

John 11:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin.
Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Analysis

Lazarus emerges from the tomb still bound in burial wrappings, requiring human assistance for full liberation. Jesus commands 'Loose him, and let him go,' delegating final ministry to bystanders. This demonstrates partnership between divine power (resurrection) and human service (unwrapping). Lazarus' emergence while bound proves resurrection authenticity—no fraud could walk while wrapped. The image of bound resurrection previews our spiritual state: made alive but needing sanctification's progressive loosing from sin's grave clothes.

Historical Context

Jewish burial involved wrapping the body in linen strips with spices between layers, and a separate face cloth. This explains why Lazarus needed help removing the bindings.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of bound resurrection illustrate our spiritual condition?
2. What does Jesus' delegation of the 'loosing' teach about human participation in spiritual freedom?
3. Who in your life needs help being 'loosed' from spiritual grave clothes?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐξῆλθεν	ὁ	τεθνηκὼς	δεδεμένος	τοὺς	πόδας	καὶ
And	came forth	G3588	he that was dead	bound	G3588	foot	And
G2532	G1831		G2348	G1210		G4228	G2532
τὰς	χεῖρας	χειρίαις	καὶ	ἡ	ὄψις	αὐτὸν	σουδαρίῳ
G3588	hand	with graveclothes	And	G3588	face	him	with a napkin
	G5495	G2750	G2532		G3799	G846	G4676
περιεδέδετο	λέγει	αὐτὸν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Λύσατε	αὐτὸν	καὶ
was bound about	saith	him	G3588	Jesus	Loose	him	And
G4019	G3004	G846		G2424	G3089	G846	G2532
ἄφετε	ὑπάγειν						
let him	go						
G863	G5217						

Additional Cross-References

John 5:25 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

John 20:7 (Parallel theme): And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

John 10:30 (Parallel theme): I and my Father are one.

John 5:21 (Parallel theme): For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

Genesis 1:3 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Luke 7:15 (Parallel theme): And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

1 Samuel 2:6 (Parallel theme): The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

Philippians 3:21 (Parallel theme): Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Mark 5:43 (Parallel theme): And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.