

1 Corinthians 15:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Analysis

And that he was buried (καὶ ὅτι ἐτάφη, kai hoti etaphē)—The burial confirms the reality of Jesus's death. Ancient docetists denied Christ truly died; Paul's emphasis on burial refutes this. The aorist passive verb etaphē indicates a completed action—Jesus was truly, physically dead and laid in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb.

And that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (καὶ ὅτι ἐγήγερται τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ τρίτῃ κατὰ τὰς γραφάς)—The verb egēgertai (ἐγήγερται) is perfect tense, indicating past action with ongoing results: "He has been raised and remains risen." The third day fulfills Hosea 6:2 and Jonah's three days (Matthew 12:40). Unlike pagan resurrection myths (Osiris, Adonis), this occurred in history, on a specific day, verified by witnesses.

Historical Context

Jewish burial customs involved immediate entombment and three-day observation to confirm death (John 11:39). The third-day resurrection was early enough to prevent decomposition (Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27) yet long enough to confirm death. The specificity of 'third day' indicates historical testimony, not myth.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why is the burial essential to the gospel, not merely the death and resurrection?
2. What does the perfect tense 'has been raised' indicate about Christ's current state?
3. How do Old Testament scriptures prepare for and validate the third-day resurrection?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὅτι	ἐτάφη	καὶ	ὅτι	ἐγήγερται	τῇ	τρίτῃ
and	And that	he was buried	and	And that	he rose again	G3588	the third
G2532	G3754	G2290	G2532	G3754	G1453		G5154
ἡμέρᾱ	κατὰ	τὰς	γραφάς				
day	according	G3588	to the scriptures				
G2250	G2596		G1124				

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 6:2 (Parallel theme): After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Matthew 12:40 (Parallel theme): For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jonah 1:17 (Parallel theme): Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Hebrews 13:20 (Parallel theme): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Psalms 2:7 (Parallel theme): I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Romans 6:4 (Parallel theme): Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Colossians 2:12 (Parallel theme): Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Luke 9:22 (Parallel theme): Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Luke 24:26 (Parallel theme): Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Luke 24:46 (Parallel theme): And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: