

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 ἑαυτῷ 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 the grave It was a cave and a stone lay
 G1519 G3419 G2258 G1161 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.

