

Matthew 27:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

Analysis

A place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull (Γολγοθᾶ, ὃ ἐστὶν Κρανίου Τόπος, Golgotha, ho estin Kraniou Topos)—Aramaic gulgaltā, Hebrew gulgoleth, Latin Calvaria. The name likely derives from the skull-like appearance of the rocky hill, though later tradition held that Adam's skull was buried there.

Death's place receives the Death-Defeater. Where skulls signify mortality, Jesus will crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15) and destroy death itself (1 Corinthians 15:26). The place of the skull becomes the birthplace of resurrection hope.

Historical Context

Golgotha was outside Jerusalem's walls (Hebrews 13:12), near a main road (Matthew 27:39) where executions served as public deterrents. The exact location is debated—tradition sites it at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, though the Garden Tomb is another possibility.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of Jesus dying outside the city gates (Hebrews 13:11-13)?
2. How does the 'place of the skull' symbolically connect to Christ's victory over death?

Interlinear Text

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|------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Καὶ | ἐλθόντες | εἰς | Τόπος | λεγόμενος | Γολγοθᾶ | ὅς |
| And | when they were come | unto | a place | called | Golgotha | that |
| G2532 | G2064 | G1519 | G5117 | G3004 | G1115 | G3739 |

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| ἐστιν | λεγόμενος | Κρανίου | Τόπος |
| is | called | of a skull | a place |
| G2076 | G3004 | G2898 | G5117 |

Additional Cross-References

Mark 15:34 (Parallel theme): And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?