

John 20:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

Analysis

Then cometh Simon Peter following him—Peter arrives second but **went into the sepulchre** (*εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸ μνῆμεῖον*, eisēlthen eis to mnēmeion) immediately, characteristically bold. The verb's aorist tense emphasizes decisive action contrasting John's hesitation. **And seeth the linen clothes lie** (*θεωρεῖ τὰ ὄθόνια κείμενα*, theōrei ta othonia keimena)—John uses a different verb for Peter's seeing: θεωρεῖ (theōrei), suggesting more careful observation than mere glancing.

Peter's entering first despite arriving second inverts expected order, previewing the resurrection's pattern of reversals. The grave clothes 'lying' (*κείμενα*, keimena)—present participle suggesting they lie undisturbed, not scattered as if unwrapped hastily. This detail becomes crucial: the body hadn't been stolen (thieves don't unwrap corpses), nor had Jesus merely revived (he wouldn't carefully remove wrappings).

Historical Context

Peter's leadership role in the early church (Acts 1-12) was already established when John wrote, making this account of Peter entering first theologically significant—the church's chief apostle is first to fully witness the empty tomb's evidence. Peter's boldness here contrasts with his earlier denials (18:17, 25-27), showing restoration already beginning even before the explicit reconciliation of chapter 21.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Peter's immediate entry despite ritual defilement show that some moments transcend religious protocol?
2. What does the undisturbed state of the grave clothes prove that an empty tomb alone could not?
3. When has your boldness in entering difficult situations prepared the way for others' understanding?

Interlinear Text

ἔρχεται	οὗν	Σίμων	Πέτρος	ἀκολουθῶν	αὐτῷ	καὶ
cometh	Then	Simon	Peter	following	him	and
G2064	G3767	G4613	G4074	G190	G846	G2532
εἰσῆλθεν	εἰς	τὸ	μνημεῖον	καὶ	θεωρεῖ	τὰ
went	into	G3588	the sepulchre	and	seeth	G3588
G1525	G1519		G3419	G2532	G2334	G3608
κείμενα						
lie						
G2749						