

John 11:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice,
Lazarus, come forth.

Analysis

The 'loud voice' demonstrates Christ's authority over death—He commands as Creator. Calling 'Lazarus' by name is significant: had He merely said 'Come forth', all the dead might have risen. This foreshadows John 5:28-29 where all in graves will hear His voice. The present tense urgency emphasizes immediate obedience even from death. This miracle provides irrefutable proof of Christ's claim: 'I am the resurrection and the life' (11:25).

Historical Context

Jewish belief held that the soul departed definitively after three days (Lazarus was dead four days, v. 39), making this miracle irrefutable. The loud voice countered any claim that Lazarus merely appeared dead. Contemporary Jewish literature mentions similar attempts by others—all fraudulent.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What spiritually dead areas of your life need to hear Christ's command, 'Come forth'?
2. How does Christ's power to raise the physically dead encourage faith in spiritual regeneration?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ταῦτα	εἰπὼν	φωνῇ	μεγάλῃ	ἐκράυγασεν	Λάζαρε
And	when he thus	had spoken	voice	with a loud	he cried	Lazarus
G2532	G5023	G2036	G5456	G3173	G2905	G2976
δεῦρο	ἔξω					
come	forth					
G1204	G1854					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 9:40 (Parallel theme): But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Acts 9:34 (Parallel theme): And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Acts 3:12 (Parallel theme): And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?