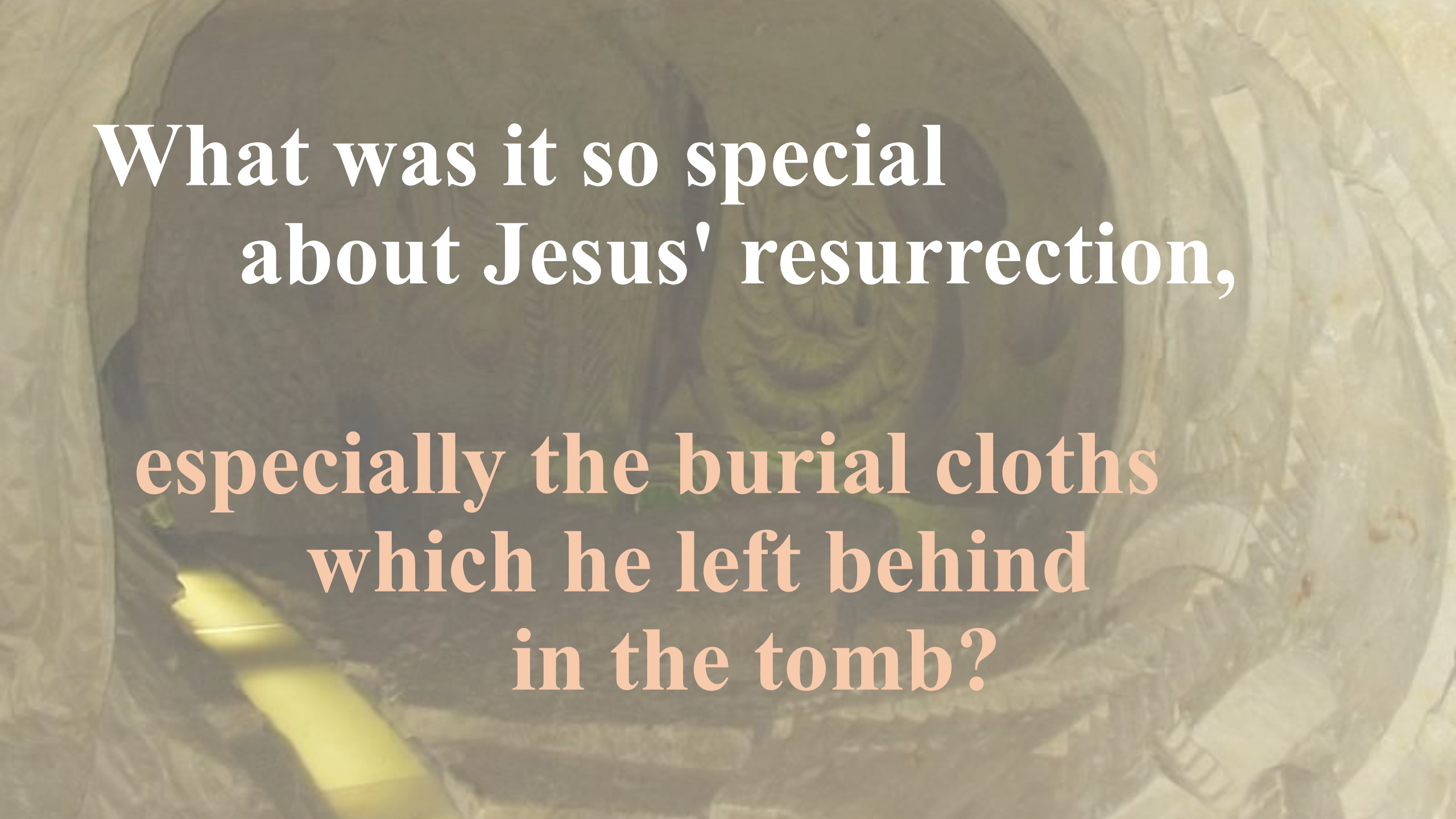




# The Power of the Resurrection

*John 20:1-9*



**What was it so special  
about Jesus' resurrection,**

**especially the burial cloths  
which he left behind  
in the tomb?**

**The resurrection was proof  
of what Jesus said  
would happen to him;**

**his death in Jerusalem  
and that he would be raised  
on the third day.**

**He had made that prediction twice  
in *Matthew 16:21* and *17:22-23*;**

**it would fulfill his claim  
to die for the sins of all of us  
to pay the penalty for our sins.**

**The focus for us is on *verses 6b-7,***  
*Peter went into the tomb and saw the linen wrappings [neatly] lying there; and the [burial] face-cloth which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the other linen wrapping but rolled up in a place by itself.*

**We have always focused on Jesus and not bothered with this powerful evidence left inside the tomb.**

*V.8, So the other disciple (which was John) went in too; and he saw [the wrappings and the face-cloth] and believed.*

**What was it about the linen and the face-cloth lying there, where Jesus' body was laid, that caused John to believe Jesus had resurrected?**

# The best explanation, by the late W. Barclay:

"The grave cloths were not dishevelled...  
the linen where the body had been,  
the napkin where the head had been.

The whole point... is that the grave clothes  
did not look as if they had been pulled off;

they were LYING IN THEIR FOLDS AS IF  
THE BODY OF JESUS HAD SIMPLY  
EVAPORATED OUT OF THEM.."

**There are three key truths  
we can draw out of this description  
of the resurrection of Jesus:**

**1) This is different from the case of  
Lazarus whom Jesus raised.**

**He had to tell the people to *take off  
his grave clothes and let him go.***



**2) Because of this amazing fact, John *saw and believed*, not only the resurrection but the other claims Jesus had made.**

**3) This amazing evidence demonstrated can also inspire the renewal and revival of our spiritual lives, to live powerfully for the glory of God.**

**John, with the other disciples,  
had followed Jesus with political hopes,  
that he would declare himself king  
and throw out the Romans.**

**they anticipated a Jewish kingdom and  
were already jostling for positions in it.**

**This evidence changed John's focus,  
to live for the glory of God.**

**We have often overlooked the amazing  
details of the burial clothes  
Jesus left in the tomb;**

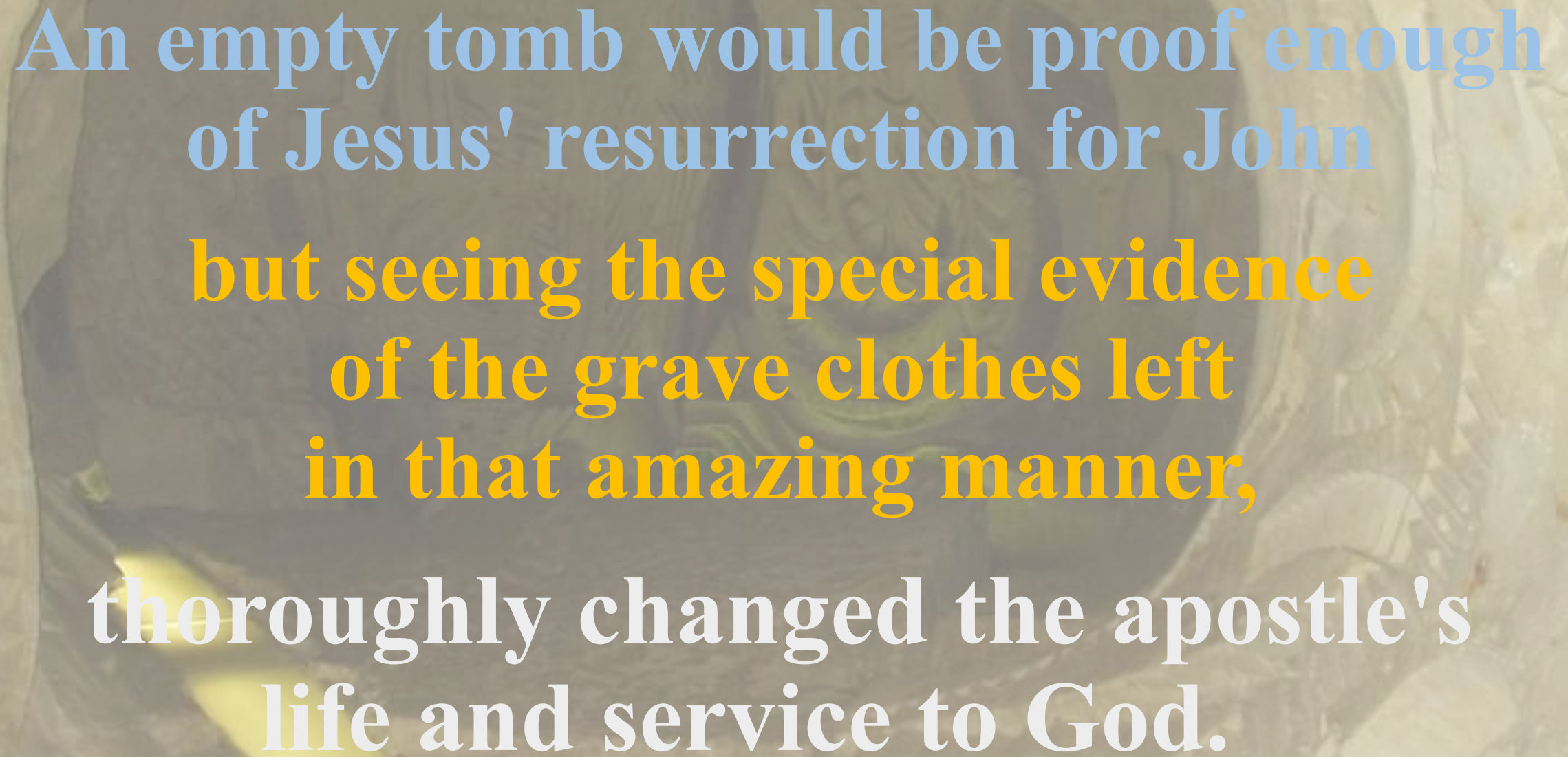
**understanding the power of his  
resurrection described here for us  
can inspire a revival in our lives.**

# **Conclusion:**

**If you are not yet a believer,  
know that Jesus' death and resurrection  
are more important and significant  
than Christmas  
which "everybody" celebrates.**

**Understand what the Bible tells us:**

**God in his love for humans,  
sent Jesus to live a perfectly sinless life,  
his death on the cross was in payment  
for the judgement of all our sins,  
and his resurrection on the third day  
would be proof of it.**

A photograph of an empty tomb with a stone rolled away, showing the interior of the grave. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors: blue, yellow, and white.

**An empty tomb would be proof enough  
of Jesus' resurrection for John  
but seeing the special evidence  
of the grave clothes left  
in that amazing manner,  
thoroughly changed the apostle's  
life and service to God.**

**Jesus understood the reason  
for John and the other disciples  
who followed him then;**

**he also understood what will happen  
to many of us, his disciples today,**

**that in our comfortable faith  
we will become nominal.**

**The special manner of the burial clothes  
Jesus left behind in the tomb  
can be the special reminder for us,**

**of his power and desire for us  
to live our lives in spiritual revival.**

**We need to be transformed  
to start living for the glory of God.**