

# What We Know About Jesus

*Reasons to Believe #3*





**Jesus Lived in History.**

*We have evidence  
in scripture.*

A silhouette of a cross on a hill against a sunset background.

**Jesus Lived in History.**

## *1 Corinthians 15:1-3*

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

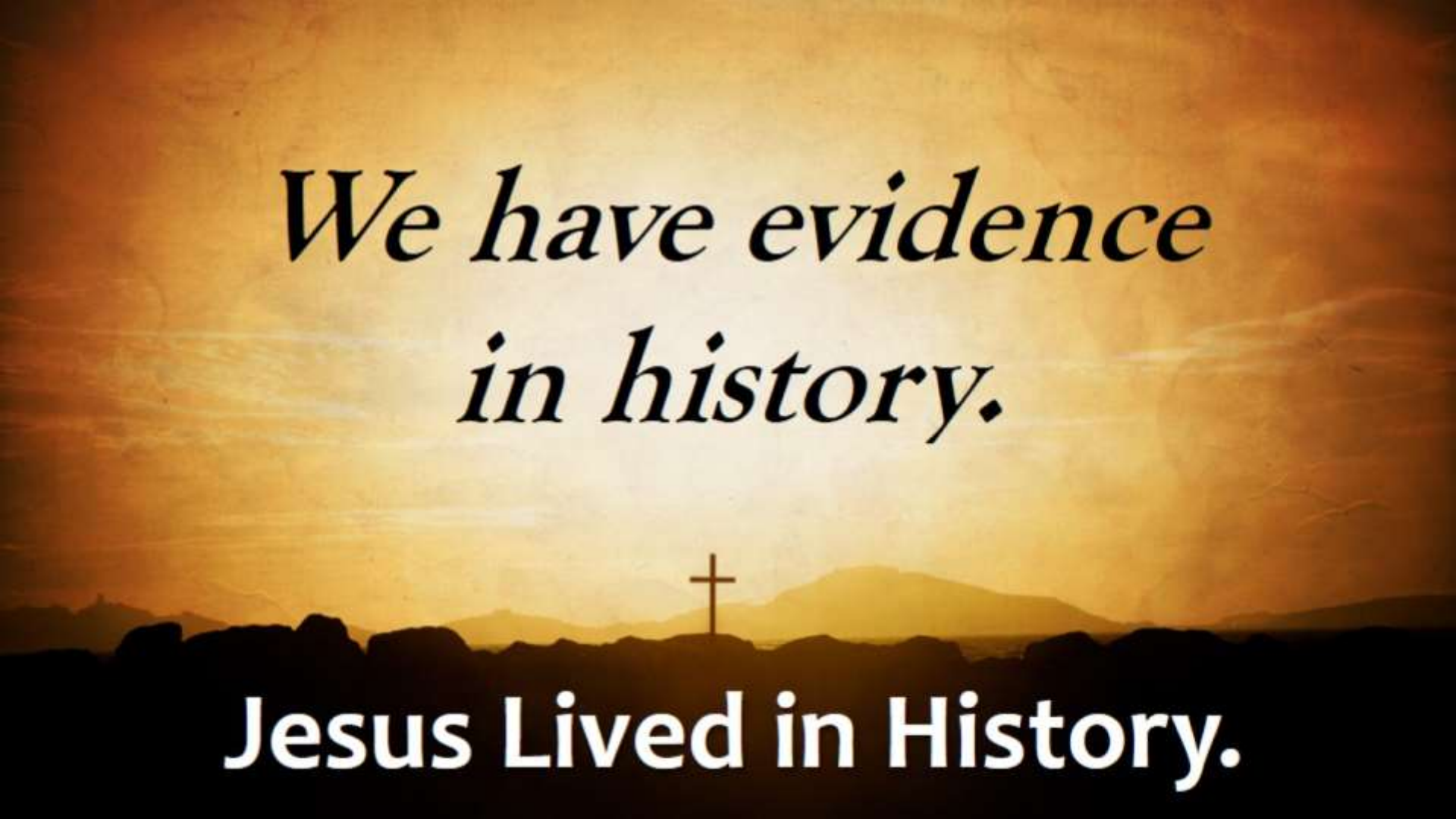
## *1 Corinthians 15:4-8*

4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

*We have evidence  
in scripture.*

A silhouette of a cross on a hill against a sunset background. The cross is centered in the lower half of the image, with a mountain range behind it. The sky is a warm, golden-brown color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

**Jesus Lived in History.**

The background of the image is a warm, golden-hued sunset or sunrise over a mountain range. The sky is filled with soft, glowing light, and the mountains are silhouetted against the bright horizon. A simple cross is visible in the center of the horizon line, standing on a small peak. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

*We have evidence  
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**Jesus Lived in History.**

## Tacitus (55-120)

“Hence to suppress the rumor (of Nero starting the fire in Rome), he falsely charged with the guilt, and punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities. Christus, the founder of the name, was



## Tacitus (55-120)

put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time, broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also.”

## Pliny the Younger (61-113)

“They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit

## Pliny the Younger (61-113)

any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food – but food of an ordinary and innocent kind.”

## Josephus (37-100)

“About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he ... wrought surprising feats.... He was the Christ. When Pilate ...condemned him to be crucified, those who had . . . come to

## Josephus (37-100)

love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared ... restored to life.... And the tribe of Christians ... has ... not disappeared.”

## Suetonius (69-112)

“As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, (another way to spell Christus), he expelled them from Rome.”

## Julius Africanus, quoting Thallus (52)

“Thallus, in the third book of his histories, explains away this darkness as an eclipse of the sun – unreasonably, as it seems to me (unreasonably, of course, because a solar eclipse could not take place at

## Julius Africanus, quoting Thallus (52)

the time of the full moon, and it was at  
the season of the Paschal full moon  
that Christ died.”



## Lucian of Samosata (125-180)

“The Christians ... worship a man to this day – the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account.... [It] was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all

## Lucian of Samosata (125-180)

brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws.”

- Jesus existed as a man.
- His personal name was Jesus.
- He was called *Christos* in Greek.
- He had a brother named James.
- He won over both Jews and Greeks.

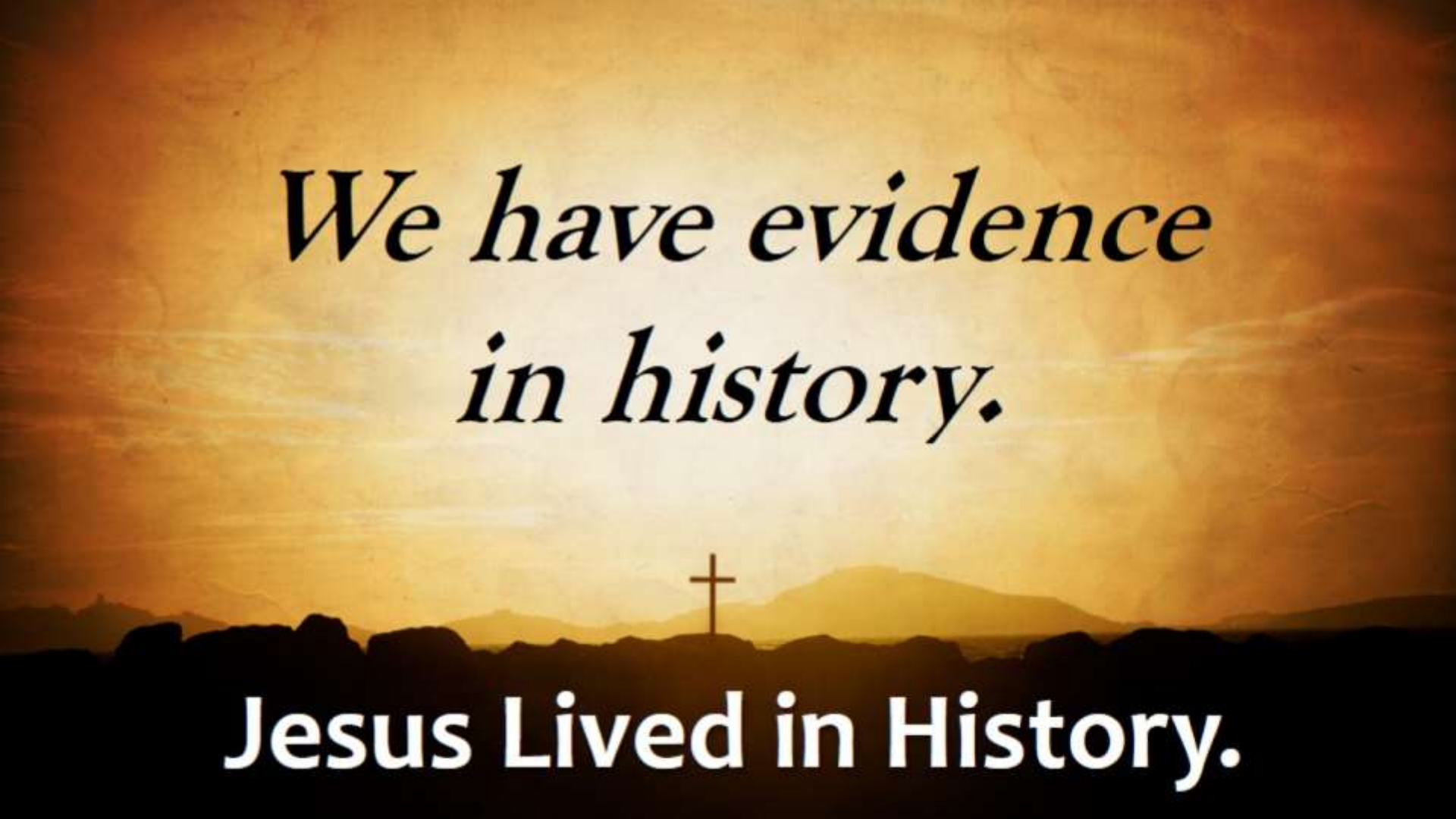
A silhouette of a cross on a hill against a sunset background.

**What Tacitus and Josephus Tell Us**

- Jewish leaders did not like Jesus.
- Pilate rendered the decision that Jesus should be executed.
- His execution was by crucifixion.
- He was executed during Pontius Pilate's governorship.



**What Tacitus and Josephus Tell Us**

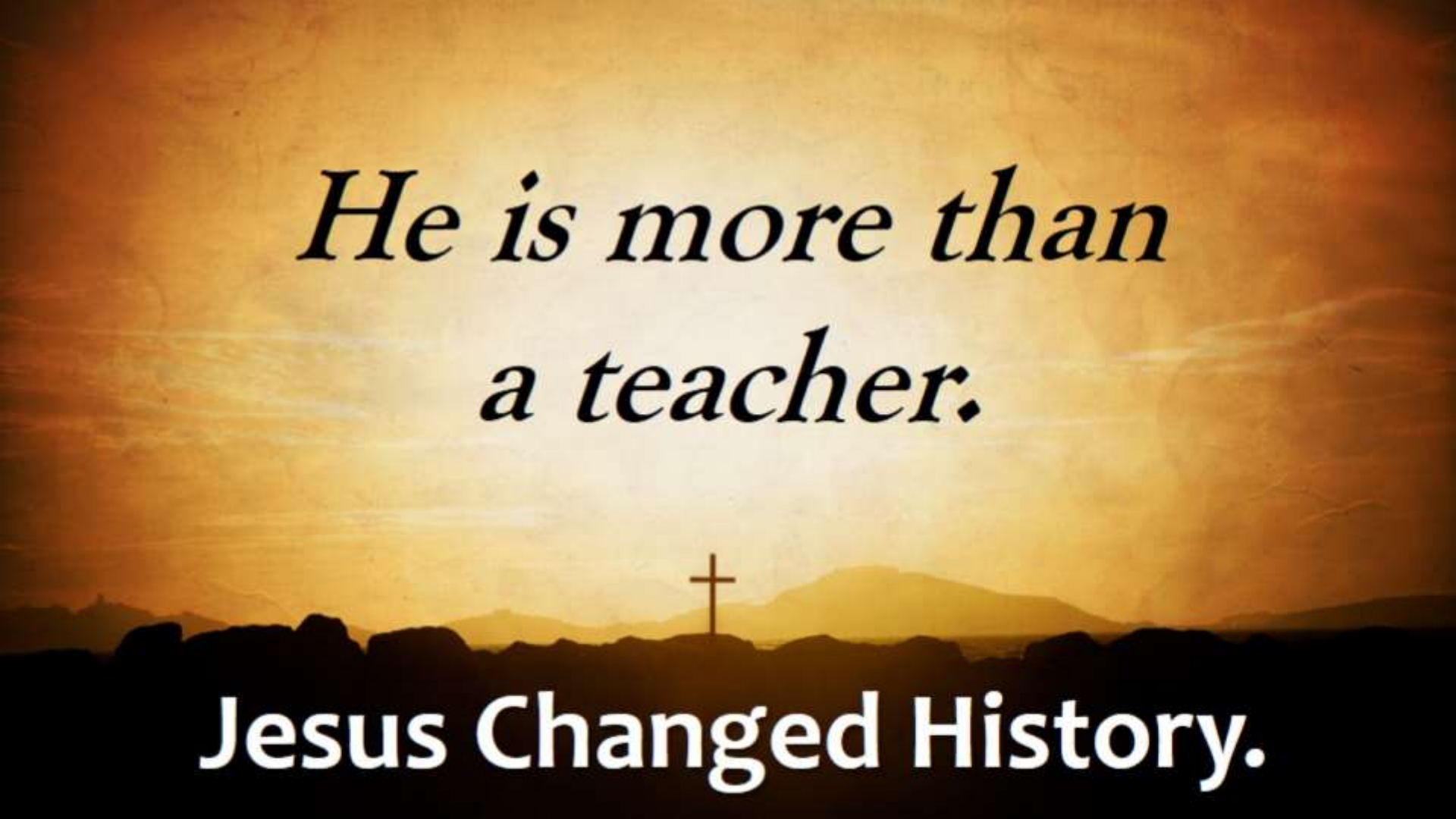
The background of the image is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise over a mountain range. The sky is filled with soft, glowing light, transitioning from a pale yellow near the horizon to a deeper orange and red at the top. The mountains in the foreground are silhouetted against the bright light, creating a dark, jagged line. In the center of the horizon, a simple cross is visible, its silhouette also dark against the bright background. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

*We have evidence  
in history.*

**Jesus Lived in History.**



**Jesus Changed History.**

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*He is more than  
a teacher.*

**Jesus Changed History.**

*He is more than  
an inspirational figure.*

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# What Will We Do?

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