

John 20:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

Analysis

Then went in also that other disciple—John finally enters after Peter's pioneering boldness. Three progressive verbs describe the beloved disciple's journey to faith: βλέπει (blepei, v.5—saw/glanced), θεωρεῖ (theōrei, v.6—observed carefully), εἶδεν (eiden—perceived/understood). This third verb, from ὁράω (horaō), suggests more than physical sight.

And he saw, and believed (καὶ εἶδεν καὶ ἐπίστευσεν, kai eiden kai episteusen)—the simple coordination 'and...and' marks the pivot point of history: seeing leads to believing. John becomes the first to believe in resurrection based on evidence alone, before any appearance. What convinced him? The next verse clarifies: not Scripture (which they didn't yet understand), but the physical evidence—specifically the grave clothes' arrangement, which suggested the body had passed through them rather than being unwrapped.

Historical Context

John's Gospel, written last (AD 85-95), emphasizes the beloved disciple's special insight (13:23, 19:26-27, 21:7). This first-to-believe claim isn't self-promotion but establishes eyewitness authority for the Gospel's testimony. The emphasis on believing without seeing Jesus (cf. 20:29) makes John's faith based on indirect evidence a model for later readers who must also believe without resurrection appearances.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What made the arrangement of grave clothes more convincing than the empty tomb itself?
2. Why does John emphasize that belief came before understanding Scripture (v.9)—can faith precede full comprehension?
3. What 'indirect evidence' for resurrection (changed lives, empty tomb, transformed disciples) convinces you when you lack direct appearances?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| τότε | οὕν | εἰσῆλθεν | καὶ | τὸ | ἄλλος | μαθητῆς | τὸ |
| Then | G3767 | went in | also | which | that other | disciple | which |
| G5119 | | G1525 | G2532 | G3588 | G243 | G3101 | G3588 |
| ἐλθὼν | πρῶτος | εἰς | τὸ | μνημεῖον | καὶ | εἶδεν | καὶ |
| came | first | to | which | the sepulchre | also | he saw | also |
| G2064 | G4413 | G1519 | G3588 | G3419 | G2532 | G1492 | G2532 |
| ἐπίστευσεν· | | | | | | | |
| believed | | | | | | | |
| G4100 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

John 20:4 (Parallel theme): So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.