

Acts 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

Analysis

The gruesome details of Judas' death - 'falling headlong, he burst asunder' - demonstrate the wages of sin. The 'field of blood' became a memorial to treachery. Luke provides different details than Matthew 27:5 (hanging), likely describing what happened to the body afterward.

Historical Context

The 'reward of iniquity' was the thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 27:3-10). The field purchased with blood money became Akeldama, a Gentile burial ground - a perpetual testimony to the betrayer's fate.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Judas' end teach about the ultimate consequences of betraying Christ?

2. How do you reconcile the different accounts of Judas' death in a way that honors Scripture's integrity?

Interlinear Text

Οὗτος μὲν οὖν ἐκτήσατο χωρίον ἐκ τοῦ μισθοῦ τῆς
this man Now G3767 purchased a field with G3588 the reward G3588
G3778 G3303 G2932 G5564 G1537 G3408

ἀδικίας καὶ πρηνὴς γενόμενος ἐλάκησεν μέσος καὶ
of iniquity and headlong falling he burst asunder in the midst and
G93 G2532 G4248 G1096 G2997 G3319 G2532

ἐξεχύθη πάντα τὰ σπλάγχνα αὐτοῦ.
gushed out all G3588 bowels his
G1632 G3956 G4698 G846

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 55:15 (Parallel theme): Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

Psalms 55:23 (Parallel theme): But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.