

Matthew 27:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

Analysis

Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood (Ἀγρὸς Αἵματος, Agros Haimatos)—known in Aramaic as **Akeldama** (Acts 1:19, אַקֵּל דָּמָא, Akel Dama). The field purchased with Judas's betrayal money became a permanent monument to bloodguilt—both Christ's innocent blood and Judas's self-inflicted death. The chief priests unwittingly created a prophetic witness: **unto this day** (ἕως τῆς σήμερον, heōs tēs sēmeron) indicates Matthew wrote when this site still testified to their guilt.

The irony is devastating: money rejected as "blood money" (v.6) still purchased a burial ground for strangers, fulfilling Zechariah 11:12-13 and Jeremiah 32:6-9. The religious leaders's scrupulosity about ritual purity (refusing blood money for the treasury) contrasted with their moral blindness in shedding innocent blood. Every burial there proclaimed their crime.

Historical Context

Matthew wrote 30-40 years after the crucifixion, while Akeldama remained a known Jerusalem landmark. The phrase "unto this day" confirms eyewitness knowledge. Acts 1:18-19 provides complementary details: Judas himself bought the field before his death, though the priests completed the transaction. The site was still identified in Jerome's time (4th century AD).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do religious rituals or traditions sometimes mask moral blindness in your own life?
2. What "monuments to guilt" has God used in history to testify to both human sin and divine justice?

Interlinear Text

διὸ	ἐκλήθη	ὁ	Ἄγρὸς	ἐκεῖνος	Ἄγρὸς	Αἵματος	ἕως
Wherefore	was called	G3588	The field	that	The field	of blood	unto
G1352	G2564		G68	G1565	G68	G129	G2193

τῆς	σήμερον
G3588	this day
	G4594

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:19 (Blood): And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

Matthew 28:15 (Parallel theme): So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.