

RAMIFICATIONS OF AN EMPTY TOMB

I. [John 20:1-9](#) [Luke 24:1-12](#) [1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)

A. On Thursday evening, after the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples go to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Betrayed by Judas, Jesus is arrested there. He's put on trial by Jewish leaders, Pontius Pilate, Herod, and back to Pilate. Then He's crucified, nailed on a cross between two thieves. He bleeds, suffocates, and dies--all this for your sins and mine. He's taken down from the cross and buried in a borrowed tomb. A great moral teacher becomes a martyr--end of story, right? Nope! As one preacher once phrased it, "*It's Friday but Sunday's coming!*" FYI: Sunday is here!

B. [John 20:1-9](#) (ESV) takes us to that Sunday morning scene:

1) **V1: 1** Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. **(A stone was rolled in front of the tomb's entrance and a Roman guard placed there--perhaps not to keep people out, but to keep Jesus in!)**

2) **V2: 2** So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved (**John**), and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." **(Mary suspects foul play, a grave-robbing incident.)**

3) **V3-7: 3** So Peter went out with the other disciple (**John**), and they were going toward the tomb. **4** Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **(John gets the track scholarship.) 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. **(Peter gets the bravery scholarship.)** 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. **(Grave-robbers wouldn't bother folding a burial cloth! What's up with that? One tradition suggests it means there's more to come. He'll be back! Another: Tetelestai! His work was finished! Our sins--paid in full! Mission accomplished!)**

4) **V8: 8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **(John believes! And he hasn't even seen the risen Savior yet!)**

5) **V9: 9** for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. **(Jesus had not only predicted His death, but also His rising.)**

C. [Luke 24:1-12](#) (ESV) adds more details...

1) **V1: 1** But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. **(Mary and the other gals went to honor a dead Man.)**

2) **V2-7: 2** And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. **(Angels!)** **5** And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? **6** He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in

Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” (The angels remind them what Jesus had told them. Rising was always part of the plan.)

3) V8-12: 8 *And they remembered His words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 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; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened. (Nope, it's not an idle tale!)*

D. Mathew and Mark give us other details in their respective Gospels. Paul likewise in 1 Corinthians 15. Add in what the prophets foretold and what the NT epistles reveal and you have a stunning account of the most amazing event there ever was! Yes the cross was the centerpiece of all time but the empty tomb trumpets the cross' victory. So let's explore what the implications are for an empty tomb...

E. Anyone remember Baghdad Bob? Baghdad Bob was the Iraqi Information Minister under Saddam Hussein. As US troops invaded Baghdad in March 2003, Baghdad Bob made some outrageously funny assertions. Here's a few of his not-so-accurate proclamations: "There are no American infidels in Baghdad. Never!" "We will welcome them with bullets and shoes." "They are superpower of villains. They are superpower of Al Capone." "They're not even within 100 miles of Baghdad. They are not in any place. They hold no place in Iraq. This is an illusion... They are trying to sell to the others an illusion." "We have destroyed 2 tanks, fighter planes, 2 helicopters and their shovels--we have driven them back." "We made them drink poison last night and Saddam Hussein's soldiers and his great forces gave the Americans a lesson which will not be forgotten by history. Truly." "I can say, and I am responsible for what I am saying, that they have started to commit suicide under the walls of Baghdad. We will encourage them to commit more suicides quickly." "Their infidels are committing suicide by the hundreds on the gates of Baghdad. Be assured, Baghdad is safe, protected." "Britain "is not worth an old shoe." And years later B.B. said, "The information was correct, but the interpretations were not, I did my duty up to the last minute."

F. The Apostle Paul was no Baghdad Bob. The former rising star among the Jews encounters the risen Jesus personally while on his way to persecute Jesus' followers. After that, his life was all about spreading the Good News about Jesus. In doing so he endured great suffering, opposition, imprisonment, and beheading. When the church in Corinth began to doubt Christ's resurrection, Paul had to bring them back to their senses. He begins his treatise by chronicling a list of post-resurrection appearances. But then in 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (NLT) Paul puts forth his argument vigorously...

1) V12-14: 12 *But tell me this--since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? 13 For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. (Tomb occupied!) 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. (We're wasting our time and energy!)*

2) V15: 15 *And we apostles would all be lying about God--for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. (We're liars! And Jesus lied too!)*

3) V16: 16 *And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. (Just another great moral teacher to memorialize! Nope!)*

4) V17: 17 *And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. (You're guilty of your sins; Jesus didn't pay for them; and in the end you'll face God's judgment! This can only qualify as BAD NEWS!)*

5) V18: 18 *In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! (All our loved ones who believed in Christ, died with a false sense of hope! That's all she wrote!)*

6) V19: 19 *And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. (Pity on us if THIS LIFE is all there is! We be fools big time!)*

7) V20: (BUT!) 20 *But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.*

G. So in your mind's eye I want you head to that tomb where Mary and the ladies went 2,000 years ago. Run along side Peter and John. Peek in, or better yet, go inside. So what do you see? It matters, you know! Life in the here-and-now as you know it may never be the same. Eternal ramifications are at stake. What do you see? Occupied or empty? Decaying bones or discarded burial clothes? What do you see? If it's empty and Jesus walked out alive, it means...

1) It means: Jesus was *WHO* He said He was, *WHO* the prophets said He was, *WHO* the Scriptures say He was and is! He's the risen and reigning King of kings and Lord of lords! He's God the Son from eternity past, the Lamb of God *WHO* came to take away the sins of man! Yours and mine included! (See it empty?)

2) It means: Jesus' words were indeed true; He was not a liar nor someone steeped in deception nor crazy as His family originally thought Him to be. He was neither a liar nor a lunatic. He was, and most certainly is, LORD! (See it empty?)

3) It means: Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was found acceptable by God; it totally satisfied God's holy and just nature, it atoned for our sin and extinguished God's fiery wrath against it. Our sin has been removed! We are justified! We are declared, "*not guilty!*" The Righteous One has declared us, "*righteous!*" We are emancipated, redeemed, reconciled, forgiven, washed clean, and adopted as God's very own children! We are bound for eternal glory! (See it empty?)

4) It means: We have in this life, in the here-and-now, not hopelessness but rather a sure and certain hope of resurrection unto eternal life! A cemetery or wherever your ashes are spread--that won't be your final resting place! NO! Not only will we be given new bodies, they'll never wear out, never endure suffering, pain, or death. Our cheeks will be free from tears unless in our Father's presence a few joy-filled ones freely leak out from our brand new pair of eyes! (See it empty?)

5) It means: When we pass and before our own bodily resurrections take place, we'll be ushered into the blissful presence of God Almighty and our Lord Jesus Christ! It means we'll bask in unblemished, untarnished, reunions with our loved ones who've gone before us. It means we'll experience unimaginable love, unspeakable joy, and incomprehensible peace! And then when the Big Resurrection Day comes, those brand new bodies will be conferred upon us. Eternity will be filled with vast and glorious worship as well as untold adventures beyond our wildest dreams! (See Jesus' empty?) Oh how I pray you do!

*** I share all this so that none of you are found looking for Jesus where He is not--not among the dead but among the living! Jesus' tomb is empty but His throne is occupied! He'll be back someday! Meanwhile, He is risen! (He is risen indeed!)**

*** Close with Prayer...**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[John 20:1-9 \(ESV\)](#)

1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. **2** So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." **3** So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. **4** Both of them were running together, 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. **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.

[Luke 24:1-12 \(ESV\)](#)

1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. **2** And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. **5** And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? **6** He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." **8** And they remembered His words, **9** and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. **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; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (NLT)

12 But tell me this--since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? **13** For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. **15** And we apostles would all be lying about God--for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. **16** And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. **18** In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! **19** And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. **20** But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" by Charles Wesley, 1739 (Islington Baptist Church)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzy7jFNUc3w>

"Christ Arose" by Robert Lowry, 1874 - Cemetery Performance by Brandon Saucier
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCz36v7vmq8>

"The Easter Song" by Keith Green - Performance Video by Tiffany Coburn
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSbcYzgy8ao>

"Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed" - Keith & Kristyn Getty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRnG2xzzEaU>

Can Various Resurrection Accounts Be Harmonized? - GotQuestions.org
<https://www.gotquestions.org/resurrection-accounts.html>

Millennials, Gen Z and the Hobbit - John Benton (London Seminary)
<https://www.londonseminary.org/millennials-gen-z-and-the-hobbit/>

Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)

1 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. **2** And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. **4** And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. **5** But the angel said to the women, "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. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." **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."

Mark 16:1-7 (ESV)

1 When the Sabbath was past, 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. **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. **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. **7** But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you."

Acts 2:22-32 (ESV)

22 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know— **23** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. **24** God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. **25** For David says concerning Him, "*I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;* **26** *therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.* **27** *For You will not abandon My soul to Hades, or let Your Holy One see corruption.* **28** *You have made known to Me the paths of life; You will make Me full of gladness with Your presence.*" **29** "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, **31** he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

Acts 13:26-39 (ESV)

26 Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. **27** For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize Him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning Him. **28** And though they found in Him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have Him executed. **29** And when they had carried out all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. **30** But God raised Him from the dead, **31** and for many days He appeared to those who had come up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people. **32** And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, **33** this He has fulfilled to us their children

by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, (*Psalm 13:33*) "*You are My Son, today I have begotten You.*" **34** And as for the fact that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken in this way, (*Isaiah 55:3*) "*I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.*" **35** Therefore He says also in another psalm, (*Psalm 16:10*) "*You will not let your Holy One see corruption.*" **36** For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, **37** but He Whom God raised up did not see corruption. **38** Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this Man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, **39** and by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

1 Corinthians 15:1-58 (ESV) (The Resurrection Chapter)

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. **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. **8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. **11** Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. **12** Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **15** We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. **20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For as by a man came death, by a Man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. **24** Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. **25** For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For "God has put all things in subjection under His feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. **28** When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all. **29** Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the

dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? **30** Why are we in danger every hour? **31** I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! **32** What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." **33** Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." **34** Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. **35** But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" **36** You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. **37** And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. **38** But God gives it a body as He has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. **39** For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. **40** There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. **41** There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. **42** So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. **43** It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. **44** It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46** But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. **47** The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second Man is from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the Man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of heaven. **50** I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. **54** When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*" **55** "*O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?*" **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV)

20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, **21** equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 16:1-11 (ESV)

A Miktam of David **1** Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge. **2** I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You." **3** As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. **4** The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. **5** The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot. **6** The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. **7** I bless the Lord Who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. **8** I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. **9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. **10** For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let Your Holy One see corruption. **11** You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Theological Note on Psalm 16:9-11

ESV Study Bible

As in Psalm 49:15 and Psalm 73:24-26, here there is a clear affirmation that the human yearning to be near to God and to know the pleasure of His welcome forever, beyond the death of the body, finds its answer in the covenant. Peter cites Psalm 16:8-11 in his pentecost speech (Acts 2:25-28), applying the verses to the resurrection of Jesus; Paul used Psalm 16:10 in his similar speech (Acts 13:35). If the apostles meant that David's words were a straight prediction of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it is difficult to know what function the psalm could have played in ancient Israel: the congregation would have scratched their heads in puzzlement every time they sang it. This puzzlement goes away if the psalm is seen as cultivating the hope of everlasting glory for the faithful, with the resurrection of Jesus (the Holy One par excellence) as the first step in bringing this hope to fruition (cf. Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:23).

- Theological Note on Acts 16:9-11 - *Hope of Everlasting Joy*, ESV Study Bible, Crossway, p. 956.

Quote by D. Martin Lloyd-Jones

"The resurrection is the proclamation of the fact that God is fully and completely satisfied with the work that His Son did upon the cross."

- Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Romans: An Exposition of Chapters 3:20-4:25*, Page 244.

Quote by R. A. Torrey

"I look at the cross of Christ and I know that atonement has been made for my sins; I look at the open sepulcher and the risen and ascended Lord, and I know that the atonement has been accepted."

- R.A. Torrey, quoted by James Boice in his *Expositional Commentary on Romans* (Rom. 4:25) p. 498. Original quote from, *The Bible and Its Christ*, by R.A. Torrey, 1904-1906, p.p. 107-108.

Quote by Paul F.M. Zahl

"The atonement, or forgiveness of sin once and for all achieved on the cross, weighs in, and heavily. But the atonement is confirmed, ratified, sealed, and made enduringly good by virtue of Christ's rising from death. Our justification hinges on a risen life, present in us now because Christ is present with us now."

Quote by Val Grieve

"The resurrection is like a receipt you are given when you pay a debt. The receipt does not pay the debt; it is evidence that the debt has been paid. In the same way, when Jesus died on the cross He paid the debt of sin. The punishment which should have been ours fell on Him. The resurrection three days later is God's great receipt and proof to us that the debt of sin has been paid. Forgiveness is available."

- Val Grieve, (1926-1998) *Your Verdict on the Empty Tomb*, p. 64.

Quote by Timothy Keller

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that He said; if He didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what He said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like His teaching but whether or not He rose from the dead."

- Tim Keller, *The Reason For God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*.

Quote by Lee Strobel

"I went to a psychologist friend and said if 500 people claimed to see Jesus after He died, it was just a hallucination. He said hallucinations are an individual event. If 500 people have the same hallucination, that's a bigger miracle than the resurrection."

Quote by PHEME PERKINS

"Ghosts, apparitions, and various psychological hallucinations may do a lot of things, but they don't fire up the charcoal grill and cook fish for breakfast."

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

By Charles Wesley, Circa 1739. Music by Lyra Davidson.

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

- Charles Wesley, the son of Samuel Wesley, was born at Epworth, Dec. 18, 1707. He was educated at Westminster School and afterwards at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated M.A. In 1735. For many years he engaged with his brother, John Wesley, in preaching the Gospel. He died March 29, 1788.

Jesus' Appearances After His Resurrection

Student's Life Application Study Bible

The truth of Christianity rests heavily on the Resurrection. If Jesus rose from the grave, who saw Him? How trustworthy were the witnesses? Those who claimed to have seen the risen Jesus went on to turn the world upside down. Most of them also died for being followers of Christ. People rarely die for halfhearted belief. These are people who saw Jesus risen from the grave:

Mary Magdalene:	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
The other women at the tomb:	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem:	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travelers on the road:	Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35
Ten disciples behind closed doors:	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
All the disciples, with Thomas (excluding Judas Iscariot):	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
Seven disciples while fishing:	John 21:1-14
Eleven disciples on the mountain:	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of more than five hundred:	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother James:	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who watched Jesus ascend into heaven:	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

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The Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin Story

Author Unknown

In his day, Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin (Bu-kar-in) was one of the most powerful men on earth. Bukharin was a Russian Communist leader who took part in the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, was editor of the Soviet newspaper Pravda and was a member of the Politburo. His works on economics and political science were big sellers.

A story is told about a journey he took from Moscow to Kiev in 1930 to address a huge assembly on the subject of atheism. Addressing the crowd, he aimed his heavy artillery at Christianity hurling insult, argument and proof against it.

An hour later, he was finished. He looked out at what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of men's faith. "Are there any questions?" Bukharin demanded. Deafening silence filled the auditorium, but then one man stood. He surveyed the crowd, first to the left then to the right. Finally he shouted the ancient greeting known well in the Russian Orthodox Church: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" En masse the crowd arose as one man and the response came crashing like the sound of thunder: "HE IS RISEN INDEED!"