

Luke 24:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

Analysis

Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass. Peter's response contrasts with the other apostles' dismissal. The verb "arose" (anastas, ἀναστὰς) suggests sudden, decisive action, and he **ran** (edramen, ἔδραμεν)—urgency driven by either hope or curiosity. His **stooping down** (parakypas, παρακύψας) to peer into the low tomb entrance shows careful investigation, not casual observation.

What Peter **beheld** (blepei, βλέπει, present tense creating vividness) was **the linen clothes laid by themselves** (ta othonia mona, τὰ ὄθόνια μόνα). The grave clothes lying undisturbed—not unwrapped and scattered as if grave robbers had stolen the body—suggested something extraordinary. John's account adds that the head cloth was "wrapped together in a place by itself" (John 20:7), implying the body had passed through the cloths, leaving them collapsed but positioned. This detail argues against theft—thieves wouldn't carefully arrange burial cloths.

Peter **departed, wondering in himself** (apēlthen pros hauton thaumazōn, ἀπῆλθεν πρὸς ἔαυτὸν θαυμάζων). The verb thaumazō (θαυμάζων) means to marvel, be amazed—not yet belief but astonishment. The phrase "in himself" (pros hauton, πρὸς ἔαυτόν) suggests internal dialogue, processing what he'd seen. Peter

stood between unbelief and faith, evidence and understanding, confusion and clarity.

Historical Context

Peter's prominence throughout the Gospels and Acts makes his investigation significant. As spokesman for the Twelve, his witness carried weight. His threefold denial (Luke 22:54-62) made him perhaps the most unlikely candidate for apostolic leadership, yet Jesus restored him (John 21:15-17) and he became the early church's primary leader (Acts 1-12).

Luke's brief account is supplemented by John 20:3-10, which adds that John accompanied Peter and arrived first but let Peter enter the tomb first. Both saw the grave clothes and believed—or at least moved toward belief. The physical evidence of the undisturbed burial cloths became important early Christian apologetic against the stolen-body theory. The combination of empty tomb, ordered grave clothes, and angelic testimony pointed toward resurrection.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Peter's investigation despite initial skepticism teach about honest pursuit of truth?
2. How do the undisturbed grave clothes serve as evidence for resurrection rather than body theft?
3. Why might Peter only 'wonder' rather than immediately believe, and what does this teach about the process of coming to faith?

Interlinear Text

Ὥ δὲ Πέτρος ἀναστὰς ἔδραμεν ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον
G3588 Then Peter arose and ran unto G3588 the sepulchre
G1161 G4074 G450 G5143 G1909 G3419

καὶ παρακύψας βλέπει τὰ ὄθόνια κείμενα
and stooping down he beheld G3588 the linen clothes laid
G2532 G3879 G991 G3608 G2749

μόνα καὶ ἀπῆλθεν πρὸς ἐαυτὸν θαυμάζων τὸ
by themselves and departed in himself wondering G3588
G3441 G2532 G565 G4314 G1438 G2296

γεγονός
at that which was come to pass
G1096

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