

1 Co 15:14-19

14 and **if Christ has not been raised**, then
(1) our preaching is vain, (2) your faith also is vain.

15 Moreover (3) we are even found to be false
witnesses of God, ...

17 ... (4) your faith is worthless; you are still in your
sins.

18 (5) Then those also who have fallen asleep in
Christ have perished.

19 ... (6) we are of all men most to be pitied.”

NASB

Evidences for the Resurrection

I. The Empty Tomb

- ★ The empty tomb itself
- ★ The grave clothes
- ★ The large stone

Where's the body?!

II. Eyewitnesses

III. Collateral proofs

Efforts to Account for the Empty Tomb

✘ The disciples stole the body - Mt 28:11-15

- If soldiers asleep...how know what happened?
- If soldiers asleep...want this story spread?
- ALL soldiers asleep at SAME time?
- Why Jews not launch an investigation?
- The disciples not expect Jesus to rise.
- Peter return so soon to the scene of the crime?
- No response to Matthew's account?

So, here's the story this effort wants you to believe...

The Roman guards, and likely those known to be the best, fell asleep on duty, and while they were asleep some discouraged fishermen, a tax collector, and some others, who had proved to be cowards only a couple days earlier, came, dared to break the Roman seal to fabricate a lie, rolled away the large stone, removed the linen wrappings from the corpse and carefully rolled them up, stole the body, all this without waking the guards—ALL of whom were asleep. The Roman guards then told on themselves, that they were asleep on duty, and moreover, based their testimony on what had happened to the body on events that transpired, by their own testimony, while they were asleep. No effort was made to interrogate the thieves and recover the body, nor was any punishment meted out, and this by those who had successfully had an innocent and popular man falsely tried and put to death and had taken special measures to insure the security of the tomb. Then this bunch of cowardly thieves began to proclaim boldly, at the expense of their very lives, that Jesus was risen from the dead!

Sounds more like a cover up...just as Matthew reports it!

Efforts to Account for the Empty Tomb

✘ Joseph of Arimathea moved the body to another place

- Motivation? **Mk 15:43; Jn 19:38**
- Roman guard would have given this explanation.
- Jews would have found out where he moved it to be able to squash reports of a resurrection.
- Joseph a good and righteous man (**Lk 23:50**)—could have corrected the error of resurrection by informing that he had moved the body.

Where's the body?!

Efforts to Account for the Empty Tomb

✘ The women found the wrong tomb

- Observed *where* and *how* body laid. **Mt 27:61; Mk 15:47; Lk 23:54-24:1**
- At least two women (**Mt 27:61; Mk 15:47; Lk 23:55**) observed burial, and four to six returned to tomb (**Mk 16:1; Lk 24:1...10**) - ALL mistaken?
- Private tomb of rich man

Where's the body?!

Efforts to Account for the Empty Tomb

✘ Swoon theory—Jesus fainted and did not die

- Fainted...revived, removed stone, and left..?!
- Soldiers made sure Jesus dead **Jn 19:31-33**
- Soldiers would have reported this story rather than “we fell asleep.”
- Why Jews not hunt him down and kill him?

So, here's the story this effort wants you to believe...

After being beaten through the night, no sleep, scourged the next morning, made to carry his cross, nailed to the cross, hung there six hours, spear thrust in his side, buried in a sealed tomb, no food or medical attention...now, without any help or medical attention, he revives, removes the grave clothes and folds them neatly, pushes away the large stone at the mouth of the tomb, overcomes the soldiers, and in this condition, weakened, battered, and bleeding, persuades his disciples he is the victorious Savior risen from the dead, can give them life, and imbues them with moral power to confront their enemies and lay down their lives for him!

Where's the body?!

Efforts to Account for the Empty Tomb

✘ Why didn't the Jews search for Jesus to kill him again?

- No evidence they believed he had arisen. See **Acts 2**-had to give evidence of the resurrection.
- It would have been an admission of the resurrection!
- He did not appear publicly, but rather to his disciples. **Acts 1:3**

Where's the body?!

Mark 16:1-6

“He is Risen”!