

TOMB

John 19:31-42
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INTRODUCTION: THEOLOGY OF THE TOMB

Tombs tell a story.

The importance of Jesus' tomb is found in the prophecies and allusions to it beforehand.

Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 12:40; John 12:7

The importance of the tomb is found in the fact that all the Gospel writers mention Jesus being buried in a tomb.

The importance of the tomb is seen in how unbelievers try to explain away the death and resurrection of Christ.

1. Stolen Body Theory,* Matthew 27:62-66
2. Swoon Theory
3. Substitution Theory
4. Twin Theory
5. Wrong Tomb Theory
6. Mass Hallucination Theory

In John 19, the tomb proves two things.

1. That Jesus was truly dead
2. That those who buried Him were truly His disciples.

Proposition: Jesus' death is magnified by His tomb so that His followers have confidence to leave their sin and stand for Him.

The purpose of the tomb in John 19 is to expose the truly dead and the "truly" disciples.

*christianindex.org/stories/top-10-theories-for-the-empty-tomb,5148

I. THE TRULY DEAD

A. THE FACT THAT JESUS TRULY DIED

1. The Word “Bodies,” vv. 31, 38, 40 (20:12)

2. The Testimony of the Soldiers, v. 33

Psalm 34:20

He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken.

3. The “Coup De Grace” of the Soldiers, v. 34

Isaiah 53:5a

But He was pierced through for our transgressions,

Zechariah 12:10

I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

4. John’s Testimony, v. 35

5. The Body Was Wrapped in Spices, v. 39

6. Only Jesus Was in the Tomb, v. 41

Isaiah 53:9

His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF JESUS BEING TRULY DEAD

? Why is it so important that Jesus was truly dead?

1. If Jesus Didn’t Die, Our Sins Can’t Be Forgiven

Genesis 3

Hebrews 9:22b

...without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

2. If Jesus Didn’t Die, There Was No Resurrection.

If there is no resurrection then we have no hope of life after death.

1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

II. THE TRULY DISCIPLES

A. THE TOMB EXPOSES THE TRUTH OF TWO SECRET DISCIPLES.

1. Joseph

John 12:42, 43

Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing *Him*, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

2. Nicodemus

B. THE TOMB EXPOSES THE TRUTH OF WHO YOU ARE.

We have peace with God.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

More than that, we will never be condemned.

Romans 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

More than that, we are sons of God.

Romans 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

The tomb reveals if this reality is real in you.

Romans 6:1-13

1. Dead To Sin

a. Christ was buried to prove death.

a1. We were baptized to identify with His death.

Romans 6:3

b. Christ died for sin.

b1. We die to sin.

Romans 6:6

2. Alive in Christ

a. Christ rose from the dead

a1. We rise with Christ.

Romans 6:8-11

b. Christ lives a new life.

b1. We live in newness of life.

Romans 6:12-14

Cf.1 Peter 3:18-22

CONCLUSION:

The tomb is the evidence that our sins can be forgiven.

The tomb exposes the true follower of Jesus.

APPLICATION:

? Are you willing to believe the testimony of the tomb? Both the body that was there and the tomb now empty?

? Are you willing to proclaim the message of the tomb? Both the body that was there and the tomb now empty?