

Interview 5

David Jones

This is David Jones reporting from an undisclosed location outside of Jerusalem where there has been a lot of confusion and speculation surrounding the death of Jesus Christ.

Here's what we know so far:

Early this morning, three women followers of Jesus were granted permission to access the tomb where Jesus was laid to rest to apply proper burial garments and oils per Jewish traditions. When the soldiers escorted the women to the tomb, they found the stone at the entrance rolled to the side and the tomb empty. There appears to have been no struggles as they found the garments Jesus wore neatly folded and there was no sign of disturbance on the ground nor any indication of how the stone was rolled back from the entrance. The Roman soldiers have been going from door to door in surrounding villages looking for anyone connected to Jesus who might have any information.

Meanwhile, there seems to be a lot of tensions growing between the Jewish leadership and Romans as to how the tomb could be breached. Roman soldiers have been very firm in their position that there was no possibility of anyone getting to the tomb before the soldiers escorted the three women. The Jewish leaders insist that clearly the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb either fell asleep on the job or looked the other way to let followers of Jesus get to the tomb.

I've been talking to people on the street to get their reaction and there seems to be a consistent sense of confusion for what is going on.

Someone comes to David and whispers in his ear ...

I just got word that the Jewish leader I interviewed earlier wants me to come to his office so he can clear this all up. We'll take a break so we can get set up before we come back.

DJ

We are coming to you from the office of Rabbi Saul, who was at the Sanhedrin trial at the high priest Caiaphas residence that condemned Jesus. He has agreed to let me call him by name, since his office is well known in this area and he has nothing to hide.

Thank you for taking the time to talk with us. What is the latest information regarding Jesus whereabouts and the situation with the tomb of his burial?

Saul

I just came from there and it is quite obvious that there was a very poor attempt to create an appearance of some form of miraculous event there.

DJ

What exactly were the signs that made it obvious?

Saul

When they removed the body, they went to extreme measures to fold his garments up and put them in a neat stack where he was laid to rest. Then they went to a lot of trouble to remove any sign of their presence. There were no foot prints or anything to suggest that anyone had been in there. They even made a huge effort to remove any tracks showing that the stone had been moved. It was clear that they went out of their way to make it appear as something other than it was.

DJ

In all due respect, isn't the fact that there were no footprints or movement of the stone support the idea of a possible resurrection?

Saul

Of course, that's what they wanted us to believe. But think about it. If it truly was a resurrection, they would not have needed to roll the stone over, would they? If we had rolled back the stone and found no body, his garments neatly folded and no signs of anyone having been there, that

would have been a different story. But there is no resurrection here. We will find the truth and those who tried to create this idea of a resurrection, and they will be brought to justice, I assure you.

DJ

So you're ruling out any possibility of a resurrection here?

Saul

Listen, I don't question what God is capable of doing. I'm saying that in this situation, it is clear that people who lack knowledge of what a resurrection is went out of their way to create a scene of a resurrection. A very amateur job of trying to sell the idea of a resurrection.

DJ

Are you holding the Romans responsible?

Saul

They were responsible for guarding the tomb and freely boasted that the security was so tight no one could have possibly been to the tomb without them knowing it. Yet we now have an empty tomb. I would say the Romans have some explaining to do, yes.

DJ

But what you are saying would also support the idea of a resurrection, right?

Saul

[smiles and shakes his head]

My friend, you continue to look for a resurrection. There is no resurrection here. We will continue to pursue the truth and bring those involved to justice.

DJ

Do you have any leads?

Saul

Not at this time. But we will continue to search. We will succeed in finding those responsible.
We must put an end to this nonsense as soon as possible.

DJ

We will leave it at that. We appreciate your taking the time to talk to us.
This is David Jones reporting.
Good evening.