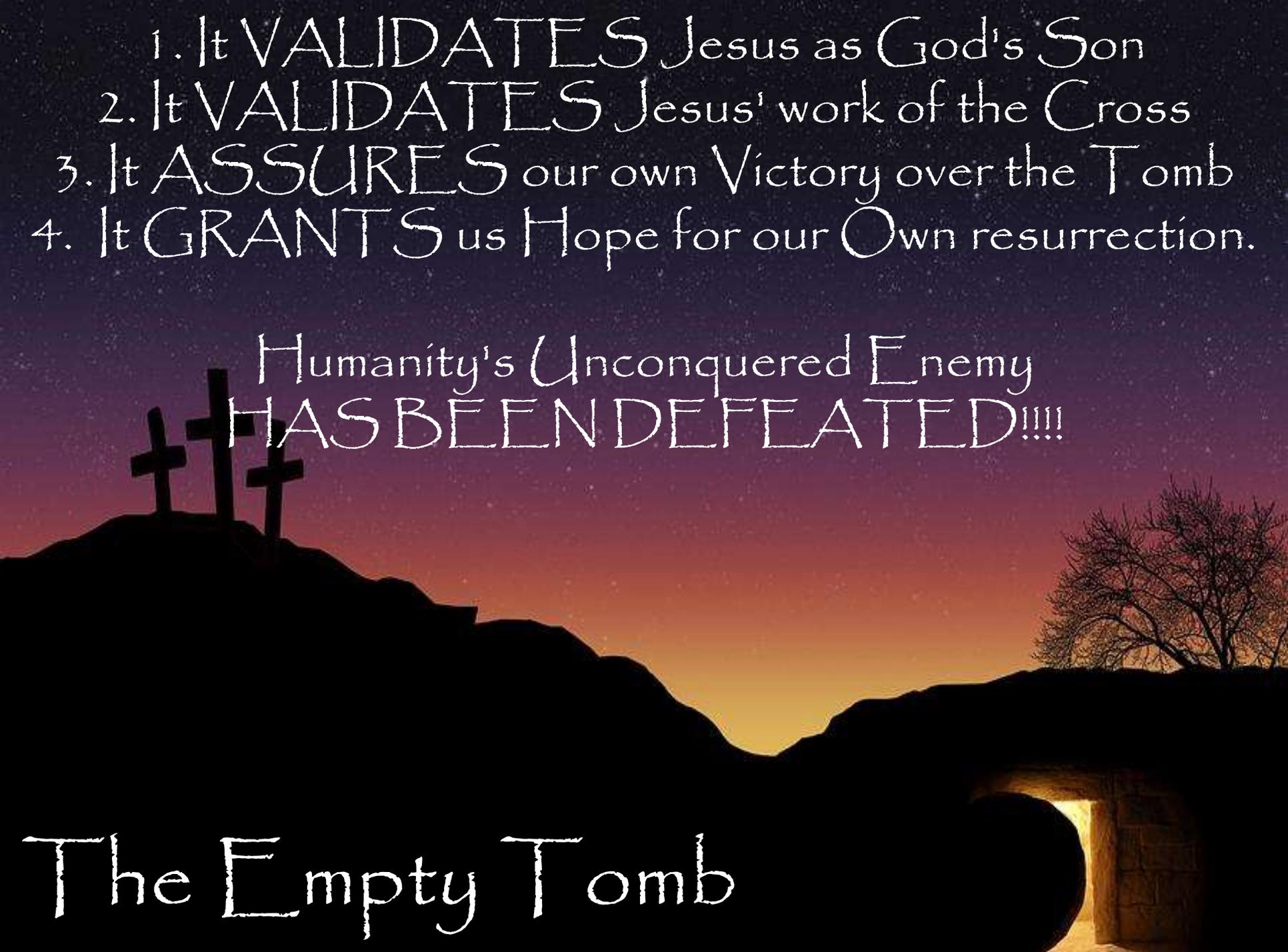


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- The background of the image is a sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from dark purple at the top to bright orange at the bottom. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of three crosses on a hill to the left and a large, rounded stone rolled away from the entrance of a tomb to the right. The tomb's interior is illuminated from within, casting a warm glow.
1. It **VALIDATES** Jesus as God's Son
 2. It **VALIDATES** Jesus' work of the Cross
 3. It **ASSURES** our own Victory over the Tomb
 4. It **GRANTS** us Hope for our Own resurrection.

Humanity's Unconquered Enemy
HAS BEEN DEFEATED!!!!

The Empty Tomb

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1. The Stolen Body
 2. The Swoon Theory
 3. The Wrong Tomb
 4. The Hallucination
 5. The Myth

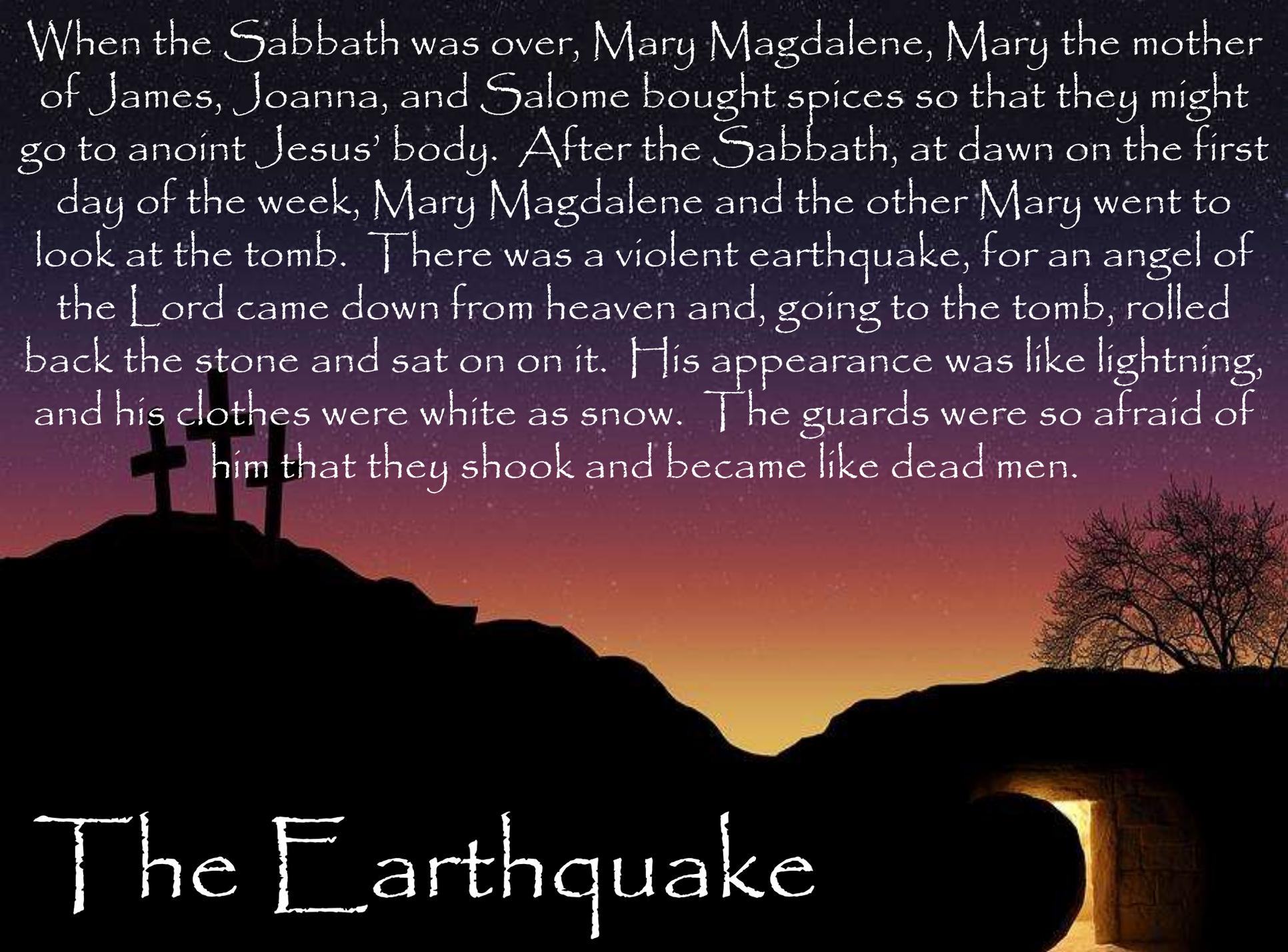
The Empty Tomb

- (1) the conversion of 3,000
- (2) the transformation of Peter and Paul
- (3) the martyrdom of the Apostles
- (4) the continued sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper;
- (5) the day of worship changed from the Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday
- (6) the unswerving testimony of the early church that this event actually took place
- (7) the changed lives of millions of Christians throughout history.



JESUS IS WELL AND ALIVE!

The Empty Tomb

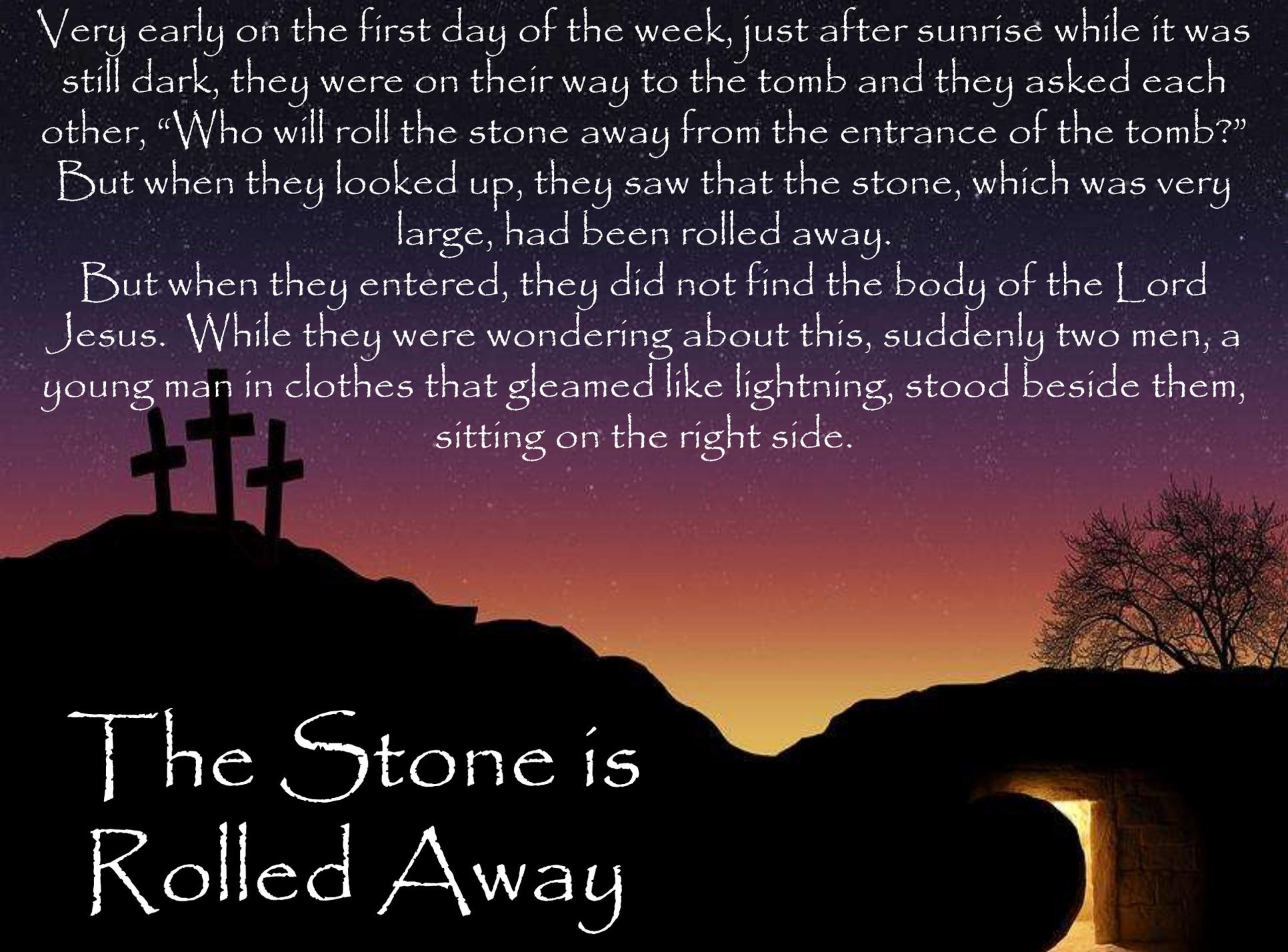
The background of the image is a sunset sky with a gradient from dark purple at the top to bright orange at the bottom. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of three crosses on a hill to the left and a tomb entrance with a large, dark, rounded stone rolled away to the right. The text is overlaid on the sky in a white, serif font.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Joanna, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

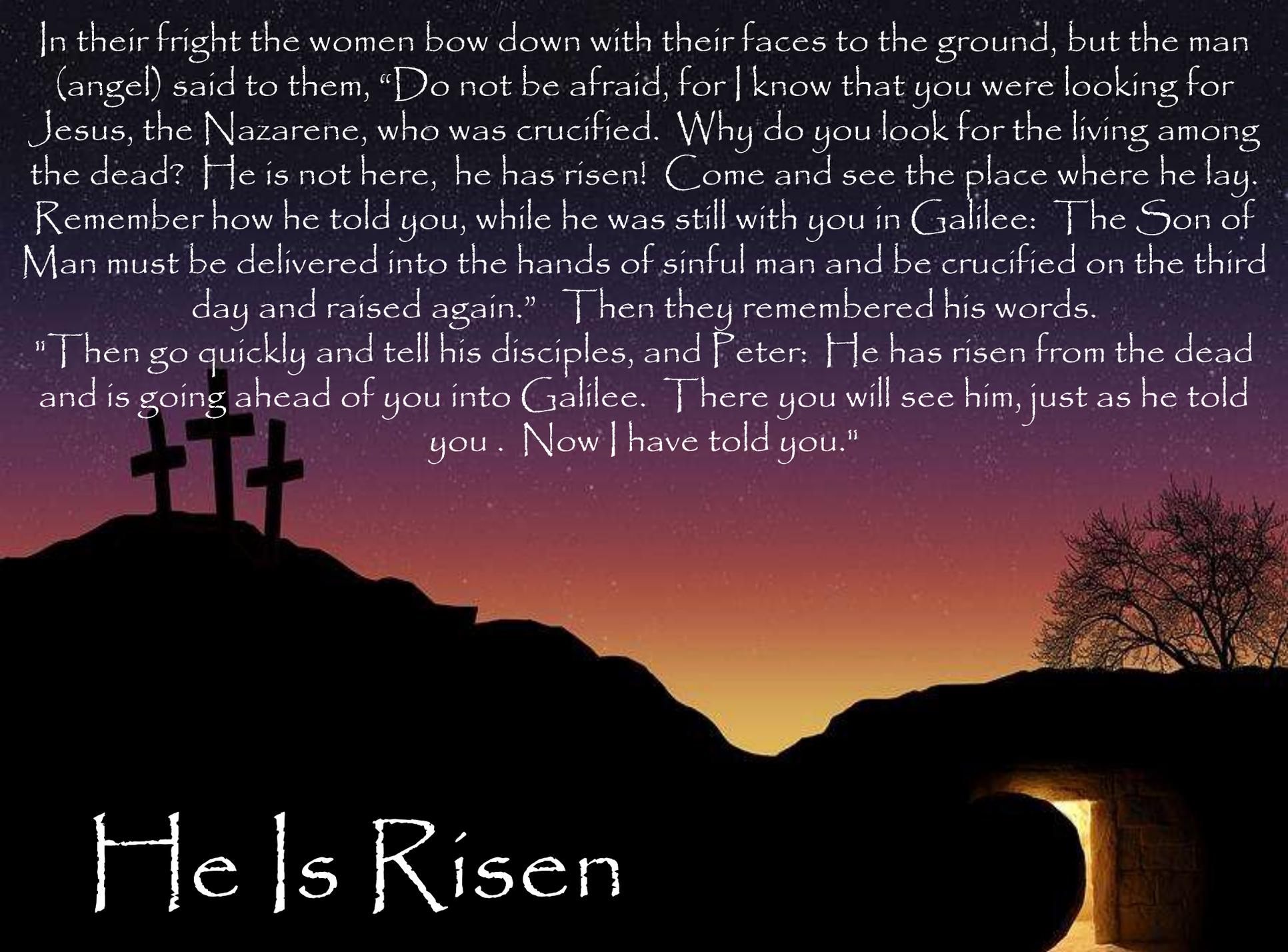
The Earthquake

Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise while it was still dark, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

But when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men, a young man in clothes that gleamed like lightning, stood beside them, sitting on the right side.



The Stone is
Rolled Away

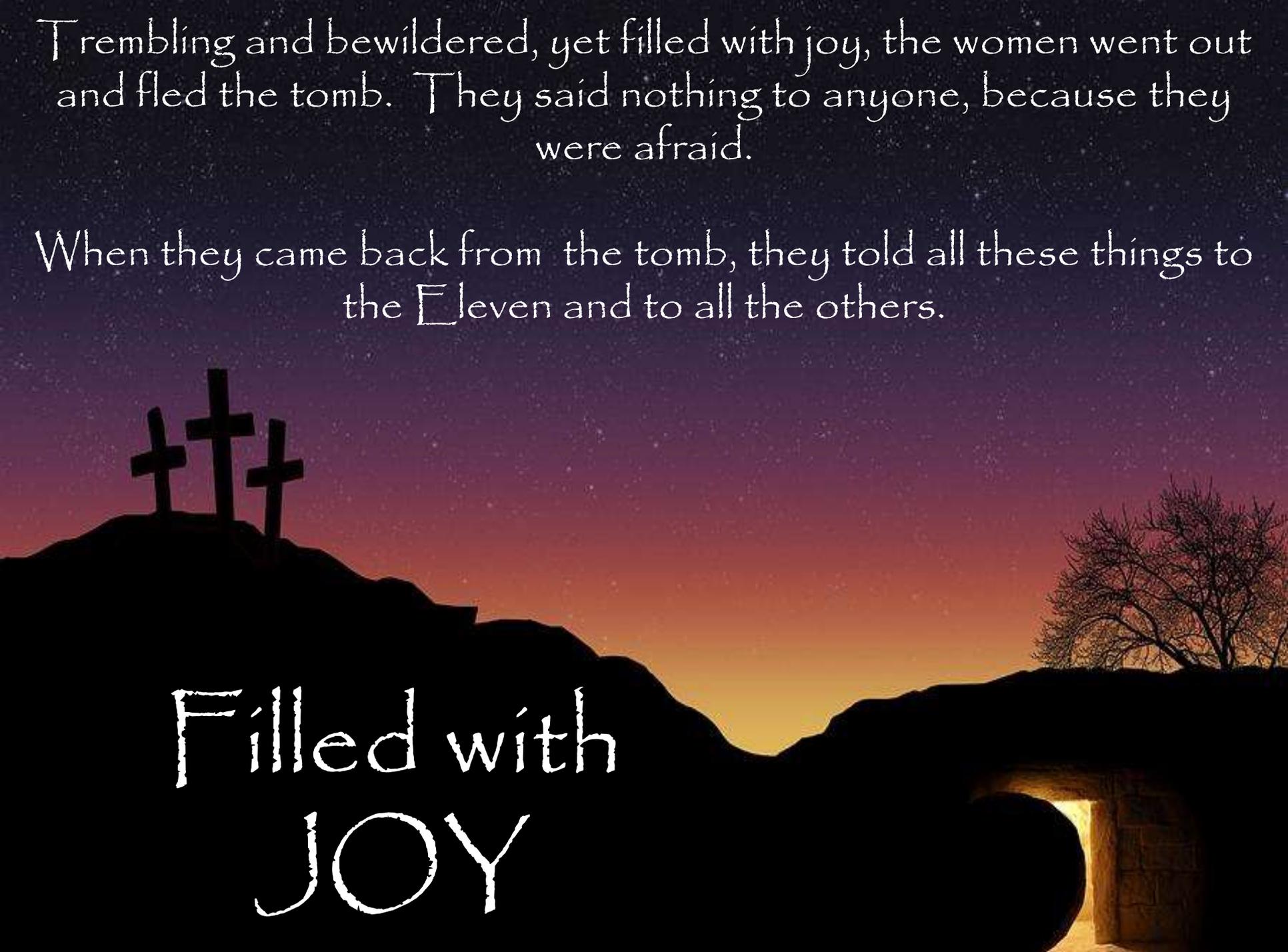
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In their fright the women bow down with their faces to the ground, but the man (angel) said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you were looking for Jesus, the Nazarene, who was crucified. Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, he has risen! Come and see the place where he lay. Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful man and be crucified on the third day and raised again." Then they remembered his words. "Then go quickly and tell his disciples, and Peter: He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you. Now I have told you."

He Is Risen

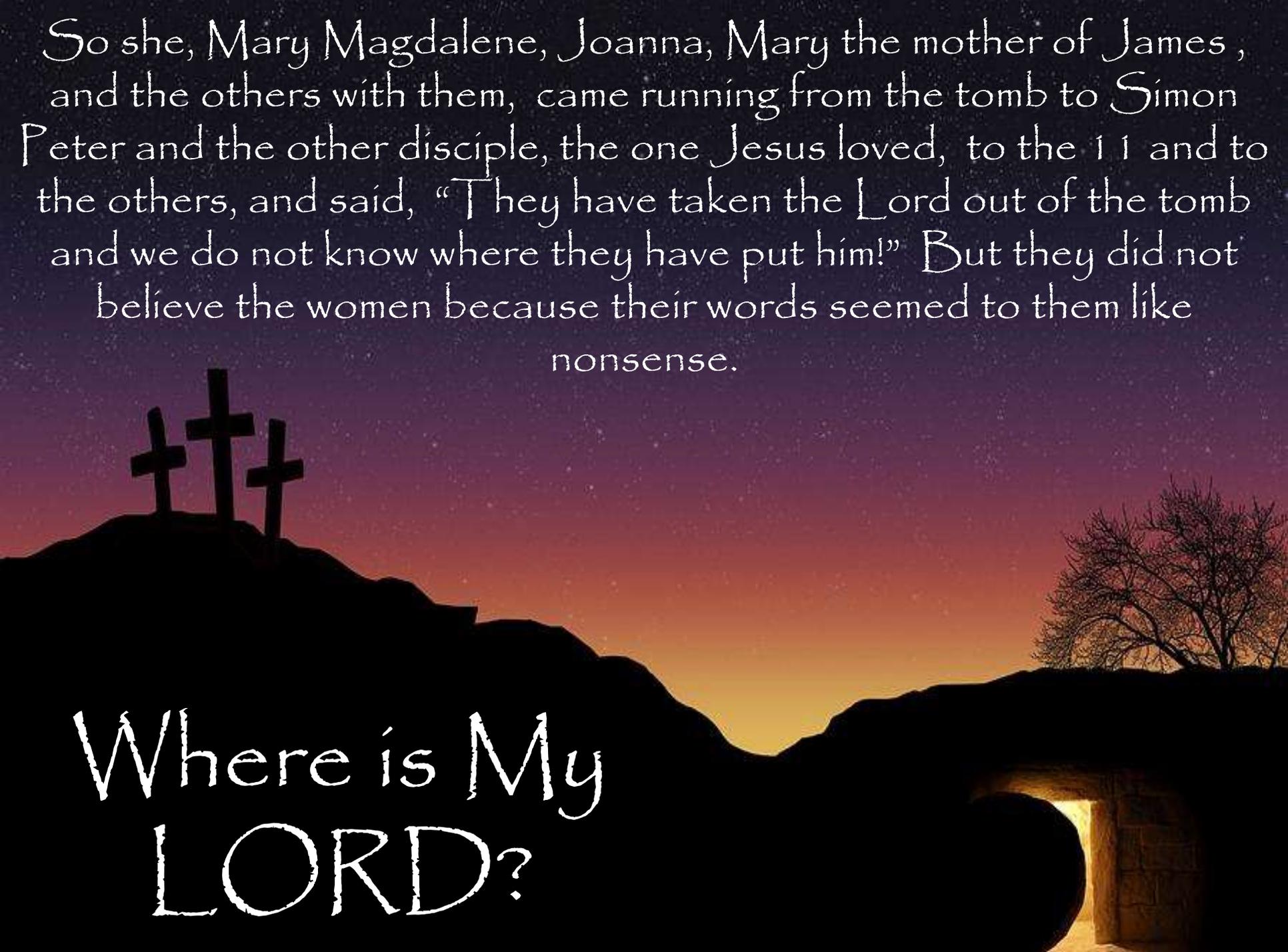
Trembling and bewildered, yet filled with joy, the women went out and fled the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

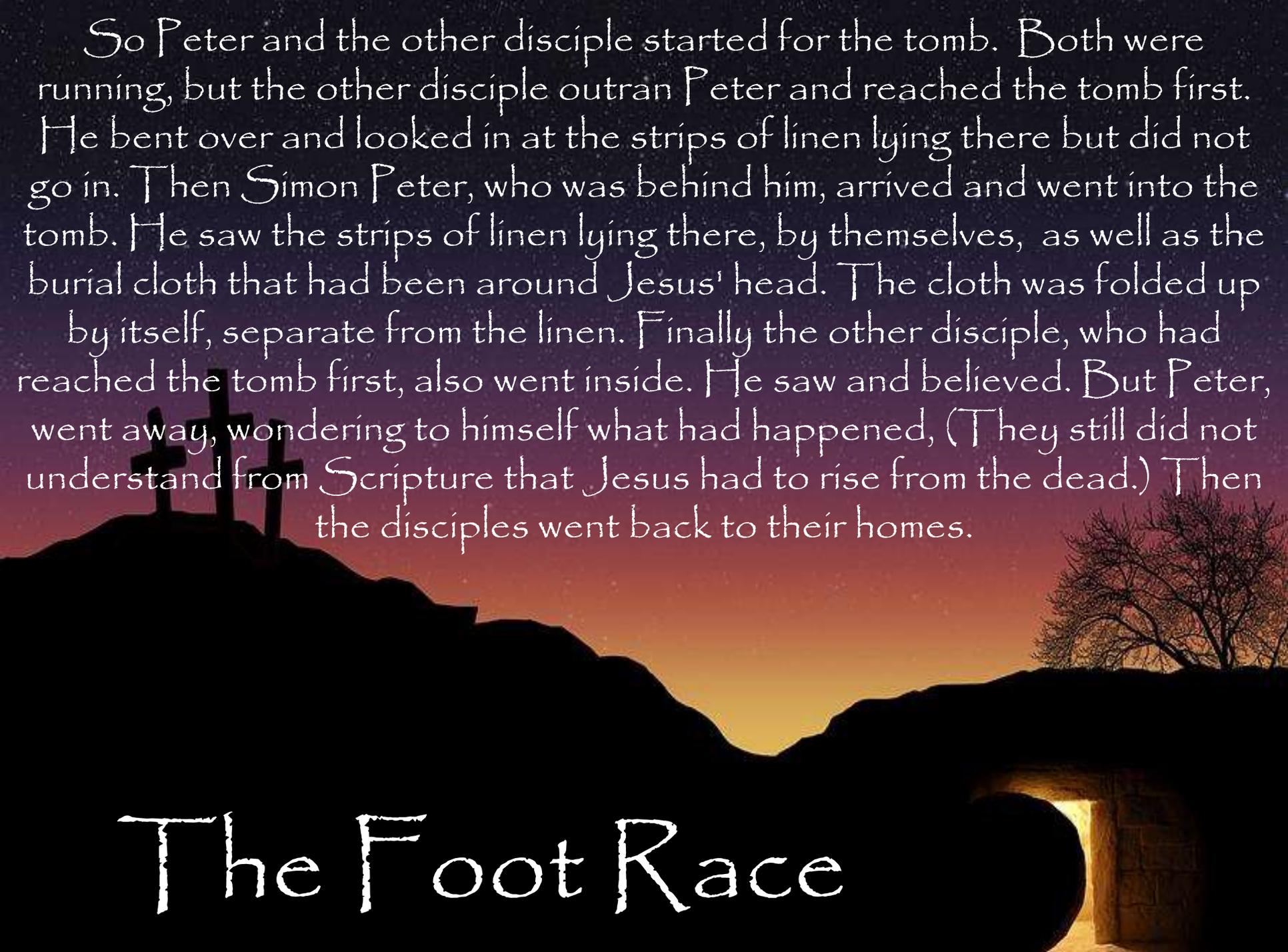


Filled with
JOY

So she, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James ,
and the others with them, came running from the tomb to Simon
Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, to the 11 and to
the others, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb
and we do not know where they have put him!" But they did not
believe the women because their words seemed to them like
nonsense.

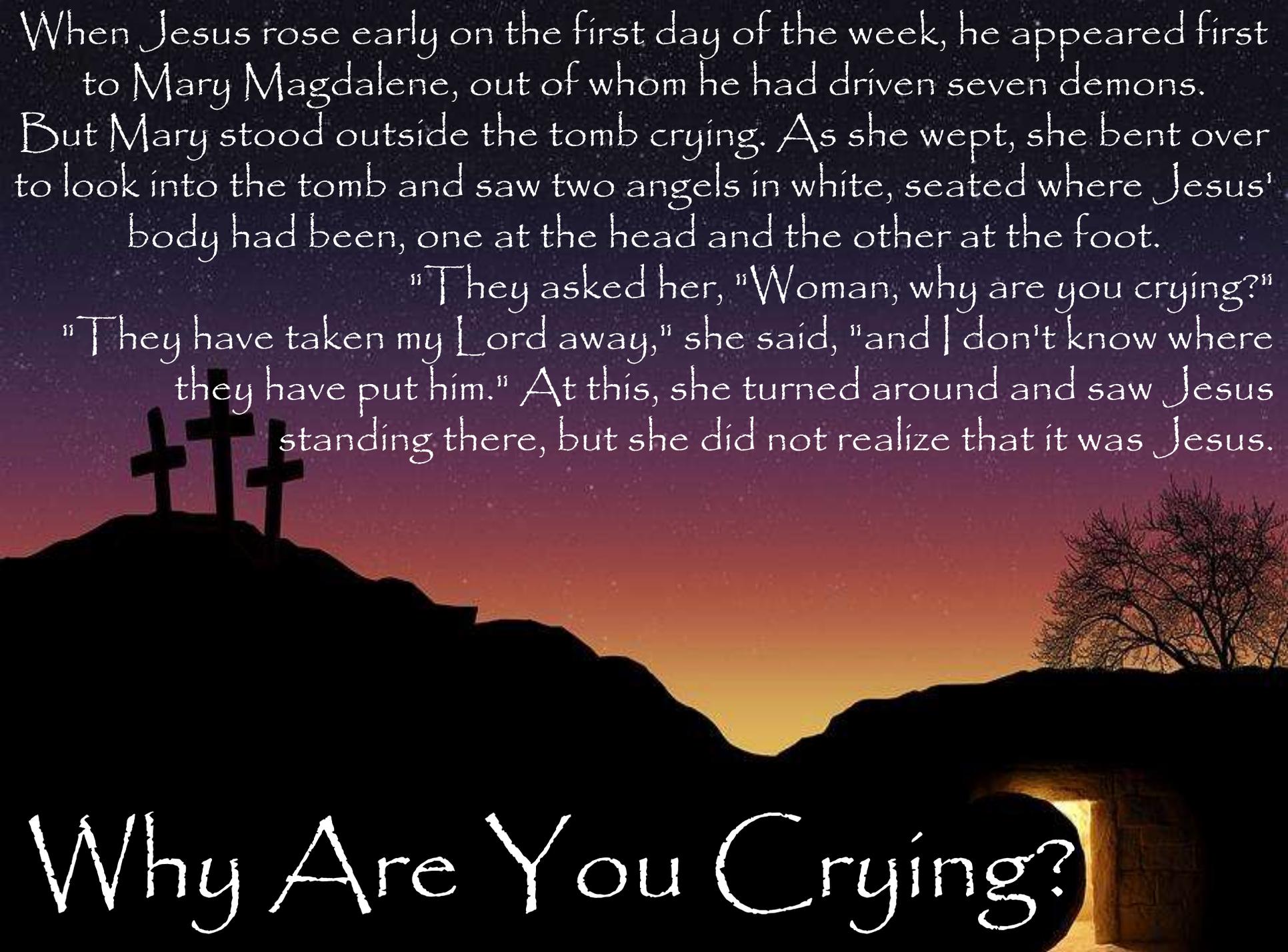


Where is My
LORD?



So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, by themselves, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. But Peter, went away, wondering to himself what had happened, (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to their homes.

The Foot Race

A sunset scene with a tomb entrance and crosses. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and purple. In the foreground, there are three crosses on a hill to the left and a tomb entrance to the right. The tomb entrance is a dark opening in a rock wall, with a bright light emanating from inside. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

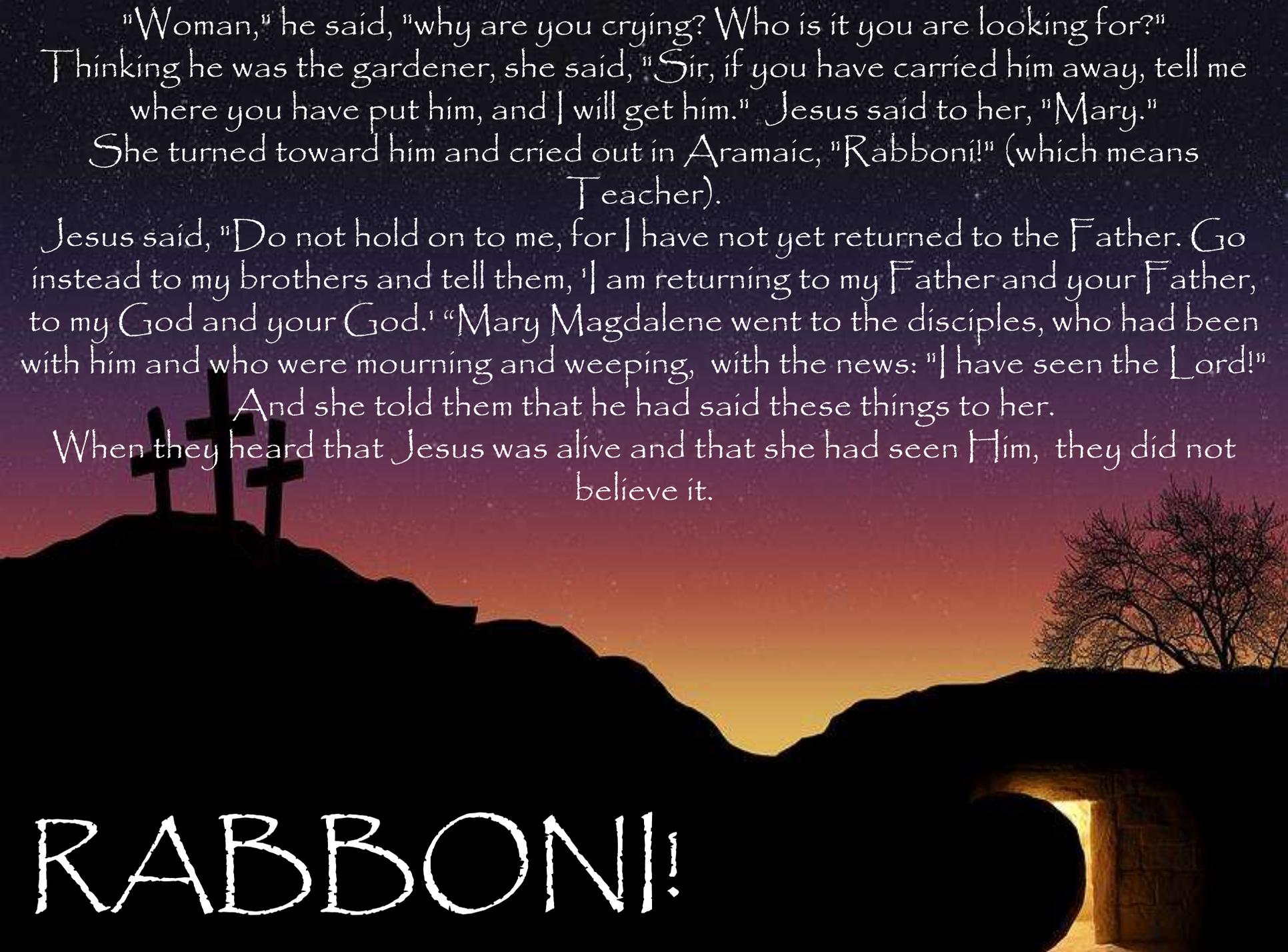
"They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

Why Are You Crying?

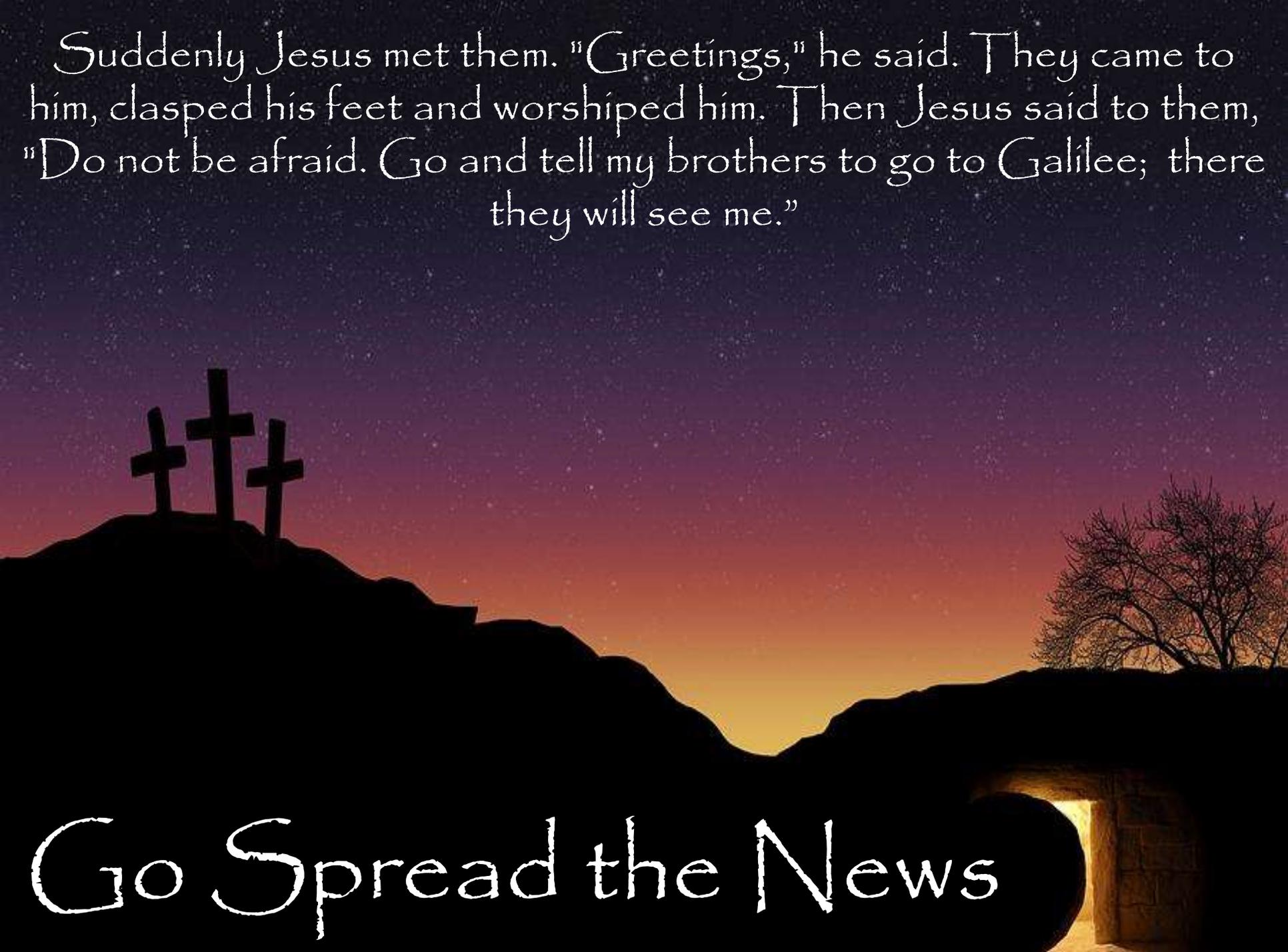
"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" "Mary Magdalene went to the disciples, who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping, with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him, they did not believe it.

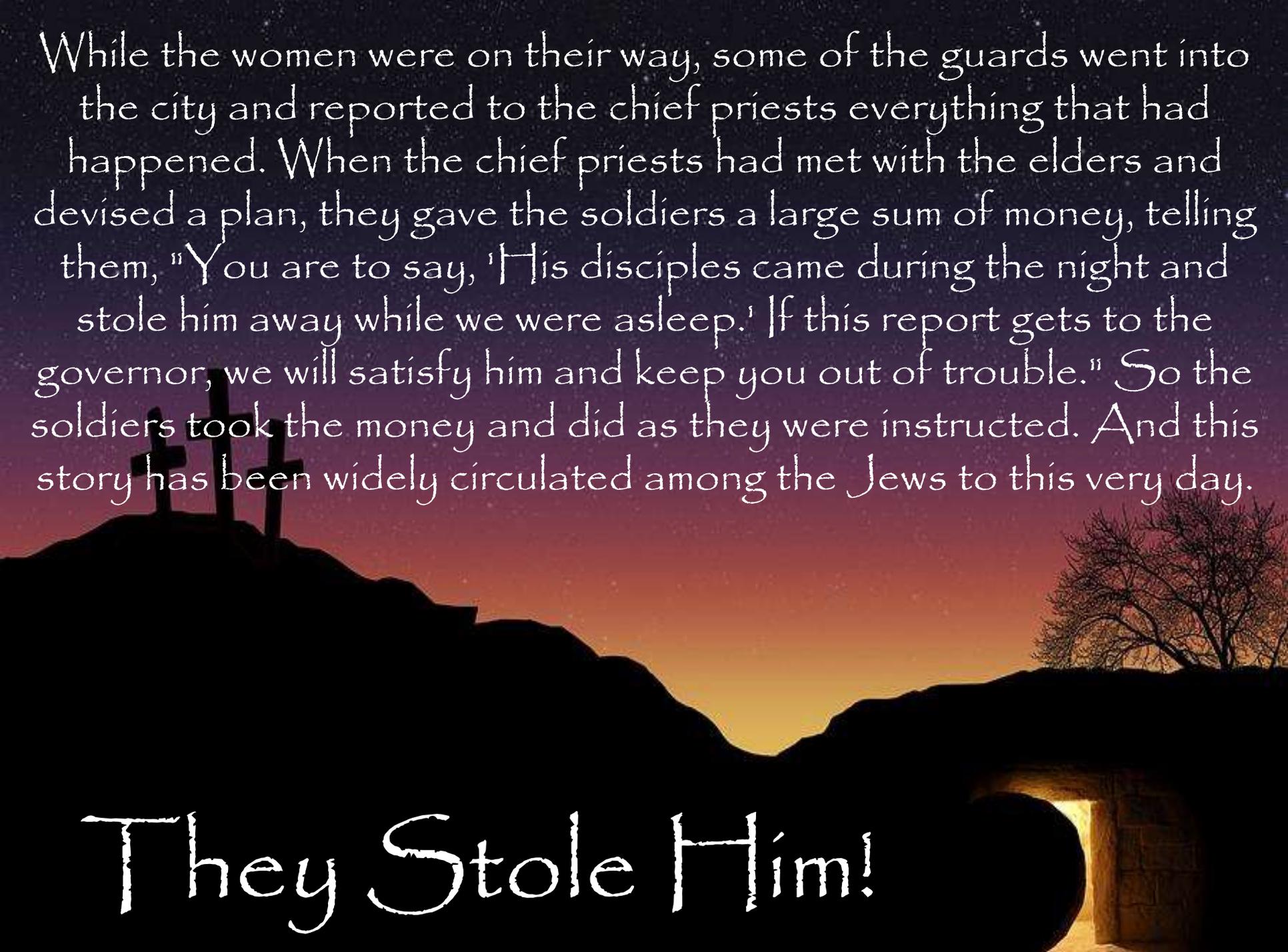


RABBONI!

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."



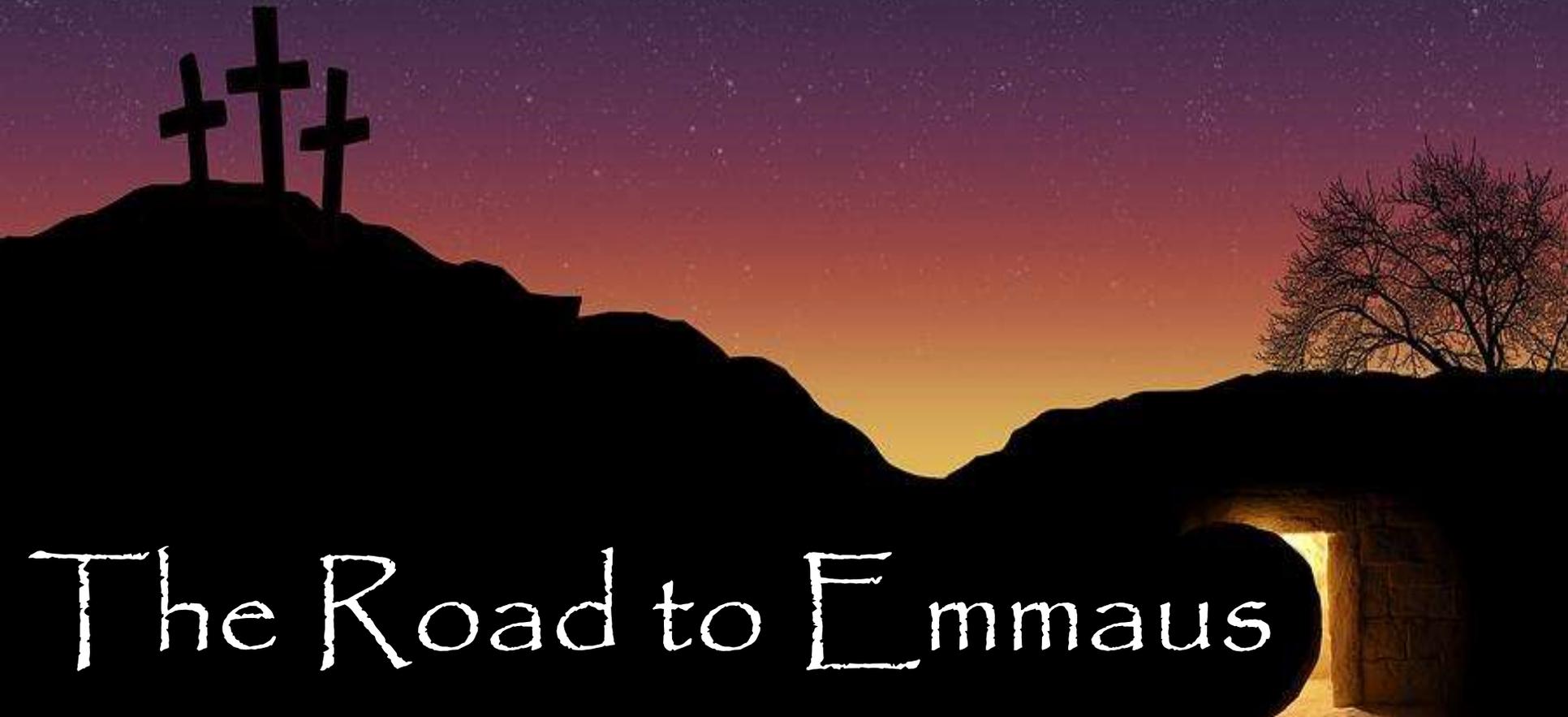
Go Spread the News

A dramatic sunset scene with silhouettes of three crosses on a hill and a tomb entrance in the foreground. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright orange near the horizon. The silhouettes of the crosses and the tomb are dark against the glowing background.

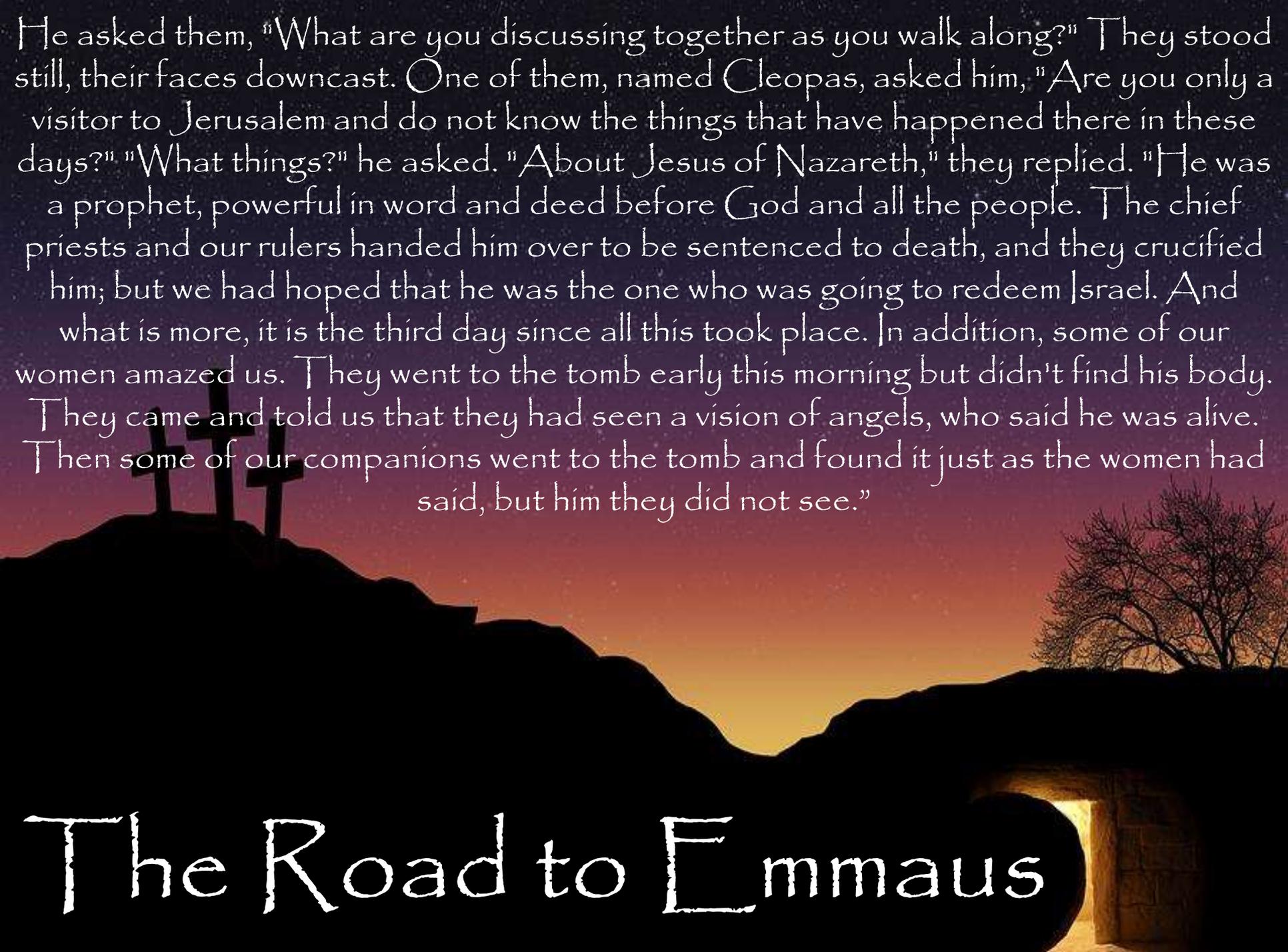
While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

They Stole Him!

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them (and appeared in a different form) but they were kept from recognizing him.

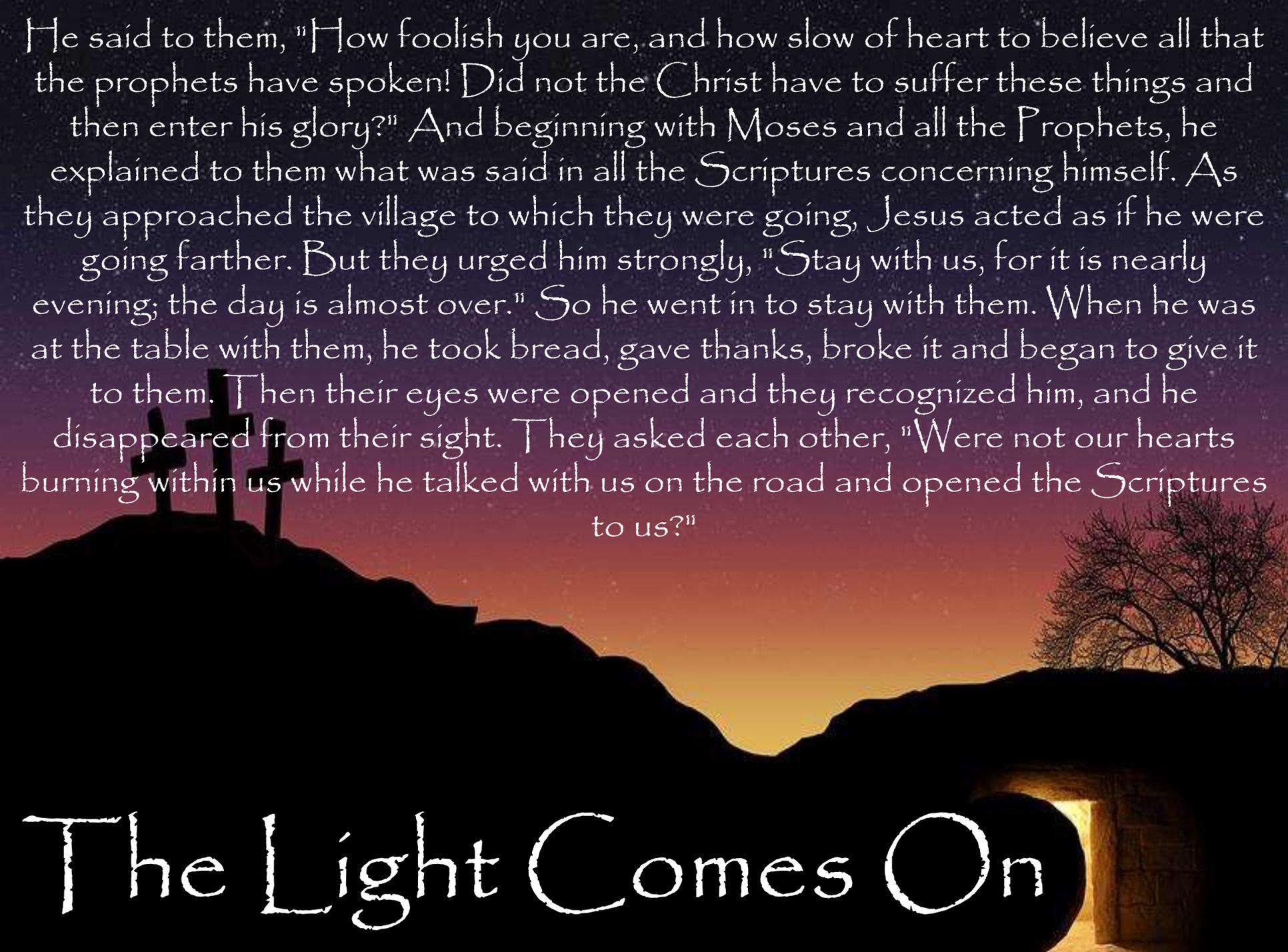


The Road to Emmaus

The background of the image is a sunset or sunrise scene. The sky is a gradient of orange and red. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of hills and a tomb entrance. On the left, three crosses are visible on a hill. On the right, there is a tree silhouette. The tomb entrance is a dark opening in a stone wall, with a bright light emanating from inside, suggesting the tomb is empty.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

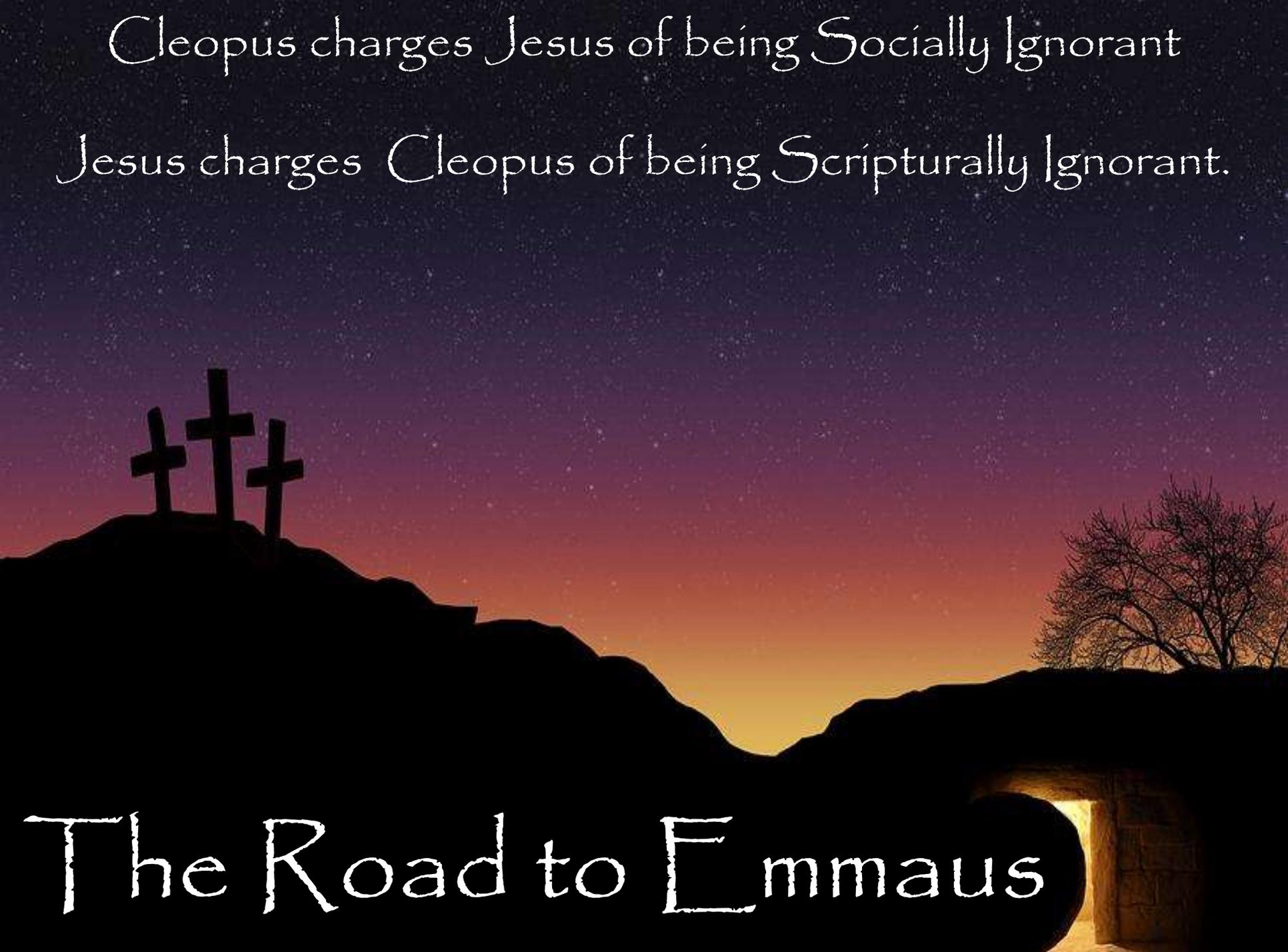
The Road to Emmaus



He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

The Light Comes On

Cleopus charges Jesus of being Socially Ignorant
Jesus charges Cleopus of being Scripturally Ignorant.



The Road to Emmaus

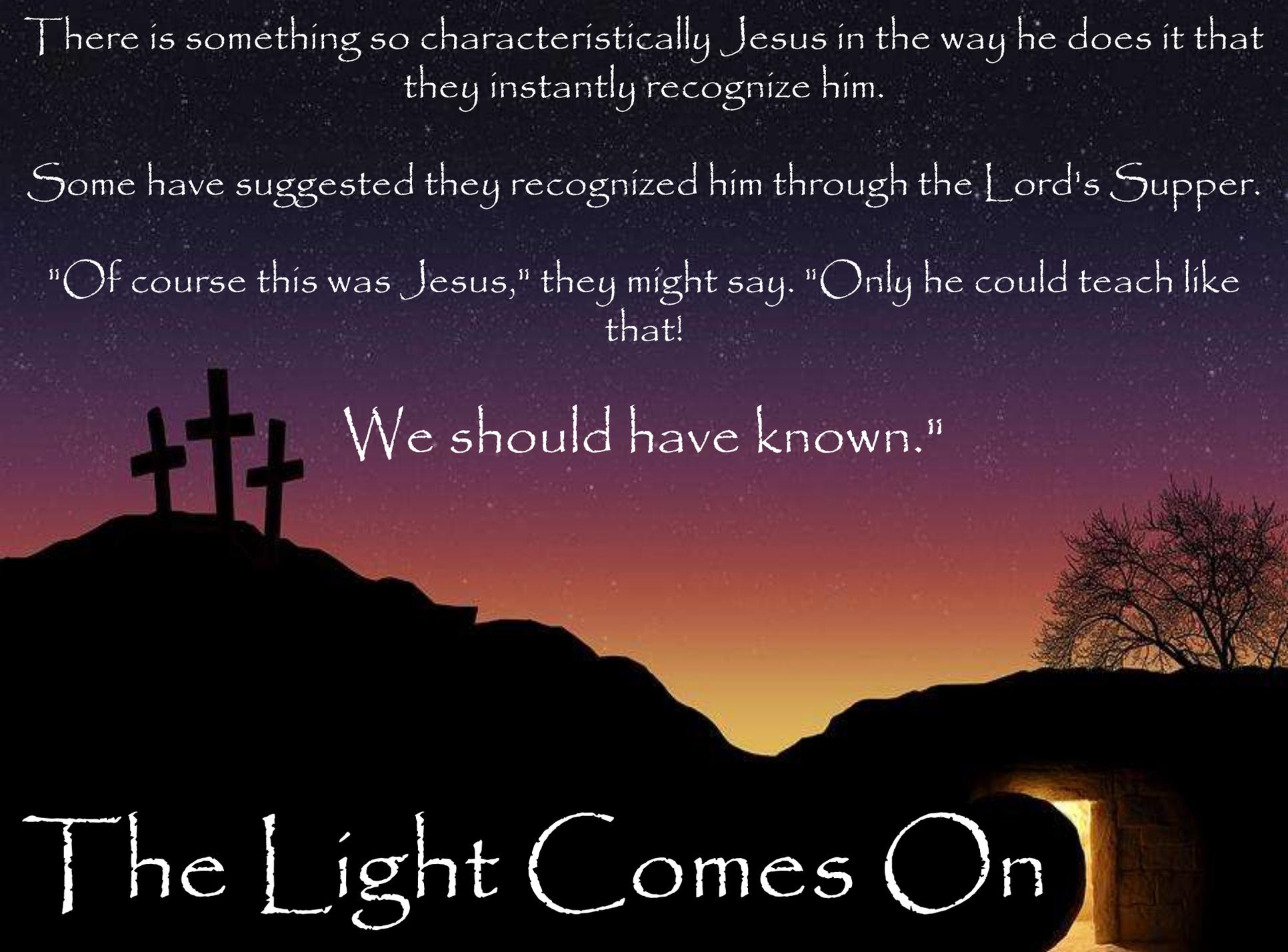
There is something so characteristically Jesus in the way he does it that they instantly recognize him.

Some have suggested they recognized him through the Lord's Supper.

"Of course this was Jesus," they might say. "Only he could teach like that!"

We should have known."

The Light Comes On

The background of the entire image is a sunset sky with a gradient from dark purple at the top to bright orange at the bottom. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of a landscape. On the left, a hill features three crosses of varying heights. On the right, there is a silhouette of a tree and a tomb entrance with a large stone rolled away, from which a warm light emanates.

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

The background of the lower half of the image features a silhouette of three crosses on a hill to the left and a tomb entrance with a large stone rolled away to the right. The sky is a gradient of purple and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

Let HIS Story be
Yours