

Mark 15:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

Analysis

And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen—Joseph purchased fine linen, expensive cloth used for burial shrouds, demonstrating both wealth and devotion. Took him down required removing the nails—agonizing labor even handling a corpse. Wrapped means to wind, roll, envelop—Jewish burial custom involved wrapping bodies with linen strips and aromatic spices (John 19:39-40 notes Nicodemus brought myrrh and aloes, about 75 pounds). **And laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock**—The tomb was carved from rock, a costly burial type reserved for wealthy families. Matthew 27:60 specifies it was Joseph's own new tomb, unused—fulfilling Isaiah 53:9. **And rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre**—A massive disk-shaped stone weighing 1-2 tons rolled in a groove to seal the entrance. Matthew 27:60 calls it a great stone.

Historical Context

First-century Jewish burial involved washing the body, anointing with spices, wrapping in linen strips, and placing in a tomb. Bodies decomposed over about a year, after which bones were collected and placed in ossuaries. Rock-hewn tombs with rolling stones were expensive—most Jews were buried in simple ground graves. Joseph's gift honored Jesus extravagantly. The urgency meant minimal

preparation. The women planned to return Sunday with additional spices (Mark 16:1), explaining their early morning visit when they discovered the empty tomb. Everything conspired providentially—Joseph's wealth provided the tomb; Pilate's cooperation allowed burial; the Sabbath prevented further attention until Sunday; guards prevented tampering.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Joseph's expensive linen and personal tomb demonstrate costly discipleship?
2. What do the burial details reveal about God's preparation of evidence for resurrection belief?
3. How does Jesus's burial in a wealthy man's tomb fulfill Isaiah 53:9 and demonstrate God's sovereign orchestration?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδόνι καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸν ἐνείλησεν
And he bought fine linen And took him down him and wrapped
G2532 G59 G4616 G2532 G2507 G846 G1750

τῇ σινδόνι καὶ κατέθηκεν αὐτὸν ἐν μνημείου ὃ ἦν
G3588 fine linen And laid him in a sepulchre which was
G4616 G2532 G2698 G846 G1722 G3419 G3739 G2258

λελατομημένον ἐκ πέτρας καὶ προσεκύλισεν λίθον ἐπὶ^{τὸν}
hewn out of a rock And rolled a stone unto
G2998 G1537 G4073 G2532 G4351 G3037 G1909

τὴν θύραν τοῦ μνημείου
G3588 the door G3588 a sepulchre
G2374 G3419

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 53:9 (Parallel theme): And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Isaiah 22:16 (Parallel theme): What hast thou here? and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock?

John 11:38 (Parallel theme): Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.