

APOLOGETICS

IN ONE LESSON

↑
almost

Ai1L.net

Lesson 24

Jesus Died by Crucifixion;
His Disciples Believed He Resurrected

Key Takeaways (review)

1

Prophecy fulfillments come in a **variety of forms**

2

Don't give up quickly, some of the fulfillments **require lots of context**; expect open questions

3

Some fulfillments make a better case for defending the Gospel than others

Four facts support Jesus' resurrection

1

Jesus was crucified

2

Jesus' disciples believed he resurrected

3

Early skeptics (Paul, James) became believers

4

The tomb was empty

IDEA IN BRIEF

What?	Show that we have good reasons for believing in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection
Why?	So that can have a strong argument for the Gospel story based on a small set of facts that are widely accepted
How?	By showing that: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jesus' crucifixion is supported even by non-Christians2. Jesus disciples' willingness to die show they believed what they saw

1

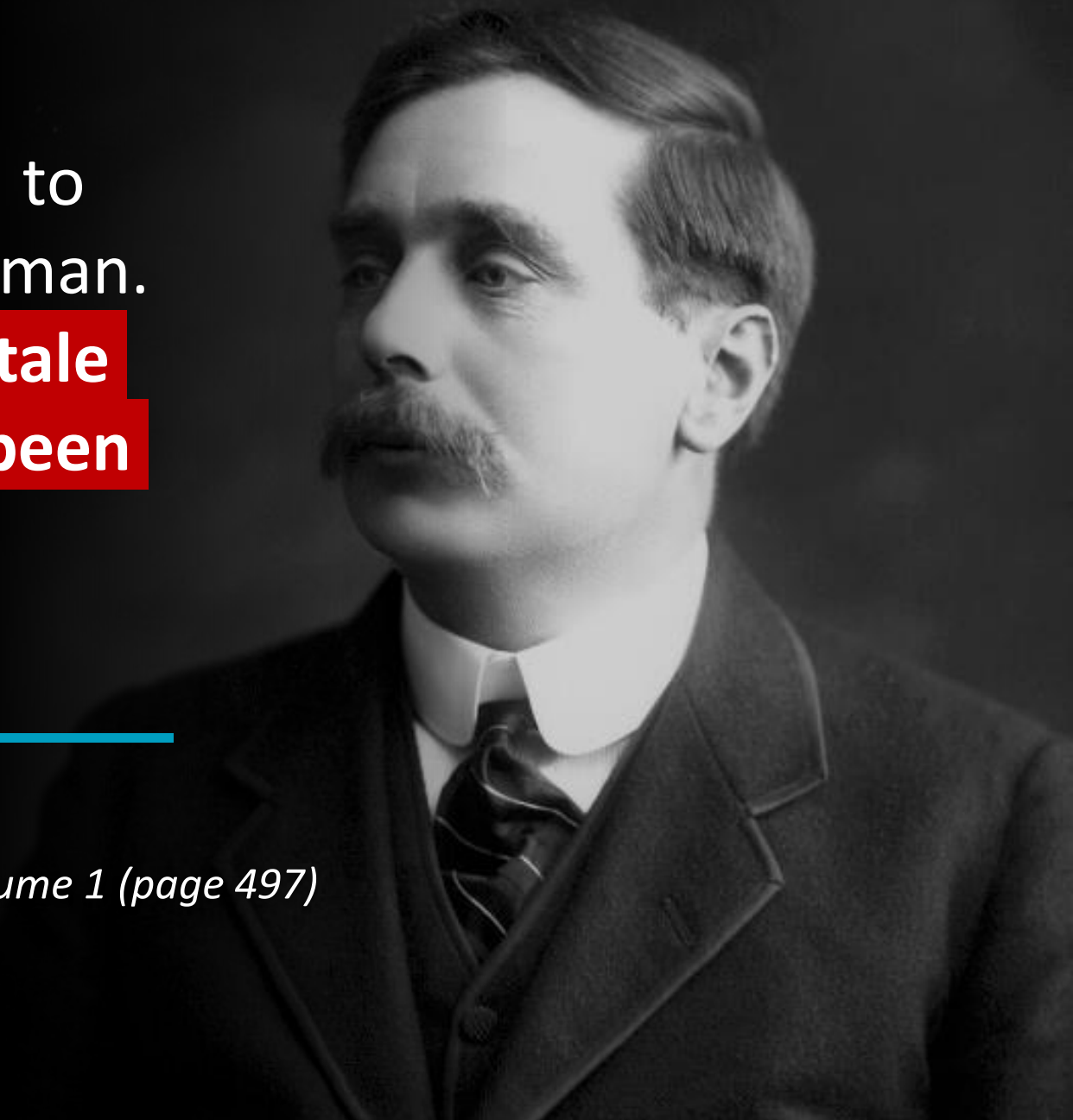
Read the non-Christian accounts of
Jesus' death by crucifixion

“...one is obliged to say, 'Here was a man.

This part of the tale could not have been invented.'”

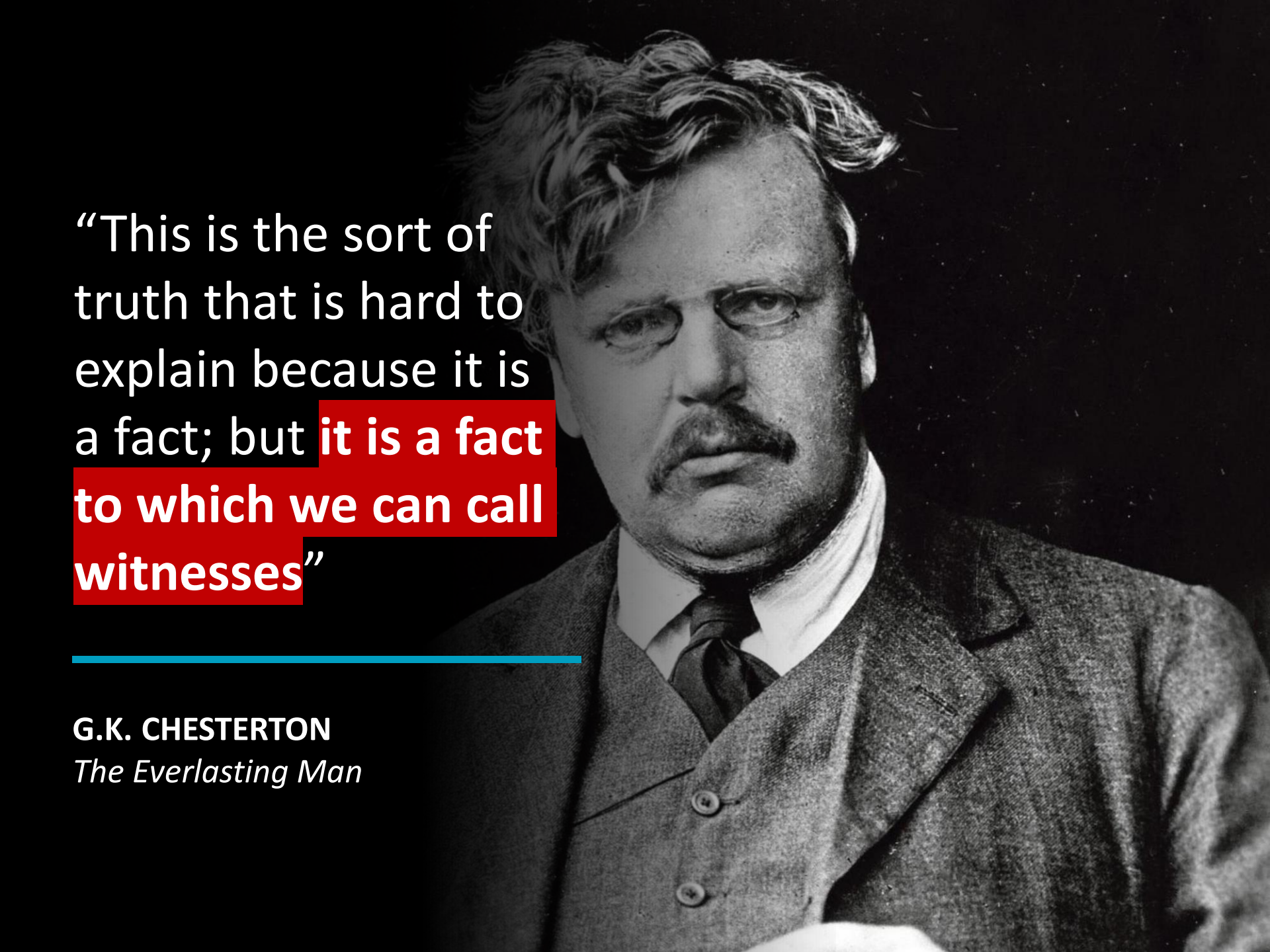
H.G. WELLS

The Outline of History, Volume 1 (page 497)



2

Read the Gospels accounts of Jesus
death by crucifixion

A black and white portrait of G.K. Chesterton, showing him from the chest up. He has curly hair, a mustache, and is wearing a suit jacket, vest, and tie. The background is dark.

“This is the sort of truth that is hard to explain because it is a fact; but **it is a fact to which we can call witnesses**”

G.K. CHESTERTON
The Everlasting Man

3 Document the claims of the early witnesses of Jesus' resurrection

Which Apostles were martyred?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Peter | <input type="radio"/> Philip |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Paul | <input type="radio"/> Bartholomew |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> James, the Brother of Jesus | <input type="radio"/> Matthew |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> John, son of Zebedee | <input type="radio"/> James, son of Alphaeus |
| <input type="radio"/> Thomas | <input type="radio"/> Thaddeus |
| <input type="radio"/> Andrew | <input type="radio"/> Simon the Zealot |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> James, son of Zebedee | <input type="radio"/> Matthias |

Peter

Death

Likely by crucifixion, probably by Nero

Confidence

Highest possible confidence 

Sources

- **John 21:18–19**
- 1 Clement 5:4–5
- Ignatius
- Tertullian
- Dionysius of Corinth
- The Apocryphon of James*
- Ascension of Isaiah*
- The Acts of Peter*
- Apocalypse of Peter*

No competing traditions

Other Details

- Likely visited Rome
- Possibly crucified upside down

* pseudepigraphal (authorship falsely attributed)

“Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, ‘Follow me!’”

JOHN 21:19

John (son of Zebedee)

Death

Not likely by martyrdom

Confidence

Improbably by martyrdom



Sources

- **John 21:18–19**
- Origen
- Tertullian

Other Details

- Likely ministered in Ephesus

* probably pseudepigraphal (authorship falsely attributed)

Thomas

Death

Executed in India by King Misdaeus

Confidence

More probable than not 

Sources

- Early church fathers
- St. Thomas Christians traditions
- The Acts of Thomas*

No competing traditions

Other Details

- Traveled to India (more probable than not)

* apocrypha (not part of the New Testament)

Andrew

Death

Crucified in 65-69 AD

Confidence

More plausible than not 

Sources

- Peter Chrysologus
- Traditions in the East and West
- The Acts of Andrew*

No competing traditions

Other Details

- Traveled to Greece (more probable than not)

* apocrypha (not part of the New Testament)

James (son of Zebedee)

Death

Killed by Herod Agrippa I in Jerusalem

Confidence

Highest possible confidence 

Sources

- **Acts 12:1-2**
- Papias
- Clement of Alexandria
- Chrysostom
- Gregory of Nyssa
- Philip of Side

No competing traditions

Paul

Death

Beheading by Nero, AD 62-68

Confidence

Highest possible confidence 

Sources

- **2 Tim 4:6-8**
- **Acts 19:21-28:31**
- 1 Clement
- Ignatius
- Dionysius of Corinth
- Irenaeus
- Tertullian

No competing traditions

Other Details

- Highly likely to have visited Rome

James (brother of Jesus)

Death

Stoning, 62 AD

Confidence

Very probably true 

Sources

- Josephus
- Hegesippus
- Clement of Alexandria
- First Apocalypse of James*
- Second Apocalypse of James*

No competing traditions

Other Details

- Thrown from the Temple

* pseudepigraphal (authorship falsely attributed)

“**not a shred** of evidence exists that any apostle wavered in or recanted his faith—excluding Judas.”

SEAN MCDOWELL

The Fate of the Apostles (page 261)



“The real cover-up,
the lie, **could only be
held together for
two weeks**”

CHUCK COLSON (former Nixon Aide)
Breakpoint with Chuck Colson, 2002/03/29



Key Takeaways

1

Jesus' crucifixion is supported by **many historical accounts**

2

Jesus' disciples **were willing to die** as eyewitnesses

3

The willingness to die is important when **the sources are eyewitnesses**