

Mark 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

Analysis

A young man sitting on the right side (νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς, neaniskon kathēmenon en tois dexiois)—Mark calls him a "young man" though other gospels identify him as an angel (Matthew 28:5, Luke 24:4). His position **on the right side** indicates honor and authority. **Clothed in a long white garment** (περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν) signifies heavenly glory—white garments mark divine messengers and eschatological victory.

They were affrighted (ἐξεθαμβήθησαν, exethambēthēsan)—Mark's characteristic term for overwhelming astonishment mixed with fear. This terror before the angelic herald prepares for their even greater fear at the resurrection message itself (v.8). The women sought a dead Jesus but encountered the ambassadors of the Living One.

Historical Context

Angels at crucial moments in Jesus' story frame Mark's gospel (announced birth in Matthew/Luke, ministered after temptation in Mark 1:13, now announce resurrection). White-robed figures appear throughout Scripture at divine visitations (Daniel 7:9, Revelation 4:4). First-century readers would recognize this as a theophanic appearance.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does encountering God's messengers produce fear rather than mere curiosity or comfort?
2. How does the angel's "sitting" position (confident, restful) contrast with the women's frantic urgency?
3. What does it mean to seek Jesus in a tomb (among the dead) rather than expecting resurrection life?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἰσελθοῦσαι	εἰς	τὸ	μνημεῖον	εἶδον	νεανίσκον
And	entering	into	G3588	the sepulchre	they saw	a young man
G2532	G1525	G1519		G3419	G1492	G3495
καθήμενον	ἐν	τοῖς	δεξιοῖς	περιβεβλημένον	στολὴν	
sitting	on	G3588	the right side	clothed	garment	
G2521	G1722		G1188	G4016	G4749	
λευκὴν	καὶ	ἐξεθαμβήθησαν				
in a long white	And	they were affrighted				
G3022	G2532	G1568				

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 28:3 (Parallel theme): His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

John 20:8 (Parallel theme): Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

