

Apologetics - 10.2 – FEAT and MAPS – Part 2

Transcription

I just praise the lord that you're here with us, and we're studying why we believe what we believe as believers. And that sounds like a lot of words, but the reality is, you need to know why you believe what you believe. The word of God tells you to study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed, because you are rightly, or correctly, dividing the Word of Truth, and so we greet you in the name of Jesus here. For those of you who are here, once again, there is good news. The resurrection lead to transformation. Right? They changed these disciples. When we're born again, our transformation leads to our resurrection. Now, that's something, if you remember those 2 words, you can just make sure you put in the right order, but, say...the resurrection led to the transformation of the apostles, when people are saying "why should we believe this", say, the resurrection led to their transformation, and I have a joy that now my transformation is leading to my resurrection, and as we've always said, you can say to people, if you're right that there is no heaven or hell or anything else, I have nothing to lose, but you have everything to lose if you're wrong. If I'm wrong, well, there's nothing anyway, but if I'm right, I go to heaven, and you're lost. So, that's one of those things...transformation. Next is another. M-A-P-S, maps. Do you see the map there? OK, remember the feat? Hey, see if you can remember to tell me what the feat are. What's "F"? A? Appearances? Oh, E! I'm sorry. That was great. What is "A"? Empty Tomb. You're correct, you're correct. What is "E"? Empty Tomb. What is "A"? Appearances. What is "T"? OK. I really am the spelling bee champion, OK. OK,

we've got another one, it's called MAPS, Ok? Maybe this will help you. M, ok, is manuscripts. You know, people, you know, say, "Well, the Bible has changed over the years" and everything else. It is rhetorical nonsense, and it should just drive you nuts if somebody says, "Well, you know what, the bible has changed over all these years, and which manuscript do we believe?" You've gotta stop them right there, and say, there are 44 either complete or partial books which have been discovered, dating back thousands of years and out of the 44 thousand books, they are the same down to the jot and tittle, I mean, there are only in 2 texts, slight differences in the ends which are clearly additions by scribes, so what you're basically saying, is out of 44 thousand manuscripts, over a 3000 year period, they are unchanged. So, once again, where is this that they're changed? I always love, too, when people go..."Well, you know, the Bible has a lot of discrepancies", you go, "Really, where?" Learn to not be afraid to talk to these people. And you know what, if they come up with something, you'll say, "you know what? I've never heard of that, I'll check into it and call you back". Never be intimidated to think maybe you don't know the answer. But, I'll guarantee you. This has gone on for thousands of years, we know by now, there are not discrepancies. Now, I'm going to give you an example of a discrepancy that people say. You have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They're called the 4 gospels, right? One gospel may tell about how there were 2 women in the garden, and then they may talk about how there was this one woman who talked to Jesus. They go, "See, there's a discrepancy." There's not a discrepancy. #1, the time periods are different, and #2, there are many times that if 3 people get in a car accident, it's the same car accident, but they're in 3 points of view, and they are going to tell the story differently. Not because of bias. It's not like, "it's his

fault", I'm talking about. "Well, when I came up and I ran into this lady." Now, if you heard her report, you'd say there was only 1 lady in the car in front of her. But, what if there were 3 people in the car, but she getting out, saw the woman driving whom she talked to. She would probably reference the lady, wouldn't she? She wouldn't refer to the other 2 people. Now, if you're one of the 2 people, one of the 3 people in the car, though, if you wrote the story, you would say, the 3 of us were in the car, and this lady hit us from behind. Well, you look at these 2 different transcripts, one that has 3 people and one that has 1 person. Is there a discrepancy? No, of course there's not. It's a point of view. It is clearly a point of view. So, once again, their presupposition, because there are differences there, does not make that a flaw, it simply makes it that you have 4 different writers, but they never contradict each other. Whether somebody tells, you know, John, you know, talks about the Lamb of God. You know, lamb is important to him, and maybe another writer talks about the kingship of Christ, and another talks about the Saviorhood of Christ. They're not contradicting each other, they're fulfilling the text. If y'all were looking at Maria tonight and say, one of them say, "Yeah, she had this cute blue shirt" and another one say, "She was wearing these glasses and everything else." Well, what we're doing is we're kinda fleshing out a...when all of our stories get together, we can kind of get an image of Maria, right? But because we don't all talk about the same thing about Maria, we're not contradicting one another, we're fulfilling one another, and that's very critical. If in debate, it's the nonsensical, red is a color, therefore all colors are red. No, no, that's not correct. And because we have 4 different points of view does not mean that the data is contradictory. Actually, a very thorough analysis of the Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the gospels, show there is no contradiction

whatsoever. But, there's a fulfillment, there's a wonderful multidimensional...my son does 3-D art. He has done incredible animations. One night, I'll show you, is Joe here? I'll show you some animations Josiah has done that'll just blow your mind. They've won a couple of awards this year, he did them when he was 15, and he sat down and learned to do an animation, 3-D animation thing like you see in the movies, 3-D animation. But, you can't do 3-D animation from one point of view. That's one-D. To do 3-D, you've gotta have at least 3 angles, plus you've gotta have a 4th angle which is always the basis, it's like, it's called the weight of the gravity, it's a place where you're looking at dimensionally from, and that there's a weight where all 3 dimensions sit on. There are these 4 planes that you have to look at, and the 4 gospels are the same way. It is showing the multiplicity of thinking that went on showing that event to give us a richer fuller view. So, once again, if somebody says, there are contradictions in the Bible, just say "where?" I have yet to have somebody who really comes up with an intelligent statement. This is some more evidence. There is stronger manuscript support for who Christ is than any other classical literature including Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Tacitus, or Caesar. We have investigations that have been done. Luke, actually, didn't just write the book of Acts. I put "Doctor" there; he was a doctor, a physician. But it says that he carefully investigated everything, he went through and investigated all the evidence before he would write it down. And of course, 2 Peter 1:16 is sharing how, we did not follow cleverly invented stories, but we're eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty. So, you have eyewitnesses. Now, this is secular historians who have no reason to support who Christ is. 70 A.D., Josephus writes about Christ, His followers and His resurrection. Tacitus in 120, that means he was living, and he was 50 something when he wrote this, so he

was not too far from the time where John, the apostle still had another 20 years to live, so Tachitus very well could have known John the apostle, and he could have known some of the disciples, and definitely known people who were contemporaries of Jesus Christ. He wrote about Christ, the Resurrection and all the witnesses that were still floating around the world talking about this living Christ. Roman, he was a Roman, Suchionius in A.D. 110, that's very close to the time of Christ, that's within a generation. Roman governor Plian the younger 110 A.D. We have dozens of historical accounts of Christ, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and His impact upon the culture because of it. We have much more evidence that he existed than Caesar existed, I'll guarantee you. Much more. Next is archeology. Remember maps? OK, what's archeology? Anybody know? Yes, as they used to say in Israel, if you can dig it. No, that's not what they said. OK, Archeology is, obviously, digging up the past, you can say, right? OK. O Logos is the Greek word for Archaeology, OK? That which we're looking to the past. Daniel was dismissed by many scholars. I'm going to give you a perfect example how Archaeology and the Bible marry up. For years, people who did not like Christianity, who did not like the Bible, would say, "The book of Daniel is phony. He's got this guy by the name of Balshazzar, and there is no Balshazzar, and there is no archaeological evidence of a Balshazzar, or Balshazzar." And so, for years, believers were mocked because they believed in this Balshazzar. Do you remember this story of Nebuchadnezzar and Balshazzar and what happened? Remember the...what happened? Go ahead. Yeah, the writing on the wall. Remember that story? Well, they said this is goofy, and this is not a real story, and obviously a fantasy, because nowhere is...several years ago, archeologists were digging in Babylon, and guess what they

found. They found huge banners, they found huge carvings, do you know, with Balshazzar, who had been put as co-regent in charge of this whole regent, while Nebuchadnezzar was off on a battle campaign, or war campaign. So, suddenly, archaeology. I'm gonna tell you, the more archaeology digs up, the truer the Bible becomes. And not to the contradictory. So, archaeology is something, which is a tremendous support. P for MAPS, prophecy. I love prophecy! The great thing about prophecy is...does anybody remember in the old testament, a prophecy that deals with Jesus, that I won't completely give up, but, what is one of the best prophecies you can give as an example. Times up. OK, what? OK you've got Ps. 22 as well, alright, but the date, remember we showed 173880 days from the time that a prophecy was fulfilled, which is the edict on Neissen 10, do you remember? By Xerxes. Which was from Nehemiah, that when that clock started, 173,880 days later as prophesied, Jesus actually rode in, and we know this by secular historians, rode into Jerusalem. Just on time. And the prophecy had occurred centuries before, a century and a half before by Daniel, do y'all remember this now? Now, I'm gonna tell you, there is no physical, possible, stretch of the imagination way that that could have been manipulated or controlled. None whatsoever. Prophecy is one of those wonderful, empirical evidences, really, literally that we have. There were prophecies on which empires were gonna fall...Daniel. And every one of them came in the order that was prophesied. The appearance of Jesus to the day, as I just said. There was a prophecy Jesus made of the destruction of the temple. And of course we know in 70 A.D., of course, the destruction of the temple, it was a horrific time, and the temple was destroyed, and it has never been rebuilt. Next, for MAPS is statistics. Just read this out loud with me, it's help you

understand and not be bored hearing my voice. It is statistically impossible and preposterous that any or all of the Bible's specific detailed prophecies could have been fulfilled through chance, good guessing, or deliberate deceit. They said, there is a greater chance for a Boeing 707 to have bombs put on it, and a Boeing 707 to be exploded, and the millions of pieces when they come down, as they come flying back down through the air, that they would print Webster's dictionary without a typo. Now, that's not possible. I don't care how many 707's you blow up. In fact, millions, you know, of events have happened in the world, and thousands of planes have blown up on the ground and during wars, and none of them have printed Webster's. Are y'all with me? It is just mathematically impossible. Now, this is part 2, which I wanted to get to 7 minutes ago, but, part 2. Ok, so did y'all get, OK, just let's do a really quick review, because I know that I'm giving you data overload possible, but, OK, remember the little feat? OK. F-E-A-T-S. F is what? E? A? T? Fantastic. Now, just run those through your mind this eek, it will be kind of fun. It'll get you excited, because you actually have something solid to hang on to if somebody comes up and confronts you about the faith, and the second was called what? MAPS, and M is what? A? P? And S? Now, as you learn these things, you know, after a while, you will have such a joy in whom your God is, because you are so confident, realizing the truth is on your side, how can you resist? If you saw a child in a burning building, and you saw the stairway to that child, and you had the fireman say, that staircase will not collapse for another 10 minutes, and the child is at the top of those stairs, and you stood there looking at that burning house, if you did not go up those stairs, with all that confidence and knowledge, you would be somewhere lacking something, right? We as believers, we can have that confidence to know, so that

when a person is in a burning building, which I'm gonna tell you the truth, whoever doesn't know Christ, is in a burning building. They're dying. If we don't run up those stairs and grab them, you know, now we have no excuse because we've heard the Word of God. It's OK, now, soul sleep. We have talked about this, I've had several people say, what is immortality? What happens when we die? Do we really go to heaven, or we just fall asleep, or what really goes on? Do we have bodies? Do we have our resurrection bodies yet, or what all? So, I thought in the next 17 and a half-minute, we would cover about 6 years of theology, here we go, OK. Immortality, what is immortality, what would you say immortality...athenasia, athanasia, you've heard that word. Russians used to name their children athenasia a lot. Immortality, can anybody just give me in a few words what does immortality mean to you? And you'll probably be close. What? You'll never die? What else? You'll live forever? OK. In the Garden of Eden, I'm just going to throw something out. God says, if you eat of that fruit, you'll die, Satan says, no you won't. They eat of the fruit, they don't fall dead. Was God not telling the truth? Now, see, if I'm a cultist, I'm walking up to you and I'm challenging you with that. OK, we're going to cover that right now, OK? Athenasia, what does it mean? What does immortality mean? There is only one who is immortal at this time, and that is Jesus. Now, we have eternal, eternal souls. Say the word eternal if you will. Now, say the word immortal. OK. Im: without. Mortal, I think in Portuguese, Mortal, yeah, in Spanish, right, in Latin derivatives, mortal, you know, you've got all these words, it deals with death, ok, so, without death. So, eternal, we do have eternal spirits, but there is only one who is immortal at this time. This is really critical, and I'll tell you why, because cults are really crawling over this wall to deny who Christ is. Everybody else is mortal,

I'm mortal. Do you remember Lazarus? Lazarus was resuscitated. But did he come out with a resurrection body? Could Lazarus walk through walls for all we know? NO.

Lazarus dies again. You know, it's really kind of fascinating. I mean, he comes back to life, he lives a bunch of years, and goes, here I go again, and then he goes again, OK, but, during that time, I wish I had been his neighbor. I would have loved to talk to him about what happened when he was there, Ok? And there are actually some apocryphal works which deal with that which are kind of fun to look at but, anyway, everyone is mortal, there's only one immortal. Now, there are those who have died, OK. So, we're going to deal with three kinds of bodies. What has happened to those who have died, their bodies are rotted now, they're in the grave somewhere. What has happened to them? Do they have the resurrection bodies yet? What are they doing? What do they look like? First of all, mortal means subject to death, Lazarus of course, would you read with me, 1 Corinthians 15? "As in the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. And just as we have born the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." Future tense. "Brothers, flesh and blood, can not inherit the kingdom of God, so we know that there's nobody living in heaven right now who's got a normal physical body. Which also connotes very clearly, there are those who are extreme that say, when Jesus raised from the dead, he had only a normal, physical body just like yours and mine. Well, that's ludicrous, because he ascended into heaven, right here it says he couldn't have ascended into heaven with a body like ours. But we know that he wasn't just spirit either, right? Because he sat down and had meal with the apostles, so what did he have? We have mortal bodies. There's another kind. Immortal. Would you say immortal? Immortal. This will never die. Jesus was raised immortal. Luke 24:39, Jesus

said of course, look at my hands and my feet. For a spirit doesn't have flesh and bones as you see me have. And 1 Timothy 6 is the key. Obviously, now let me tell ya, people get thrown off at first, they go, but if Jesus is the only immortal, aren't we going to go to heaven, aren't we going to live forever? Yeah, but we just have the wrong definition of the word mortal and immortal. Would you read 1 Timothy 6 with me? "Jesus Christ who only has immortality, growing in the light." It literally means, he is the only immortal, is the literal translation of that. He is the only one who is immortal. So, you're thinking, OK, we're eternal, He is immortal, what is this all about? There is a third kind of body. It is what we would call a spiritual, apparition is the word which is misused in English, but, it's recognizable, those who have gone, who have passed away and gone to be with the Lord, but they're recognizable. And I want you to read this verse with me. This is really kind of a cool little passage, we don't have time to go into it, but it's Luke 9:28, it's called the Transfiguration. Do y'all remember hearing about this? Let's read this out loud. As Jesus prayed, the fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistening, and behold, there talked with Him 2 men, Moses and Elijah who appeared in glory and spoke of his death which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. OK, now Jesus, this was right before the crucifixion. He's up in the mountain, right? He is on, he is across the Kidron Valley which is right across from the temple and this is the mount of Olives up there, and they're in the garden, and of course, everybody else has fallen asleep, nobody can stay awake, I mean, for heaven sakes, they're exhausted, but at the same time, I often wonder how did they sleep, but at the same time, I don't think I'd be any different than anybody else, I'd be as mortal as they and probably fallen asleep, but Jesus apparently while he's up and He's praying, His

countenance alters, his raiment seems white and glowing which is reflective of the fact that the glory, known as Shekinah in the Old Testament in Hebrew, the Shekinah Glory, appears, and this glowing presence of God within this, what I would call in modern terminology, almost like a portal, it is, like Moses walked into the Shekinah, into the glory when he was on top of Mt. Sinai, and he walked into Heaven and literally saw the tabernacle, we know, and got the 10 commandments, well...here are Moses and Elijah. Who we won't talk about why it's these 2 men, because that really gets me going off a whole different neat subject, but Moses and Elijah actually appear. Now, do Moses and Elijah appear or do something that look like Moses and Elijah appear? According to this scripture, He talks with Moses and Elijah. That means Moses and Elijah aren't asleep. That means Moses and Elijah are identifiable. But, we know they don't have resurrection bodies. They're in a spiritual state and apparently, according to this scripture, if God so deems it, if He calls, obviously He recognizes everybody, and when you die and go to Heaven, you're recognizable. Now, that's been a huge debate for years. When people die and go to heaven, are they recognizable? When they get their new bodies are they recognizable? I mean, will you recognize? Will I recognize Maria in heaven? Will she recognize me? You know? So, the 3rd issue is, when a person dies, he goes immediately into the presence of the Lord, now, we're going to look at these verses. The Gnostics say that when Jesus rose from the dead, He was only spiritual, He didn't physically resurrect, which of course is smoke, and it's ludicrous, and we're going to deal with the Gnostics later some more. And the other extreme is that the body of Jesus was only physical. But there are 2 problems with these 2 theories, so we have to come up with a third body which very clearly in Greek, which is stated, but, even if we

didn't have those verses, you can say to the Gnostics, hey Gnostics. If Jesus only rose in the spirit, how did he eat dinner with the disciples? Remember when he called them and they were fishing, and he brought them in, and he says, "Let's cook the fish, let's eat it"? How did he do that? You know, you see it in the movies, but if He's just a spirit, you go "gli gli gli" and it all goes down on the ground, Ok, so it doesn't do that. To the extremist who says, no, he just had a plain physical body like we did when he came out of the grave, you've got a problem. How did he pass? How did mere flesh pass through the wall when he appeared to Thomas, the doubter? So, the resurrection body, that's what it means in Timothy, there's only one who is immortal, who has a resurrection body, that's Christ, which has this phenomenal ability to both appear, molecularly you can touch, you can feel the tension of what you would feel with normal flesh, but somehow, those molecules can be rearranged, and He can walk through a wall, if you want to look at it that way, but that's what's going on here, a body which can alter and transform, but be fully identifiable as the person, that's the resurrection body, now Lazarus looked just the same and Lazarus died again. Jesus, of course had a brand new resurrection body, and He is the only immortal one who has received that, and the rest of us will be, literally, our spirits will be caught up to be with the Lord, and we will be with Him forever, and the question is going to be when do we then get our resurrection bodies. We will become immortal when we are caught up. This mortal must put on immortality, it says in Corinthians. We're going to change with new incorruptible bodies, and that of course, that, we did a study once on this *aphtharsia*, which is the word to have an incorruptible, that means that will never die again. Now, we don't have time tonight, but probably a lot of you have questions running through your minds of, literally then, what's going on,

because, maybe we're just asleep in the ground, and when Christ comes again, he calls us out of the ground, isn't that what the Bible says? He calls us out of the ground, isn't that what the bible says? He calls us out of the ground? And then we get our new bodies? That's actually not what the Bible says, what it actually says is we come with him in the air, the saints come with him, and we receive...the bodies resurrect. Whatever elements exist of our bodies, resurrect, and they are turned into these brand new bodies, and we're going to do a study on that. It's a whole study by itself, and I know I've got like 2 minutes, right? Is it 2 minutes? Man, it goes so fast for me, aiaiaiaiai, but anyway, we'll save like 30 seconds by cutting out the aiaiaiai there, but, we will...we're going to put on immortality. I just have the coolest verses here I want to challenge you guys with, but we have to wait until next week, but anyway, we're going to put on immortality, put on, like, a cloak...that's actually in the Greek, the phrase, it's like we're going to put on, like I put on my jacket tonight, we're going to put on immortality. We're not soul sleeping which many cults teach soul sleep, but it says this, "I don't want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you won't sorrow, as others who have no hope. For, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, them also who sleep in Jesus, sorry, typo, Jesus, will God bring with Him." In other words, we're with him. If I were to die today, I would be with him. So, one day when the Lord comes again, I would come with Him. Do you see that? I mean, it's very clear, the prepositions are clear as well. So, why do we use the word sleep? Because the word sleep was used within their culture that dealt with death, it was a very general way. If you walked up to somebody, and said, "I heard about your mom, she passed away" how many of you would probably walk up there and say, "Hey, I heard your mom's dead."

How many of you would do that? OK, for those of you who are sitting there, maybe you would. But, they, in the writing, the language there, the phrase for sleep meant clearly that they are in a peaceful state, their bodies are in a peaceful state, but there is nowhere in the literature, anywhere in Jewish history did they believe that the soul was asleep. Nowhere in Christian literature did they believe that. That was kind of a later cult concept that came up. But, no Jesus clearly shows that when He comes again, he will bring saints with him. And, which are they who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord? Now, he's saying, what about you guys? Well, you won't precede those into the air, you won't get in front of those who are asleep, who have died, for the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, and the dead in Christ will rise first, now you say, If they're rising, then how are they with Him? It's because, we have gone to be with the Lord, our spirit is with the Lord, everybody who has lost a loved one that knows the Lord, is with the Lord, but what happens is, these bodies...did you notice the body of Christ was missing? He didn't just have a new body, his old body was gone. Have you all ever thought about that? In other words, somehow, God, it doesn't even matter if all that's left is some kind of particle that is in the dirt, and the body has decayed over the centuries, He somehow takes up that particle, that physical identity, and He literally brings it to life, and He creates a brand new body out of it, because the old body of Christ was gone, yet it still somehow had that identity, because, what did he do? He showed his wrists and his hands, yet it was a new body. Does that make sense? So, we have this wonderful peace to know that, well, what does Paul say? First of all, Jesus preached to the souls in Hell, remember, I taught you that last week, the book of Peter, where He goes, descends into hell, preaches to the souls in hell, well, obviously, if

they're asleep, they can't hear Him, right? And, huh? I've had many a student's been asleep when I taught, but when the Lord taught, nobody was asleep, and in 2 Corinthians 5:1 it says, we know that our earthly house is the tabernacle. I'm gonna skip over this verse, because this is the coolest thing, but I want you just to see the very last words, would you read 6-8 there? We are confident; to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Now, it doesn't say when you're dead, you sleep, it means you're present with the Lord. Philippians 1:23 read this with me, "For I am in a straight, a fix, you might say, between two. Having one, a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better, nevertheless, to continue to abide in the flesh as your need." The reason I put those little things in there, is in the King James it's it's almost redundant the way it says it, but what he's basically saying, I'm gonna fix, I put that in there for you guys, I didn't mean to type that in there and leave it, though, because I was going to explain that to you. He says, I'm gonna fix. I really would love to die right now, I'd love to just die and go be with Christ, which is really better, but, because I love you so much, and you need me right now as a teacher, I'm going to stay. But, clearly, if all he thought he was going to do is go to sleep, he would have just gone and taken a nap. He's not...Paul didn't believe he was going to die and go to sleep, he believed the moment that that heart of his stopped, he was going to be in the presence of his Lord, and he yearned for that. And see that's why we don't have to fear. We don't have to fear, absence with the body is present with the Lord...to die means immediately to be with Christ. Because, even, I mean Paul found a huge comfort in that. Either temporarily we're going to be in Paradise, or the person who doesn't believe is going to be in what's called Hell, which is Hades, or Sheol, which is the abode of the dead, doesn't mean the lake of fire. But in

the future, after the judgment, believers will be in the new heavens and the new earth, and those who rejected the gospel will be in the lake of fire, and those are the verses for it. So, The end. Ok, so, um, I know that I literally flew through some of the stuff, but I'm going to elaborate on it next week, the concept of absent with the body is present with the Lord. What are we going to do in Heaven forever? Do you ever wonder that? I used to see cartoons with people sittin' there playing harps and stuff, I mean, what are we going to do forever? I'm not going to tell you unless you come next week, I will tell you next week.