

Was the Resurrection of Jesus Real?

ThinkCube 2: The Tomb Was Empty • Multiple Choice • Questions 1–4

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Use the ThinkCube article and your Bible. Circle the best answer.

Premise 1: Multiple Sources Report an Empty Tomb

1. Which Gospels report that Jesus' tomb was found empty?

- A. Only Matthew
- B. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- C. Only Luke and John
- D. Only Mark

2. Who discovers the empty tomb in Mark 16:1–8?

- A. Roman centurions
- B. The high priest
- C. Women who went to the tomb
- D. Pontius Pilate

3. Why do the Gospel accounts' differing secondary details matter in the article's argument?

- A. They necessarily disprove the event
- B. They show all authors copied the same wording
- C. They can reflect distinct perspectives while agreeing on the core claim
- D. They make eyewitness evidence irrelevant

Premise 2: The Earliest Witnesses Were Women

4. Who is named among the women who went to the tomb?

- A. Mary Magdalene
- B. Priscilla
- C. Lydia
- D. Sapphira

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5. Why is the inclusion of women as the first witnesses considered noteworthy?

- A. Women never visited tombs
- B. Their testimony often carried less public weight in that culture
- C. Women were Roman officials
- D. The Gospels never identify them

6. What historical reasoning is used when an account preserves details that could hurt its credibility?

- A. Argument from silence
- B. Criterion of embarrassment
- C. Circular reasoning
- D. Appeal to popularity

Premise 3: Even Jesus's Enemies Admitted the Tomb Was Empty

7. According to Matthew 28:11–15, what explanation did the religious leaders tell the guards to spread?

- A. Jesus had never been buried
- B. The disciples stole the body while guards slept
- C. Pilate released Jesus alive
- D. The tomb belonged to someone else

8. What does the stolen-body explanation implicitly acknowledge in Matthew's account?

- A. That the tomb was empty
- B. That Jesus was never crucified
- C. That no guards existed
- D. That the disciples denied knowing Jesus

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9. What difficulty arises if guards claimed to identify thieves while asleep?

- A. They would have needed more money
- B. Sleeping witnesses could not know who took the body
- C. The tomb was too far from Jerusalem
- D. The disciples were Roman citizens

Premise 4: Neither the Romans Nor the Jews Could Produce the Body

10. Who provided the tomb where Jesus was buried, according to the Gospel accounts?

- A. Nicodemus alone
- B. Joseph of Arimathea
- C. The apostle Paul
- D. King Herod

11. Why would producing Jesus' body have challenged the apostles' message?

- A. It would have confirmed their claims
- B. It would have undermined their proclamation of bodily resurrection
- C. It would have proved Jesus was a Roman soldier
- D. It would have established the date of Passover

12. According to 1 Corinthians 15:17, what follows if Christ has not been raised?

- A. Faith remains unchanged
- B. The disciples should return to Galilee
- C. Christian faith is futile
- D. The tomb's location becomes irrelevant

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Written Reflections • Use the article and Scripture

1. Premise 1: How does the agreement among the four Gospel accounts strengthen the claim that the tomb was empty?

2. Premise 2: Why might the Gospel writers' decision to name women as the first witnesses be significant in their historical setting?

3. Premise 3: Explain why the stolen-body account in Matthew 28:11–15 can be understood as an admission that the tomb was empty.

4. Premise 4: Why would producing Jesus' body have been a powerful response to the apostles' resurrection preaching?

5. Cumulative case: How do these four premises work together to support the historical case for the empty tomb?

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Scripture Memory • Personal Takeaway

Memory Verse — Luke 24:6 (ESV)

“He is not here, but has risen.”

Write the verse from memory:

Personal Takeaway

What is the strongest reason from this ThinkCube that you would share with someone questioning the empty tomb? Explain why.

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Instructor Answer Key • ThinkCube 2

Premise 1: Multiple Sources Report an Empty Tomb

1. **B** — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
2. **C** — Women who went to the tomb
3. **C** — They can reflect distinct perspectives while agreeing on the core claim

Premise 2: The Earliest Witnesses Were Women

4. **A** — Mary Magdalene
5. **B** — Their testimony often carried less public weight in that culture
6. **B** — Criterion of embarrassment

Premise 3: Even Jesus's Enemies Admitted the Tomb Was Empty

7. **B** — The disciples stole the body while guards slept
8. **A** — That the tomb was empty
9. **B** — Sleeping witnesses could not know who took the body

Premise 4: Neither the Romans Nor the Jews Could Produce the Body

10. **B** — Joseph of Arimathea
11. **B** — It would have undermined their proclamation of bodily resurrection
12. **C** — Christian faith is futile

Written Reflections: Evaluate whether students accurately explain each premise using the article and Scripture. Accept thoughtful answers supported by the source material.

Memory Verse: Luke 24:6 — “He is not here, but has risen.”

Personal Takeaway: Responses will vary.