

# APOLOGETICS

## IN ONE LESSON

↑  
almost

Ai1L.net

### Lesson 6

### Eyewitness Memory

# Key Takeaways (review)

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1

Gospels are ancient biographies which **expected** living eyewitnesses

2

The New Testament **valued living eyewitness sources** (and named them)

3

The early church **valued living eyewitness sources** (and could name them)

# IDEA IN BRIEF

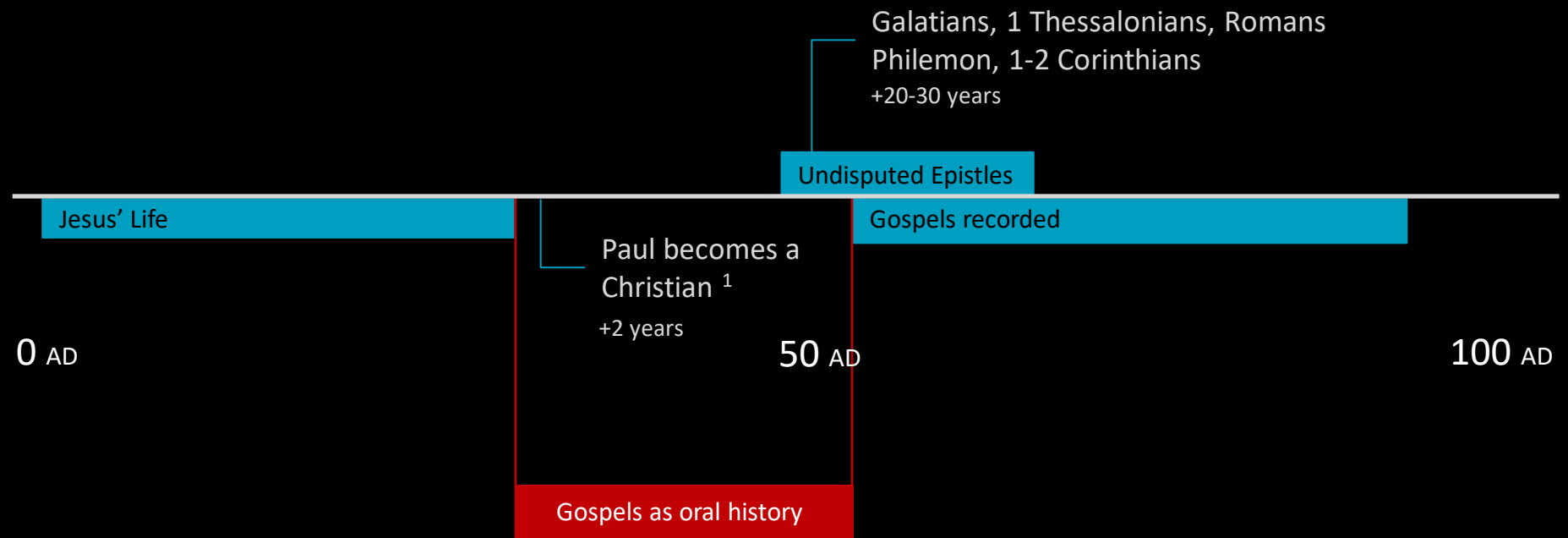
**What?** Show that the memories of the eyewitnesses can be trusted

**Why?** Because the gospel message was transmitted orally before it was written down

**How?** By establishing:

1. The attributes of what makes a memory memorable
2. That the Gospel accounts include many of these memories

# New Testament Timeline



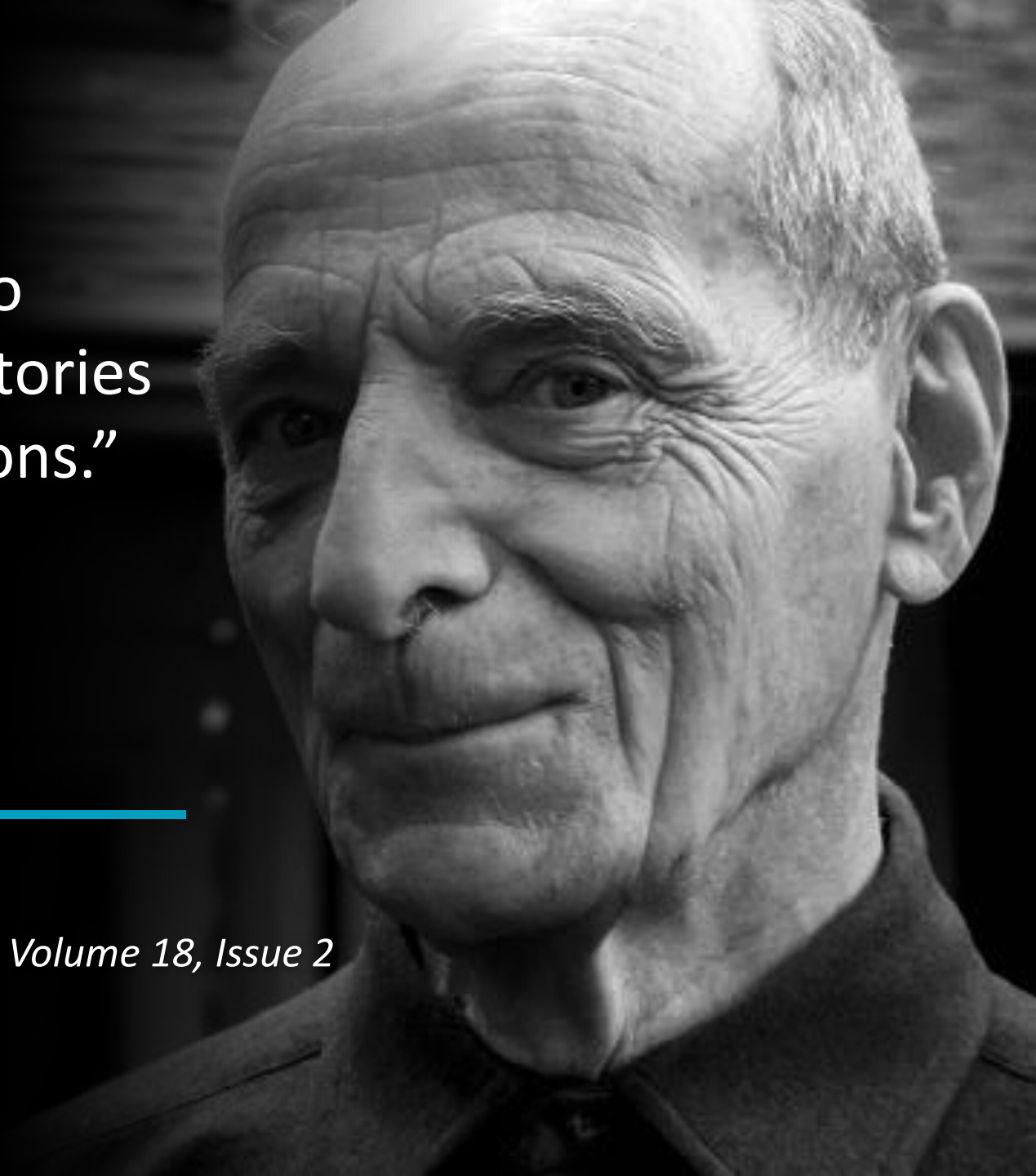
<sup>1</sup> Acts 9:18

“there were two  
sorts of oral histories  
and oral traditions.”

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**JAN VANSINA**

*African Studies Quarterly Volume 18, Issue 2  
February 2019 (page 15)*



A black and white portrait of Jan Vansina, an elderly man with a serious expression, looking slightly to the left. He has a high forehead with receding hair and deep wrinkles on his face. He is wearing a dark, collared shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

“Oral histories about  
recent times,  
from interviews,  
which may go back to  
about hundred and  
twenty years ago”

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**JAN VANSINA**

*African Studies Quarterly Volume 18, Issue 2  
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# What makes memories ... memorable

1

Is a **unique or unusual** event

2

Is an important or **consequential** event

3

Is an event in which the person is **emotionally involved**

4

It includes **vivid** imagery

5

Are **frequently repeated** or rehearsed

“Remember that it is not memory for the central newsworthy event that constitutes a FB memory, but rather **memory for the circumstances in which one first heard the news**”

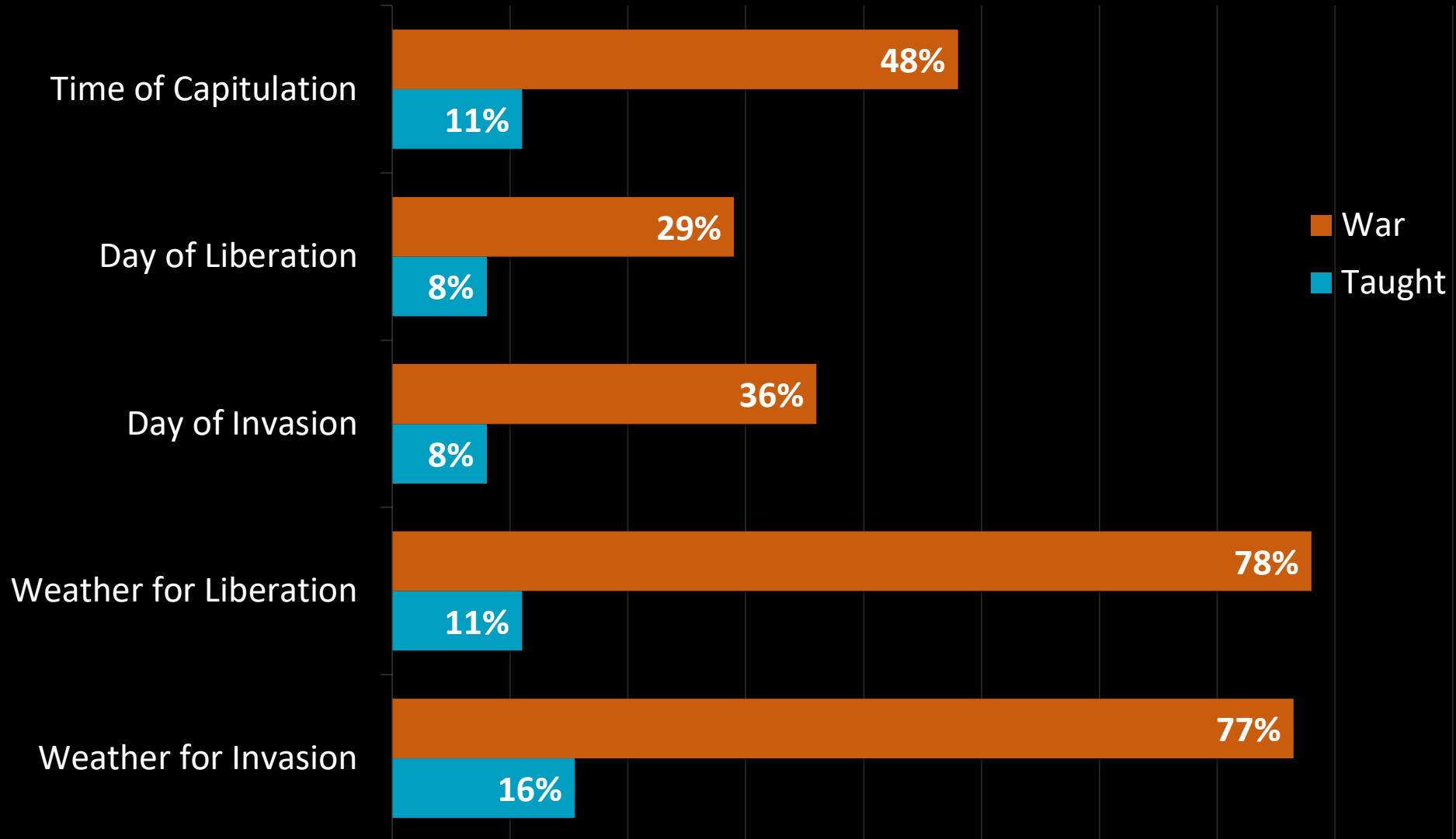
**BROWN & KULIK**

*“Flashbulb Memories.” Cognition, vol. 5, no. 1, 1977, pp. 95*



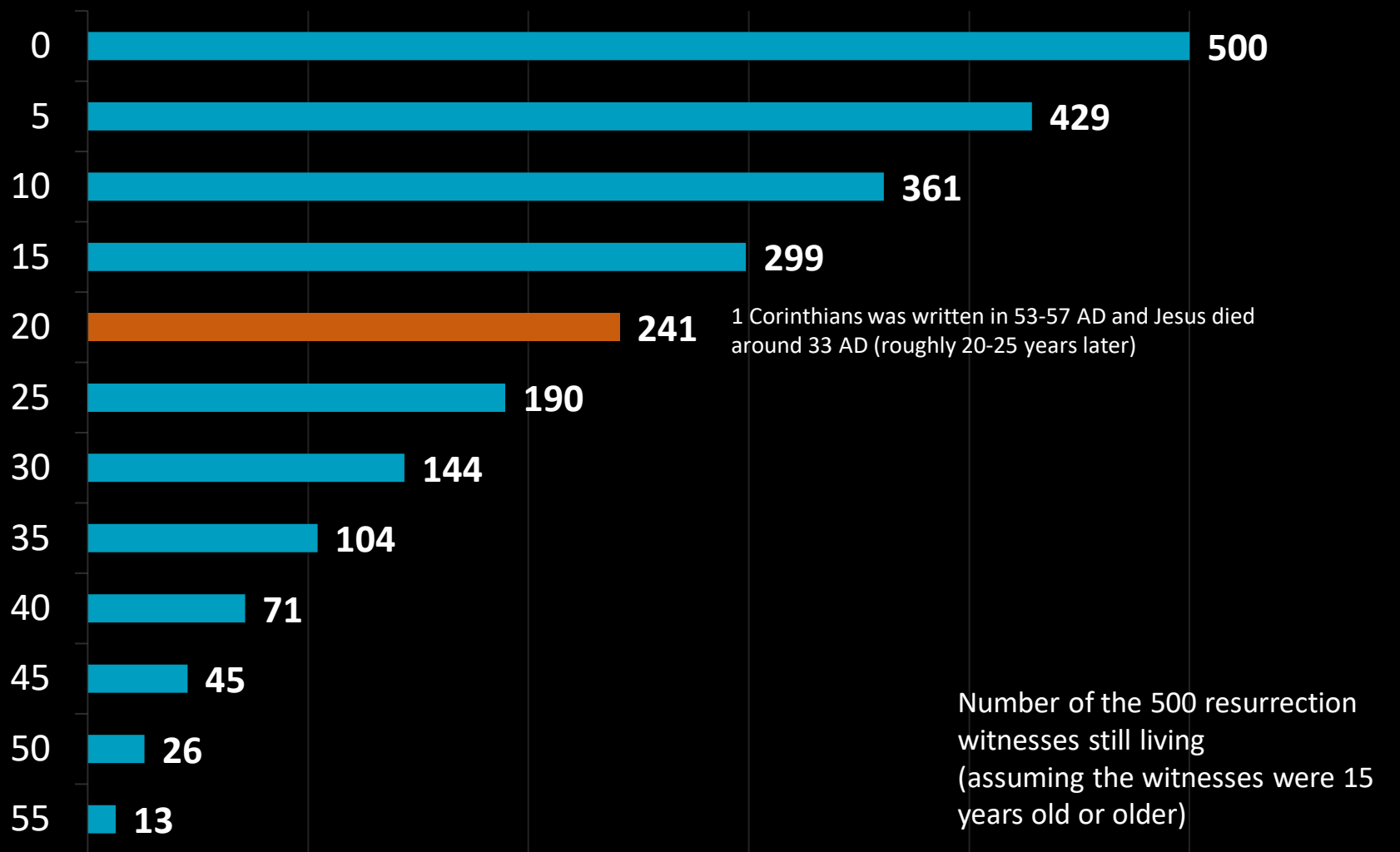
# Likelihood to Remember after 50 years

Comparing people who were in the events vs. those taught



# Surviving Witness Pool

Number of the 500 would still be living when 1 Cor. 15 was written




“Smartphones have been shown to harm the brain’s ability to retain important details...”

PRODUCTIVITY


# How to Build a Stronger Memory

by Philip White

June 17, 2020 **UPDATED** July 01, 2020

 Summary

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**PHILIP WHITE**

*How to Build a Stronger Memory*




“You are not training your memory to recall information. Rather, you are training it to rely on external tools that can do so for you.”

PRODUCTIVITY


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# Key Takeaways

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1

Events are **likely to be remembered** if they are:

1. Consequential
2. Vivid
3. Emotional
4. Unique
5. Rehearsed

2

The Gospel accounts include many of these events **would be memorable**

3

Known memory limitations **cannot adequately provide an alternate** explanation