

John 11:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave.
It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

Analysis

Jesus again groans deeply (same term as v. 33), demonstrating sustained emotional engagement. He comes to the tomb, a cave with a stone barrier, typical of first-century Jewish burial. Christ's approach to the tomb symbolizes His confrontation with death itself. The scene previews His own tomb experience—cave sealed by stone, soon to be opened in resurrection. Jesus' groaning may reflect righteous anger at death's power and Satan's temporary victory through sin. He approaches as divine warrior about to plunder death's domain.

Historical Context

Cave tombs were common in Judea's limestone hills. Families reused them, placing bodies on shelves until decomposition, then collecting bones in ossuaries. Rolling stones sealed entrances against animals and grave robbers.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' approach to Lazarus' tomb preview His own resurrection?

2. What does Christ's sustained emotion teach about the importance of feeling deeply?
3. In what ways does Jesus confront death as divine warrior on our behalf?

Interlinear Text

Ἰησοῦς	οὖν	πάλιν	ἐμβριμώμενος	ἐν	ἐαυτῷ	ἔρχεται		
Jesus	therefore	again	groaning	in	himself	cometh		
G2424	G3767	G3825	G1690	G1722	G1438	G2064		
εἰς	τὸ	μνημεῖον·	ἦν	δὲ	σπήλαιον	καὶ	λίθος	ἐπέκειτο
to	G3588	the grave	It was	G1161	a cave	and	a stone	lay
G1519		G3419	G2258		G4693	G2532	G3037	G1945
ἐπ'	αὐτῷ							
upon	it							
G1909	G846							

Additional Cross-References

John 11:33 (References Jesus): When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

Matthew 27:60 (Parallel theme): And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Isaiah 22:16 (Parallel theme): What hast thou here? and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock?

John 20:1 (Parallel theme): The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

Luke 24:2 (Parallel theme): And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

