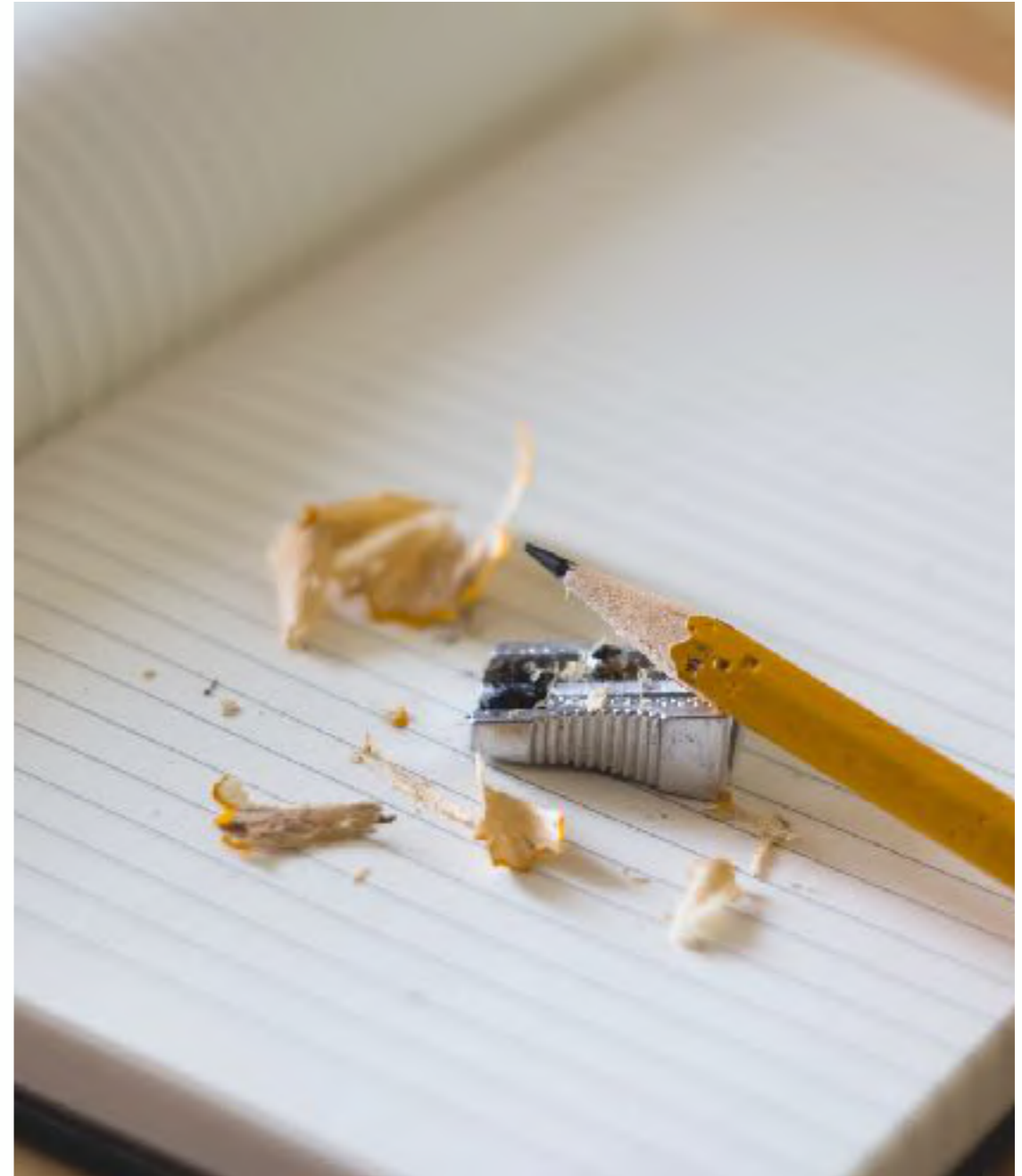




Investigating the Gospels

Test Your Witnesses

1. Were they present?
2. Have they been honest and accurate?
3. Can they be verified?
4. Do they have an ulterior motive?



Test # 2 - Were They Corroborated?



“The characters and events depicted in the ... bible are fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.”

-Penn & Teller



**Bobby Lowe -
Eyewitness**



**Harry Aleman -
Mob Hitman**



**Louis Almeida -
Fellow Gangster**

“The Christian bases its claims mostly on the teachings of an obscure young Jew with messianic pretensions who, let’s face it, didn’t make much of an impression in his lifetime. There isn’t a single word about him in history. Not a word. No mention of him by the Romans. Not so much as a reference by Josephus.”

-Charles Templeton

Evidence



1. Josephus - Jewish Historian

AD 37-100



“He [Ananias the high priest] convened a meeting of the Sanhedrin and brought before them a man named James, the brother of Jesus, who was called the Christ, and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law and delivered them up to be stoned.”

-Josephus

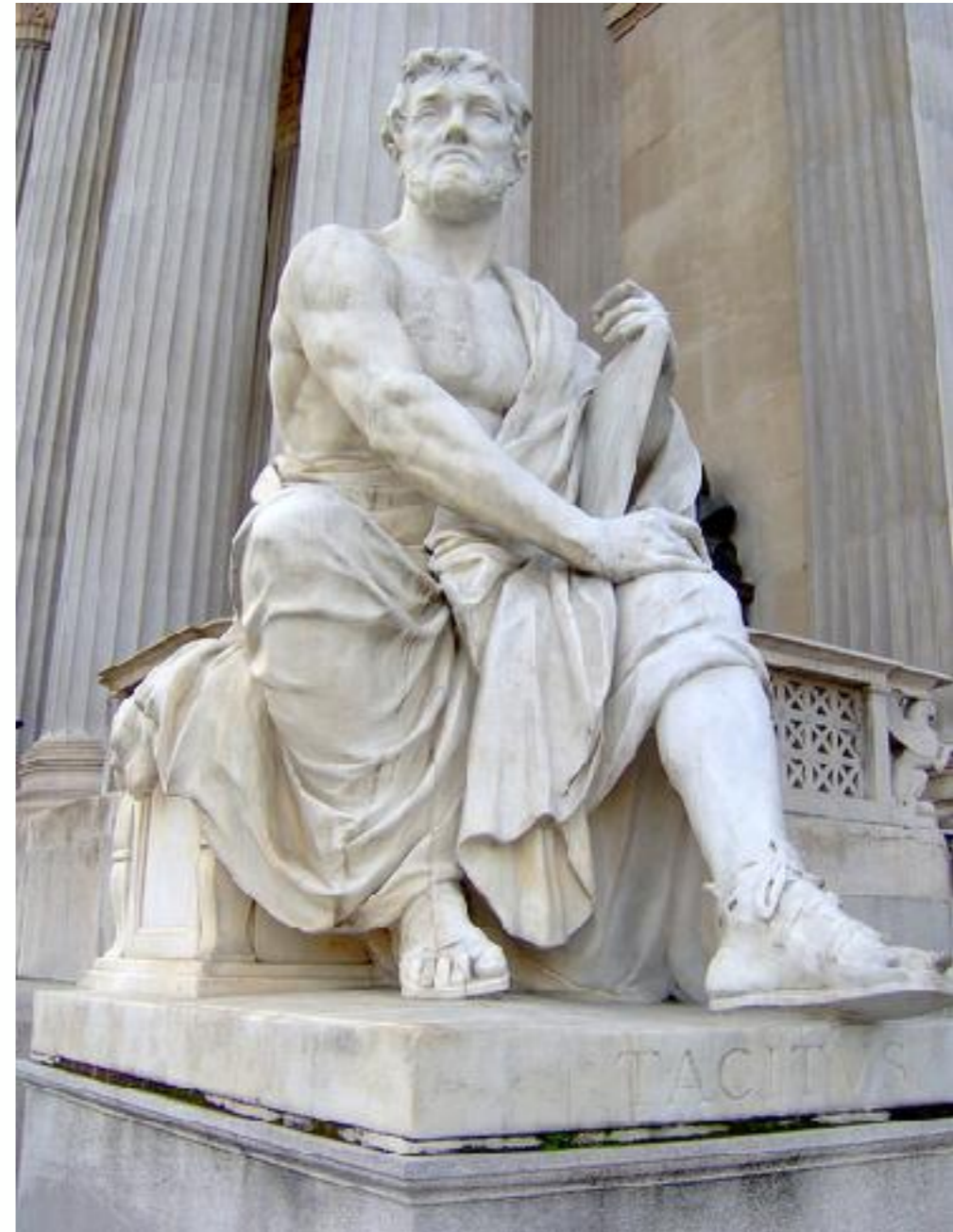
“At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good, and [he] was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die.

And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.”

-Josephus

2. Tacitus - Roman Historian

AD 56-120



**Modern statue
representing Tacitus
outside the Austrian
Parliament Building**

“Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome....

Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty: then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind.”

-Tacitus

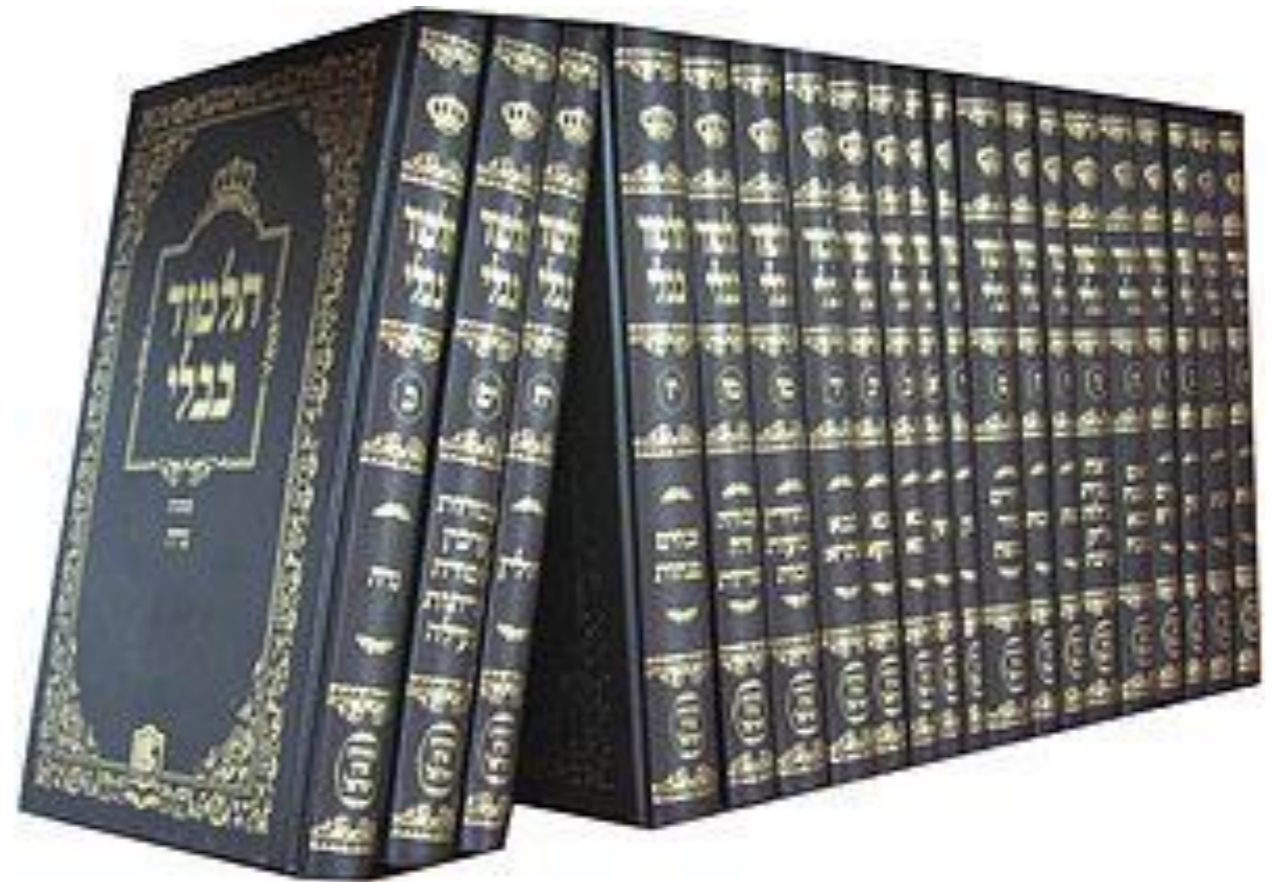
The Day the Earth Went Dark



“On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down. This darkness Thallus, in the third book of his History, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun.”

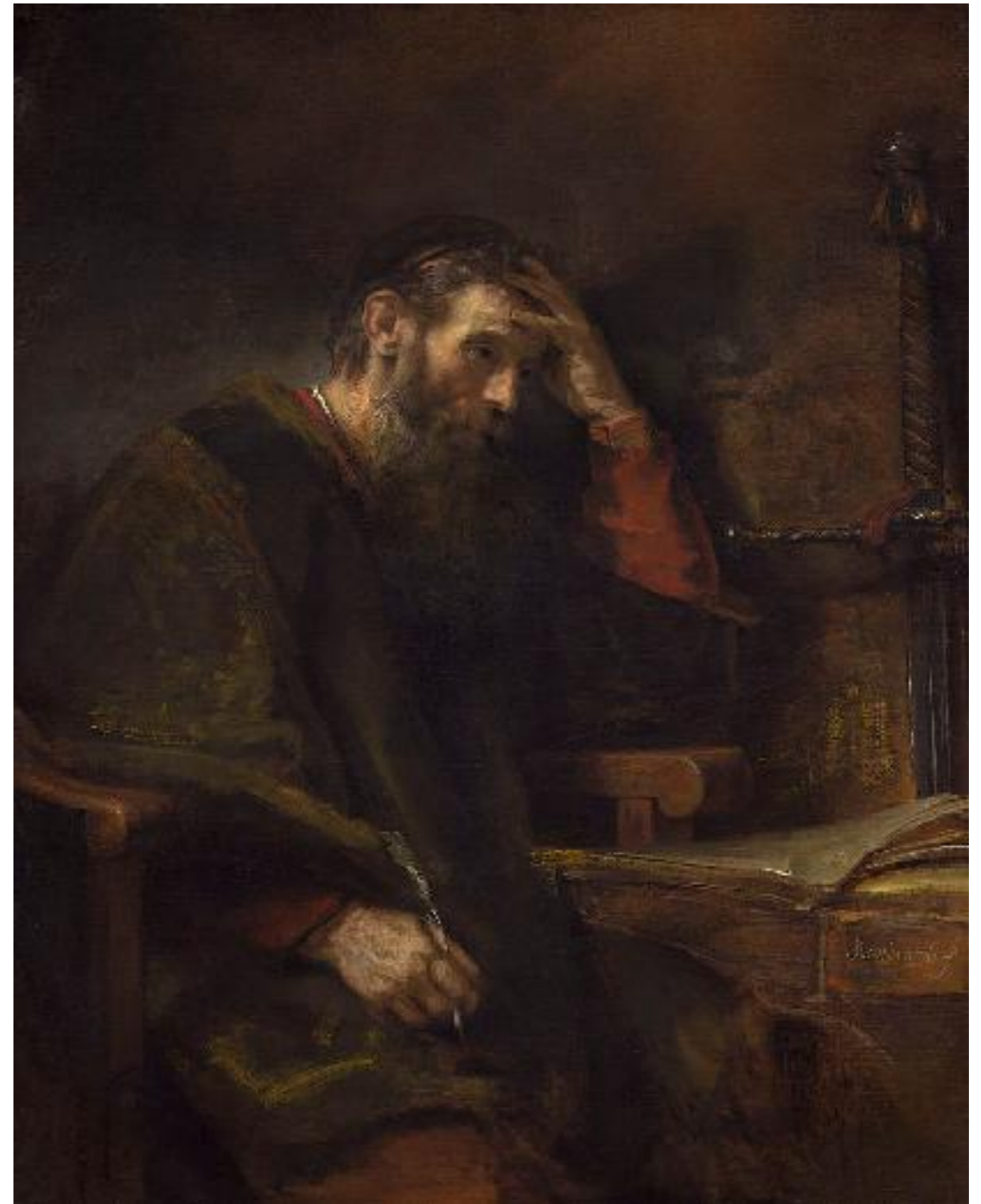
-Julius Africanus quoting Thallus

3. Jewish Writings

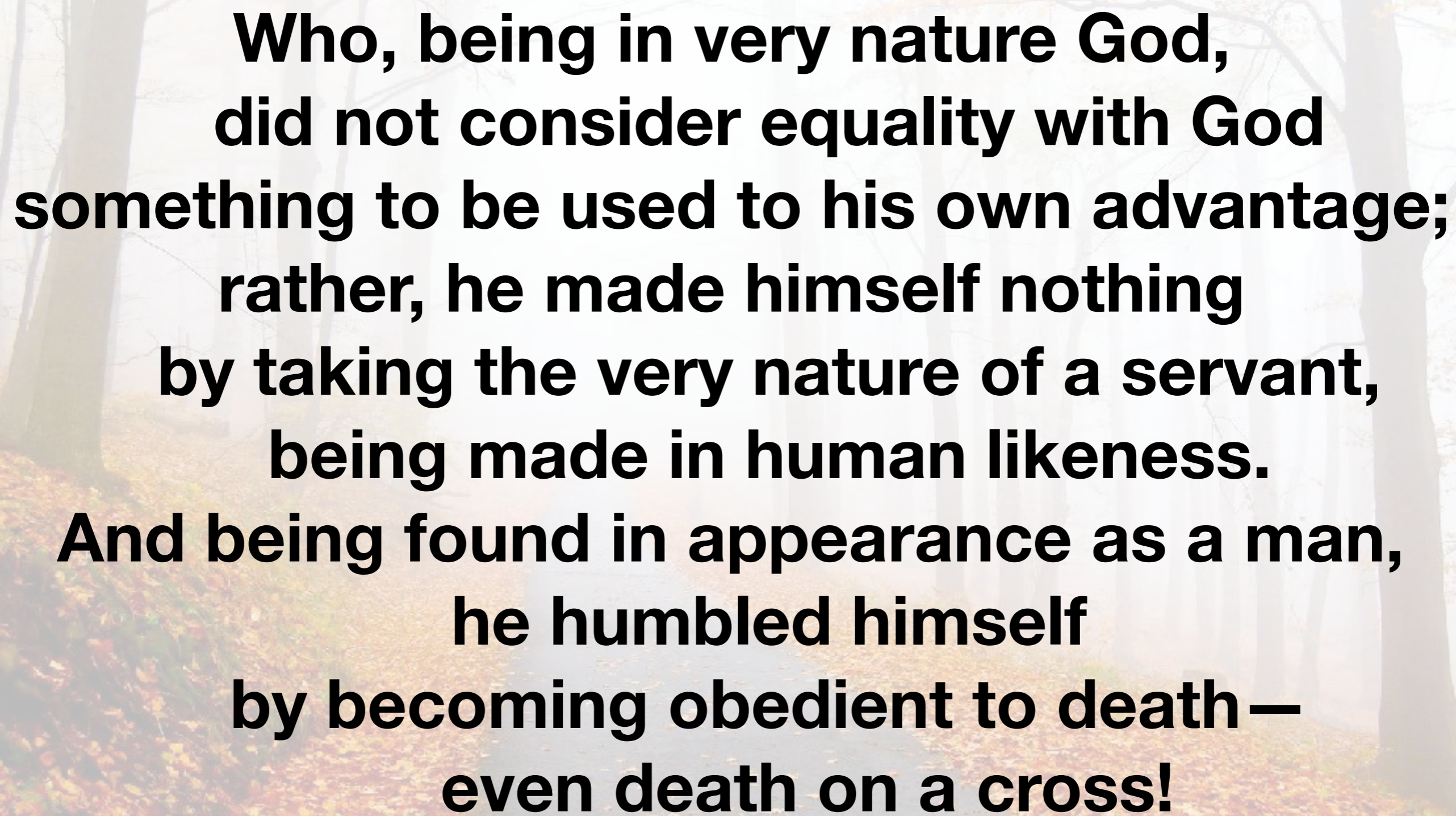


**Full set of the
Babylonian Talmud**

4. Paul - the apostle



**Paul the Apostle by
Rembrandt, c. 1657**



**Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!**

5. Ignatius - Church Father

AD 35-108



**Fresco of St. Ignatius
from Hosios Loukas
Monastery, Boeotia,
Greece**

Possible vs. Reasonable





Peculiar and Offensive

- Christian Worship
- Christian Doctrine
- Christian Behaviour
- Christian Writings



