



THE CASE FOR EASTER

Lesson 3

“The Empty Tomb”

The 4 E's of Easter

- 1) Execution
- 2) Early (Immediate) Accounts
- 3) Empty Tomb**
- 4) Eyewitnesses

The Tomb was Empty

- After Jesus was placed in the tomb, it was sealed.
- Matthew 27:62-66 also tells us that it was guarded.

The Tomb was Sealed & Guarded

Matthew 27:62-66

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

The Tomb was Empty

- After Jesus was placed in the tomb, it was sealed.
- Matthew 27:62-66 also tells us that it was guarded.
- Yet, it was discovered EMPTY on that first Easter morning!

Scriptures about the Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:57-61

Mark 15:42-47

Luke 23:50-56

John 19:38-42

Prophecies Fulfilled

Jesus' Death

Exodus 12:46 Psalm 34:20	Passover Lamb's bones cannot be broken	John 19:36
Psalm 22:1	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?	Matthew 27:46
Psalm 22:16 Isaiah 53:5	The savior would be crucified & his flesh pierced	John 19:18
Psalm 22:18	They would divide and cast lots for his clothing	Matthew 27:35, John 19:23-24
Isaiah 53:7	Jesus was the sacrificial Lamb of God	John 1:29 Acts 8:32-35
Isaiah 53:12	Jesus was innocent, but died to pay for our sins	Luke 23:46

Prophecies Fulfilled

Jesus' Burial

Isaiah 53:9

Jesus would be crucified with the wicked
and buried in a rich man's tomb

Matthew 27:57-60

Isaiah 53:9

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Prophecies Fulfilled

Jesus' Burial

Isaiah 53:9

Jesus would be crucified with the wicked
and buried in a rich man's tomb

Matthew 27:57-60

Matthew 27:57–60.

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. **58** He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. **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.

Prophecies Fulfilled

Jesus' Resurrection

Psalm 16:10

Because of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection
King David would not be condemned to hell

Acts 2:29-31

Hosea 6:2

The resurrection of Jesus foretold

Luke 24:46

Jonah 1:17

Just as Jonah spent 3 days in the belly of the whale
Jesus would spend 3 days in the heart of the earth

Matthew 12:40

The Empty Tomb

The empty tomb is the cornerstone of our hope!

The empty tomb is the foundation for eternal life!

The empty tomb is a symbol of our victory!

The empty tomb is a call-to-action for every believer!

The Empty Tomb Means

Jesus rose from the dead!

The grave could not hold Him!

Death could not defeat Him!

Our sins are forgiven because Jesus paid for them once-for-all in our place!

All we have to do is accept His free gift of salvation!

Beacon of Hope

The empty tomb reminds us that our eternal destiny is no longer determined by our sins and sin nature.

It reminds us that our hope is secured by what Jesus did for us on the Cross of Calvary.

It reminds us that no matter what life throws at us, God is in control and has our best interest in mind.

The empty tomb shows us that where death and despair once reigned, hope now lives!

Strength to Overcome

Imagine the disappointment of the disciples when Jesus died... especially after all the miracles he performed right before their eyes.

He even raised others from the dead! Yet He seemingly could not save himself?

Jesus was their teacher and friend, but he was also “supposed to be” their Saving King. How could he be that now if he was dead?

Strength to Overcome

Matthew 28:17 says that even after Christ's resurrection, some of the disciples still struggled with doubts...even after seeing the risen Jesus!

Despite their initial doubts, God still restored each one's faith and used them mightily for His Kingdom!

Eventually, we see the disciples living on mission and sharing what they had witnessed...many to the point of their own physical deaths.

Power Over Fear

As humans, fear often grips us:

Fear of rejection

Fear of failure

Fear of pain and heartache

Fear of death

But the empty tomb reminds us that we can overcome fear through the strength that comes from the Cross of Christ!

The empty tomb empowers us to step out in faith over the fear!

Just like Jesus did!

Call to Share

The empty tomb is not just a historical event; it's a call to action!

Jesus' final instructions were clear: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

As Christians, we are charged with sharing the hope of Christ to a lost, confused, antagonistic, and dying world.

The resurrection, as symbolized by the empty tomb, is too transformative to keep to ourselves—it must be shared!

The Empty Tomb

Beacon of Hope

Strength to Overcome

Power Over Fear

A Call to Share His Love

Because He Lives!

“Because He Lives”

VERSE 1

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;

He came to love, heal and forgive;

He lived and died to buy my pardon,

An empty grave is there to prove my Savior
lives!

“Because He Lives”

CHORUS

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living, just because
He lives!

“Because He Lives”

VERSE 2

And then one day I'll cross the river,

I'll fight life's final war with pain;

And then, as death gives way to victory,

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

“Because He Lives”

CHORUS

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living, just because
He lives!

“Because He Lives”

CHORUS Reprise

And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

AMEN!