

An empty tomb. Some friends of the deceased were the first to discover the mystery. Where had his body gone? The stone sealing the entrance of the tomb had been removed and angels appeared to announce *"He is not here. He is risen!"*

Others came to find the tomb empty, with the grave clothes lying undisturbed - no one had unwrapped them. The body had vanished, yet it was only three days since His death.

An earthquake shook the area, and many bodies of the long dead arose, appearing to many shocked witnesses.

Enemies of the dead man fled to the city rulers, terrified by the angels they had seen, and were paid large sums to keep quiet about it.

But they could not keep this matter quiet. For the dead man was no longer dead.

He began to appear to his followers, sometimes to individuals, but sometimes to groups, and on one occasion to over 500 at once.

His violent death (by crucifixion) left jagged scars on his hands and feet, which he now used to prove that he really was alive.

*"Behold My hands and My feet," he said, "that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bone as you see I have."*

When they saw him they were filled with peace and joy, but it was not merely relief that their friend was alive. It was the peace of forgiveness and the joy of being reconciled to God.

For the one who had died, Jesus Christ, had also taken away their sin as he suffered on the cross. His rising again meant that God had accepted his sacrifice, and that their sin was forgiven forever.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Having died once, Jesus Christ will never die again. He lives in the power of an endless life *"to save completely all who come to God through him."* Which is why the Bible says *"whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

The tomb is empty. Jesus lives. Will you call on him now and trust in him to save you from sin's eternal punishment? Do not delay, God's offer of salvation is for you today, for *"now is the day of salvation."*

One day Jesus Christ will return in power and glory to reign over all the earth and to judge the living and the dead. Only those who have trusted him as their Saviour will be able to enjoy the blessings of everlasting life in his kingdom.

*The grave now is empty, the stone is rolled away,  
And Christ is alive in my heart,  
And death which He conquered in me has no part,  
For Christ is alive in my heart!*

Scripture references: <sup>1</sup>Matt. 28:6 ; <sup>2</sup>John 20:6 ; <sup>3</sup>Luke 24:21 ; <sup>4</sup>Matt. 27:53 ; <sup>5</sup>Matt. 28:11 - 14 ; <sup>6</sup>1 Cor. 15:5 - 6 ; <sup>7</sup>Luke 24:39 ; <sup>8</sup>John 3:16 ; <sup>9</sup>Heb. 7:25 ; <sup>10</sup>Rom. 10:13 ; <sup>11</sup>2 Cor. 6:2.

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# He is Risen!

