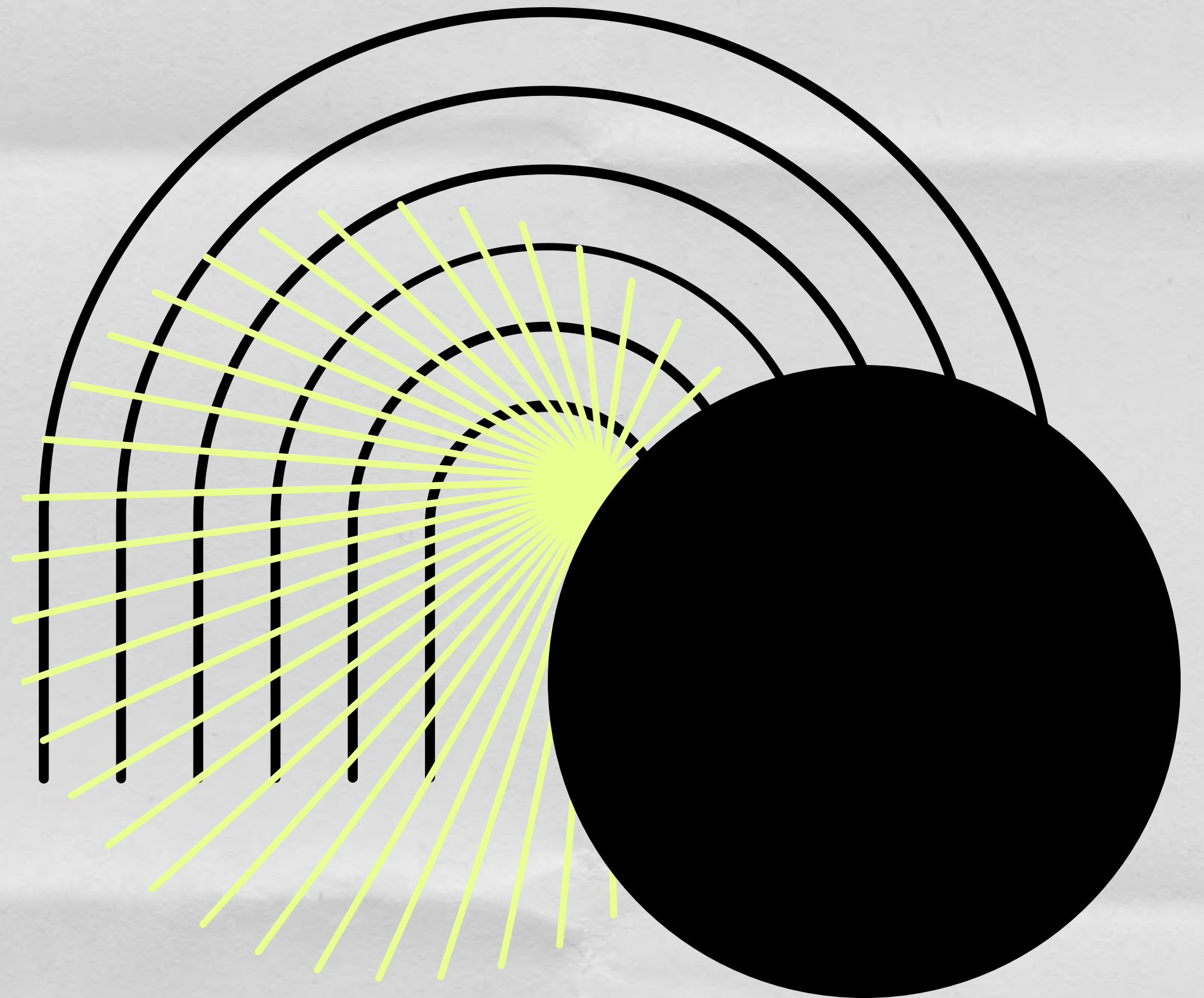


RESURRECTION SUNDAY

**FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU AS
OF FIRST IMPORTANCE WHAT
I ALSO RECEIVED: THAT
CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE
SCRIPTURES, THAT HE WAS
BURIED, THAT HE WAS
RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE
SCRIPTURES. - 1 COR. 15:3-4**



EASTER IS NOT PAGAN

Claim: "Easter comes from worship of the Saxon goddess, Eostre or the Germanic goddess, Ostara."

Truth: There is no evidence that either goddess was actually worshipped. Only the Venerable Bede (600s) and Jacob Grimm mentions them in passing.

Claim: "Easter comes pagan festivals in the spring."

Truth: There are multiple festivals in the spring: the Day of Bau (Babylonian), Dark Mother Day (Indian), the Feast of Artemis/Diana (Greek/Roman), the Festival of Ishtar (Babylonian), Odin's Day (Norse). Celebrating in Springtime doesn't make Easter pagan.

Fact: Christians started worshipping Jesus on Sunday (Lord's Day) almost immediately (see Acts 20:7, Rev 1), and the timing of the resurrection is connected to Passover. From the beginning it was about the resurrection, not any pagan holiday.



What's wrong with you people?

WHY CALL RESURRECTION SUNDAY "EASTER"?

First, many of the romance languages use "Passover" language in reference to the "Feast of Resurrection": Passover: Pâques (French), Pascua (Spanish), and Pascha (Latin) from Pesach (Hebrew). Not everyone calls Resurrection Sunday "Easter."

POSSIBLE ETYMOLOGY OF "EASTER"

- *hebdomada alba* (Latin "white week") > *esostarum* (Old German) > Easter
- *Eosturmonath* (Scandinavian "April" after Eostre) > Easter
- Latin word for "dawn" > Old German word for "east" > Easter

ANSWER: NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHY IT IS CALLED "EASTER."

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 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. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19

**IF JESUS DID NOT
RISE FROM THE
DEAD, THEN THERE
WOULD BE NO HOPE.**



EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS
+
RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION
+
MARTYRDOM
=
RESURRECTION OCCURRED



EYEWITNESSES ACCOUNTS

- ACTS 1:8 = WITNESSES TO RESURRECTION
- EYEWITNESS REQUIREMENT FOR APOSTLESHIP (ACTS 1:12-26, 10:39-40, 1 CORINTHIANS 9:1)
- NEW TESTAMENT APOSTOLICITY (ALL BOOKS WRITTEN BY APOSTLE OR KNOWN ASSOCIATE/SCRIBE)
- MULTIPLE EYEWITNESSES (APOSTLES, OTHER DISCIPLES, 500 AT ONE TIME-- 1 COR. 15).





RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION

- NUMBER OF COPIES
- FEW VARIANT READINGS
- DATE OF WRITING
- (NUMBER OF SOURCES/CORROBORATION)





RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION

- **NUMBER OF COPIES** →
- **FEW VARIANT READINGS**
- **DATE OF WRITING**
- **(NUMBER OF SOURCES/CORROBORATION)**

26 COPIES=GREAT
600 COPIES=ILIAD BY HOMER (2ND PLACE)
1,500 COPIES=NT GREEK (EARLY)
5,000 COPIES=NT GREEK AND LATIN (EARLY)
26,000,000 COPIES=NT (UP TO 800 AD)

NT=STRONGEST HISTORICAL DOCUMENT BY NUMBER OF COPIES





RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION

- NUMBER OF COPIES
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- (NUMBER OF SOURCES/CORROBORATION)

26M COPIES= 1.5MILE HIGH STACK, ONLY 2" OF VARIANTS
ZERO VARIANTS AFFECT DOCTRINE
MOST VARIANTS INVOLVE WORD ORDER, SPELLING
ERRORS, ROUNDING NUMBERS





RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION

- NUMBER OF COPIES
- FEW VARIANT READINGS
- DATE OF WRITING →
- (NUMBER OF SOURCES/CORROBORATION)

JESUS (40, 50, 50, 65 YEARS) VS.
TIBERIUS CAESAR (75, 83, 180 YEARS)

GALATIANS 1:11-20 (5-15 YEARS) IS
AFFIRMED BY CRITICS AS RELIABLE
AND INCLUDES EYEWITNESS
DOCUMENTATION.





RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION

- NUMBER OF COPIES
- FEW VARIANT READINGS
- DATE OF WRITING
- (NUMBER OF SOURCES/CORROBORATION)

JESUS = 40 SOURCES FOR HIS LIFE,
DEATH, AND RESURRECTION.
VS.
TIBERIUS CAESAR=9 TOTAL SOURCES





MARTYRDOM

"LIARS DON'T MAKE MARTYRS" -GARY HABERMAS

THE APOSTLES AND MANY OTHER EYEWITNESSES WILLINGLY FACED DEATH OVER THE CLAIM THAT JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD.



EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS
+
RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION
+
MARTYRDOM
=
RESURRECTION OCCURRED

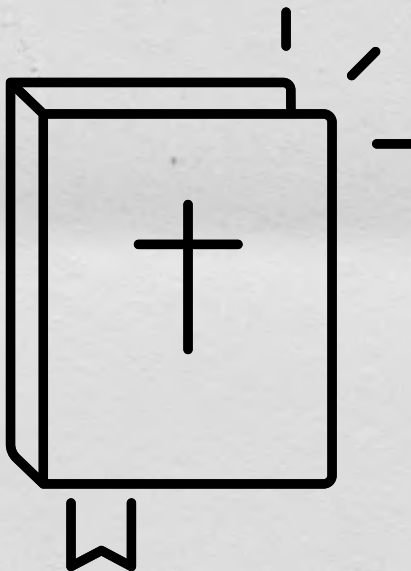
THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE.

**GOD'S WORD SAYS THAT JESUS
ROSE FROM THE DEAD.**

**THERE IS NO HIGHER AUTHORITY
THAN THIS.**

PRESERVING THE GOSPEL

- **Only Accept Eyewitnesses (Apostles) Word:** NT Scripture had to be written by an apostle or someone writing the account of an apostle (2 Corinthians 11:1-15, 2 Peter 3:16)
- **Reject False Gospels:** "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed." -Gal. 1:8
- **Letter Confirmation:** Paul Signs letters in his own hand, to protect against forgeries (Philemon 1:19, 2 Thessalonians 3:17, Galatians 6:11) and apostles sent letters through known associates to confirm it was their work (1 Cor. 16:17-18, 2 Cor. 8:16-24, Rom. 16:1-2, Eph. 6:21-22, etc.)
- **Duplication and Corroboration:** Churches Copied and Shared Apostolic Works (Colossians 4:16)
- **Citation:** The apostolic fathers (1st-2nd Century Christian Leaders) cited the NT letters as Scripture and considered the canon closed when the last apostle died.
- **Succession:** Churches kept record of apostles and church bishops to confirm their accounts.



CHURCH RECORDS AND THE GOSPEL

"Let nothing be innovated, says he, nothing maintained, except what has been handed down. Whence is that tradition? Whether does it descend from the authority of the Lord and of the Gospel, or does it come from the commands and the epistles of the apostles? For that those things which are written must be done, God witnesses and admonishes." -**Cyprian of Carthage (210-258 AD)**, *Epistle 73*



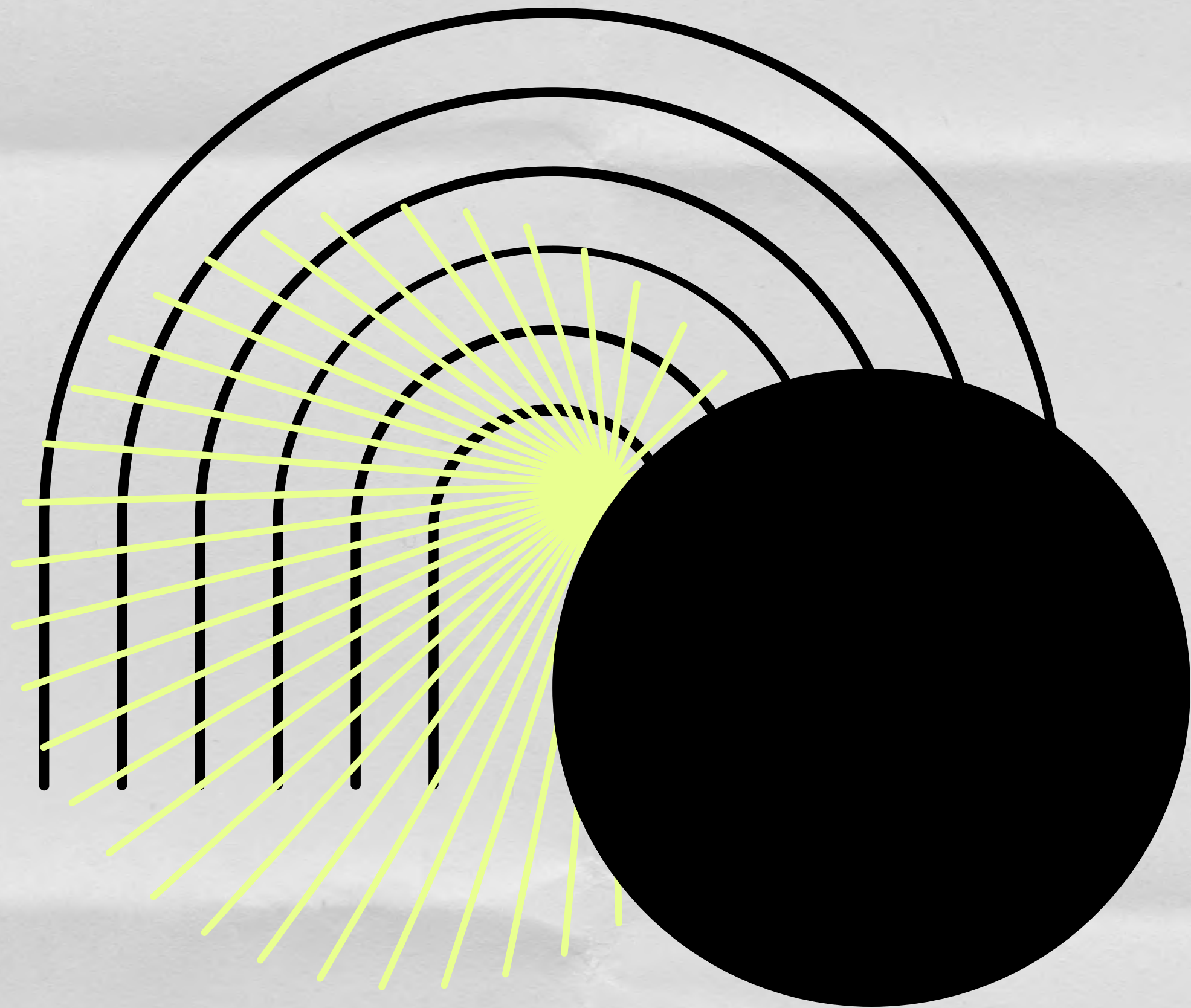
CHURCH RECORDS AND THE GOSPEL

But if there be any (heresies) which are bold enough to plant themselves in the midst of the apostolic age, that they may thereby seem to have been handed down by the apostles, because they existed in the time of the apostles, we can say: Let them produce the original records of their churches; let them unfold the roll of their bishops, running down in due succession from the beginning in such a manner that [that first bishop of theirs] bishop shall be able to show for his ordainer and predecessor some one of the apostles or of apostolic men,—a man, moreover, who continued steadfast with the apostles. For this is the manner in which the apostolic churches transmit their registers: as the church of Smyrna, which records that Polycarp was placed therein by John; as also the church of Rome, which makes Clement to have been ordained in like manner by Peter. In exactly the same way the other churches likewise exhibit (their several worthies), whom, as having been appointed to their episcopal places by apostles, they regard as transmitters of the apostolic seed. -

Tertullian (155 - 240 AD), *The Prescription Against Heretics* 20, 21 and 32



**THE TOMB IS
EMPTY.
IN 2000
YEARS, NO ONE
HAS PRODUCED
JESUS' BODY.**





**IF CHRIST HAS NOT
BEEN RAISED FROM
THE DEAD, THEN OUR
FAITH IS IN VAIN.**

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 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. 28 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.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28

50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. 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. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-55

"O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:56-58



**CHRIST'S RESURRECTION
IS THE CORNERSTONE OF
CHRISTIAN FAITH**

**PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS THAT
JESUS HAS SLAYED DEATH!**

PREACH THE GOSPEL



**THE RESURRECTION
GIVES US HOPE FOR
ETERNAL LIFE**

ALLOWING US TO ENDURE TRIALS AND PERSECUTION IN THIS LIFE

