

THE STORY  
The Resurrection  
Chapter 27 March 31, 2024  
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Today we go to the garden tomb and celebrate history's brightest moment.

*The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. <sup>63</sup> "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' <sup>64</sup> So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup> "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.*  
Matthew 27:62-66 NIV

Over the years there have been a number of attempts to explain away the resurrection.

Jesus' appearances after the resurrection:

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.*  
John 20:19-20 NIV

*Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*  
John 20:29 NIV

1. The Resurrection Vindicated Jesus

There is so much evidence to validate the resurrection of Jesus Christ you will not lack in seeking it out.

Consider the evidence:

- A. The staying power of the Story.
- B. Our dating system
- C. The changed lives of people
- D. The response of Christ's enemies
- E. The Power of Prophecy

*For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty...<sup>21</sup>For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

2 Peter 1:16, 21 NIV

F. Eyewitness accounts

G. Disciples died martyr's death

*After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.*

Acts 1:3 NIV

## 2. The Resurrection Defeated Death

Knowing Jesus will not eliminate problems that we will face in this life. It just means that we will have Jesus walking with us through them.

The cross shows Christ's love

The empty tomb shows Christ's power

## 3. The Resurrection Restored Hope

*Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb<sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.*

<sup>13</sup> *They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"*

*"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."<sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.*

<sup>15</sup> *He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"*

*Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."*

<sup>16</sup> *Jesus said to her, "Mary."*

*She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").*

John 20:11-16 NIV

Jesus knows your name.

Death has lost.

Love has won.

*And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

Romans 8:11 NIV

If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior you have the answer to death. It is life in Jesus.