



RISEN

Author/Work	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span Between Original & Copy	Number of Copies
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 years	8
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 years	8
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400 years	49
Suetonius	76-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 years	8
New Testament Books	45-100 A.D.	Second Century A.D.	Less than 100 years	5,400

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Text Variants Illustrated

Manuscript #1: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the whole **worl**.

Manuscript #2: **Christ Jesus** is the Savior of the whole world.

Manuscript #3: Jesus Christ **s** the Savior of the whole world.

Manuscript #4: Jesus Christ is **th** Savior of the **whle** world.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And **very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen**, they went to the tomb.
(Mark 16:1-2)

Now after the Sabbath, **toward the dawn of the first day of the week**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
(Matthew 28:1)

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But on **the first day of the week, at early dawn**, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.
(Luke 24:1)

Now on the **first day of the week** Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, **while it was still dark...**
(John 20:1)

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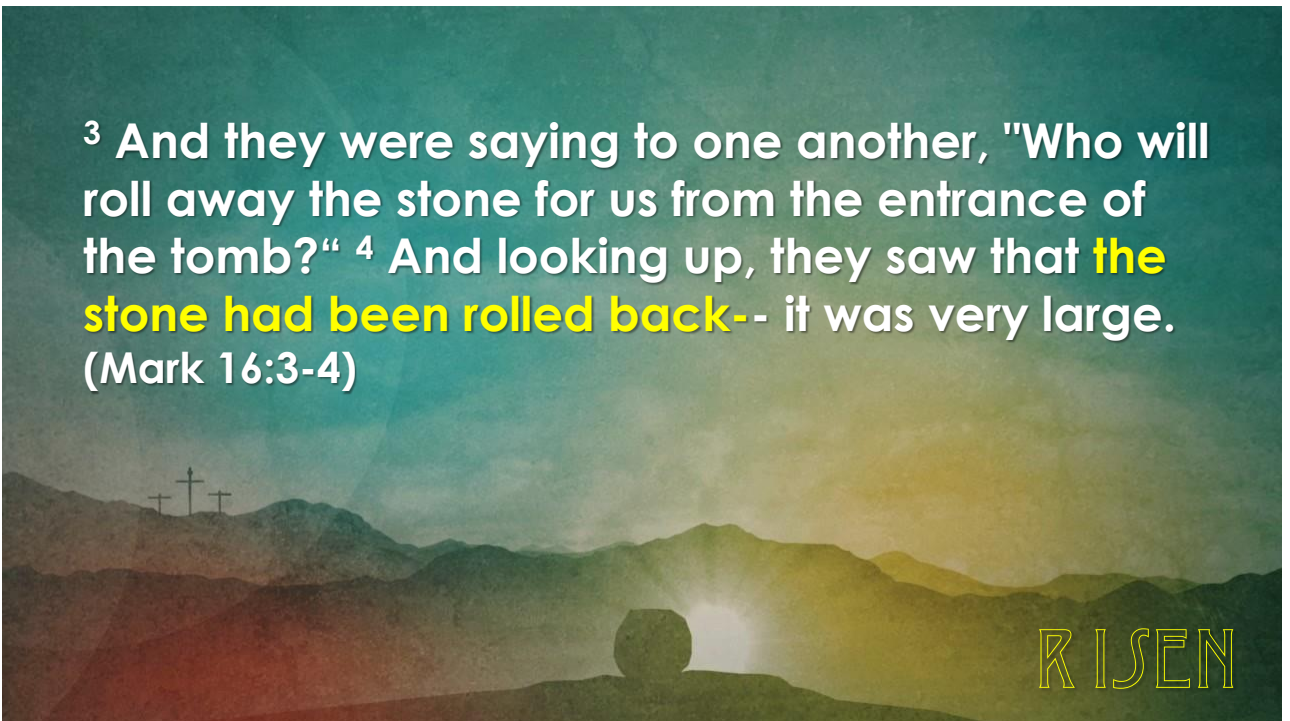
NOTE THE DARKNESS OF SUNRISE



NOTE AT DAWN IT IS STILL DARK



³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that **the stone had been rolled back--** it was very large. (Mark 16:3-4)



² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and **rolled back the stone...**
(Matthew 28:2)

² And they found **the stone rolled away** from the tomb...
(Luke 24:2)

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⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back-- it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, "**Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.**"
(Mark 16:4-6)

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⁵ But the angel said... "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

(Matthew 28:5-6)

⁵ And as they were frightened... the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

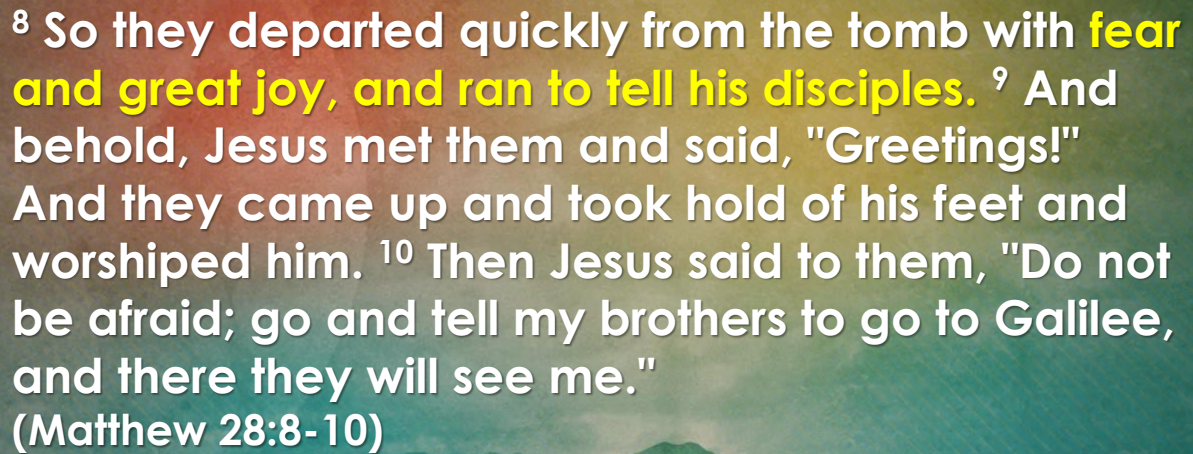
(Luke 24:5)

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⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

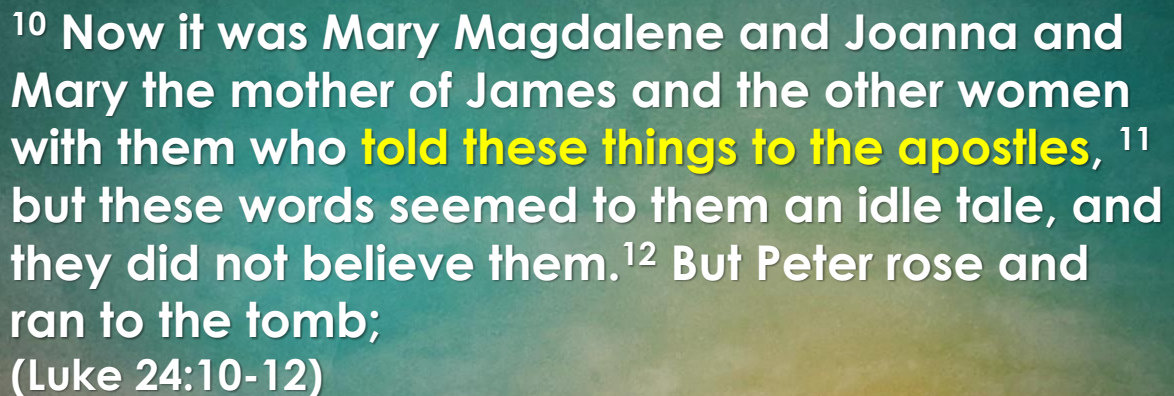
(Mark 16:8)

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⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with **fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.** ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."
(Matthew 28:8-10)

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¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who **told these things to the apostles,** ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb;
(Luke 24:10-12)

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but **the other disciple outran Peter** and reached the tomb first.⁵ And stooping to look in, **he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.** ⁶ Then **Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there,** ⁷ **and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. . .**

(John 20:4-10)

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⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for **as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.** ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

(John 20:4-10)

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some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹² And when they had assembled with **the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."**
(Matthew 28:11-15)

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¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.
(Matthew 28:11-15)

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1⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 1⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 1⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:16-20)

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1⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 2⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20)

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³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that **he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.**

(1 Corinthians 15:3-7)

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THE FACTS:

- No one disputes the empty tomb.
- 500+ eye witnesses.
- Timekeeping methods commemorate.
- Body still not found to this day.

FACT:

No one disputes the empty tomb, only the “WHY.”

WHYS: SWOON THEORY

44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. 45 And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.
(Mark 15:44-47)

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WHYS: SWOON THEORY

⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and **laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock.** And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.
(Mark 15:44-47)

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WHYS: SWOON THEORY

³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ **But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,** they did not break his legs. ³⁴ **But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.**
(John 19:32-35)

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WHY S: SWOON THEORY

³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness-- his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth-- that you also may believe.
(John 19:32-35)

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SWOON THEORY'S PROBLEMS

- Multiple beatings and 39 lashes with a cat of nine tails.
- Deprivation of food and water.
- Crucifixion.
- Pierced lung and heart (and blood loss).
- Exposure and entombment: Jesus just rolled away the stone and walked away?

WHYS: WRONG TOMB THEORY

⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.
(Matthew 27:59-61)

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WRONG TOMB THEORY'S PROBLEMS

- Joseph of Arimathea knew the location of his new tomb.
- The women followed Joseph to the tomb.
- The Roman guard went to the right tomb.
- The stone with the Roman Seal marked the right tomb.
- Improbable that everyone went to the wrong tomb.

WHYS: STOLEN BODY THEORY

some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ and said, **"Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'** . . .

(Matthew 28:11-15)

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WHYS: STOLEN BODY THEORY

¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵

So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

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STOLEN BODY THEORY'S PROBLEMS

- The prospect of overpowering Roman soldiers.
- The initial cowardice of the disciples, other than the women.
- The risk and penalty for stealing the body.
- The number of witnesses to his resurrection.

SUMMARY OF THE FACTS:

- No one disputes the empty tomb.
- Historicity of the accounts and the reliability of manuscripts.
- 500+ eye witnesses.
- Still no body.
- This discussion is of Christ's resurrection not Thucydides.
- Peculiar behavior of the populace in the weeks to come.

CONCLUSIONS:

- There was an empty tomb.
- There are no credible explanations for His not rising.
- He either rose or did not rise.

WHAT'S THE BIG
DEAL?

THERE IS AN EMPTY TOMB!

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.

(John 20:31)

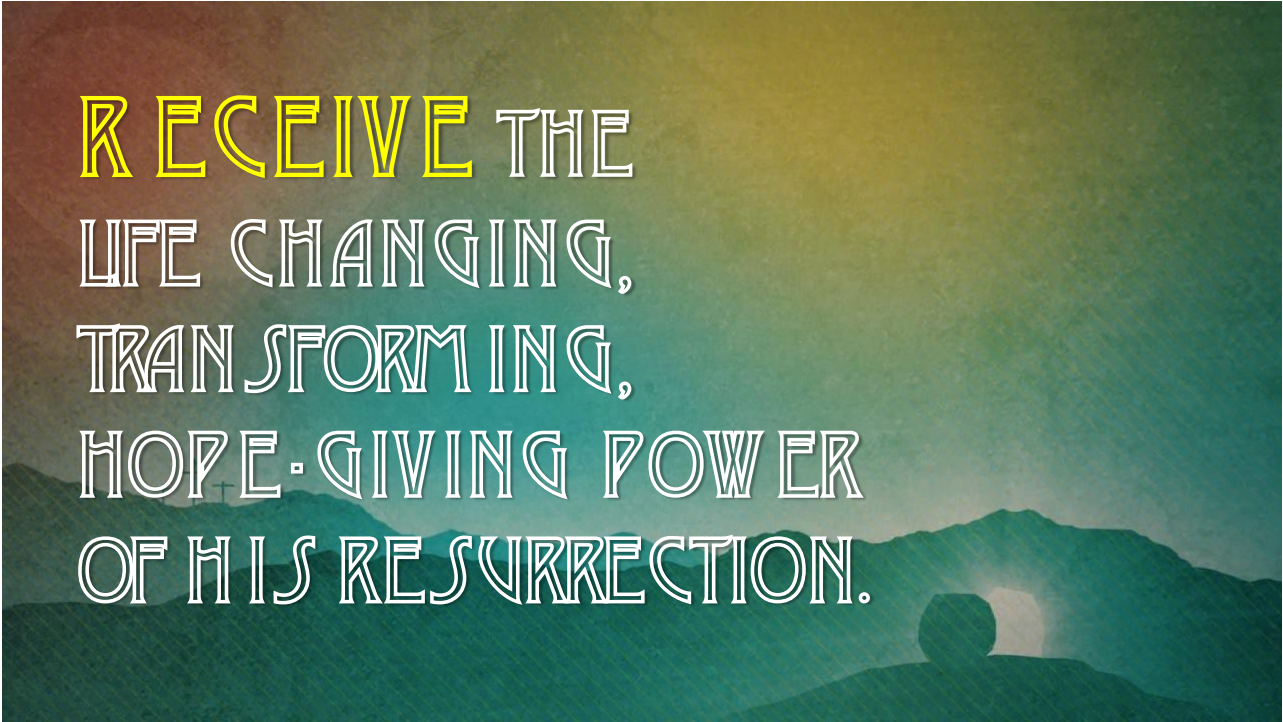
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THERE IS HOPE!

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection...

(Philippians 3:10)

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RECEIVE THE
LIFE CHANGING,
TRANSFORMING,
HOPE-GIVING POWER
OF HIS RESURRECTION.

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS A · B · C

- ACCEPT
- BELIEVE
- COMMIT

SERMON QUESTIONS:

- Have you been misled as to the reliability and historicity of the accounts of Jesus' resurrection?
- Are you aware that the Bible, the New Testament in particular, exceeds the secular requirements for being a reliable historical document?

SERMON QUESTIONS:

- Many people have been led to believe the Gospel Accounts of the resurrection are someone inconsistent and contradictory. Are you one of those people? This message will go a long way in correcting your misperceptions and informing you so that you can talk to others about Jesus.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ means hope, help, restoration, reconciliation, and salvation for the hopeless and hurting regardless of their situation or circumstances.

