

What about...Matthew 27:52,53?

At the death of Christ, the author of the book of Matthew said there was an earthquake and many tombs broke open. After their dead bodies laid around for about three more days many of the holy people in these opened tombs came to life. These resurrected saints then went into Jerusalem and appeared to many [see [Matthew 27:52,53](#)].

These verses present interpretation problems for just about every viewpoint. They stir up a lot of questions that have caused many to doubt whether these verses are genuine or were added later. So what happened to these saints? Did they end up being taken to heaven 40 days later when Jesus ascended into heaven? Keep in mind that well after Jesus ascended Paul states, that Jesus was the only man raised from the dead to live forever; and everyone else will be raised to eternal life when Jesus returns [see [1 Corinthians 15:20-23](#)]. Further verification of this is found in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews (also written after the event in Matthew 27) where after naming off a who's who list of Old Testament saints the writer states that while they were all commended for their faith, yet none of them had received what was promised. That would only happen when believers in Christ were also made perfect [see [Hebrews 11:39,40](#)]. So this means these saints in Matthew 27 were raised with mortal bodies only to eventually die later. Definitely very strange! Also very strange is that this amazing event which would provide more proof of the resurrection is not mentioned anywhere else.

In light of the limitations placed on Matthew 27:52,53 by other verses, I don't think it's necessary to discuss the various reasons many doubt the voracity of these verses. Unless it can be shown these saints went to heaven or lived forever they have no impact on our discussion. You're probably a little curious though aren't you? I will mention one notable thing; if this was an addition it was made very early since it appears in all the various manuscript branches.