

Mark 16:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

Analysis

Very early in the morning the first day of the week (λίαν πρωὶ τῇ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων, *lian prōi tē mia tōn sabbatōn*)—literally "very early on the first of the Sabbaths," marking Sunday as the new Christian worship day. **At the rising of the sun** (ἀνατείλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου) carries symbolic weight: as the sun rose physically, the "Sun of Righteousness" (Malachi 4:2) had already risen from death's darkness.

Mark emphasizes their urgency—despite danger from Roman guards and Jewish authorities, love compelled them at dawn's earliest light. This contrasts sharply with the male disciples hiding in fear (14:50). The women's courage makes their subsequent terror at the angel (v.8) all the more striking—resurrection glory exceeds even death's horror.

Historical Context

Roman guards watched tombs until the third day (when Jews believed the soul finally departed). The women risked arrest approaching a sealed, guarded tomb. Early Christians soon worshiped on "the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10) instead of the Jewish Sabbath, commemorating this resurrection morning.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does "the first day of the week" as resurrection day transform your understanding of Sunday worship?
2. What fears or obstacles do you face in coming to Christ early, before the day's distractions arise?
3. How does the "rising of the sun" metaphor illuminate Christ as light conquering death's darkness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λίαν	πρωὶ	τῆς	μᾶς	σαββάτων	ἔρχονται
And	very	early in the morning	G3588	G1520	day of the week	they came
G2532	G3029	G4404			G4521	G2064
ἐπὶ	τὸ	μνημεῖον	ἀνατείλαντος	τοῦ	ἡλίου	
unto	G3588	the sepulchre	at the rising	G3588	of the sun	
G1909		G3419	G393		G2246	

Additional Cross-References

John 20:1 (Parallel theme): The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:1 (Parallel theme): In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Luke 24:1 (Parallel theme): Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

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