

Iron Spike, Inserted Into Rock To Secure Christ's Tomb, Sheared Off And Still Visible At Garden Tomb!

Most visitors to the Garden Tomb, which is located along the Calvary Escarpment outside the northern city walls of Jerusalem, may not notice a rusty iron pin embedded deeply into the rock. But that pin is quite significant from a historical and Biblical perspective.

The Bible records that the chief priests came to Pontius Pilate the day after the crucifixion of Christ to request that the tomb be secured. They remembered that Christ had said He would be resurrected after the third day. Pilate's response is found in *Matthew 27:65-66* -- "Ye have a watch; go your way, make it as sure as ye can." So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch."

Not only were Roman soldiers assigned to guard the tomb to prevent anyone from stealing the body of Christ, but an iron pin was inserted into the rock to prevent the huge 13-foot diameter stone from being rolled away from the opening of the grave.

When the women came to anoint the body of Christ on the first day of the week, they asked themselves who would roll the stone back for them. They had no idea what a difficult challenge that would be! The iron pin was held securely into the rock by hot lead that had been poured into the hole that was drilled. This was a common method used by the Romans to permanently fasten iron pins into stone. Iron and lead filings have been tested to confirm that the pin was authentic and inserted into the rock during the first century.



The Garden Tomb next to the crucifixion site of Christ.

When an angel opened the tomb of Christ for all to see that it was empty, that iron pin was sheared right off. Engineers believe that it would have taken 90 tons of pressure to move that rock and clip off that pin! A miracle!

The fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ offers great hope and encouragement to us today -- "Jesus said, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he that believeth on Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." *John 11:25*



Golgotha, or the "Place of the Skull," at the Calvary Escarpment, thought to be the site of Christ's crucifixion just outside the walls of Jerusalem.



Editor Chuck Anderson points to the iron pin that was used to try to secure the tomb of Christ. It was sheared off at the time of the resurrection!



Close-up view of iron pin embedded deeply into the rock by melted lead.

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