

This gospel writer tells us that when the Jewish Sabbath was past, certain women had bought sweet spices in order that they might come to the sepulchre and anoint the body of Jesus. So very early in the morning of the first day of the week these same women came to the tomb. They said among themselves, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?" We read in the narrative, "And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great." Entering the tomb the women saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment. At this sight they became affrighted. Seeing their fear, the young man says, "Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him." This was a message of hope and joy regarding their Master who had risen from the dead. The young man continued by repeating the promise which Jesus had given His disciples in the course of the Last Supper. "Go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you." (Mark 16:7 to be compared with 14:28) After the women had received this message, they went away quickly and fled from the sepulchre in a spirit of amazement. As they went they were silent because they were afraid.

Here the Gospel abruptly closes. Doubtless there was an account of further details of the resurrection included in that portion of the Gospel which has been lost. However, the first eight verses of this same chapter clearly present the testimony of the evangelist to the fact that the tomb was empty. The narrative beyond verse 8 would surely have related appearances of the risen Christ both in Jerusalem and in Galilee. The fulfillment of Jesus' words that He would go before them into Galilee after His resurrection would have been given, just as the Gospel of Matthew records the same promise and gives its fulfillment by the record of an actual appearance of Jesus in Galilee.