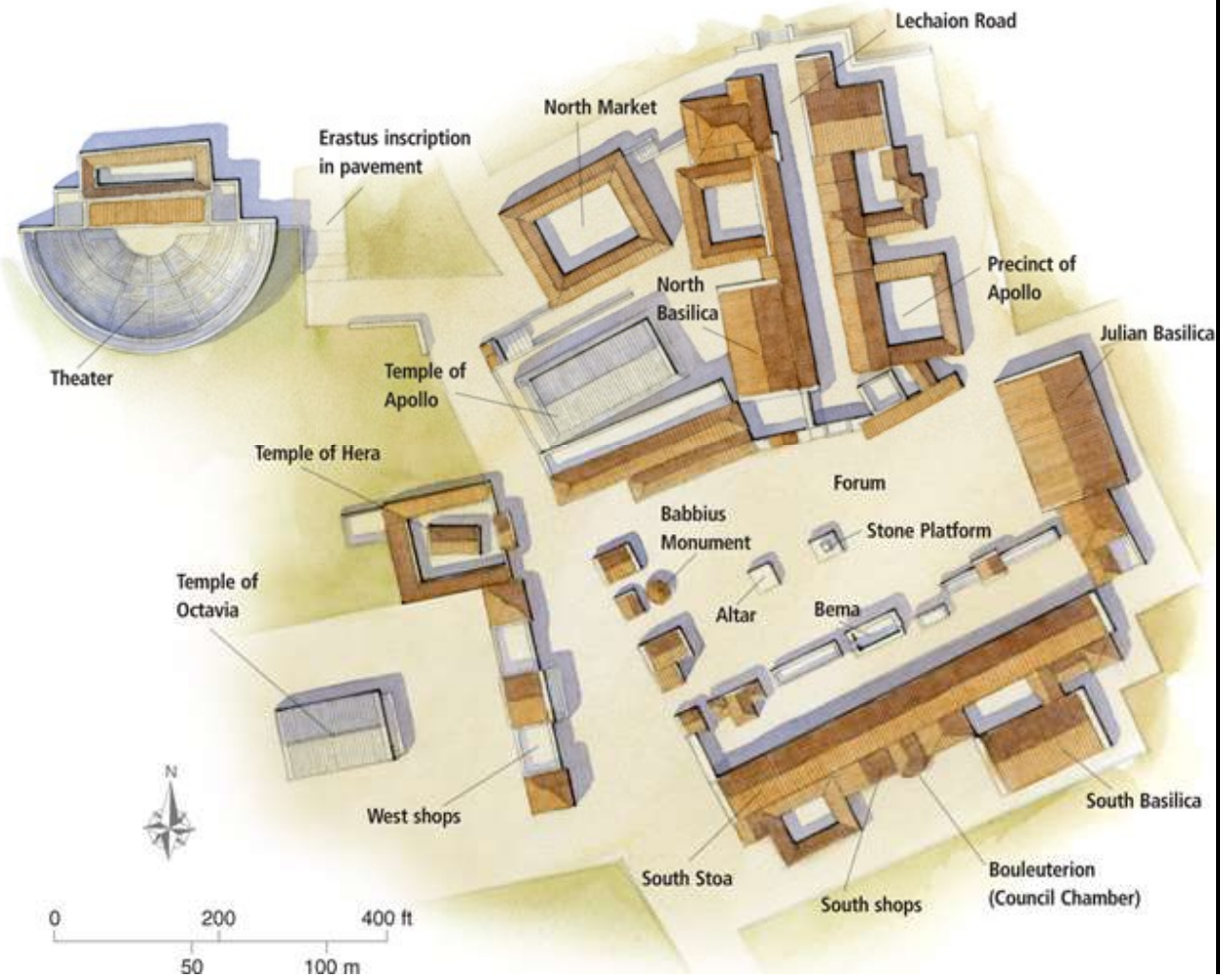
A photograph of three wooden crosses standing on a grassy hill. The central cross is the largest and most prominent. The two flanking crosses are smaller. The background shows a sunset or sunrise over a landscape with rolling hills and a prominent mountain peak. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

**What if Jesus Didn't Rise
from the Dead?**

1 Corinthians 15:12-34



CORINTH IN THE TIME OF PAUL (C. A.D. 60)



In 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel, the Old Testament Scriptures, eyewitnesses and says he is the least of the Apostles.

In verses 12-34, he defends the resurrection by taking what they are saying to its logical conclusion.

Paul develops (by my count), 8 “if-then statements” ...

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

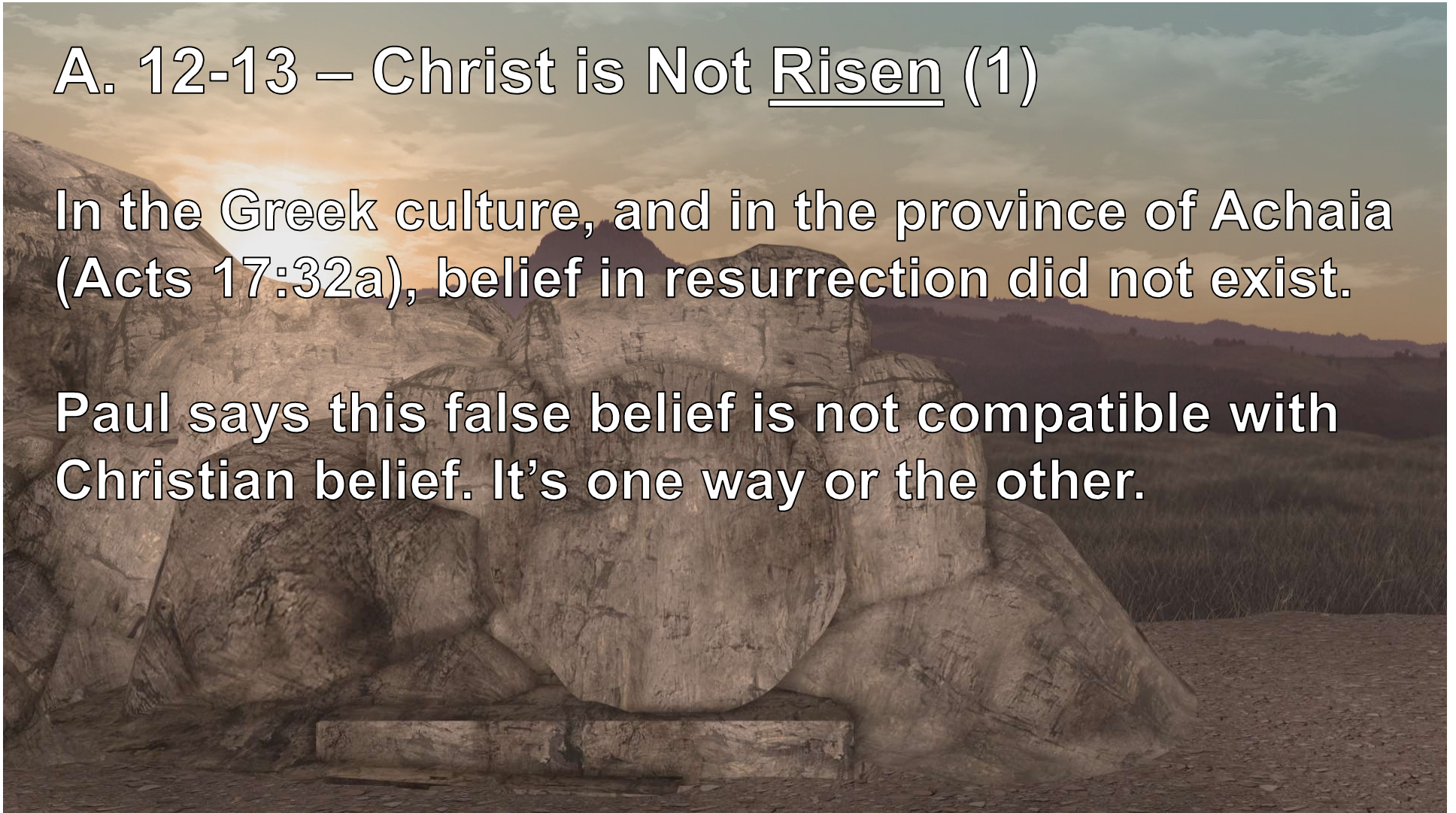
What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

If there is no resurrection...

A. 12-13 – Christ is Not Risen (1)

In the Greek culture, and in the province of Achaia (Acts 17:32a), belief in resurrection did not exist.

Paul says this false belief is not compatible with Christian belief. It's one way or the other.



A. 12-13 – Christ is Not Risen (1)

**When truth is rejected,
everything is
embraced and
celebrated as truth.**

B. 14a – Preaching is in Vain (2)

Acts 2:22-24.

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know - this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

C. 15-16 – We are False Witnesses (3)

If Jesus wasn't physically raised, it had to have been a spiritual resurrection, or an example of victory when we do what is right in this life.

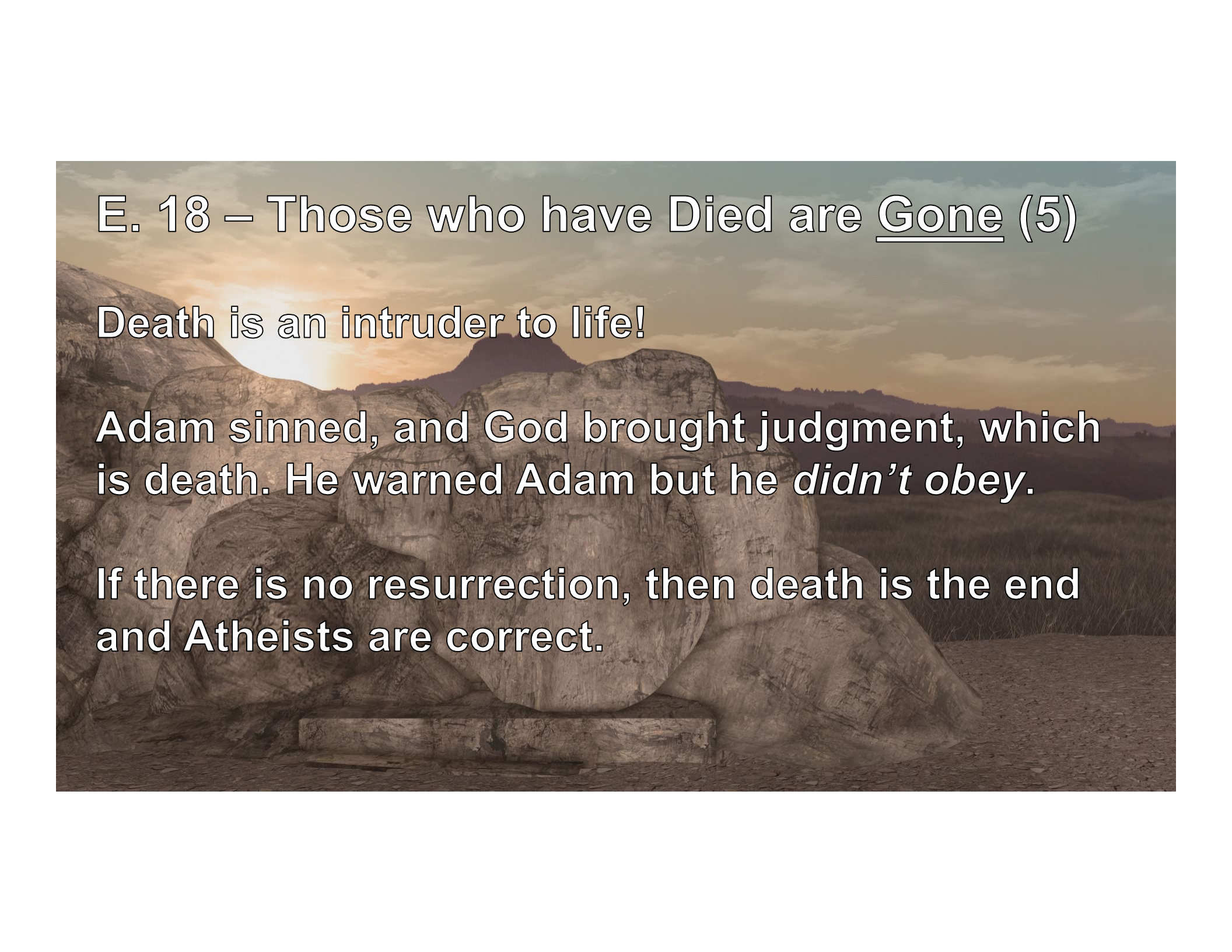
The proclamation of the 500 witnesses Paul referred to earlier in the chapter, are all liars! It had to have been their imagination, a hallucination, or they colluded to make up a story, and then... **die for a lie!**



D. 14b, 17 – Our Faith is Vain (4)

Faith is only as good as the object in which it is placed.

If we are hoping in a dead savior who is not alive, then our faith is useless... Only faith in the living Savior and Lord can save!

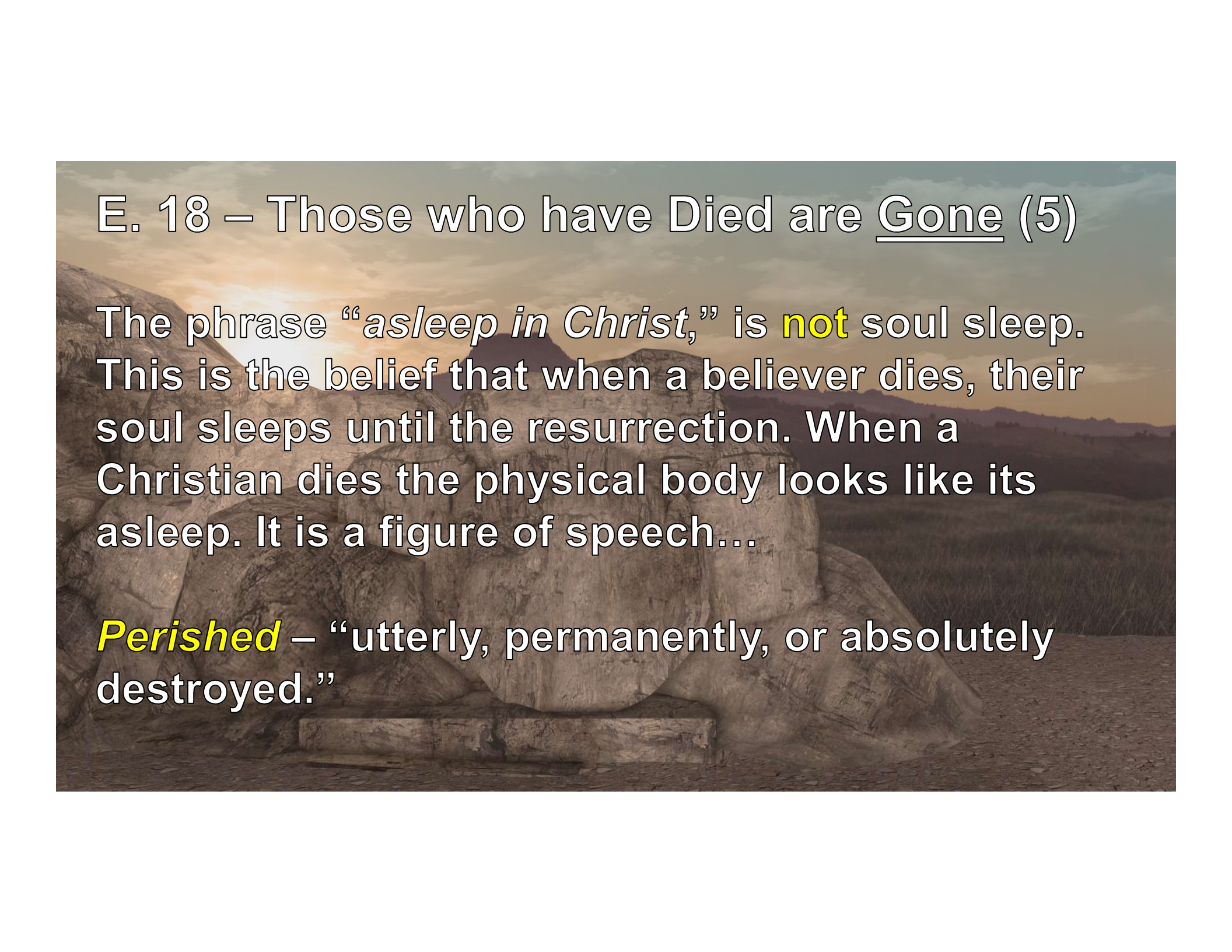
The background of the slide is a photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, light-colored, rounded rocks. The ground is dry and dusty. In the background, there are rolling hills and a mountain range under a sky with soft, orange and yellow light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on this image.

E. 18 – Those who have Died are Gone (5)

Death is an intruder to life!

Adam sinned, and God brought judgment, which is death. He warned Adam but he *didn't obey*.

If there is no resurrection, then death is the end and Atheists are correct.

A large, smooth, light-colored rock sits in a desert landscape. The background shows a sunset or sunrise over a range of mountains, with a sky of soft orange and blue. The ground is dry and sandy.

E. 18 – Those who have Died are Gone (5)

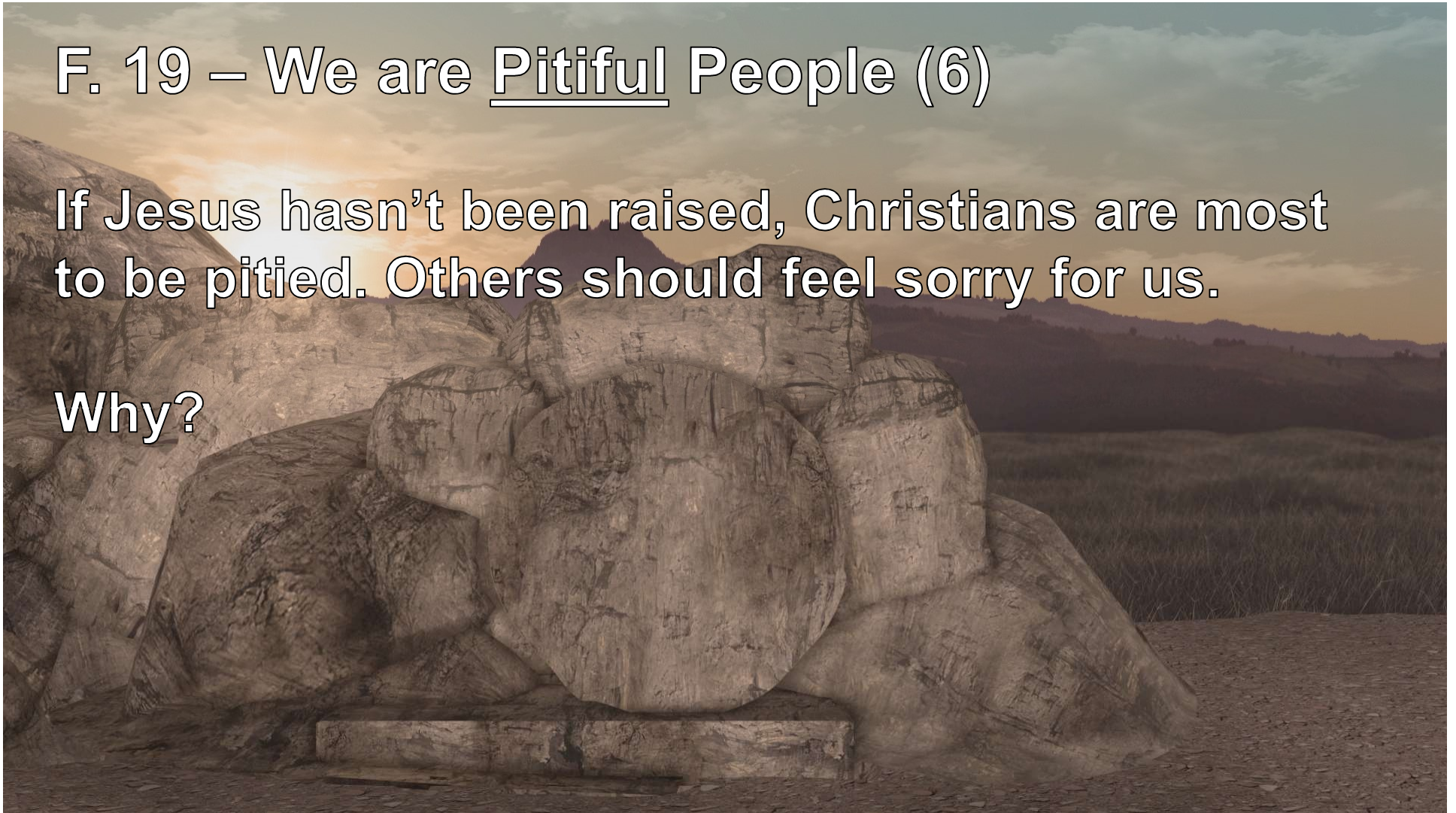
The phrase “*asleep in Christ*,” is **not** soul sleep. This is the belief that when a believer dies, their soul sleeps until the resurrection. When a Christian dies the physical body looks like its asleep. It is a figure of speech...

Perished – “utterly, permanently, or absolutely destroyed.”

F. 19 – We are Pitiful People (6)

If Jesus hasn't been raised, Christians are most to be pitied. Others should feel sorry for us.

Why?





F. 19 – We are Pitiful People (6)

Christopher Hitchens – Writer and Atheist

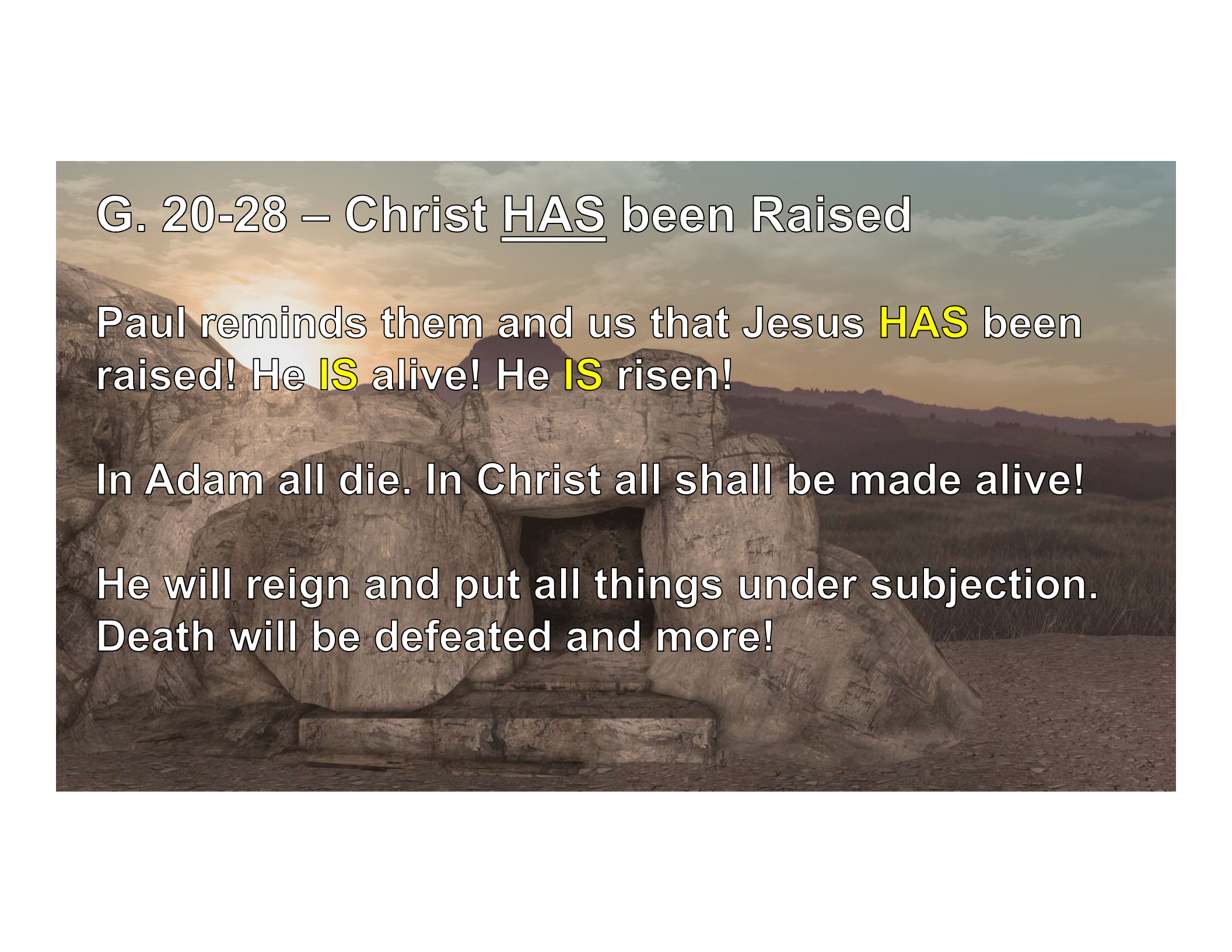
“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believeth in him will believeth in anything. – Hitchens 3:16”



F. 19 – We are Pitiful People (6)

Richard Dawkins – Famous Atheist

“Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is the belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the **lack** of evidence.”

A photograph of an empty tomb entrance in a rocky landscape at sunrise or sunset. The tomb is a simple, rectangular opening in a large, light-colored rock. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting dawn or dusk. The ground is dry and dusty, with some sparse vegetation in the background.

G. 20-28 – Christ HAS been Raised

Paul reminds them and us that Jesus **HAS** been raised! He **IS** alive! He **IS** risen!

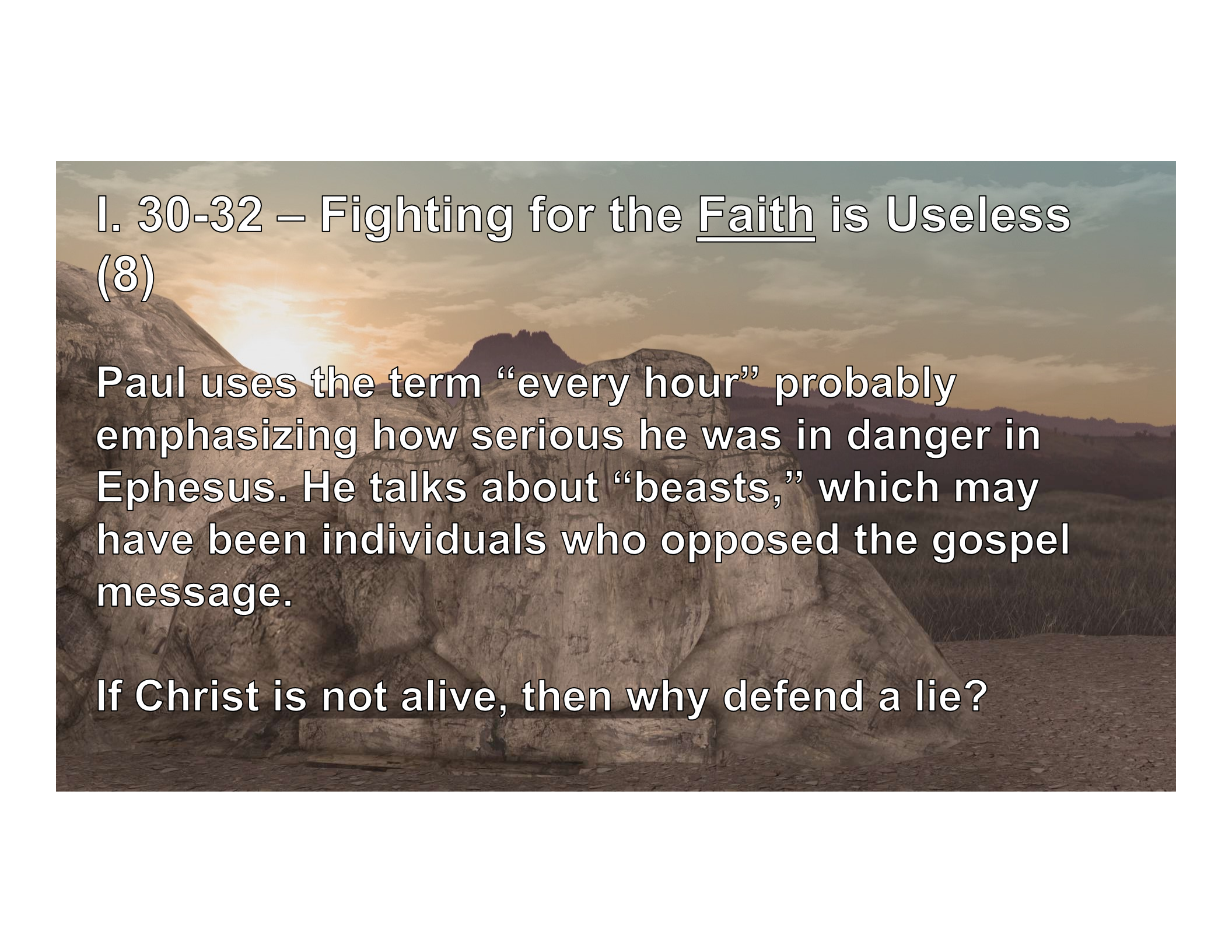
In Adam all die. In Christ all shall be made alive!

He will reign and put all things under subjection.
Death will be defeated and more!

H. 29 – Baptism is Meaningless (7)

Some say those in Corinth held baptism for the dead. While it may be possible based on the text, there is no precedent from the religions of that day.

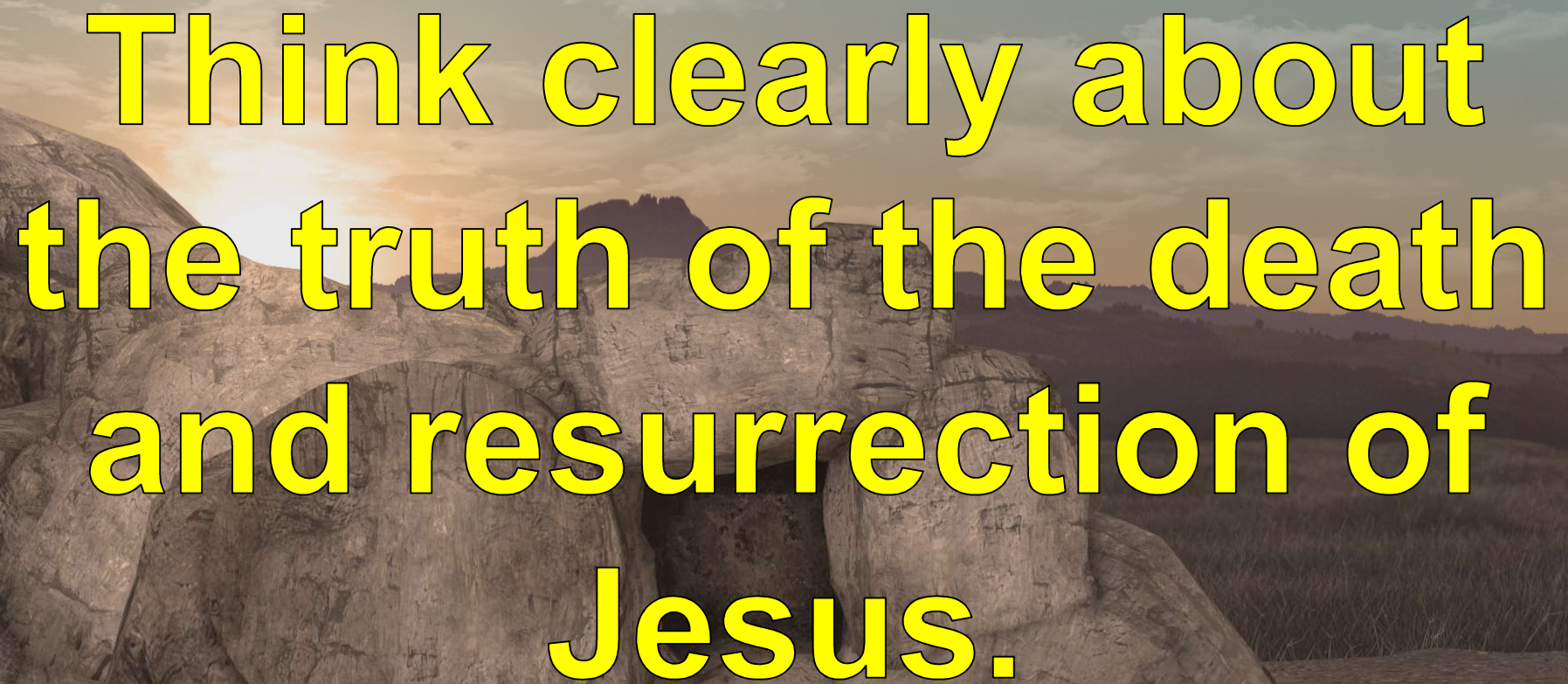
A possible meaning is if Christ is not raised, those who are baptized, are doing something meaningless...



I. 30-32 – Fighting for the Faith is Useless (8)

Paul uses the term “every hour” probably emphasizing how serious he was in danger in Ephesus. He talks about “beasts,” which may have been individuals who opposed the gospel message.

If Christ is not alive, then why defend a lie?



**Think clearly about
the truth of the death
and resurrection of
Jesus.**