

# REVISITING THE EMPTY TOMB

## THE EMPTINESS OF EASTER

### 1. The Emptiness of Easter

- a. Something churches do is celebrate Easter as a holy day, where many participate in programs, services, performances, and pageants recreating the empty tomb.
- b. Overwhelmingly in church today, the empty tomb preaches a hollow gospel.
- c. Overwhelming church today are chocolates, eggs, flowers, jellybeans, bunny baskets
- d. What is Easter without plastic grass, popery, and pageantry? Empty as the tomb.

### 2. Recreating the Empty Tomb at Easter

- a. The resurrection of Christ is at the heart of Christianity – but the Easter holyday is not.
- b. Attendance increases on this day, not due to doctrinal faithfulness, but esteeming days.
- c. Christ crucified/risen is the church's foundation: not one day a year – 1 Cor 2:2, 2 Ti 4:2
- d. Since faith is not seen, doesn't playacting the DBR cheapen faith? Rom 10:17, Heb 11:1
- e. If what is recreated is Matt-John, then Easter excludes the mystery of Christ – 2 Tim 2:8
- f. Lent/walking the Via Dolorosa/Filipinos not taking fellowship in his sufferings – Phi 3:10

### 3. Easter's Empty Tomb Myths

- a. Just as the creche is culturally created, Easter's empty tomb has a story not in the Bible
- b. Jesus died on Passover, rose 3 days later (but Passover is 4/22, EO 5/5) – Acts 12:4
- c. The pageant story created for viewing is not the Bible (consult Chosen's Dallas Jenkins)
- d. "empty tomb" a phrase absent from the Bible (but Calvary is not – Luke 23:33)
- e. The tomb was not entirely empty, there was a lot going on in it - Mark 16:5, Luke 23:4
- f. Mary wept *because* the tomb was empty, disciples refused to believe - John 20:6-13
- g. Did Jesus carry a cross, preach wrath, fall down 3x, walk out of the tomb? Lk 23:28
- h. Did Jesus look like Liam Neeson, Willem Dafoe, Christian Bale or Robert Powell?
- i. No one thinks NIST or NFL should dispense with precision, but God's church gets a pass

### 4. An Empty Conclusion

- a. An empty tomb not enough to prove resurrection, many bodies are missing – Luk 24:12
- b. If Easter's goal is to show the empty tomb, then it stops short of the proof. Lk 24:37-48
- c. It is not necessary for us to see the empty tomb or even Christ – John 20:25-28
- d. Eyewitnesses are necessary. The best are unbelievers such as 1 Tim 1:13, 1 Cor 15:5,9
- e. Paul did not see the empty tomb or talk to Peter. Christ reappeared to him by grace!
- f. Easter ends with an empty tomb; the gospel of grace begins with one – 1 Cor 15:17

### 5. Leaving Easter Behind with the Empty Tomb

- a. The most important part of the resurrection is what comes after – the explanation.
- b. Easter knows nothing of the revelation of the mystery body, or its gospel of grace to all.
- c. One can learn the 'true meaning of Easter' and be ignorant of the gospel that saves.
- d. Paul moves on to what resurrection means acc. to the mystery revealed – 1 Cor 15:20-21
- e. Salvation comes not by his still being alive, but by you made alive in Him – 1 Cor 15:22
- f. But now Christ reveals not only His resurrection, but yours in Him – Rom 6:4, Col 2:12
- g. Being risen with Christ (mystery of Christ) is greater than the empty tomb – Col 3:1-10
- h. Peter did not have the Holy Ghost nor preach the glory of this mystery – Luke 24:49
- i. Easter is as empty as the tomb. The power not in the day, but in the risen Christ in you.