

Matthew 27:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Analysis

Laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock—Joseph gave Jesus his personal burial plot, a costly sacrifice as tombs took months to carve and represented family inheritance. The **new tomb** meant no other body had occupied it, emphasizing Christ's uniqueness and ensuring no confusion about whose body rose. **He rolled a great stone to the door** (προσεκύλισεν λίθον μέγαν)—circular stones weighing 1-2 tons secured wealthy tombs.

This detail becomes crucial: the massive stone required multiple men to roll uphill into sealing position. The mega lithon (great stone) made theft humanly impossible without detection. The sealed tomb became evidence—not a prison but a testimony. The same stone meant to keep Jesus in would prove he rose through it, not by human rolling away.

Historical Context

Rock-hewn tombs near Jerusalem were expensive, owned by wealthy families. They featured a small entrance sealed by a rolling stone in a groove. Some had antechambers for mourning. The tomb was near Golgotha (John 19:41-42), providentially located for quick burial before Sabbath. The location also fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of burial 'with the rich.'

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What did it cost Joseph to give up his family tomb for Jesus' burial?
2. How does the secured tomb strengthen rather than weaken the resurrection evidence?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔθηκεν	αὐτοῦ	ἐν	τῷ	καινῷ	αὐτοῦ	μνημείου
And	laid	it	in	G3588	new	it	of the sepulchre
G2532	G5087	G846	G1722		G2537	G846	G3419
ὃ	ἐλατόμησεν	ἐν	τῇ	πέτρᾳ	καὶ	προσκυλίσας	λίθον
which	he had hewn out	in	G3588	the rock	And	he rolled	stone
G3739	G2998	G1722		G4073	G2532	G4351	G3037
μέγαν	τῇ	θύρᾳ	τοῦ	μνημείου	ἀπῆλθεν		
a great	G3588	to the door	G3588	of the sepulchre	and departed		
G3173		G2374		G3419	G565		

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.

Matthew 27:66 (Parallel theme): So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Matthew 28:2 (Parallel theme): And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org