

The Empty Tomb

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No. 3

We have been learning that God is in control of more events than we think.

This brings us to perhaps the greatest miracle that God performed, again, to show that He is in control.



It was the Sunday morning after Jesus was crucified.

It started out as a somber day, without much hope and a dismal future. A lost friend, a broken dream mixed with great confusion.

Perhaps this day is how the day of some of you begins each morning – without much hope and a dismal future, and a bit of confusion to go with it.

Things happen, things beyond our control but let's remember, nothing is beyond God's control.

Our place is to trust!

The disciples were experiencing things beyond their control along with the women who followed Jesus.

Their friend Jesus was gone; crucified, tortured and buried in a tomb.

A tomb brings with it a sense of finality.

And once the big rock is rolled over the entrance, there is complete closure.

I want us to see today, that even a dismal event like this shows us that God is in control.

Sometimes people wonder if the Bible is true.

After all, men wrote it.

Yes, men did write it and they wrote what God inspired them to write.

Isn't every book written by man?

- medical books
- history books
- science books

Animals don't write, nor do birds or fish – only man.

Therefore,

God used men to record His word to us.

And what makes this book different from all others is that it tells us ahead of time what is going to happen.

Men's books tell us what has already happened.

God's book tells us what is going to happen. And it says a lot about what would happen to Jesus.

This confirms to me that God is in control.

16 Prophecies pertaining to Christ

1. Place of birth – 725 BC

Mic 5:2 *But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."*

Mt 2:1 *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,*

2. Born of a virgin – 740 BC

Is 7:14 *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.*

Mt 1:18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.*

3. Infants massacred

Jer 31:15 *A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more."*

Mt 2:16 *Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.*

4. Entrance into Jerusalem – 520 BC

Zec 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Jn 12: 14 *When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the Palm Sunday; Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, "FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT."*

5. Betrayed by a friend – 1,000 BC

Ps 41:9 *Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.*

Mk

14:10 *Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them.*

6. Silent when accused – 740 BC

Is 53:7 *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.*

Mt 26:62-63 *silent before the high priest
The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?"
But Jesus kept silent.*

The same with pilate; Mt 27:12

7.Beaten and spit upon – 740 BC

Is 50:6 *I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.* Mk 14:65 *Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers received Him with slaps in the face.*

8.Crucified with sinners – 740 BC

Is 53:12 *...He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many...*
Mt 27:38 *At that time two robbers *were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left.*

9.Crucified in hands and feet – 1,000 BC

Ps 22:16 *For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.* Jn 20:27 *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."*

10.Mocked and insulted – 1,000 BC

Ps 22:7-8 *All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,*
v.8 *"Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him;*
Mt 27:39-40 *If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross*

11.His side was pierced – 520 BC Zec 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.*

Jn 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

12.Soldiers cast lots for His clothes – 1,000 BC

Ps 22:18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

Mt 27:35 And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots.

13.Not a bone would be broken – 1,000 BC

Ps 34:20 He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken.

Jn 19:33 but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

14.Buried with the rich – 740 BC

Is 53:9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death

*Mt 27:59-60 (Joseph of Arimathea) took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,
and laid it in his own new tomb,*

15.His Resurrection – 1,000 BC

Ps 16:10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Mt 28:6 The angel said to the women; He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

Finally;

16.His Ascension – 1,000 BC

Ps 68:18 You have ascended on high, You have led captive Your captives;

Lu 24:50-51 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

You cannot argue with facts. God is in control.

And if He is in control of the events concerning His Son, How much more do you think He can be in control if you give your life to Him?