

CHAIN BREAKER

EASTER AT NEW LIFE CHURCH

THE HISTORICAL RECORD

Matthew 28:5 (ESV) *But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then 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.”*

—What if it’s true? What if it matters?—

Six Historical Facts Accepted by Nearly All Scholars

1. Jesus **DIED** by crucifixion
2. Very soon afterwards his followers had real experiences that they thought were actual **APPEARANCES** of the risen Jesus
3. Their lives were **TRANSFORMED** as a result, even to the point of being willing to **DIE** for their belief in the resurrection
4. These things were taught very **EARLY ON**, not long after Jesus’ crucifixion
5. **JAMES**, Jesus’ own unbelieving brother, became a Christian due to his experience of meeting a man he believed to be his resurrected brother
6. The Christian persecutor **SAUL OF TARSUS** also became a believer after a similar experience.

IMPLICATIONS OF AN EMPTY TOMB

1. LOGICAL – An empty tomb means Jesus has **POWER** over death

Acts 2:24 (ESV) *God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*

2. HISTORICAL – An empty tomb means that Jesus did what no one else has ever done... **PREDICTED** his own death and resurrection, *and then did it!*
3. PHILOSOPHICAL – An empty tomb means that serious truth-seekers would be **UNWISE** to dismiss Jesus and his teachings.
4. THEOLOGICAL – An empty tomb means that God the Father was **SATISFIED** with Christ’s atonement for human sin—His raising of Jesus demonstrated this.
5. INESCAPABLE – An empty tomb means that Jesus is **ALIVE!**
6. PERSONAL – An empty tomb means that the Risen, Living Lord Jesus is able to continue His ministry of **LIBERATION...**

Luke 4:18 (ESV) *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed...”*

John 8:31 (ESV) *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

John 8:34 (ESV) *...“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

Galatians 5:1 (ESV) *For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*



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New Life Church/April 15 & 16, 2017