① THE EMPTY TOMB REALIZATION

v.1 Now, on the first day of the week...
- interesting note that all 4 Gospels explain the day as: "the first day of the week"
- opposed to: The Third day
- Jesus said, "The Son of Man will be killed, but after three days rise again." Mark 8:31
- Paul said, "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and was buried, and He rose again the third day according to the scriptures" 1 Cor. 15:4
- Truly remarkable that all 4 Gospels use the term: "first day of the week" (Matt. 28:1, Mk 16:2, Luke 24:1)

★ It seems all 4 writers are trying to make a point:
- There is a newness
- A new Season, A New Covenant
- The church was known to meet on Sunday (1 Cor. 16:1, Josephus' writings)

★ Sunday Did not change or replace the Sabbath Rest (vs. consecrational meetings) / church day)

★ JESUS and abiding in Him replaces the Sabbath Rest (Matt 12:5-8, Heb. 4)

v.1 Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark and saw the stone had been taken away from the tomb

- a couple of things to mention here:
  1) Mary's story is truly amazing
     - let us never forget that no one is out of God's reach
     - Possessed by seven demons (Luke 8:2)
     - to become a disciple and servant to Jesus (Mark 15:41)
     - no record of how she met Jesus
     - no record of her being a prostitute (some try and link Mary to the un-named prostitute in Lk 7 weeping at Jesus' feet)
  ★ church history tells us she became a leader of the women
     - always mentioned first
  2) A first witness of the Resurrection!
     - explained later in 20:16
     - which, if the story wasn't true & the disciples were trying to save face - a woman's testimony would be a ridiculous choice as a witness
     - a women's witness was not admissible in court — Mishnah Rosh ha-Shanah 1:8
- At this point, she has not seen/witnessed Jesus, but just the empty tomb.

v.2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved
- most likely John, who really tried to keep his name out of the Gospel

v.2 And said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of His tomb and we don't know where they have laid Him."
- She/they probably thought it was grave robbers (very common, even Emperor Claudius made it a capital punishment - remember all the money in spices, aloes)
- or maybe moved to another tomb since the burial was done in haste (due to the Sabbath)

② PETER & JOHN SEE INSIDE THE TOMB

v.3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb
- When hearing the news from Mary Both disciples ran to investigate

v.4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.
- It is believed that John was younger than Peter
- and that Peter was a larger, more muscular man (Peter pulled a net of 153 fish by himself... John 21:11)

v.5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there, yet did not go in.
- assuming it's John, he was caught by amazement at the cloths
- the phrase of "Did not go in" tells us it was a cave type tomb
- the clothes "lying there" is evidence it was not a grave robber
- the linen clothes were wrapped around the body w/ spices
- clearly, robbers would have taken the very expensive linen and spices

v.6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb
- Peter was slower, but more impetuous and entered the tomb

v.6 he saw the linen cloths lying there
v.7 and he saw the handkerchief (NKJV) face cloth (NASB, ESV) that had been around His head, not lying with the linen clothes, but folded together in a place by itself.
- 3 times now, the linen clothes are described as "lying there"
- The Greek word for "lying there" Κείμαι: to recline, laid or set

★ The linen cloths were still lying in the recline position as they were laid

★ Seems Jesus supernaturally passed through the linen cloths
- leaving them "lying" there as untouched
- not "unrolled" and set aside

Q. Was Jesus' body Physical or Spiritual?
A. Yes... both
- His body was physical and can be touched (Mary, Thomas), bears the wounds of crucifixion, and cooks fish and ate it (Luke 24:41-43)
- Yet, His body transcended the physical elements and was spiritual
  - rose through the grave clothes
  - passed through locked doors - v.19, 26
  - and, at times, not easily recognized
  - "He appeared in another form" to two men as they walked... Mark 16:14

μορφή: form, shape, outward appearance

- The meaning of the separated and folded up face cloth is under much dispute
  - what is clear though is the contrast to Laz. who came out still wearing his grave clothes
  - Robbers would have never folded it... John 11:44
  - This speaks of a calm collected person

③ Fulfilled Scripture: Rise From the Dead

v.8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also.
- John seeing Peter enter in encouraged John to do so as well
- Seems as if one could only see the face cloth once they entered (As Peter saw clothes & face cloth, as John only sees the clothes at first)

v.8 and he saw and believed
- what did he see?
- what did he believe?
  - Did he see the tomb was empty,
  - Did he see the cloths still lying there
  - the face cloth?... all of this??

★ He hasn't seen Jesus yet
- what did he believe?
  - Mary's story
  - the resurrection occured
  - Is this his saving faith testimony
  - Thomas is typically mocked and titled "Doubting Thomas"
  - because he needed to see to believe
- In actuality, many disciples did not believe until they either saw the empty tomb OR the risen Lord!

v.9 For as yet, they did not know the scripture
- this word: "know" is οἶδα
  - to know, remember, understand the meaning of something
- However, Jesus said we will "know" God in a much deeper sense

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus whom You have sent." — John 17:3

γινώσκω: familiarity, intimate understanding

★ Just Because you know οἶδα the scriptures, DOES NOT mean you know γινώσκω GOD

- When John writes that they did not yet know the scripture
- what scripture was he referring to?
- possibilities of O.T. scriptures on the Resurrection of the Messiah:

1) Psalm 16:10
"For You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption

2) Hosea 6:2
"After two days He will revive us, on the third day He will raise us up that we may live in His sight
The us/we are those who "return to the LORD" - v.1
This was a national call to Repentance

3) Isaiah 53:10-12
"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him He has put Him to grief. When you make His soul an offering for sin He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days."

4) Ex. 3:6 "I am the God of the living

5) 1 Sam 2:6 The LORD kills and makes alive. He brings down to the grave and brings up

6) 1 Kings 17:17 Elisha brings the widows son back to life

7) 2 Kings 13 Dead man fell on Elisha's bones and came back to life
Elijah = John the Baptist / Elisha = Jesus

8) Ez 37 Dead bones become flesh

9) Job 19:25-26 My Redeemer lives & shall stand on the earth and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God

10) Daniel 12:2 many who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake...

- As John 20:9 says, He (the Messiah) must rise again from the dead

v.10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

④ JESUS APPEARS TO MARY

- the rest of the chapter deals w/ three appearances of Jesus
  1) Mary v. 11-18
  2) The apostles w/o Thomas v. 19-25
  3) To Thomas v. 26-29

v.11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping...
- Seems as if she went back to the tomb alone after telling the disciples what "they" saw
  - she had said to Peter and John that "we" don't know where they have laid Him. 20:2
- The "we" is only important to note because the other Gospel writers mention Mary w/ other women at the tomb
  - so its best to understand the "we" as the group of women

★ Now she returns alone
★ OR she returned w/ Peter & John
- but when they "went home" v. 10
- Mary stayed there alone & cried

v.11 and as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb
- she was at the tomb previously, but did not look in or go in.

v.12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain
- Typically, there was a stone bench that would run along the wall
- The angels play a very short role, but through all 4 Gospels we see:
  - They rolled back the stone from the grave... Matt. 28:2-3
  - They reminded the women earlier that the Messiah must rise, that He is risen! And not to seek the living among the dead... Lk 24:4
  - They told the ladies to go tell the Disciples - and Peter - that He is going to meet you all in Galilee (Fulfills Is 9:1-2) Mark 16:7
  - It is also interesting, that in all 4 Gospels the angels & Jesus ask what the women are seeking

v.13 Then they said to her, Woman, why are you weeping?
- The calling her "woman" was not disrespectful, but cultural

★ The Question itself was not for an answer or information

★ This was a gentle rebuke
- The body was not robbed and
- angels were present to verify this was a work of God

- she answers anyway...

v. 13 She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."
- Either the angels were somewhat unrecognizable as angels...
- OR she was just overcome w/ emotion

- As she is answering the question, she seems to become aware of a presence behind her...
- OR one theory is that after she asked this, the angels simply pointed behind her.

v.14 Now when she had said this, she turned around & saw Jesus standing, but did not know that it was Jesus
- Again, similar to the angels, she was overcome w/ emotion
- OR He didn't look exactly the same (It was an entirely new/perfect body)
- especially shocking considering her last look at Jesus' body

v.15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?
- again we see a gentle reproof
- Angels are there sitting, Jesus is standing (conquering King)

What are you seeking...
ζητέω: to seek what is lost implies serious effort

- she was clearly distraught, but Jesus was right there
- ALL was Good

v.15 she, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away."
- away to another burial place if needed is what is meant.
- Remember, the garden κῆπος was a large orchard
- very common to have a gardener κηπουρός who would know any events on the property

v.16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
- Just one single word did it.
- It was enough for her to recognize the voice & person
The Good Shepherd Knows His sheep and they know Him... and He calls them by name and they know His voice — 10:3-4

v.16 she turned around and said to Him, "Rabboni" (which is to say, "Teacher")
- This was one of Jesus' most common titles
- It's an aramaic word, so John translates it for his Gentile Readers/listeners
- Jesus was a teacher... and commands us to teach everyone everything He taught us - Matt 28:19-20