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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 938-939.
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The stone was rolled away on Jesus' tomb - not so Jesus could get out, but so that we could get in. - Dr. Timothy Keller

The heavy, ponderous stone that sealed Jesus in the confines of that rock-walled tomb was but a pebble compared to the Rock of Ages inside. - Dr. James Hewett



1. The Stone of Discouragement

Mark 16:1-2, NIV -¹ *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb...*

Luke 24:21, NIV -²¹ *but we had hoped that he was the one...*

Luke 24:21, NASB95 -²¹ *"But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.*

John 20:20, NIV -²⁰ *After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.*

2. The Stone of Doubt

Mark 16:3-5, NIV84 -³ *and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large...*

John 20:24-25, NIV84 -²⁴ *Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."*

John 20:27-28, NIV84 -²⁷ *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

"I was filled with so much doubt...so many questions but that has changed...We have nine ancient sources (40+ witnesses documented) inside and outside the New Testament, confirming and corroborating the conviction of the disciples that they encountered the resurrected Jesus. That is an avalanche of historical data...The resurrection of Jesus is not some April Fools' Day joke, it is a historical reality based not on mythology, but a solid foundation of historical truth,"

- Dr. Lee Strobel, *A Case for the Resurrection*, Jan 13, 2009

3. The Stone of Defeat

Mark 16:6, NLT -⁶ *but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified."*

4. The Stone of Death

Mark 16:6-7, GNB -⁶ *"Don't be alarmed," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here—he has been raised! Look, here is the place where they put him." ⁷ Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: "He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you." "*

1 Corinthians 15:20-22, GNB -²⁰ *But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised. ²¹ For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man. ²² For just as all people die because of their union with Adam, in the same way all will be raised to life because of their union with Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NASB95 -³ *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...*

Nothing less than a witness as awesome as the resurrected Christ could have caused those men to maintain to their dying whispers that Jesus is alive."

- Dr. Charles Colson