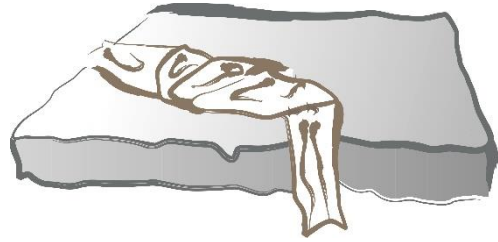


5--Evidence of the Resurrection: The Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-10

1. In Mark 16:1-8 what was the response of those who first saw the empty tomb? Why do you think they reacted in this way? What were they possibly thinking?



2. In Peter's first post-resurrection sermon, what contrast does he make in Acts 2:29-32? What result does this fisherman's evidence have upon his audience (Acts 2:41)? Is it easy to completely change a person's strong convictions? What does this mass change say about the evidence?

3. Of course, many of the Jews did not want people to believe in Jesus. What could they have done, if it was possible, to try and convince people Jesus was dead?

4. There have been several alternative explanations presented for the empty tomb. How does Matthew 27:59-60 answer the "Secret Passageway" theory?

5. There have been several alternative explanations presented for the empty tomb. How does John 19:41-42 answer the "Mistaken Identity" idea (did they ID the wrong body in the tomb)?

6. There have been several alternative explanations presented for the empty tomb. How does Matthew 27:65 help us from making the "Stolen Body" argument? What could be the consequences if the Roman guard failed in their duty to guard the tomb? Consider a few more questions related to this argument...

- One of the arguments made by the Jews themselves is that the disciples stole the body (see Matthew 28:11-15). What might be a few reasons this is a foolish argument?
- It has also been argued the Jews stole the body. Yet, why would this have been a very self-defeating endeavor?

7. There have been several alternative explanations presented for the empty tomb. How does the “Proof of Death” lesson we discussed last class help us eliminate the “Swoon Theory” argument?

8. There have been several alternative explanations presented for the empty tomb. How does 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 help eliminate the “Hallucination Theory” which has been rarely proposed?

<u>Theory</u>	<u>Answer</u>	<u>Passage</u>
Swoon Theory	Jesus died!	John 19:30-41
Left on the Cross, Eaten	Against Jewish law	Deut. 21:22-23
Stolen By Disciples	Stone, Guard, Lie	Matthew 28:11-15
Stolen by Jews	No motive, no body	Matthew 27:63-66
Misidentified Body	New, rock-hewn tomb	Matthew 27:59-60
Substitute Jesus	Identified as Jesus	Matthew 27:37
Wrong tomb	Saw grave clothes	John 20:2-8
Hallucination	Various people, places	1 Cor. 15:3-8
Only in the hearts of men	Seen, touched, handled	Jn. 20:27; 1 Jn. 1:1

9. Why would it have been easier for the men of Athens to mock concerning the resurrection of Jesus than it would have been for those in Jerusalem (cp. Acts 17:32; Acts 2:41)? Why does Jerusalem (even though they were often hostile to Jesus) suddenly become the epicenter of Christianity?

10. What other reason could you think of for the empty tomb? Though we are not eyewitnesses, what does Jesus say about those who believe in John 20:29?