

Dead and Buried
Mark 15:40-47

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- I. The Chosen Witnesses of Jesus' Death (40-41)
 - Cf. Luke 23:49 - And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee were standing at a distance, seeing these things.

Dead and Buried
Mark 15:40-47

The Three Women

- 1) "Mary Magdalene."
 - *Magdalene* refers to the small fishing village of Magdala on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.



Plain of Gennesaret from southwest

Dead and Buried
Mark 15:40-47



Magdala from above



Magdala Synagogue from 1st Century

The Three Women

- 1) "Mary Magdalene."
 - *Magdalene* refers to the small fishing village of Magdala on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.
 - Luke 8:2 – "Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out"
- 2) "Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses."

The Three Women

- 3) Salome.
 - Cf. Matt. 27:56 - Among them was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.
 - It's very likely that the third unnamed woman here in Matthew's Gospel is Salome.
 - The wife of Zebedee and the mother of Jesus disciples, James and John.
 - Jesus' aunt (John 19:25).

Dead and Buried
Mark 15:40-47

Dead & Buried

- II. The Unlikely Man behind Jesus' Burial (42-43)
 - Cf. Deut. 21:22-23 - "If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

Joseph of Arimathea

- 1) "Of Arimathea" –
 - The ancient village of Ramah, or Ramathaim-zophim (1 Sam. 1:1), hometown of Samuel.
 - About 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem.
- 2) "A rich man" – Matt. 27:57
- 3) "A prominent member of the Council"
 - One of the 70 men who served on the ruling body of Israel, the Sanhedrin.
- 4) "A good and righteous man (he had not consented to their plan and action)" (Luke 23:50-51).

Dead and Buried Mark 15:40-47

Joseph of Arimathea

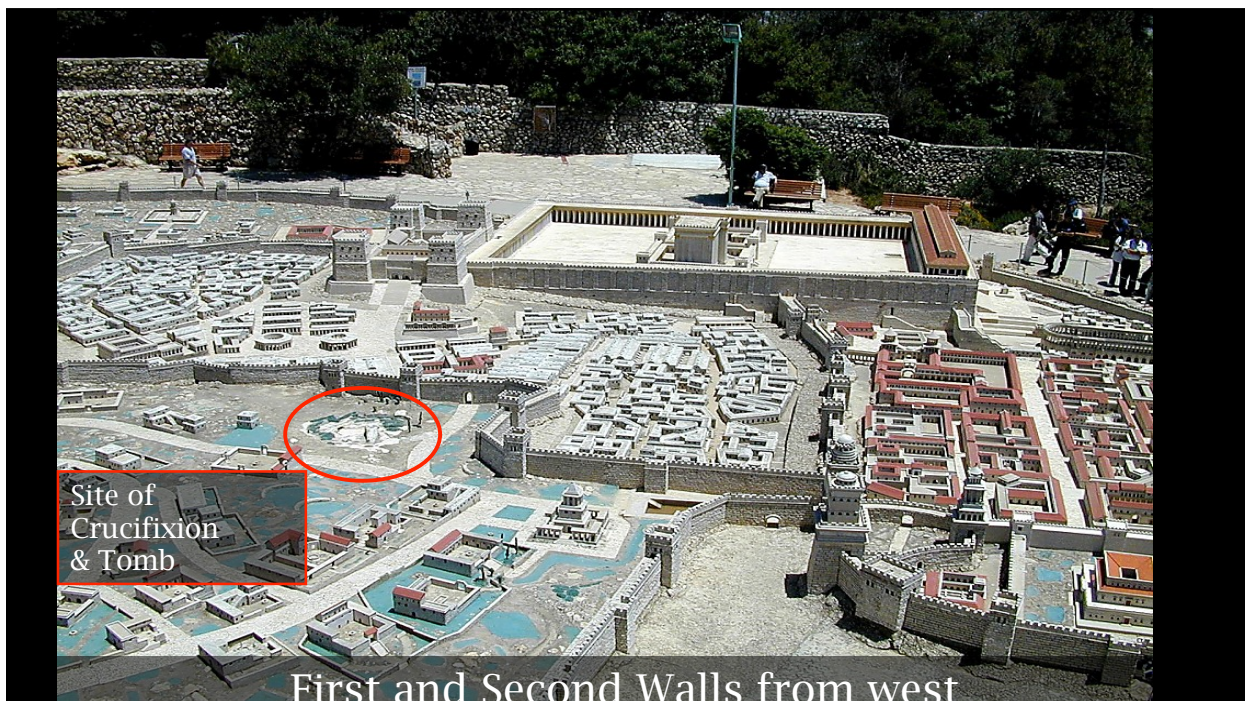
- 5) "Who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God" (43)
- 6) "Who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus" (Matt. 27:57).
- 7) "Being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one, for fear of the Jews" (John 19:38).
 - Cf. John 12:42 - Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing *Him*, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;

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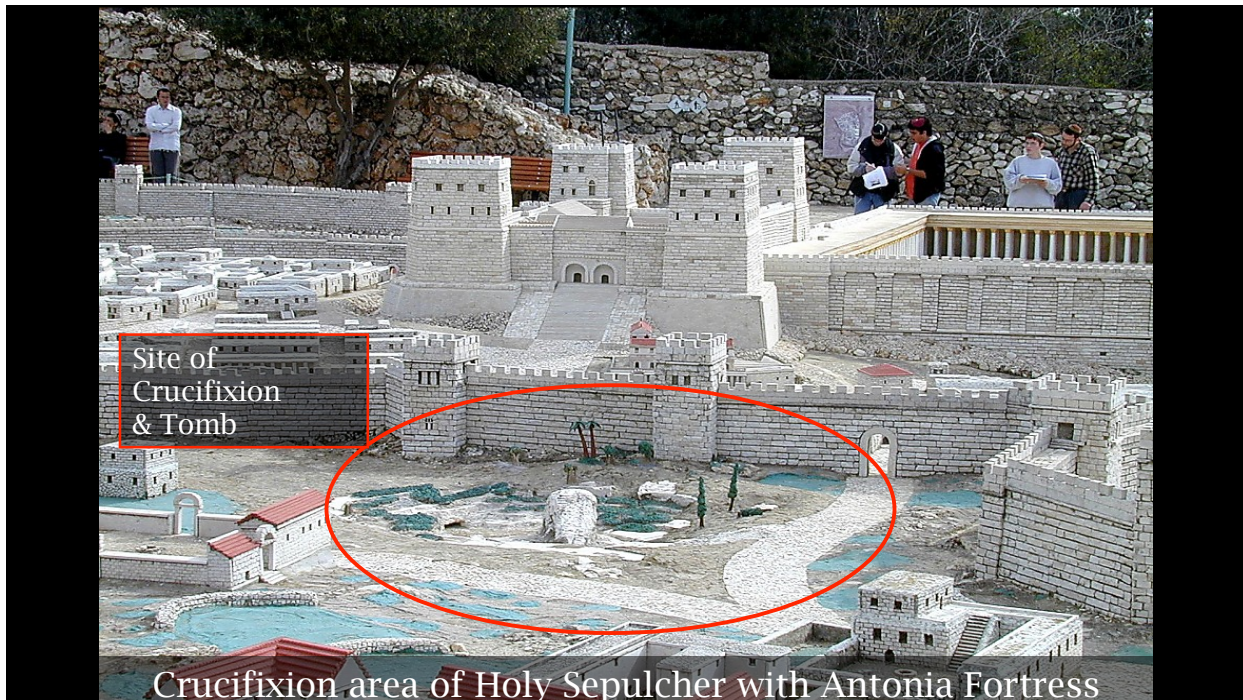
- III. The Legal Certification of Jesus' Death (44)
 - John 19:32-37
- IV. The Official Granting of Jesus' Corpse (45)
- V. The Hurried Burial of Jesus' Body (46)
 - John 19:39-40

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Model of Jerusalem in Jesus' Time
(from south)



Dead and Buried Mark 15:40-47



Jesus' Tomb

- It was near the place where he was crucified (John 19:41).
- It was located in a garden (John 19:41).
- It was a cave dug out of the soft limestone in that area (46).
- It was the personal tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Mt. 27:60).
- It had never been used (Luke 23:53; Jn. 19:41).

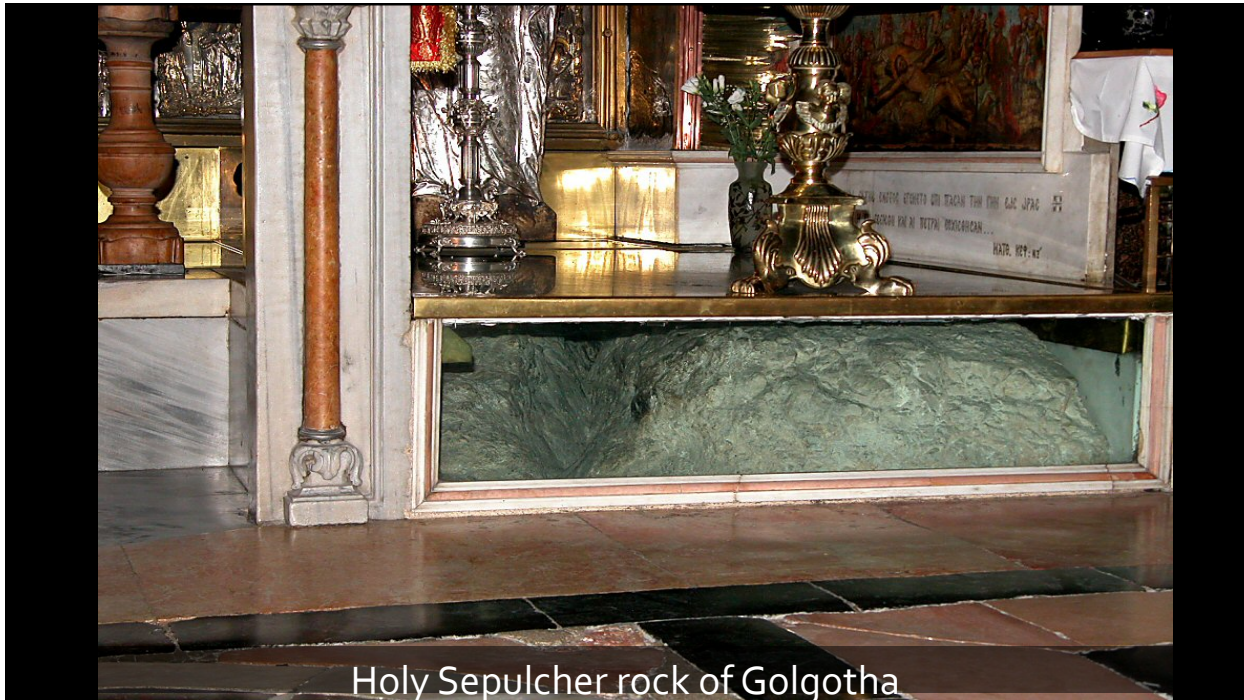
Dead and Buried
Mark 15:40-47

**Church
of the Holy
Sepulcher**



Holy Sepulcher place of crucifixion

Dead and Buried
Mark 15:40-47



Holy Sepulcher rock of Golgotha



Holy Sepulcher edicule with Easter services

Dead and Buried Mark 15:40-47

The Garden Tomb



Dead & Buried

- III. The Legal Certification of Jesus' Death (44)
- IV. The Official Granting of Jesus' Corpse (45)
- V. The Hurried Burial of Jesus' Body (46)
- VI. The Unlikely Witnesses of Jesus' Burial (47)

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Why do all four gospels record Jesus' burial?

- 1) It proves his credentials as Israel's promised Messiah.
- 2) It proves his innocence from God's perspective.
- 3) It shows that he had to die for our sins.
- 4) It shows that he willingly submitted death so that he might conquer it for us.
- 5) It certifies the historical fact of his death.
- 6) It identifies the specific tomb and thereby certifies one of the greatest evidences of the resurrection — the empty tomb.