

The Validated Savior

An Empty Tomb Makes a Difference

A few facts of history, established by eye-witness testimony:

- 1) Jesus really died.
- 2) Jesus really was laid in a tomb.
- 3) The tomb really was found to be empty.

A. The Scripture was fulfilled when He rose again

New Testament claims that Scripture indicates the Christ would rise again:

- John 20:9

- Luke 24:25-27

Old Testament prophecies which require the Christ to rise again:

- Zechariah 12:10

- Isaiah 53:10-12

B. The integrity of Jesus was proven when He rose again

Jesus claimed that He would be killed and rise again:

- Matthew 16:21-23
Matthew 17:22-23
Matthew 20:17-19
Matthew 28:5-6

- John 2:19-22
John 10:17-21

C. The power to give eternal life was demonstrated when he rose again

Sample of bold claims in the Gospel of John:

- John 1:4 – “In Him was life”
- John 3:16 – “Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”
- John 5:24-25 – “the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”
- John 11:25-27 – “I am the Resurrection and the Life”
- John 14:1-3 – “I go to prepare a place for you”

After rising from the dead, this becomes much more believable:

- John 20:17 – “I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.”

Other passages in the New Testament that depend on the resurrection to prove Jesus' identity:

- Romans 1:1-4 - ... Jesus Christ ... declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.
- Acts 13:13-38 - ... but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;
- Acts 17:22-31 - ... He [God] has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.
- Colossians 1:15-18 - ... And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 - ... if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.