

BELIEVE

The Gospel of **John**

**Do you believe in
miracles?**



US

Texas teen dies rock climbing, two hours later he revives: 'A literal miracle'

The teen's doctor describes not only reviving, but doing so with such little damage, as a 'literal miracle'



Sammy Berko was declared dead by doctors. Minutes later, he came back to life and has made an amazing recovery. *Courtesy Berko Family*

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **by believing** you may have life in his name.

Belief
vs
Unbelief

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

John 11:45-46 ESV



⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

John 11:47-48 ESV



⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”

John 11:49–50 ESV



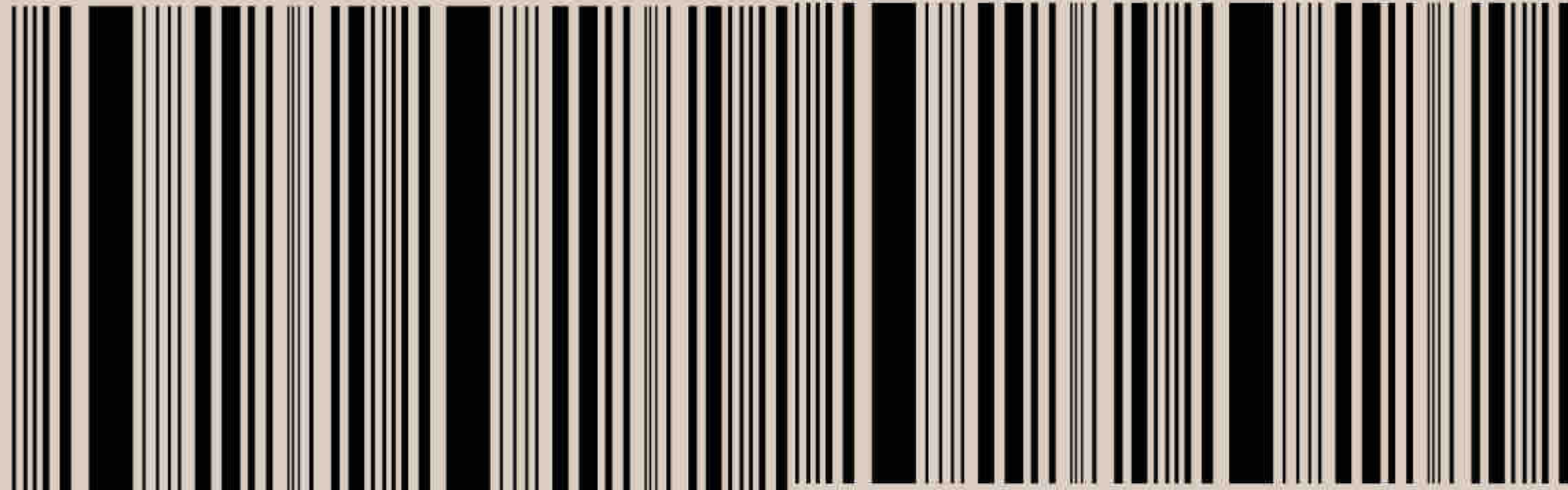
⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.⁵⁴ Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

John 11:53–54 ESV



⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. ⁵⁶ They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?” ⁵⁷ Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.



BELIEVE

The Gospel of **John**

Trouble for Jesus

I. The Divided Crowd

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a. Belief is rational

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we **have seen** with our eyes, which we looked upon and **have touched** with our hands, concerning the word of life—

¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:15 ESV



Rational Christianity

a. Historically Reliable

Rational Christianity

- a. Historically Reliable
- b. Eyewitness Testimony

Rational Christianity

- a. Historically Reliable
- b. Eyewitness Testimony
- c. Archaeological Findings

Rational Christianity

- a. Historically Reliable
- b. Eyewitness Testimony
- c. Archaeological Findings
- d. Resurrection Evidence

Rational Christianity

- a. Historically Reliable
- b. Eyewitness Testimony
- c. Archaeological Findings
- d. Resurrection Evidence
- e. Transformative Power

I. The Divided Crowd

- a. Belief is rational
- b. Belief is a choice

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore **choose life**, that you and your offspring may live...

Deuteronomy 30:19 ESV



Honest Belief

1. Genuine desire for truth
2. Willingness to consider the evidence.
3. Openness to adjust your beliefs.
4. Humility to admit you were wrong.
5. Courage to choose belief.

Trouble for Jesus

- I. The Divided Crowd

- II. The Plotting Council

⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

John 11:47-48 ESV



II. The Plotting Council

a. Unbelief is blind

³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him...

John 12:27 ESV



⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV



There are none so deaf as those that will not hear. None so blind as those that will not see.

Matthew Henry



II. The Plotting Council

- a. Unbelief is blind
- b. Unbelief is self-centered

⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

John 5:44 ESV



Trouble for Jesus

- I. The Divided Crowd
- II. The Plotting Council
- III. The Unaware Prophet

⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”

John 11:49–50 ESV



III. The Unaware Prophet

- a. God sovereignly works through sinful people

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20 ESV



²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 ESV



“These small and frightened men, clothed in the robes of authority which are in fact only a covering for pitiful weakness, are the unwitting instruments of a mighty divine purpose.”

Lesslie Newbigin



III. The Unaware Prophet

- a. God sovereignly works through sinful people
- b. Jesus died as our substitute

⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV



- 4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
- 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5 ESV



“For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be.”

John Stott



**Do you believe in the
miracle worker?**



Honest Belief

1. Genuine desire for truth
2. Willingness to consider the evidence.
3. Openness to adjust your beliefs.
4. Humility to admit you were wrong.
5. Courage to choose belief.

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God **must believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

