



0. AN EMPTY TOMB - Story Preface
1. ROMAN RULE IN ISRAEL
2. CRUCIFIXION AS ROMAN PUNISHMENT
3. ARAMAIC LANGUAGE
4. DEATH of LAZARUS
5. A TRIUMPHAL ENTRY
6. PREDICTING DEATH
7. THE LAST SUPPER
8. THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
9. THE ARREST
10. THE FIRST TRIAL
11. THE SECOND TRIAL: BEFORE PILATE
12. JESUS BEFORE HEROD
13. THE DEATH SENTENCE
14. THE CROSS
15. THE PLACE OF THE SKULL
16. DEATH BY CRUCIFIXION
17. THE TOMB
- 18. AN EMPTY TOMB**
19. JESUS APPEARS to OTHERS
20. ART and the EASTER STORY

This image of a tomb outside the city walls of Jerusalem is known as the "Garden Tomb." It is also referred to as "Gordon's Garden Tomb" since this British general suggested that it could have been the tomb of Jesus.

The picture is by Phillip Benschmuel who provides more detail about the site: "Tomb of the garden in Jerusalem updated by the Greek owner of the land who wanted to use it as a cistern to hold water. In front of this tomb was built a Byzantine church in the fourth century, as evidenced by the mosaic decorations on the floor, the supports of the arches on the rock wall, the niches that could serve as a location for the ceiling beams, and share and other two rectangular cavities that could receive reliquaries. The frontage of this tomb carries a nephesh on the right, an anchor symbol / the cross on the left and traces evoking the shape of a large circular stone that was rolled in a guide groove but the marks of chisel in this groove seem to be due to the Crusaders and suggest rather a trough for animals." Online via Wikimedia Commons; License: [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

After Jesus was buried, religious leaders wanted to make sure that no one stole his body. They went to Pilate and said:

We remember that while he was still alive the deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.

Pilate agreed to their demands.

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

On Sunday morning, the first day of the week, some of the women went to look at the tomb. They found it empty, with the stone rolled away. The guards had been frightened "and became like dead men."

Calling some of the disciples, the women returned to the tomb. Mary Magdalene stayed behind when the others went back to their homes. Looking inside the tomb, she:

...saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?'

Never expecting to see Jesus again, Mary Magdalene responded:

'They have taken my Lord away...and I don't know where they have put him.' At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize it was Jesus.

Jesus asked her:

Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?

Thinking he was the gardener, she asked Him to tell her where the body was so she could retrieve it. Not until Jesus said,

"Mary,"

did she realize who He was.

Trying to touch Jesus, Mary Magdalene reached out for him. Jesus reproached her:

Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/AN-EMPTY-TOMB-Passion-of-the-Christ>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/AN-EMPTY-TOMB-Passion-of-the-Christ>

Media Stream



Women at the Tomb of Jesus

Image, described above, online courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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The Resurrection of Christ - Albrecht Altdorfer

Image, described above, online courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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Women at the Tomb of Jesus

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Mary Magdalene - Titian

Image, described above, online courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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Mary Reached Out to Jesus - "Noli me Tangere"

Image, described above, online courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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