

6. The Scars

After the Resurrection, Jesus' apostles were gathered in an Upper Room, and **Jesus appeared to them**. He did not enter through the door; He just appeared. Thomas was not present. When the disciples told Thomas about seeing the Risen Lord, Thomas said,

“Unless I **see** in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” John 20:25

After eight days His disciples were again inside and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and **see My hands**; and **reach here your hand and put it into my side**; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and My God!” John 20:26-28

Thomas **knew** he had seen the Risen Lord.

7. The Sightings

After He was resurrected from the grave, Jesus spent several days on this earth. During that time, He was not only seen by **the apostles** on the **two** occasions in the Upper Room, but by **individuals** and **groups** of people. Paul says that He revealed Himself on one occasion to **more than five hundred people**, most of whom were **still alive** at the time Paul wrote his letter (I Corinthians 15:6).

Certainly, they could have refuted his statement if it wasn't true. One writer has said that if all the witnesses who saw Jesus in His resurrected body were brought to court and given six minutes to speak, it would result in more than fifty hours of testimony about the Risen Christ.

The evidence shows that we can say with absolute **certainty** that Jesus Christ is **alive**.

{Based on: “The Seven Signs of Easter”, Dr. David Jeremiah}

Skip Welles 200409

The Resurrection!

Can the Resurrection be supported by evidence?

1. The Soldiers

Matthew 27:62-66

The chief priests and Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, and said, “Sir, we remember that when He was still alive, that deceiver said, ‘**After three days I am to rise again.**’ Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made **secure** until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first. Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, **make it as secure as you know how.**” And, they went and made the grave **secure**, and along with the **guard** they set a **seal** on the stone.

A Roman guard was **sixteen soldiers**, with four actively guarding. Every four hours four of the soldiers would replace them. But when the women arrived, there were **no soldiers**.

“Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened.” Matthew 28:11

The tomb was **empty**. Jesus was **gone**.

And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave **a large sum of money** to the soldiers, and said, “**You are to say**, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away **while we were asleep.**’ And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.” And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day. Matthew 28:12-15

2. The Seal

The seal was **missing**. A rope was stretched across the stone and affixed with wax to each side of the sepulcher. The Roman guard would put his signet ring in the wax, signaling that the sepulcher was **officially sealed** and contained what was to be inside. But when the women came to the tomb on that first Sunday, the **stone** had been **rolled away**, and the **seal** had been **broken**.

3. The Stone

The **stone** was **missing**. It was a piece of round granite, rolled in front of the tomb. First, they would roll the stone, in the groove, up the incline and place a shim under it. After the burial, they would roll the stone down in front of the grave and seal it. When the women arrived at the garden, there was **no stone** in front of the tomb. (Matthew 28:1-2).

Studies have calculated that, based on its size, the stone would have weighed **one-and-a-half to two tons**. But when the women got there that day, the stone was not even in the groove. So, the stone wasn't even near the opening of the grave, but over by itself, as if it had been picked up and moved over.

4. The Sepulcher

When they looked inside the tomb, there was **no body**.

...but when they entered, **they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus**. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, **“Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen**. Remember how He spoke to you, while He was still in Galilee” Luke 24:2-6.

5. The Shroud

The shroud was **still there**.

John 20:3-8 says:

John, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths **lying there**; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths **lying there**, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, **not** lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place **by itself**. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

In those days, people were buried in layers of fabric, like a mummy, with spices wrapped between each layer of cloth. Peter and John saw that the grave cloths that had encased Him **were still in the shape of His body**, slightly indented and caved in. When John saw the empty grave cloths—undisturbed in their form and position—he believed.

His body had passed **through** the cloths.

The body of Jesus could **not** have been stolen.

- The **linens** would **not** have been **there**.

Jesus couldn't have walked out of the grave.

- The grave clothes would **not** have been left **in the shape of His body**.

These grave clothes proved the reality of the resurrection.

Following that experience, John and his fellow disciples became courageous evangelists for the Gospel. These men turned their world upside down. And you'll notice that the **Resurrection** is the theme of every one of their messages.