

Empty Promises of Easter

--Promises unkept and promises that have no use are the vast majority of promises in our world today.

--Jesus and our message about Him go straight to the root of the matter: [Hebrews 2:14-15](#).

--Doesn't matter how at peace you are, how enlightened, how strong and bold — sooner than later you're going to be dead like the grass and flowers.

--So, we have promises that nobody's keeping and we have promises that nobody needs.

But God's promises are different: instead of promises full of Emptiness like we get in our world, God's given us emptiness on Resurrection Sunday that is full of promises.

1. This morning we are going to take a look at the promises of Easter, and see that each promise is marked by something empty.

--In fact, it is that each promise of Easter is marked by something empty that assures us that God's promises are real.

1. The first empty thing of Easter that is so full of promise for us was of course, the empty tomb.

--Do you know why it was empty?

--He was alive to be sure, but it wasn't just in place of being dead or because He didn't like death---there was something more to it than that.

--[Rom. 4:24-25](#)---When you send a law breaker to prison, how do you know when his debt has been paid? When they let him go!

--Jesus was no law breaker but He came to take the place of all of us--how do you know that our debt had been paid in full? When death let Him GO!

But it's not just the tomb that was empty.

2. The tomb being empty meant something else was empty, namely, all the promises in the Old Testament of Jesus' 1st coming to earth.

--There are over 300 promises of the His first coming that Jesus fulfilled/emptied.

--[Dr. Peter Stoner](#) (statistician and professor of mathematics at several colleges) calculated the odds of one man coincidentally fulfilling just 8 of the 300 prophecies, and this is what he came up with:

--1 chance in 10 with 17 zeroes behind it or 1×10 to the 17th power which is astronomical odds.

--But that's only 8 of the prophecies; He fulfilled over 300 prophecies made about Him in the O.T.

--[The odds of Him fulfilling 48 is 1 chance in one with 157 zeros behind it: \$1 \times 10^{157}\$](#)

How can you maintain intellectual integrity and ignore these stats?

3. The tomb was emptied, the promises were emptied: these meant that Jesus had emptied Himself. This is the 3rd empty thing that held so much promise.

--[Ephesians 1:22-23](#) --that's not the way we started; we live in a Universe that God fills, but we are empty, so He emptied Himself so we could be filled.

--[Philippians 2:6-7](#) --Do you understand what this means? He became just like us, so we could become like Him.

--Then on the cross He emptied Himself of the last thing He had left—life, true life—to fill the void that death had left in this world.

--His last words as He emptied Himself were: "[It is finished](#)"—this means that everything that needed to be done for us had been done.

--It means that for our empty lives there is fullness of life in Jesus Christ.

3. The 4th empty thing of Easter that carries such a full promise was the empty cross.

--I never really appreciated a crucifix -- a cross, yes, but not a crucifix because Jesus isn't there, in fact, he was not even there by nightfall of the day He was crucified.

--Do you know why? (This one might surprise you) because He was dead.

--The cross was a Roman form of execution so once a person was dead they could be taken down.

--What's the big deal about that?

--Well, would you consider it a big deal if God died? Yes, but what does it mean?

--It means that the only One Who could take our place and pay for the debt that our sins earned did just that.

--**Romans 6:23** – believe it---in God's justice system, sin has to be paid for: you have one of two options:

ONE you pay for and that will take all eternity.

TWO Accept Christ's death as payment for it.

--Don't believe anyone who says that Jesus didn't die, because that was the primary thing that He came down here to do **1 Timothy 1:15**.

--**Matthew 20:28, John 10:11** – there was only one way to do that and that was to take their place and take what was coming to them.

--An empty cross guarantees the promise that our sins have been fully paid for.

--An empty life tells us that Jesus held nothing back that we needed.

--An empty tomb tells us that it's a done deal—it only remains for us to receive it.