THE RESURRECTION FACT OR FRAUD

Luke 24:1-9  Verse# 1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

Matt 27:59-60. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and HE ROLLED A GREAT STONE TO THE DOOR OF THE SEPULCHRE, and departed.

Matt 27:66. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Mark 15:46. And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

FRANK MORISON: In his book “Who Moved the Stone”? was an English journalist and lawyer who set out to prove that the story of Christ’s resurrection was nothing but myth. However, his probing led him to discover the validity of the biblical record in a moving, personal way. After close examination of the facts of how the stone got moved from the tomb, came to the conclusion that “Jesus was the promised Messiah, and that He had been raised by the direct hand of God”.

I. COULD THE SERVANTS HAVE MOVE THE STONE?


"Could the Disciples have come and moved away the stone from the grave site? Let us consider where and what the Servants of Our Lord was doing the night before He died."
(A). THE FORGETFUL SERVANTS.

Matt 16:21-22. From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

How soon WE FORGET the words of our Lord. How DO YOU FOLLOW HIS WORDS? Do you ACCUSE Peter and at the same time BE GUILTY of the same thing?

COUNTING THE COST

Let’s ask ourselves this question: “Am I concerned about the sacrifices I may be called upon to make in serving Christ?” Two young men were talking about this very thing. One of them said, “I cannot tell you all that the Lord Jesus is to me, or what He has done for me. I do wish you would enlist in His army.” “I’m thinking about it,” answered the other young man, “but it means giving up several things—in fact, I am counting the cost.” A Christian officer, just passing, heard the last remark, and laying his hand on the shoulder of the young soldier said, “Young man, you talk of counting the cost of following Christ, but have you ever counted the cost of not following Him”

(B). THE FLEEING SERVANTS

Matt 26:55-56. In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

But all this was done, THAT THE SCRIPTURES of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples FORSOOK = (leave, let alone) him, and fled = (to run away, to vanish, flee (away).

Mark 14:50. And they all forsook him, and fled.

II. COULD THE SOLDIERS HAVE MOVE THE STONE?

Matt 27:62-66. Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

(A). THE SETTING OF THE WATCH.
Matt 27:65. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch= (Roman sentry:) go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

Mark 16:1-4. Tells us that on the way to the tomb the women were perplexed about how they could anoint the body of Jesus, for THE STONE WAS SO GREAT that they could not MOVE it. We learn that it must be “ROLLED AWAY” (Mark 16:4) and “TAKEN AWAY” (John 20:1) and “ROLLED BACK” (Matthew 28:2) How did this stone get moved away from the grave site”

1. Remember there is a ROMAN SENTRY guarding the grave.

**(B). THE SEALING OF THE STONE.**

Matt 27:66. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing = (to stamp -with a signet or private mark - for security or preservation ) the stone, and setting a watch.

**JOSH McDowell:** Said in his book “More Than a Carpenter” “The situation at the tomb after the resurrection is significant. The Roman SEAL WAS BROKEN, which meant AUTOMATIC CRUCIFIXION UPSIDE DOWN for those who did it. The large stone was moved up and away from not just the entrance, but from the entire massive sepulchre, looking as if it had been picked up and carried away.

**JUSTIN IN HIS DIGEST 49:16** list eighteen offenses for which a GUARD UNIT could be PUT TO DEATH. These included FALLING ASLEEP or LEAVING one’s position UNGUARDED the woman came and found the tomb empty.

**J.N.D. ANDERSON** of the London University of law said: “The theory that the Jewish or Roman authorities moved Christ’s body is no more reasonable an explanation for the empty tomb than theft by the disciples. If the authorities had the body in their possession or knew where it was, why, when the disciples were preaching the RESURRECTION in JERUSALEM, didn’t they explain that they had taken it? If they had, why didn’t they explain exactly where the body lay” Why didn’t they recover the corpse, put it on a cart, and wheel it through the center of Jerusalem? Such an action would certainly have DESTROYED CHRISTIANITY.

**DR. JOHN WARWICK MONTGOMERY** comments: “It passes the bounds of credibility that the early Christians could have manufactured such a tale and then PREACHED IT AMONG THOSE who might easily have REFUTED it simply by PRODUCING the BODY OF JESUS.

**HOW I WANTED TO SAVE YOU MOTHER**
EVANGELIST GYPSY SMITH said that once, when a group of gypsies were forced to cross a swollen stream, a great number of men were drowned. One young man made a desperate attempt to save his mother who kept clinging to him. Several times he pushed her away, saying, “Let go, Mother, and I can save you.” But she would not heed him and was lost. At the funeral, the son stood by his mother’s grave and said over and over, “How hard I tried to save you, Mother, but you wouldn’t let me!” These are the tragic words that we shall hear Jesus Christ say to many in eternity one day, “How hard I tried to save you, but you wouldn’t let me. Your will was the great hindrance.

III. DID THE SAVIOUR MOVE THE STONE?

Luke 24:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.

Matt 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay.

Mark 16:6. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

John 21:14. This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

Jesus being God did not have to move the stone. He could walk through the stone, after his resurrection he appeared into rooms and then disappeared again. I conclude to you today that Jesus did not move the stone. The stone WAS NOT moved for JESUS TO GET OUT, but for the WOMEN and the SERVANTS to GET IN.

Then how did the stone get moved?

IV. DID THE SERAPH MOVE THE STONE (seraph, angel, archangel)

Matt 28:2-5. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Mark 16:3-5 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.=(picked up and throwed away) And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

(A). THE POWER OF THE SERAPH.
Matt 28:2-4. And, behold, **there was a great earthquake**: for **the angel of the Lord descended from heaven**, and came and **rolled back the stone** from the door, and **sat upon it**. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

1. The **Angel** at the **Lord’s Tomb was only one of the twelve legions** that the living Christ could have called down from Heaven. (Matt 26:53) Let Caesar, bring in the troops, summon your soldiers; bring them back from **BRITAIN**, **GREECE**, and the **EUPHRATES RIVER**. Throw them in, wave after wave, against this **one lone angel**, if you dare. You will only reduce your empire to ruins long before it’s time!

**(B). THE PURPOSE OF THE SARAPH.**

Luke 24:6 **He is not here, but is risen**: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.

Matt 28:5-6 And the angel answered and said unto the women, **Fear not ye**: for I know that ye **seek Jesus, which was crucified**. **He is not here**: for he is risen, as he said. **Come, see the place where the Lord lay**.

**ANGELS ALL AROUND US**

If an angel from heaven suddenly became visible to you as you were sitting alone, what would your reaction be? An ancient saint admonished Christians in these words: “In every area ... in every corner, pay a respect to your angel. Dare not do before him what you dare not do before others. Consider with how great respect, awe, and modesty we ought to behave in the sight of the angels lest we offend their holy eyes and render ourselves unfit for their company. Woe to us if they who could chase away our enemy would be offended by our negligence and deprive us of their visit.”