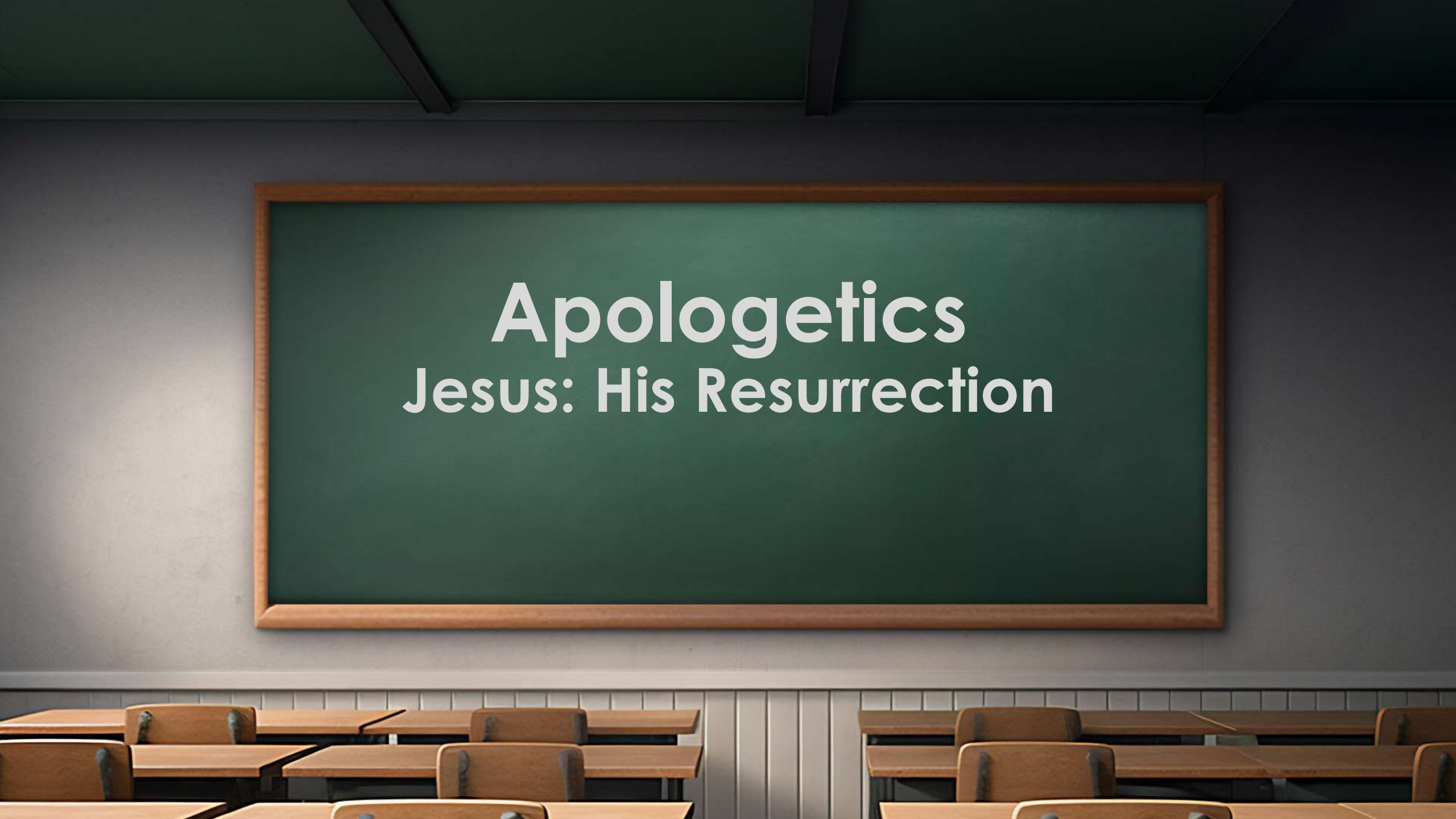

Apologetics
Jesus: His Resurrection

# 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

3. For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received—
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
4. and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day
according to the scriptures,
5. and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.
6. Then he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters 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 though to one born at the wrong time, he appeared to
me also.



# Dec 4th, 2019 Feb 1, 2019 Dec 7th, 1941 Feb 1, 2019 Dec 7th, 1965



# 30 AD



# Is the Resurrection Important?

1 Peter 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

**Future**

1 Corinthians 15:17-18

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.

1 Corinthians 15:32

If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

**Salvation**

Romans 10:9

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.



# Religious Claims

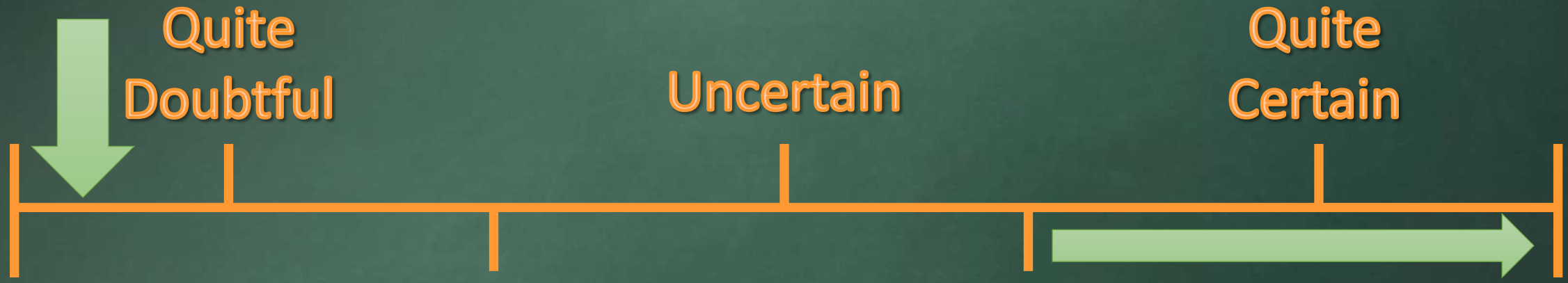
- Islam: Mohammed = Spoke the truth from God
  - Only God could have written the Quran
- Mormonism: Joseph Smith = Spoke the truth from God
  - Only God could have written the Book of Mormon
- Christianity: Jesus = Spoke the truth from God
  - Claimed to be God
  - Sign: Resurrection

John 12:49-50

**49** For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. **50** And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."



# How to Prove History Happened







Source: The case for the Resurrection of Jesus, Gary Habermas

# How to Prove History Happened

Quite Doubtful

Uncertain

Quite Certain

Very Doubtful

Somewhat Doubtful

Somewhat Certain

Very Certain

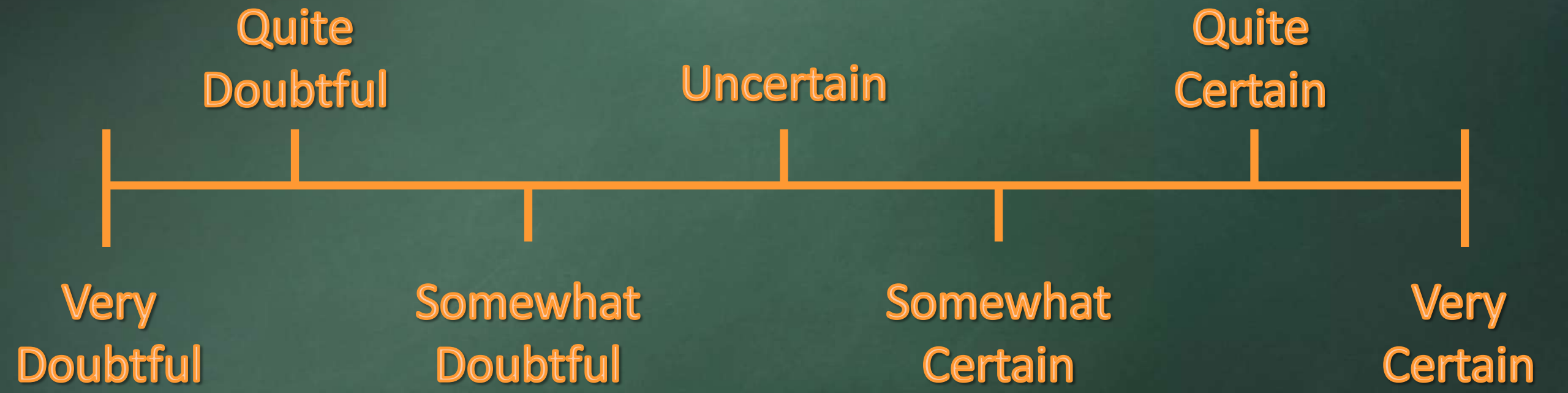
- Multiple Independent Sources
- Non-Sympathetic Testimony
- Embarrassing admissions
- Eyewitness Testimony
- Early Testimony



Source: The case for the Resurrection of Jesus, Gary Habermas



# How to Prove History Happened



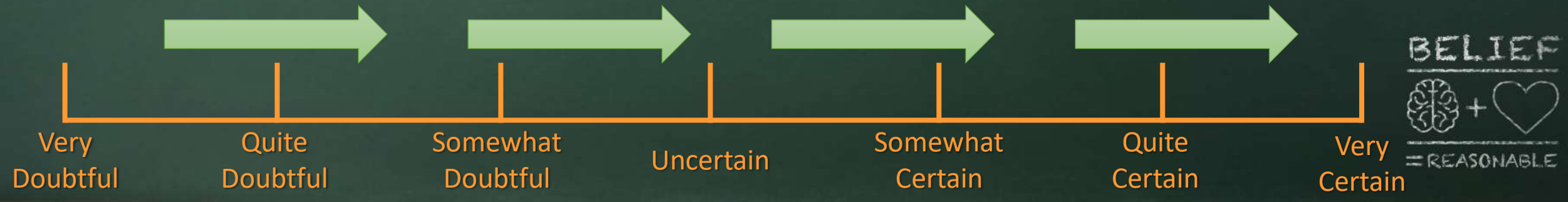

- What are the right facts?
- Avoid arguments that distract
- Stick to undisputed facts




Source: The case for the Resurrection of Jesus, Gary Habermas

# Historical Evidence

- Execution
- Empty Tomb
- Eyewitnesses
- Early
- Experiences
- Explosion
- Endangered



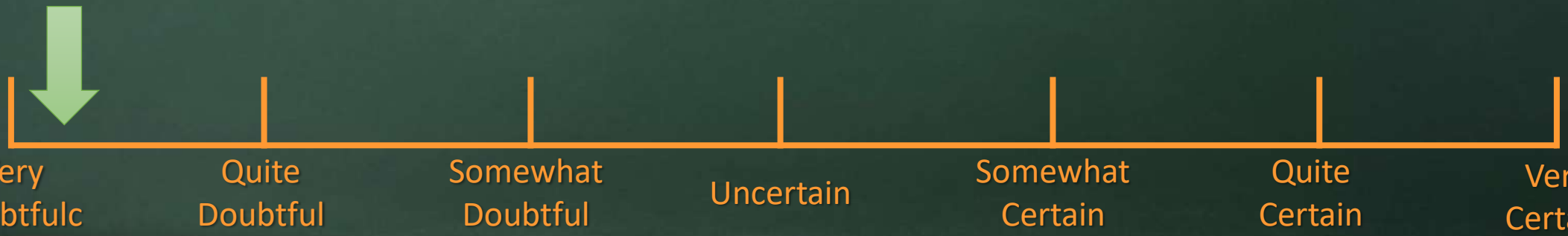
# Execution

- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
- ✓ Non-Sympathetic Testimony
- ✓ Embarrassing admissions
- ✓ Eyewitness Testimony
- ✓ Early Testimony

- Crucifixion of Jesus widely attested
  - Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian of Samosat, Mara Bar-Serapion, The Talmud
- John Dominic Crossan (Critical Scholar at Jesus Seminar): "Tha
- AMA was dead
- Leader crucified…followers forsake
- Eyewitnesses: Mary, John, Soldiers, Jews

**1 Thessalonians 4:14**

**14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.






# Empty Tomb

- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
- ✓ Non-Sympathetic Testimony
- ✓ Embarrassing admissions
- ✓ Eyewitness Testimony
- ✓ Early Testimony

- 4 Coherent Gospel accounts
- Enemy attestation – No Body
  - Matt 28:12-13, Justin Martyr, Tryph 108, Tertullian, De Spectaculis 30
- Testimony of women – 1st witnesses, all 4 Gospels
- Gospel accounts of eyewitnesses: John, Peter, women, soldiers, Jews
  - Jerusalem factor
  - No tomb shrine
- Gospel of Mark = sources from 37AD, 7 years following resurrection
  - Caiaphas not named
  - Bartimaeus, Alexander and Rufus, and Salome named
  - 1 Cor 11 presupposes Mark account



# Historical Evidence

- Execution
- Empty

- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
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- ✓ Embarrassing admissions
- ✓ Eyewitness Testimony
- ✓ Early Testimony



# Eyewitnesses

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Paul Epistles
- Polycarp: le
- Clement: le
- Testimony c
- Creeds

1. The women at the tomb (Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-10)
2. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18)
3. Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
4. Two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
5. 10 disciples (excluding Thomas, John 20:19-23)
6. 11 disciples (Mark 6:14-18; Luke 24:36-49; John 20:26-28)
7. 7 disciples (John 21:1-14)
8. Disciples in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18)
9. James, half-brother of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:7)
10. Disciples at Mount of Olives (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:4-9)
11. 500 people at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6)
12. Saul/Paul (Acts 9:1-6)

**516**

- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
- ✓ Non-Sympathetic Testimony
- ✓ Embarrassing admissions
- ✓ Eyewitness Testimony
- ✓ Early Testimony



# Historical Evidence

- Execution
- Empty
- Eyewitnesses

- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
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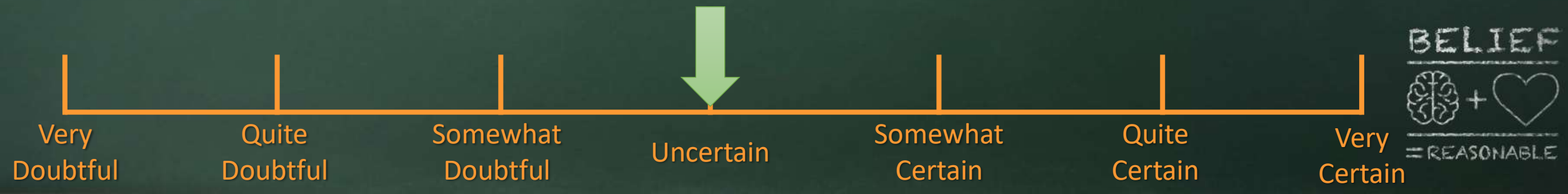
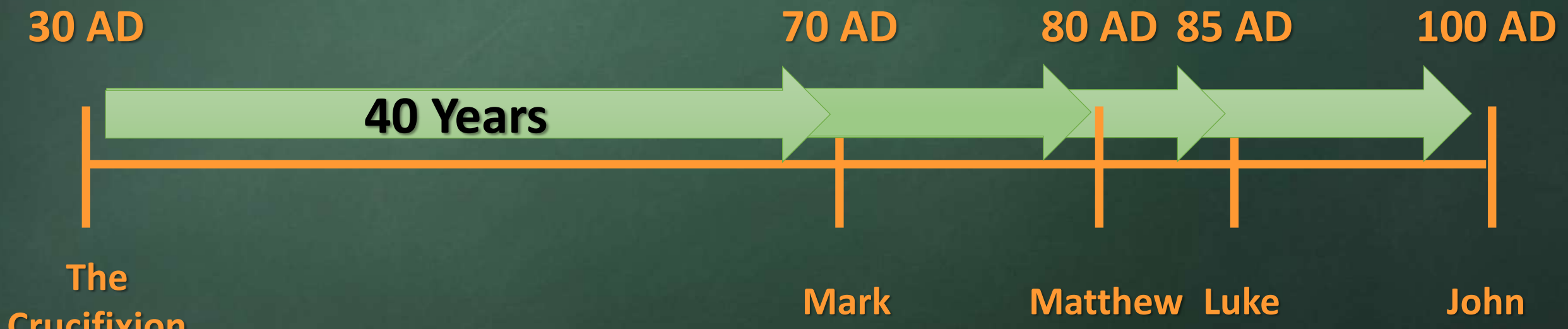


# Early

- Gospels

✓ Multiple Independent Sources
✓ Non-Sympathetic Testimony
✓ Embarrassing admissions
✓ Eyewitness Testimony
Early Testimony







Shema: How to Say This Jewish Prayer
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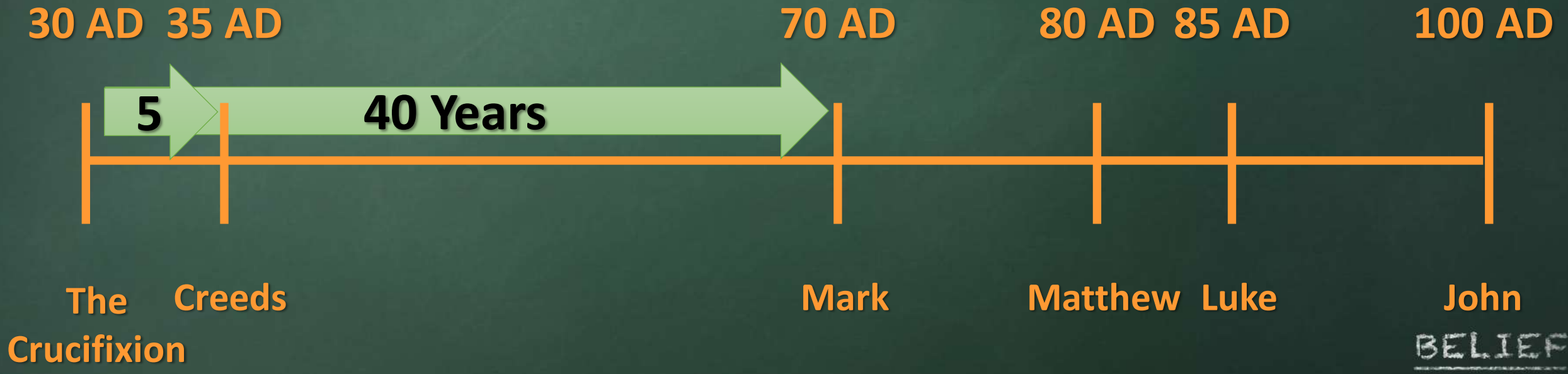
# Early

- Gospels
- Creeds
  - “This is the sort of data that historians of antiquity drool over.” Dean John Rodgers (Trinity Episcopal Shool for Ministry)

✓ Multiple Independent Sources
✓ Non-Sympathetic Testimony
✓ Embarrassing admissions
✓ Eyewitness Testimony
✓ Early Testimony






# Early

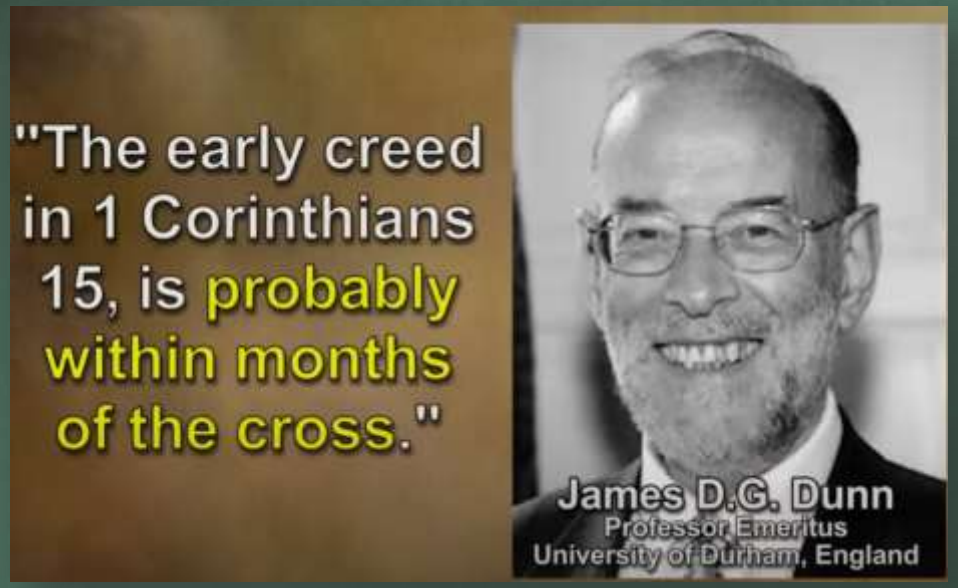
- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
- ✓ Non-Sympathetic Testimony
- ✓ Embarrassing admissions
- ✓ Eyewitness Testimony
- ✓ Early Testimony

- Creeds (1 Cor 15:3-8)
  - Gerd Lüdemann (Atheist NT professor at Göttingen): "…the elements in the tradition are to be dated to the first two years after the crucifixion of Jesus…not later than three years… the formation of the appearance traditions mentioned in I Cor.15.3-8 falls into the time between 30 and 33 CE."
  - Robert Funk (Non-Christian scholar, founder of the Jesus Seminar): "…The conviction that Jesus had risen from the dead had already taken root by the time Paul was converted about 33 C.E. on the assumption that Jesus died about 30 C.E., the time for development was thus two or three years at most."
  - Michael Goulder (Atheist NT professor at Birmingham): "[It] goes back at least to what Paul was taught when he was converted, a couple of years after the crucifixion.

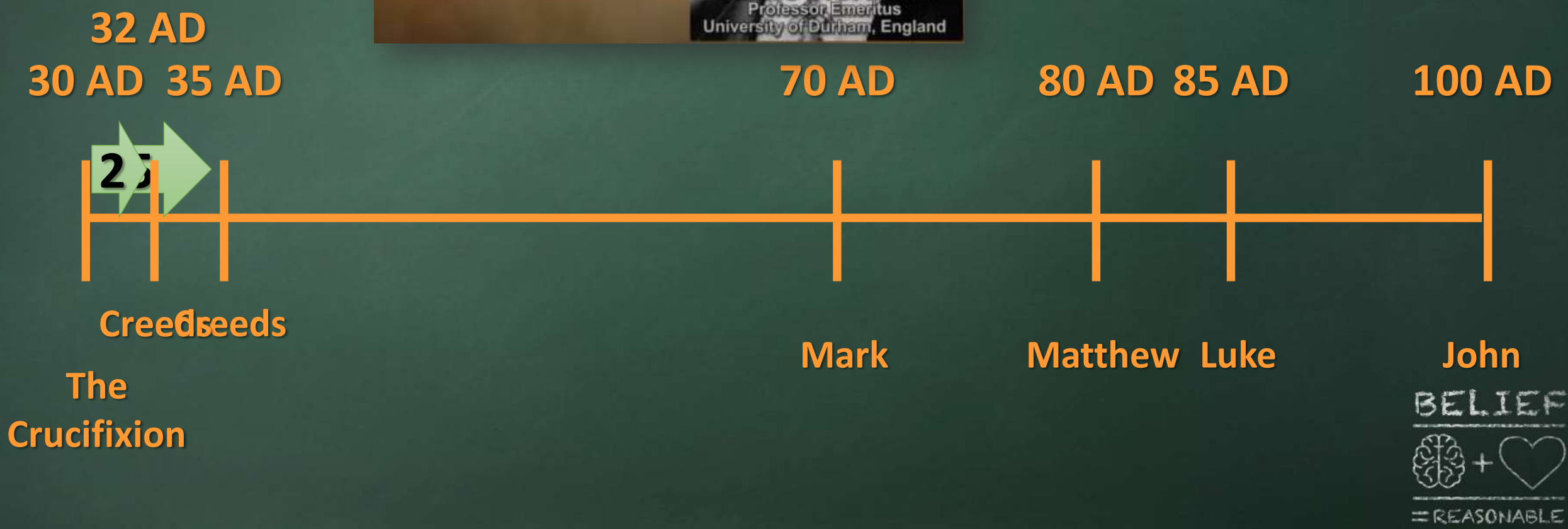


# Early

- Gospels
- Creeds




- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
- ✓ Non-Sympathetic Testimony
- ✓ Embarrassing admissions
- ✓ Eyewitness Testimony
- ✓ Early Testimony



# Historical Evidence

- Execution
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- Eyewitnesses
- Early

- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
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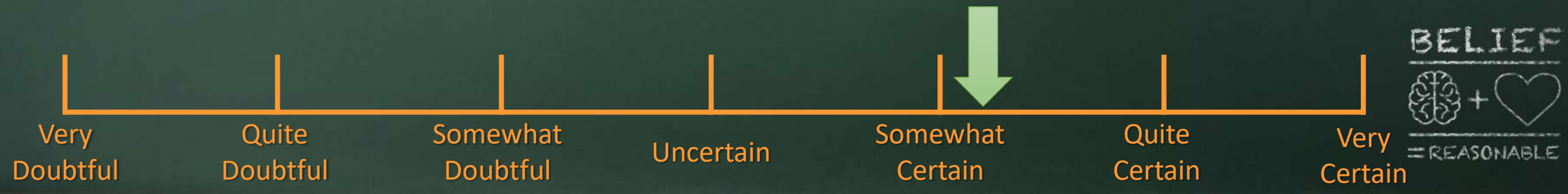

# Experiences

- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
- ✓ Non-Sympathetic Testimony
- ✓ Embarrassing admissions
- ✓ Eyewitness Testimony
- ✓ Early Testimony

- Peter, James, Paul: (Galatians 1 & 2)
  - Peter: Denied the Lord Jesus
    - Evangelist in early Acts…Martyred for his faith
  - James (Brother of Jesus): Unbeliever through the Crucifixion
    - "Pillar" of the Church in Jerusalem…Martyred for his faith
  - Paul: Persecutor of Christians
    - Evangelist to the gentiles…Martyred for his faith

## 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

**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, **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.



# Historical Evidence

- Execution
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- Eyewitnesses
- Early
- Experiences

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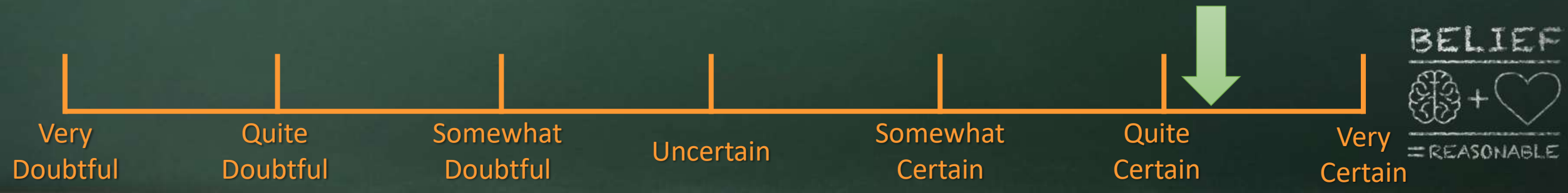

# Explosion & Endangered

- Unapparelled growth of Christianity
- Started in Jerusalem
- Spread throughout the known world
  - N. T. Wright: “Christianity began as a resurrection movement.”
- Extra-Biblical sources: Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, Trajan, Suetonius
- Certain persecution
- Martyrdom



# Historical Evidence

- Execution
- Empty
- Eyewitnesses
- Early
- Experiences
- Explosion
- Endangered

Apologia

1 Peter 3:15

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;



# Historical Evidence

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- Empty
- Early
- Experiences
- Eyewitnesses
- Explosion
- Endangered

- ✓ Multiple Independent Sources
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- ✓ Embarrassing admissions
- ✓ Eyewitness Testimony
- ✓ Early Testimony

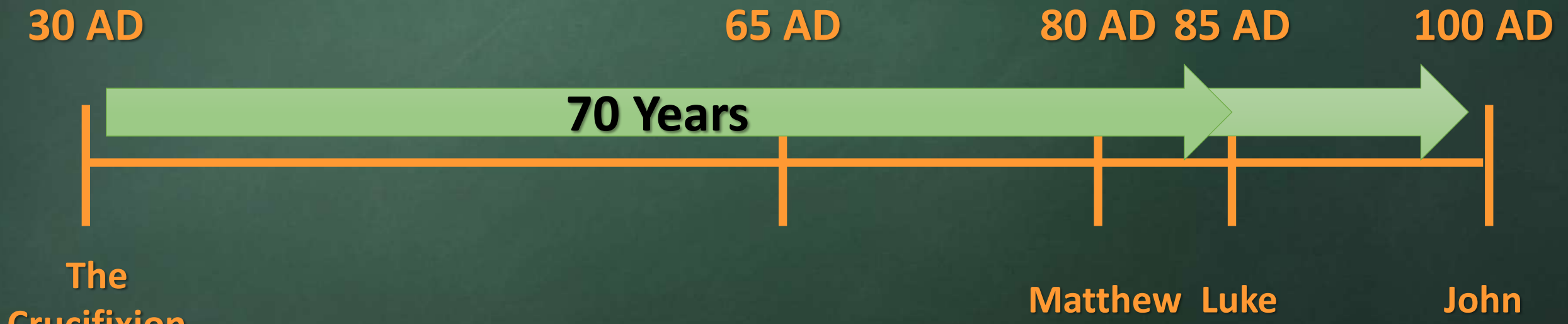
Very Doubtful | Quite Doubtful | Somewhat Doubtful | Uncertain | Somewhat Certain | Quite Certain | Very Certain



# Early

- Gospels
- Creeds

Multiple Independent Sources
Non-Sympathetic Testimony
Embarrassing admissions
Eyewitness Testimony
Early Testimony






# Apologetics Series

- Apologetics Introduction (Dave W)
- God: His Existence (Kirk B)
- Man: Created in God's Image (Dan K)
- The Veracity of the Bible: Transmission and Cannon (Bob J), Prophecy (James A)
- Jesus: Historicity and Deity (Sam W), Resurrection (Dan K)
- Truth: Epistemology (Rick D)
- Morality (Sueng O)
- Weekend Seminar (Steve Caldwell): Human Sexuality, Special Message
- The Problem of Pain, Suffering and Injustice (Jim Fleming)
- The Positive Impact of a Biblical World View (Gabe)
- Giving an Account of our Hope (David Johns)



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