I. The Empty Tomb

- a. The empty tomb is one of the most important aspects of Christianity
- b. The fact that Jesus' body was not in the tomb raises a lot of questions
 - i. How did he get out? (the stone was removed to show us He was not there, not to let Him out)
 - ii. Did someone remove the body? (Matthew gives us the answer to that question
 - iii. Matthew 28:11 (ESV) ¹¹ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.
 - iv. Is he alive?
 - v. John 20:14–16 (ESV) ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).
 - vi. His appearance answers the question, "is He alive?"
- c. The empty tomb is a fulfillment of prophecy

II. Prophecies

- a. David foretells Jesus' resurrection
 - i. Psalm 16:10 (ESV) 10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.
 - ii. Acts 2:29–32 (ESV) ²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.
- b. Jesus foretells his resurrection
 - i. Matthew 16:21 (ESV) ²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.
 - ii. Matthew 17:22–23 (ESV) ²² As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³ and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.
 - iii. Mark records three times that Jesus plainly tells His disciples that He will die and be resurrected (Mark 8:31-32; 9:30-32; 10:32-34)
- c. And we know those prophecies were fulfilled because Jesus appeared to many of his disciples

III. Appearance

- a. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (ESV) ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.
- b. These appearances are 'of first importance'
- c. These appearances are the very proof of Jesus's claim to be the Christ
 - i. Luke 24:13–16 (ESV) ¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.
 - ii. Mark mentions this but only gives us 2 verses (Mark 16:12-13)
 - iii. In this appearance, Jesus at first keeps them from recognizing Him
 - iv. I can imagine the discussion (they were there with the others when Mary came and told them Jesus was alive)
 - v. Can you imagine the discussion between them?
 - vi. And then Jesus leads with his own question
 - vii. Luke 24:17–18 (ESV) ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"
 - viii. Jesus' question stopped them in their tracks
 - ix. An incredulous, exclamatory question because of what appeared like impossible ignorance on Jesus' part ¹
 - x. Jesus even continues His feigned ignorance with the response, "what things?"
 - xi. Luke 24:19–21 (ESV) ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.
 - xii. I would contrast their 'hope' with Peter's confidence in Matthew 16:16
 - xiii. They even had an evewitness

xiv. Luke 24:22–24 (ESV) ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who

¹ R. C. H. Lenski, <u>The Interpretation of St. Luke's Gospel</u> (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1961), 1182.

- said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."
- xv. But Jesus knows them and their hearts!
- xvi. Mark 16:9–11 (ESV) ⁹ Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹ But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.
- xvii. Luke 24:25–27 (ESV) ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- xviii. Jesus explains everything to them! Now they are armed with the ability to believe Mary's statement that He was alive
 - xix. Luke 24:28–31 (ESV) ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.
 - xx. They race back to Jerusalem to tell the rest
- xxi. Luke 24:33–35 (ESV) ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.
- d. We have eyewitness testimony that Jesus is 'risen indeed'

IV. Proclaim the Gospel

- a. Mark 16:14–16 (ESV) ¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- b. Proof of the empty tomb
- c. Proof of the resurrection
- d. 'Oh, sing hallelujah, Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed, Christ is risen, He is risen indeed'