

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come

– Matthew 27v62–66

and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.” “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

– Matthew 27v62–66

Matthew



THE DEATH &
LIFE OF A KING

Matthew 27v55–66 / 28v11–15

Matthew

STOLEN BODY THEORY

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**STOLEN BODY THEORY
SWOON THEORY**

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LEGEND THEORY

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While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them,

– Matthew 28v11–15

Matthew

“You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”
So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

– Matthew 28v11–15

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SWOON THEORY

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But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

– John 19v33–34

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LEGEND THEORY

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For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

– 1 Corinthians 15v3–6

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After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

– 1 Corinthians 15v3–6

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After the death of Jesus the entire Christian community suddenly adopted a set of beliefs that were brand new and until that point had been unthinkable...The Christian view of resurrection, absolutely unprecedented in history, sprang up full-blown immediately after the death of Jesus. There was no

– Timothy Keller

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process or development...Every effort to account for the birth of the church apart from Jesus' resurrection flies in the face of what we know about first-century history and culture.

– Timothy Keller

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Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.

– Matthew 27v55–61

Matthew

Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

– Matthew 27v55–61

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And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

– 1 Corinthians 15v14

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If the resurrection of Jesus happened, that means there's infinite hope and reason to pour ourselves out for the needs of the world. Easter means that in a world where injustice, violence and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things—and that we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement victory of Jesus over them all.”

– N.T. Wright

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The resurrection is the good news that God in Christ is committed to the renewal, reconciliation, and resurrection of all things- and so should the Church be.

– Rich Villodas

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