

THE TOMB

(Luke 23:5 - 24:12)

By Dr. Henry Harbuck
AEGA General Overseer

At this time of year stores are selling Easter books, candy, eggs, rabbits and other items that commercialize the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Oddly, there are no tombs or crosses to be found symbolizing what occurred during the period we know as Easter.

While it is true we as believers associate “resurrection” with Easter, few people ever consider Jesus’ body was placed in a **tomb**. In the last moments of His life He was abandoned by His closest friends who felt they would never see Him again. But Luke 23 and 24 tell us that certain women came to anoint the body of Jesus in **the tomb** with aromatic spices. Upon their arrival at the grave site they were astonished when they heard two men in shining garments say: “He is not here; He is risen” (Lk. 24:6). At that point in time all their sorrow and fears were vanquished. They suddenly realized that something amazing had happened. Jesus had won a victorious battle over death, hell and the grave.

The tomb is now a thing of the past, but it shall never be forgotten. Without **the tomb**, the marvelous miracle of resurrection would never have been witnessed.

As we approach Easter, let us remember the central focus of our faith is that Jesus Christ died and afterward rose from the dead as He promised. This is no myth, but a fact witnessed by many. Tombs today are full of dry bones, but Jesus’ **tomb** is empty! The resurrection of Christ was so important to the apostle Paul that he said, “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is empty.” (I Cor. 15:14; NKJV-quotations are mine). Essentially Paul is saying “your preaching is in vain (i.e., a waste of time), if Christ did not rise from the dead.” Paul goes on to say without the “resurrection” our faith is ineffective (v.17), and that believers will perish without hope (v.18). The “resurrection” is a historical fact and a large majority of scholars from various backgrounds admit to it. The “resurrection” of Jesus Christ must always be our central focus as Paul mentioned in I Cor. 15:12-20. Without the reality of “**the tomb**” (i.e., “empty”) and the “resurrection” there would be no promise of heaven.