

The background of the image is a dramatic landscape. A dark, stormy sky with heavy, grey clouds dominates the upper two-thirds of the frame. A thick, dark plume of smoke or mist rises from the horizon, partially obscuring the clouds. Below the horizon, a straight, two-lane road with a dashed white center line stretches towards the viewer, flanked by green grass. The overall mood is somber and urgent.

TIMELESS TRUTH

FOR TROUBLED TIMES

A photograph of a large, smooth, light-colored stone rolled away from a tomb entrance, revealing a dark interior. The stone is positioned on the left side of the frame, and the entrance is a dark, rectangular opening in the rock. The surrounding rock is rough and weathered, with some green moss or lichen visible. The text "Take Away The Stone (John 11)" is overlaid in yellow, bold, italicized font across the center of the image.

***Take Away
The Stone
(John 11)***



“Did we land or were we shot down?”



I. FAITH BURDENED

A. The Summons

ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF JESUS

River
Jordan

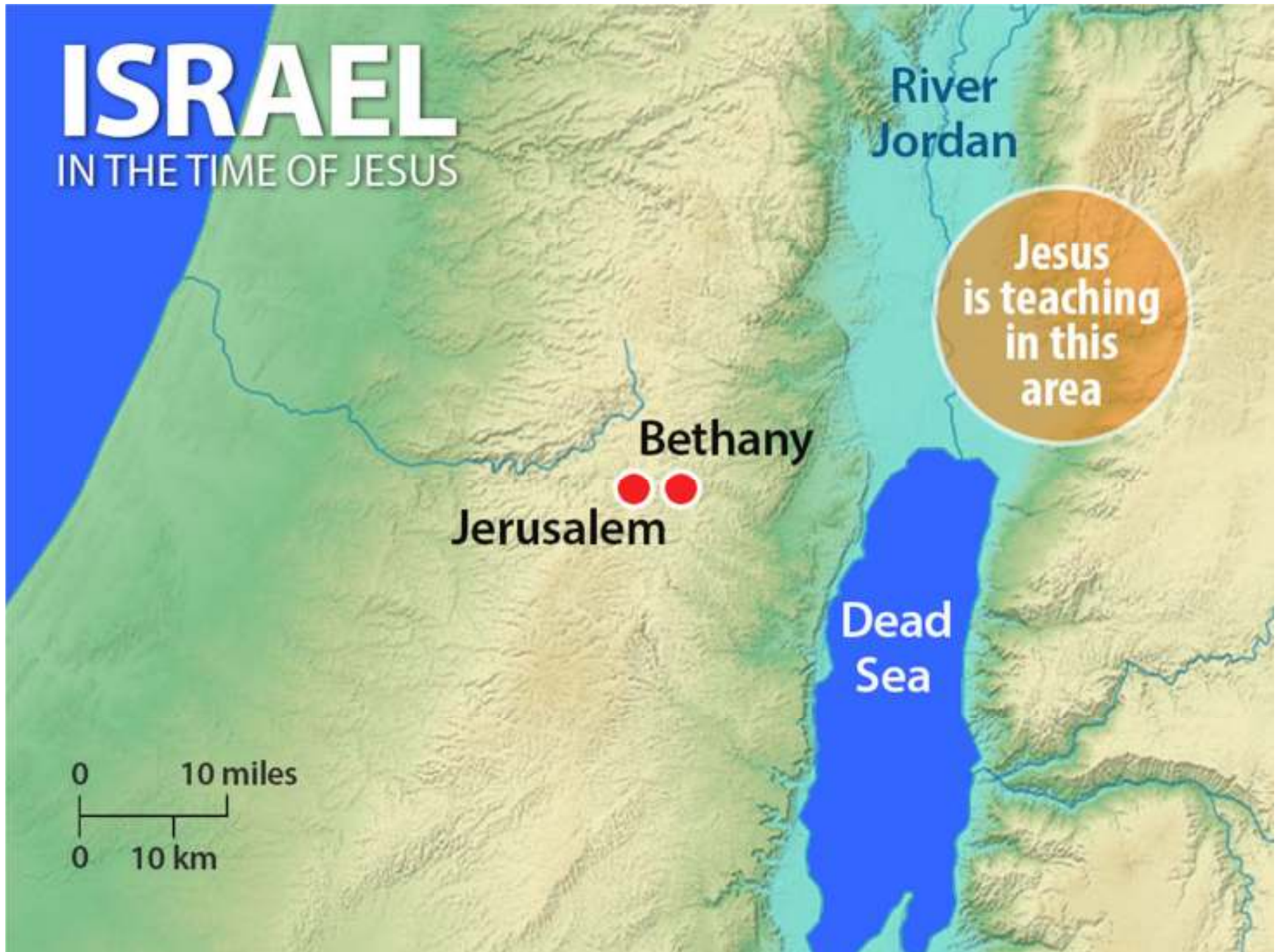
Jesus
is teaching
in this
area

Bethany

Jerusalem

Dead
Sea

0 10 miles
0 10 km









John 11:1-3

- 1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
- 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)
- 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

- **2 Kings 1:2-4**
- **2 Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers and said to them, “Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury.”**
- **3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?’**
- **4 Now therefore, thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’” So Elijah departed.**

- **2 Chronicles 16:12**
- ***And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians.***

- ***Isaiah 38:1-3***
- ***1 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’”***
- ***2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord,***
- ***3 and said, “Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.***

I. FAITH BURDENED

A. The Summons

B. The Slowness

John 11:5-6

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,



I. FAITH BURDENED

A. The Summons

B. The Slowness

C. The Sorrow



II. FAITH BATTLED

A. The Followers



John 11:7-10

7 and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." 8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF JESUS

River
Jordan

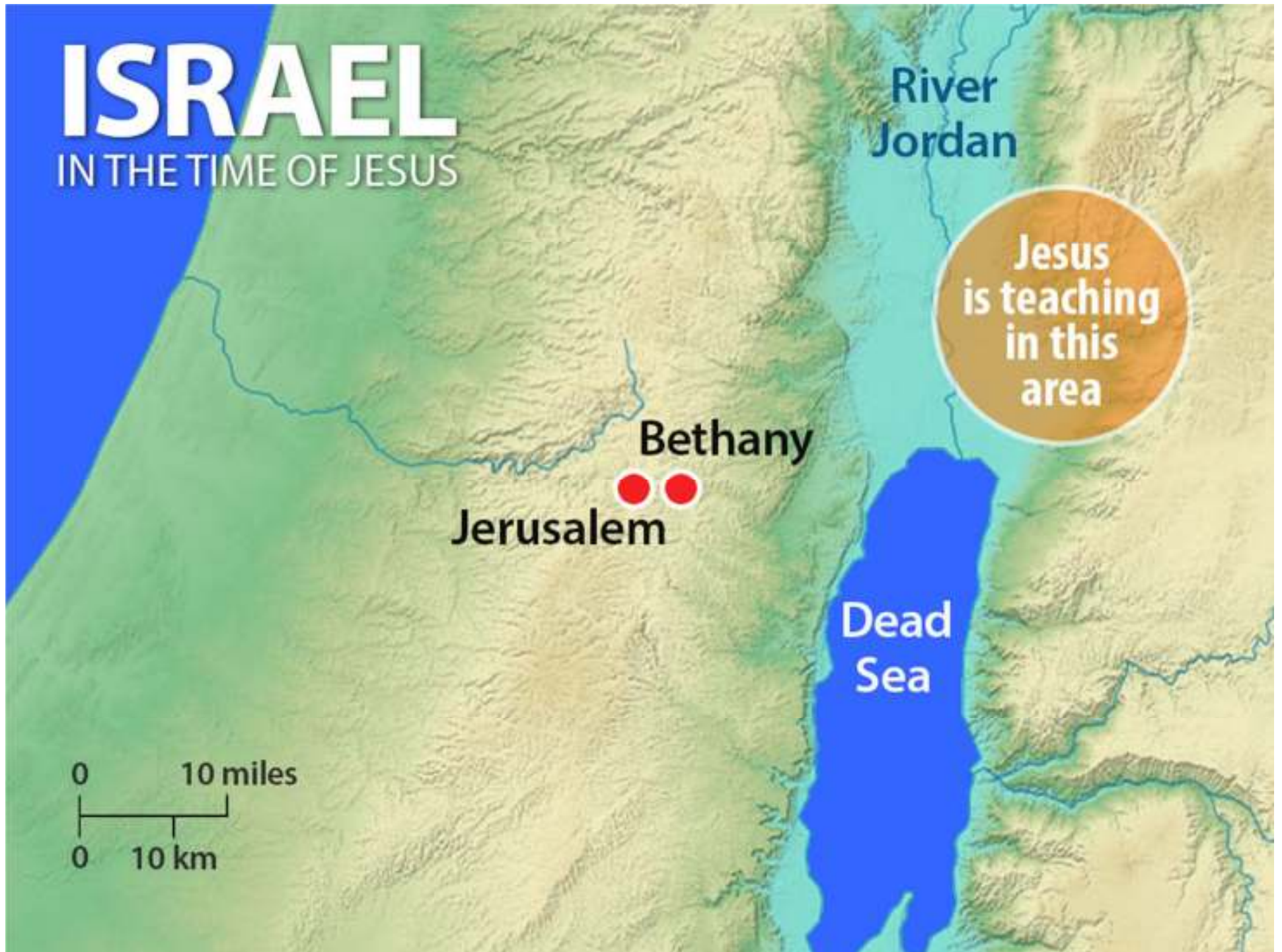
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John 11:7-10

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John 11:11-15

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." 12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."



II. FAITH BATTLED

A. The Followers

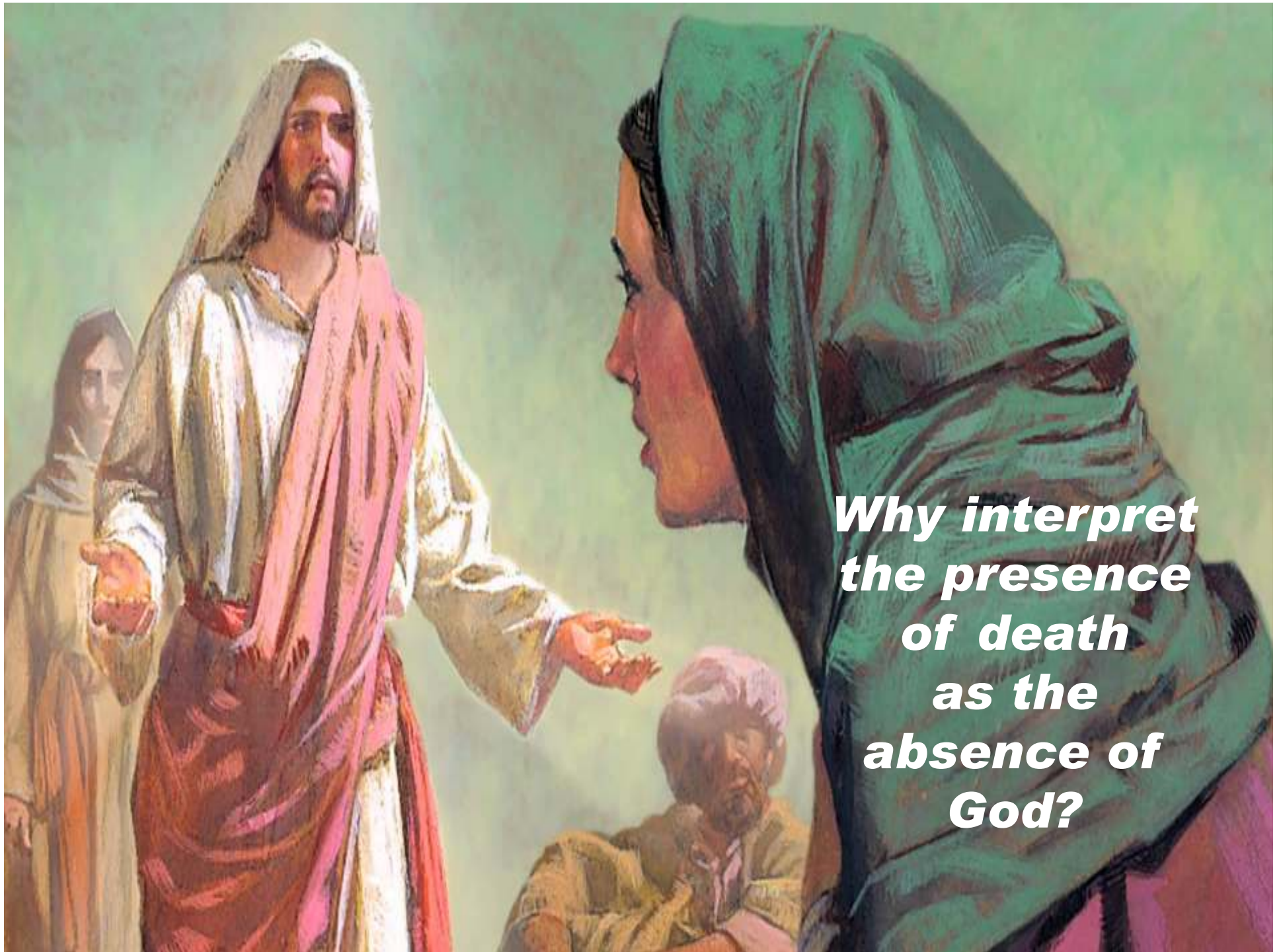
B. The Family

John 11:17-22

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."





***Why interpret
the presence
of death
as the
absence of
God?***

John 11:23-24

23 Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

John 11:25-26

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:27

27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”



John 11:28-37

31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

John 11:28-37

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, ***he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.*** 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. 35 ***Jesus wept.***

II. FAITH BATTLED

A. The Followers

B. The Family

C. The Friends

John 11:28-37

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, ***he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.*** 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. 35 ***Jesus wept.***

36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

III. FAITH BOLSTERED

A. The Sympathy (38-42)

John 11:38-39

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.



John 11:38-39

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

39 "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

John 11:40-43

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"





“It isn’t your fault. Today is the first day I’ve driven a cab. I’ve been driving a hearse for the past 25 years!”

III. FAITH BOLSTERED

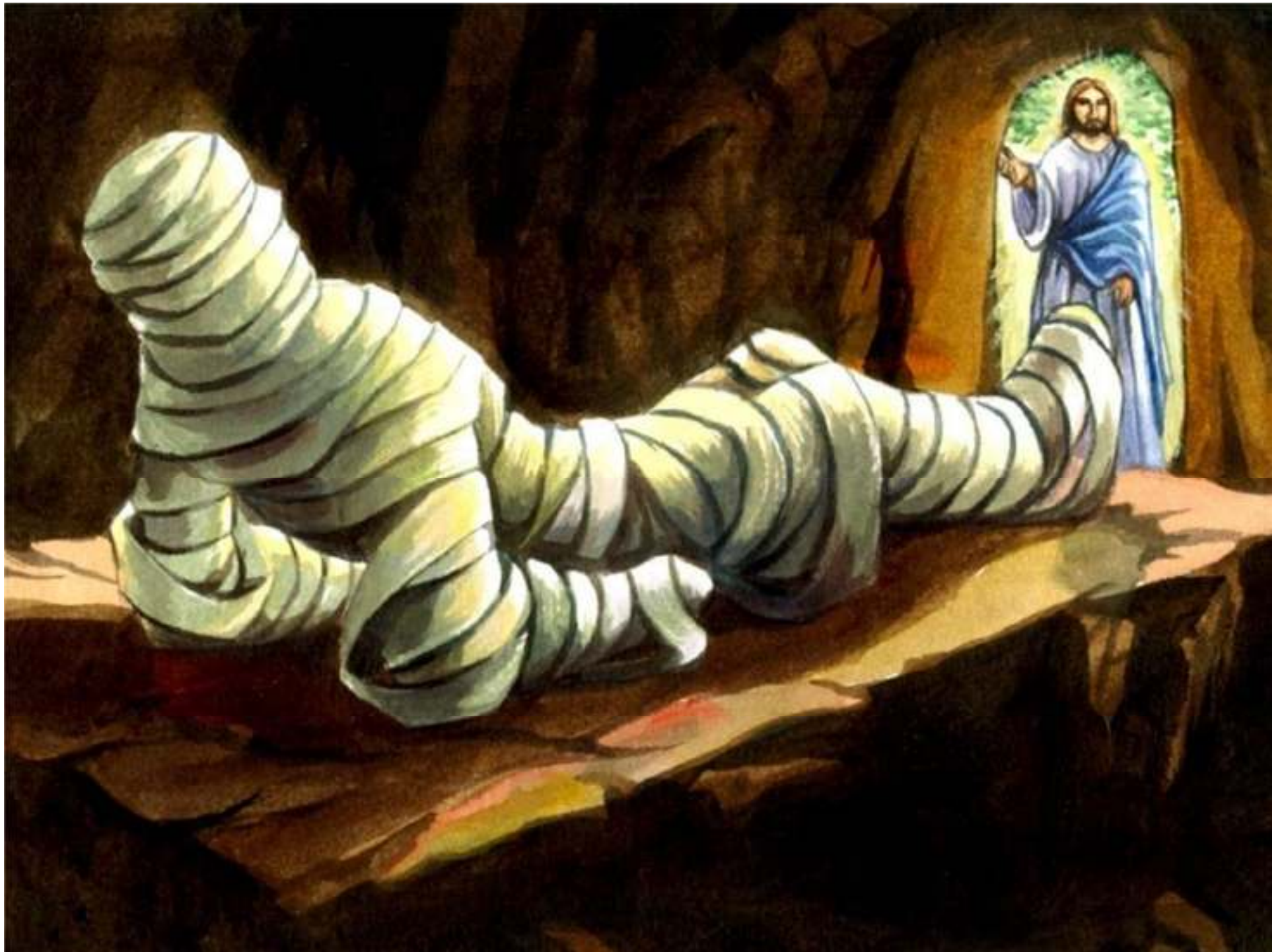
A. *The Sympathy (38-42)*

**B. *The Sovereignty
(43-44)***

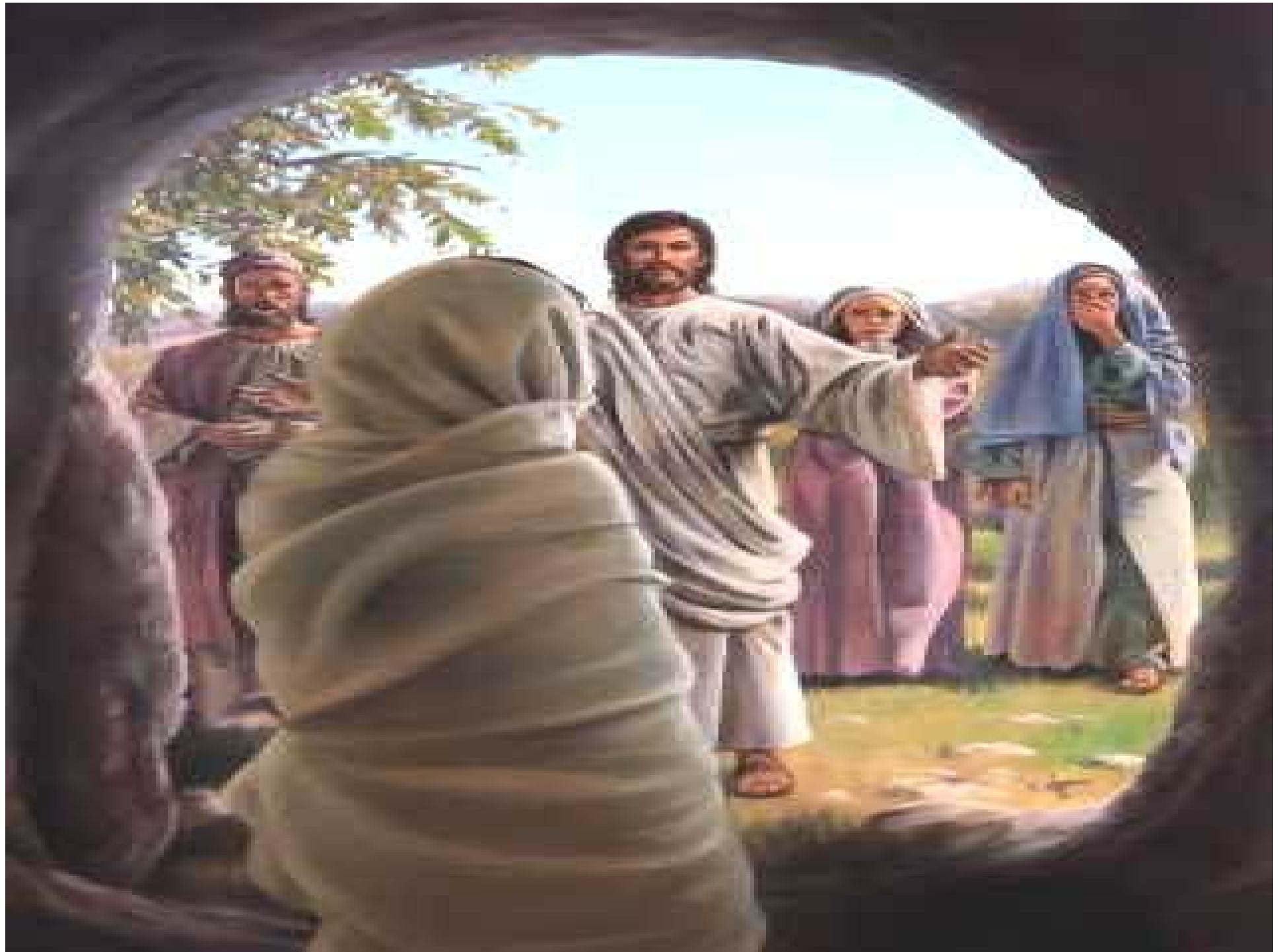


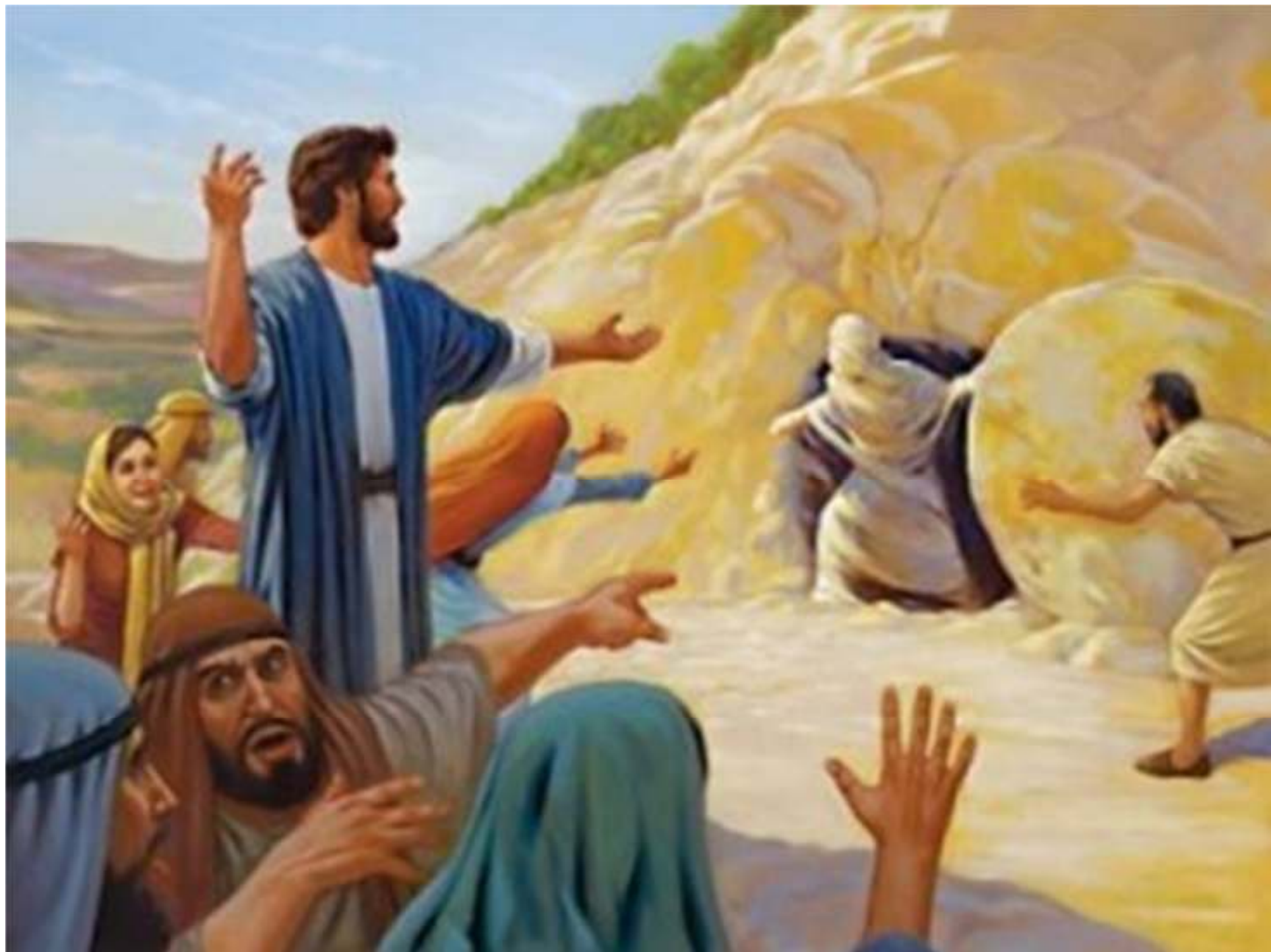






- ***John 11:44 (NLT)***
- ***And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”***





- ***1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NLT)***
- ***For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.***







III. FAITH BOLSTERED

A. The Sympathy (38-42)

B. The Sovereignty

C. The Soothing





John 11:27

27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

John 11:11-15

is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe.
But let us go to him.”

John 11:44-46

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

- ***God has power over life & death***
- ***Power to restore that which is dead to a new life on the other side***
- ***Power to restore that is dead to new life on this side as well***



“Take away the stone”

BEN-HUR





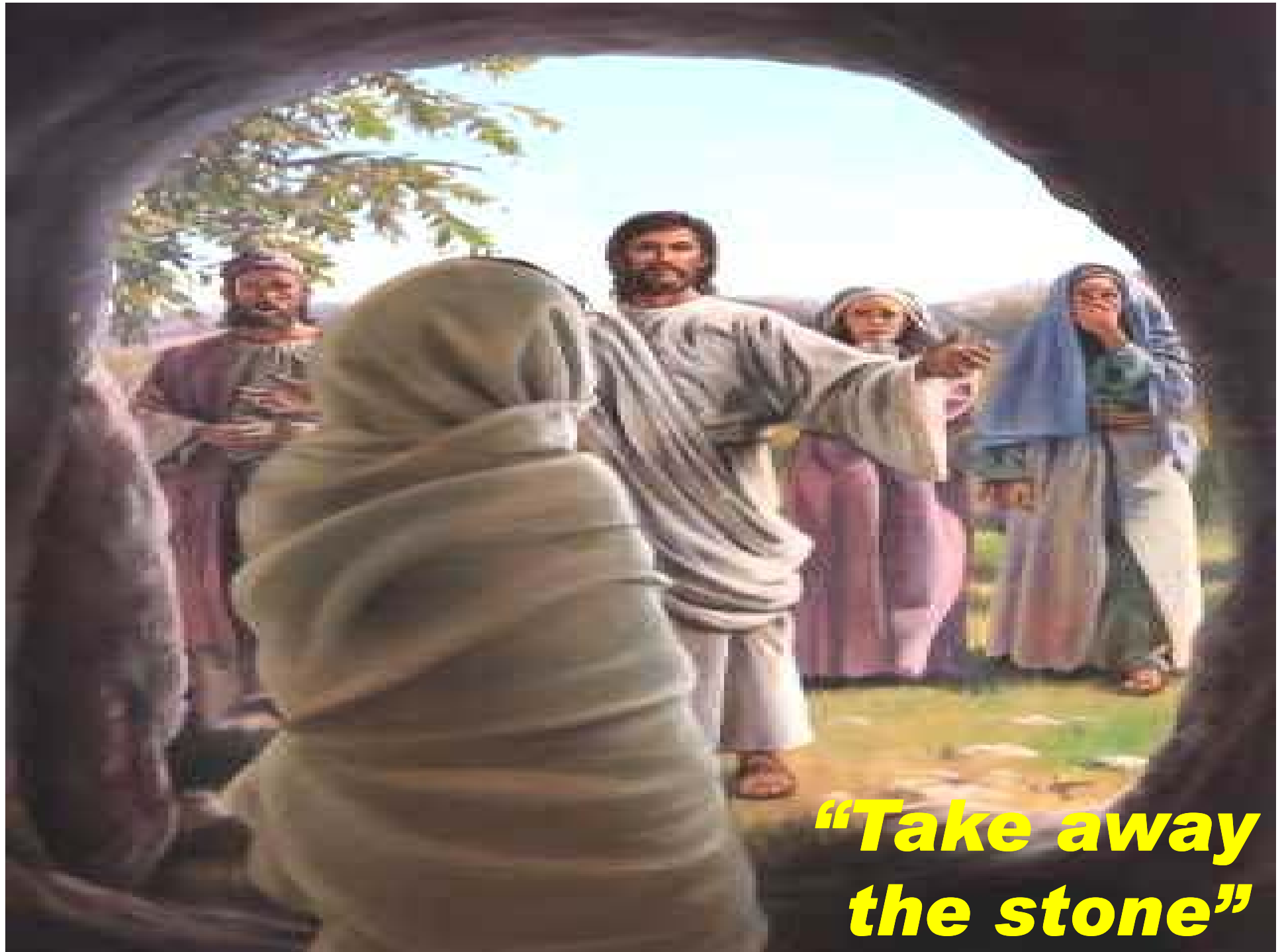
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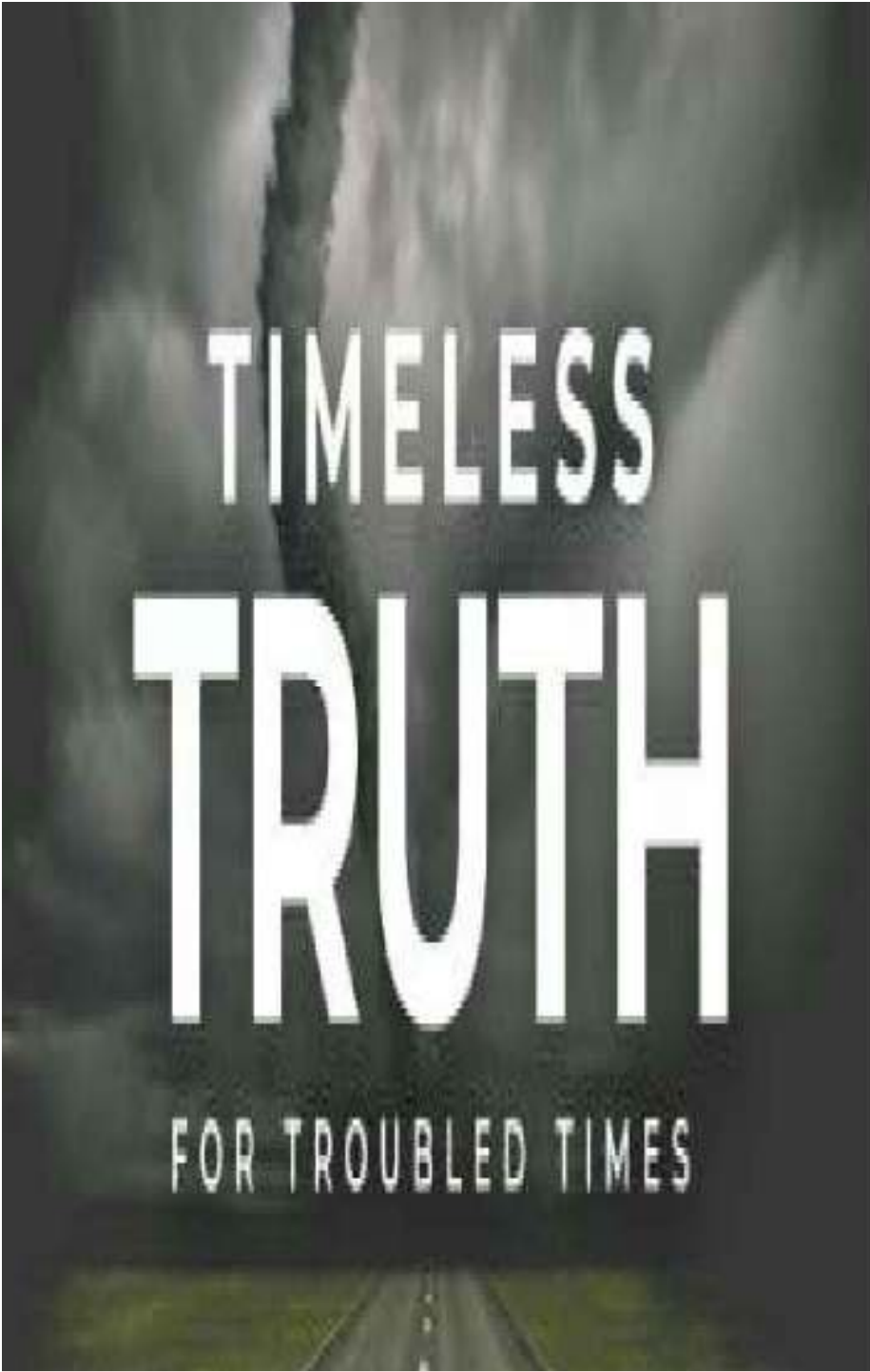


- ***“I think I can drive the chariot all right, Cecil, but I’m not at all sure I can actually win the race”***
- ***“Heston, you just stay in the race & I’ll make sure you win”***

- ***Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)***
- ***being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;***
- ***Philippians 1:6 (NLT)***
- ***And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.***



***“Take away
the stone”***



TIMELESS TRUTH

FOR TROUBLED TIMES

- Sun:
- Take Away The Stone (Jn.11)
- When The Waters Begin To Rise (Gen.6-9)
- How To Handle Anger (Prov.25)

- Mon : Defeating The Fear Of Failure
- Tues: Trust Amid Suffering (Lk.7)
- Wed: Refreshing Christians
- Thurs: Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- Fri: Anacin For The Afflicted (2 Thess.1)