

# John 19:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

## Analysis

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**He bearing his cross** (βαστάζων ἔκυρτῷ τὸν σταυρόν/bastazōn heautō ton stauron)—the participle *bastazōn* means carrying, bearing as a burden. What He told disciples to do (Luke 9:23), He does literally. The cross He bears is simultaneously wooden timber and cosmic weight—the sin of the world (1 John 2:2).

**Went forth** (έξηλθεν/exēlthen) echoes His going forth from the Father (16:28) and going out to the garden (18:1). Each 'going forth' moves Him toward the appointed hour. The destination: **place of a skull** (Κρανίου Τόπον/Kraniou Topon), in Hebrew **Golgotha** (Γολγοθᾶ/Golgotha), from Aramaic *gulgulta* (skull). Why 'skull'? Perhaps the hill's shape, or tradition that Adam's skull was buried there—fitting symbolism, as the second Adam dies where the first Adam's race was buried.

## Historical Context

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Golgotha was outside Jerusalem's walls (Hebrews 13:12), as required by Jewish law—executions occurred outside the city to prevent defilement. The site was probably along a major road for maximum public visibility. Church tradition identifies it with the present Church of the Holy Sepulchre, though Gordon's Calvary is an alternative site. Wherever its precise location, Golgotha became history's hinge-point.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus literally bearing the cross reveal about His willing acceptance of suffering for us?
2. How does the location 'outside the camp' connect to Levitical sacrifice and our call to bear His reproach (Hebrews 13:13)?
3. What significance do you see in the 'place of a skull' becoming the site of resurrection victory?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ βαστάζων τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ ἐξῆλθεν εἰς τὸν  
And he bearing cross G846 went forth into G3588  
G2532 G941 G4716 G1831 G1519

λέγεται Κρανίου Τόπον ὃς λέγεται Ἐβραϊστὶ<sup>1</sup>  
called the place of a skull a place which called in the Hebrew  
G3004 G2898 G5117 G3739 G3004 G1447

Γολγοθᾶ,

**Golgotha**

G1115

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 23:33** (Cross): And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

**Luke 14:27** (Cross): And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

**Luke 23:26** (Cross): And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

**Acts 7:58** (Parallel theme): And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

**Mark 15:32** (Cross): Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

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