

If you want your sins forgiven and live eternally with Jesus and God His Father, then ask God through prayer to forgive you of your sins and save you. He will do this because salvation is a free gift¹⁸, and it is the reason Jesus died for you.

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¹Matthew 16:21; ²Matthew 27:62-66; ³Resurrection Factor, pg. 56, Josh McDowell, 1981; ⁴Matthew 28:4,11-15; ⁵John 20:12;

⁶Mark 16:1-8; ⁷John 20:1-10; ⁸Luke 24 13-36;

⁹1 Corinthians 15:5-8; ¹⁰Romans 1:4; ¹¹1 Corinthians 15:16-20;

¹²1 Peter 3:18; ¹³2 Corinthians 5:14-15; ¹⁴1 John 2:1-2;

1 Peter 2:24; ¹⁵John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 4:14; ¹⁶John 14:6;

¹⁷John 11:25-26; ¹⁸Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EMPTY TOMB



Why did the large stone which covered the entrance of the tomb of Jesus Christ need to be rolled away by an angel? So that Jesus could get out or so that His body could be removed? No! So that the many observers that day could look in and see that the tomb was empty. Jesus rose from the dead as had He prophesied¹, stating that three days after He would resurrect.

Who were the observers? First, there were the Roman soldiers who guarded the tomb² (historically 16 men).³ After what they saw that morning they shook with fear and became like dead men; some of them fleeing to Jerusalem to report what they had seen.⁴ Then there were the two angels who testified of the resurrection⁵ to the next witnesses, three women. After seeing them and hearing their account, the women fled with fear.⁶ Lastly there were two disciples of Jesus – Peter and John – who ran to the tomb after hearing the report that Jesus' body was not there. They entered the tomb and one of them, John, reported his observations in his gospel.⁷ So that day there were 23 witnesses to His resurrection. Later Jesus appeared to two men who were traveling to a village⁸, then to His other disciples after which He appeared to over 500 other people all at one time.⁹

Why did Jesus have to rise from the dead? His resurrection proved that He was who He claimed to be, the Son of God.¹⁰ It is also the evidence that as the Son of God His death was sufficient to pay for the sins of mankind. If He had not resurrected, then His death meant nothing.¹¹ As the Apostle Peter said, “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.”¹² Because of His death and resurrection you can have eternal life.¹³

Why is the empty tomb important to you? It is important because it is proof that the historical man, Jesus, who claimed to be the Son of God and a sacrifice and payment for sin¹⁴ was who He claimed to be. Since this is true, this means that there is a Savior who is capable of cleansing you from your sin because He shed His blood for your sins.¹⁵ It also means that He is the only way to God because of His deity and His death and resurrection.¹⁵

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”¹⁶ He also said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”¹⁷