

Mark 15:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.

Analysis

At crucifixion, 'they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull' (φέρουσιν αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τὸν Γολγοθᾶν τόπον, ὃ ἐστὶν μεθερμηνευόμενον Κρανίου Τόπος). Golgotha (Γολγοθᾶν, from Aramaic gulgalta) means 'skull place'—possibly named for skull-shaped rock formation or as execution site. This was outside Jerusalem's walls (Hebrews 13:12), fulfilling requirements that sin offerings be burned outside the camp (Leviticus 16:27). Jesus, bearing our sin, suffered 'outside the gate' (Hebrews 13:12-13), experiencing rejection and bearing shame. The skull imagery foreshadows death—Jesus would die at 'death's place.' Yet His death defeated death itself (1 Corinthians 15:55-57; Hebrews 2:14-15). Golgotha became history's pivotal location—where sin was atoned and Satan defeated.

Historical Context

Golgotha's exact location is debated—traditional site is Church of the Holy Sepulchre (within current Old City walls but outside first-century walls); alternate site is 'Gordon's Calvary' north of Damascus Gate. Roman crucifixions occurred at public locations as deterrent. Victims carried crossbeams (patibulum) through streets to execution sites. Jesus collapsed under the cross's weight (weakened by scourging), requiring Simon of Cyrene to carry it (Mark 15:21). Crucifixion was Rome's cruelest punishment—slow death by asphyxiation, exposure, blood loss. Victims sometimes lasted days. Jesus died in six hours (Mark 15:25, 33-34, 37), unusually quick. The location outside city walls fulfilled typology—Levitical sin

offerings burned outside camp (Leviticus 4:12, 21; 16:27), symbolizing sin's removal. Hebrews 13:11-13 explicitly connects this typology to Jesus' crucifixion.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Golgotha's name ('place of a skull') signify about Jesus confronting death itself at the cross?
2. How does Jesus' crucifixion 'outside the gate' fulfill Old Testament typology of sin offerings removed from the camp?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	φέρουσιν	αὐτὸν	ἐπὶ	Γολγοθᾶ	Τόπος	ὃ	ἐστίν
And	they bring	him	unto	Golgotha	The place	which	is
G2532	G5342	G846	G1909	G1115	G5117	G3739	G2076
μεθερμηνευόμενον				Κρανίου	Τόπος		
being interpreted				of a skull	The place		
G3177				G2898	G5117		