

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King's baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.**
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

We make much of the death and resurrection of Christ – and properly so. But who makes much of His burial? It is often sort of overlooked. Yes, it is a reality, but not seen as very important. Even in the Scriptures we have the gospel in shorthand stated in terms of just the death and resurrection of Christ.

Slide # 2

1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NKJV)

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Here Paul in shorthand form states the core elements of the gospel that we believe; namely that Jesus died and rose again. However, in 1 Cor. 15:3-4 Paul fleshes out the gospel more fully.

Slide # 3**1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)**

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Here in 1 Corinthians 15 Paul adds the details – Christ died, yes, but He died for our sins; and then He adds “He was buried” and then also not only that, but He also rose again, and then with the detail that it happened on the third day. And then that all these things happened according to the Scriptures. All of these details are an important part of the full gospel story.

In our study, we have come to the burial of Christ. The death of Christ was all important as we see Christ in victory crying out in His last breath “***It is finished!***” Immediately the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom indicating that believers of all eras now have access to God on the basis of Christ’s finished work on the cross. And that brings us to Christ’s burial which also is a very important part of the gospel story (cf. Mt. 27:57-66; Mk. 15:42-47 Lk. 23:50-56; Jn. 19:38-42).

Matthew 27:57–66 (NKJV)

57 Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

For the Jews, early evening was from 3 PM to 6 PM. As noted in Matthew 27:46 Jesus died about the 9th hour which would have been about 3 PM in the afternoon (cf. Ex. 12:6). This was late in the day with only 3 hours left before the start of a new day (a new 24-hour period) which began at 6 PM according to Jewish reckoning. The Jews marked a full 24-hour day from sundown to sundown.

This story of Christ’s burial has God’s providence written all over it. Providence is God’s sovereign superintendence of all things, guiding them toward their divinely predetermined end in a way that is consistent with the normal laws of nature. It has to do with God sovereignly arranging everything in keeping with perfect timing that brings about God’s foreordained purpose. In contrast, a miracle is when God bypasses the normal laws of nature and supernaturally intervenes.

Both God's providential working and His miraculous working are awesome.

Whether God does it providentially by His sovereign arrangement things in keeping with the normal laws of nature, or whether He does it by miraculous intervention, all the glory belongs to Him for what He brings to pass. And both happen in such a way as to clearly indicate divine activity.

The burial of Christ has to do with God providentially fulfilling prophecy in keeping with a whole host of details. In the shadows, we see the unmistakable hand of God guiding every detail.

You see it was essential that Jesus be buried within the short little window of 3 – 6 PM in order for the prophecy of Christ being raised on the third day after being in the grave for 3 days.

Based on Matthew 12:40 some have taken the position that Christ had to be in the tomb for 3 full days and 3 full nights.

Slide # 4

Matthew 12:40 (NKJV)

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

The problem with insisting on Christ being in the grave for a literal 72 hours is that it puts His resurrection on fourth day and Jesus was very clear that He would rise again on the third day - not the fourth.

The text itself as seen in Mark 15:42 indicates Christ was crucified on the Day of Preparation which was the Day before the Saturday Sabbath.

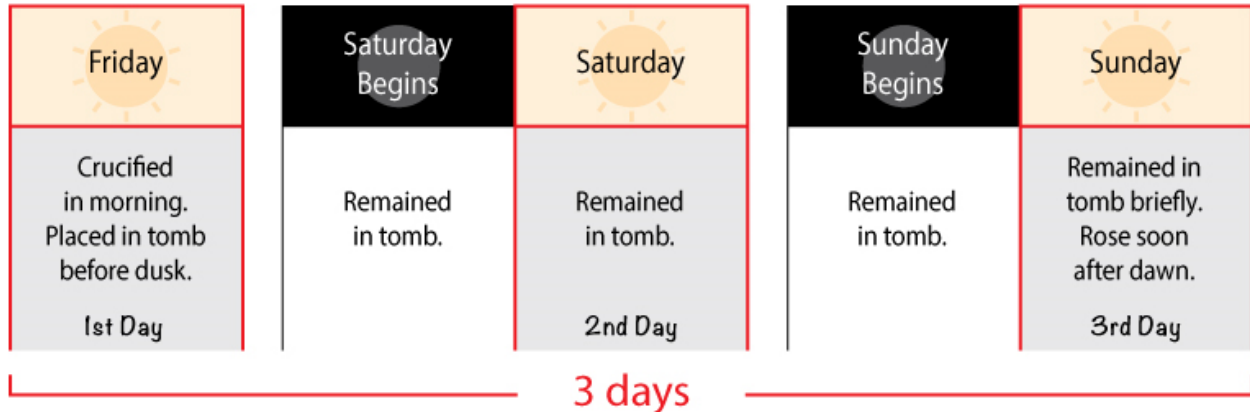
The Jews commonly counted part of a day as a whole day as seen in the Talmud which was a collection of Jewish traditions and so forth.

So if Jesus was to be resurrected on Sunday (the third day) which He was, and He had to be represented in the grave for 3 days, and this means that He had to be buried on Friday before sundown at 6 PM to account for 3 days in the grave. So if Jesus died at 3 PM this gave only a short window of 3 hours to bury Him – and a lot had to transpire within that time to make it happen.

Slide # 5

Crucified Friday, Risen Sunday

(from Jewish perspective of days starting at evening)



Jesus' disciples had not even planned on Him dying – let alone giving Him a proper burial, even though He had so clearly told them it was going to happen. Consequently, they had made no burial plans.

The lone exception was Mary who anointed Jesus in preparation for His burial as seen in Matthew 26:6-13. She did this just a few days before the crucifixion.

Mary had sat at Jesus' feet listening carefully to the Word and evidently took in what He was saying regarding His coming death and so she wanted to do what she could to honor Him concerning His burial. In Mark 14:8 Jesus said, “***She had done what she could.***” No one else seemed to take what Jesus was saying about His pending death very seriously, but Mary did and she is forever honored in the gospels because of it.

But there were two other exceptions who were at the ready to take action when Jesus died. They were two unlikely candidates from the establishment that up to this point had been under the radar.

They were Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who helped him in the burial of Christ. There was no time to lose. Joseph had to be at the ready. He had to get permission from Pilate, and then he had to prepare the body, and move it to the tomb all by 6 PM. And we see that Nicodemus was behind the scenes working with him.

The emphasis here in Matthew 27:57 is that Joseph of Arimathea was rich and that he too had become a disciple of Jesus.

The word “rich” is in the emphatic position making that the emphasis. It’s almost like Matthew wants to emphasize this in order to make the prophetic connection with Isaiah 53:9. Jesus taught that it is impossible for a rich man to enter into the kingdom by their own efforts – or anyone else for that matter (cf. Matt. 19:24-26). But Joseph is proof that some do enter in by the grace of God and God uses some rich people for His purposes. 1 Cor. 1:26 says not many wise, mighty, or noble, are called, but there are some!

Slide # 6

Isaiah 53:9 (NKJV)

9 And they made His grave with the wicked— But **with the rich at His death**, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Humanly speaking the powers that be intended Jesus to have an undignified burial with the wicked – probably in the city dump outside of town in the valley of Hinnom. But prophetically, God said He would be with the rich at His death.

How could this happen? No one saw it coming. Again, the inner circle of disciples made no plans. What we have here is a God thing!

How many RICH secret disciples do you think there were in Jerusalem who happened to have an empty tomb right near the cross? Probably only ONE. This was a total God-thing!

And not only that he was ready to move as soon as Jesus died – which had to be the case in order to have Jesus buried on late Friday afternoon before 6 PM which was prophetically required to fulfill 3 days in the grave.

The powers that be intended for Jesus to have a demeaning type of burial, but God in His sovereignty intended to give Him a burial with dignity. For the Jews proper burial was important showing proper regard for the person. And with His Son, God prophetically and providentially saw to it that He had a burial with dignity. Is there a lesson here? I personally think so.

Joseph was from Arimathea, but we are not sure where it was located. Some think it was located 20 miles away and some think it was located only a few of miles from Jerusalem. The fact that he had a grave site in Jerusalem may argue that it was not far from Jerusalem.

Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin which was the supreme court that sentenced Christ to death (Mk. 15:43). However, Lk. 23:51 says he had **“not consented to their decision and deed”**. He had not agreed with it. Lk, 23:51 also says he was **a “good and just man”**.

And Mark 15:43 says he was **“waiting for the kingdom of God.”** And John 19:38 says he was a secret disciple of Jesus (cf. Mt. 27:57). So, he was a follower of Jesus but he had laid low up until this point. But now it was time for him to come out and not be in the closet anymore about being a follower of Christ. His actions showed his true convictions.

58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

This was not easy for Joseph to do! He was risking everything by doing this. He was showing honor to the very One the Sanhedrin had judged as a blasphemer worthy of death. Certainly in their minds He was not worthy of an honorable burial.

In a real sense, Joseph buried himself economically, socially, and religiously when he buried the body of Jesus. This act separated him forever from the establishment that killed the Lord Jesus.

– William MacDonald

The Lord works in the hearts of true followers to where they have to come out. Mark 15:43 says Joseph ***“gathered up courage and went in before Pilate”***. This must have shocked Pilate to have a member of the Sanhedrin make such a request. We are also amazed that Pilate granted it.

Understand that Rome liked to make an example out of bad criminals and leave their bodies to rot on the cross for a good long time. Sometimes they would grant permission to a family member to take the body and bury it, but this was never allowed in the case of high treason – which was what Christ was officially crucified for. However, Pilate did know that Jesus was not really guilty and I think (knowing Joseph’s character) that he came making the request in a very respectable and dignified way.

Pilate wondered if Jesus was truly already dead because often they lingered for days on the cross before dying. So he sent to the centurion for confirmation of death and then released the body to Joseph (Mk. 15:42-45).

Rome was in charge of crucifixions and the body was still the official property of Rome, so in order to take the body permission needed to be granted by Pilate.

As noted earlier Mark 15:42 says it was “the day of preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath” which Christ was crucified.

The Jews called Friday “the day of preparation” because all the preparations for the Sabbath had to be made before sundown. At sundown was the beginning of the Sabbath and everything stopped at that time and no work was permitted.

And so there was only a couple hours or so left on preparation day in order for Joseph to complete the burial of Jesus. Time was of the essence.

Also note that the Jews required burial before sunset of anyone that was hung on a tree.

Slide # 7

Deuteronomy 21:22–23 (NKJV)

22 “If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,

23 his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

So another factor in Pilate releasing the body is that he knew the Jewish scruples and did not want to further exacerbate the situation by defying them regarding their Jewish convictions regarding burial before sunset and certainly before the all-important Sabbath of Passover. This also explains why they broke the legs of the other two who were crucified with Christ to hasten their death.

Slide # 8

John 19:31 (NKJV)

31 Therefore, because it was the **Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath** (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

But again, note the little detail that when they came to Jesus they found He was already dead and therefore did not break His legs. This too was providential fulfillment of prophecy.

Slide # 9**Psalm 34:20 (NKJV)****20** He guards all his bones; **Not one of them is broken.****John 19:36 (NKJV)****36** For these things were done that the **Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.”**

However, one of the soldiers just to ensure death jammed a spear up into the heart of Jesus. This also providentially fulfilled specific prophecy regarding Him being pierced.

Slide # 10**Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV)****10** “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then **they will look on Me whom they pierced.** Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.**John 20:27 (NKJV)****27** Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and **put it into My side.** Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

So Pilate granted the body of Jesus be given to Jospheh.

59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

John adds that Nicodemus joined Joseph in preparing the body for burial and that they used spices and perfumes in keeping with Jewish traditions.

Slide # 11**John 19:39–40 (NKJV)****39** And **Nicodemus**, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.**40** Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

John also mentions that the tomb was in a garden (Jn. 19:41). This was a quality tomb hewn out of ROCK meaning it was secure from anything getting in. The tomb evidently had a channel or track in front of it in which a large disk shaped rock could be rolled in front of it to seal the grave.

The rock is thought to have been about 5 feet in diameter, about 6 inches thick and is estimated to have weighed 3 to 4 thousand pounds. Have that fall on you and we will have to move you inside the tomb!

Slide # 12



Mark 16:4 says it was a “very large” stone. This would serve to keep out wild animals and grave robbers. It is thought the channel was probably on an incline making it fairly easy to seal the tomb but very difficult to open.

61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

Special mention is made of Mary Magdalene being at the cross and also Mary the mother of James and Joses; and Mark 15:47 shows it is these very same women who are in view here.

The witness of these women becomes crucial on Resurrection Sunday because these same two women again are seen coming early in the morning to the tomb as seen in Matthew 28:1. And this statement here in verse 61 proves that they knew EXACTLY where it was. Thus, the charge that they went to the wrong tomb has absolutely no validity.

Rome did not permit friends to openly mourn the death of the criminals they executed and probably for that reason these women in verse 55 are said to be looking on from afar at the cross. But now at the tomb it is the disciples of Jesus that are in charge of the burial and so they are observing at very close range and making plans to yet provide Jesus an honorable burial with the customary spices and anointing.

But for now the burial procedure was interrupted because the Passover Sabbath was at hand. All they could do now was note where He was buried and go from there after the Sabbath.

62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

Again, the Day of Preparation was Friday, the day before the Sabbath, so this would have been on Saturday. As these chief priests and Pharisees got to thinking about it, they had an uneasy concern which they brought to Pilate.

This is interesting because when they brought Jesus before Pilate on Friday they wouldn't go in because they didn't want to be defiled because of their Jewish scruples (Jn. 18:28).

But now here they were on the Sabbath "gathered together to Pilate". Apparently when there was a Jewish crowd watching they wanted to be very careful not to violate kosher laws. But now that nobody was watching they didn't care. Their hatred of Jesus trumped their love of the law. In truth they were total HYPOCRITES as Jesus so often called them out for.

63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'

Amazingly these enemies of Christ seemed to have a much better memory of what Christ said than did His disciples. We are not sure what occasion they are referring to when Jesus said this.

Certainly Jesus plainly told His own disciples this that He would rise again the third day as seen for example in Matthew 16:21, 17:23, and 20:19. Perhaps they surmised Him saying this in Matthew 12 on the occasion when they demanded a SIGN and Jesus said the only sign they would be given was that of the sign of the prophet Jonah, saying...

Slide # 13

Matthew 12:40 (NKJV)

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.

Perhaps they were astute enough to pick up from this that Jesus was saying He would rise on the third day just as Jonah was delivered from his death like experience in the belly of the fish. They did know the Bible well intellectually. And they knew that Jonah had described his experience as being in “the belly of Sheol” which is the realm of death (Jon. 2:2). They knew that Jonah had said in deliverance, “You have brought up my life from the pit” (Jon. 2:6).

Perhaps they were sharp enough to see that Jesus was saying that just like Jonah had a three day death experience but then was delivered so He to would rise up again on the third day.

I don’t want to give them too much credit, but whatever the occasion, they clearly remembered Jesus saying He would rise again, and specifically that it would happen on the third day.

Notice they derisively call Jesus a “**deceiver**” when in truth they were the real deceivers. This is what deceivers do. They call others deceivers when in fact they are the deceivers. It’s the oldest game in Satan’s book. He is a slanderer. In fact the very meaning of the word “Devil” is “Slanderer”. As Jesus said he is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44).

Clearly they were the true deceivers as seen in the next chapter where they paid off the soldiers to lie about the empty tomb and say that Christ’s disciples had come and stolen the body while they slept (Mt. 28:11-13). Jesus told the TRUTH, they were the true deceivers serving the ultimate DECEIVER who is the devil himself.

64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.”

Right here we see rich providence at work! They are doing everything humanly possible to try and prevent the idea of the resurrection from going forth. And here is the deal God is going to use this to PROVE that the resurrection actually took place. God in His providence can use anything and here we see Him masterfully using the wicked plotting of these arch enemies of Christ.

Slide # 14

The precautions His enemies took to “make sure the sepulchre sure, sealing it with a guard” 62-64, only resulted in God’s overruling the plans of the wicked and offering indisputable proof of the King’s resurrection. - ***Merrill Unger***

They came to the Roman governor Pilate asking him as the Roman official in charge to give the command that the tomb be made Roman secure until the third day.

After the third day it wouldn’t matter because Jesus had specifically stated His resurrection would happen on the third day – not the second or the fourth – but the third. They didn’t want to take any chances. Just to make sure they wanted a Rome to secure the tomb with all the authority and power Rome could provide.

And their proposed concern was not that they thought He would actually come back to life – remember they claimed He was a “deceiver” – but their concern was that the disciples might come and take the body and then claim “He has risen from the dead”.

And thus, they said, “the last deception will be worse than the first.”

The first deception in their minds was that Christ claimed to be the Messiah, and the last deception (even worse) would be the claim that He has risen from the dead.

Talk about your worst fears being realized. The third day was going to shock them out of their minds.

In spite of doing their absolute best to insure that Christ stay in the tomb – low and behold the third day the tomb was found EMPTY! It is almost humorous – I would like to think it is a sort of divine humor!

Small mindedness that is full of unbelief always miscalculates the power of God.

When the Sadducees who did not believe in the supernatural or the resurrection challenged Jesus on this He said...

Slide # 15

Matthew 22:29 (NKJV)

29 Jesus answered and said to them, **“You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”**

In truth these religious leaders did not really know the truth of the Scriptures nor the power of God. They completely missed it!

It is interesting that while they did not really believe Jesus would rise from the dead – yet they did fear it. With a miracle worker like Jesus – you just can’t be too careful! (sarcasm)

65 Pilate said to them, **“You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.”**

Scholars debate whether Pilate said “You have a guard” in the sense of you have your own temple police go and use them or whether he was in effect granting their request for a Roman guard. I prefer the latter view.

After the resurrection the soldiers went to the Jewish leaders probably because they feared Pilate who was over them – hoping that the Jewish leaders could persuade Pilate to go light on them for letting Jesus escape from the tomb.

This would not have been necessary if they were the temple guard, making it more likely that they were Roman.

– ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

“It is unlikely that the Jews would have needed Pilate’s permission at all to deploy their own police; moreover the word for *guard* is (uniquely in the New Testament) a transliteration of the Latin word *custodia*. It is therefore more likely that it was Pilate’s troops who were used; the Jewish leaders are going for maximum security.”

– ***R.T. France***

I think the whole spirit of things is to make this as absolute secure as possible which would have called for an official Roman guard! They wanted full authority of the Roman government behind it and they got it.

A Roman soldier would have been fully equipped with sword, shield, spear, dagger, and armor. Even the sight of a fully dressed out Roman soldier was impressive. They definitely were not to be messed with.

Slide # 16



We are not sure how many men were in this guard. It may have only been 4 men but perhaps as many as 16. Making the tomb as secure as possible they may very well have had the full regiment of 16 men. You can't be too careful you know (more sarcasm).

66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

There is a tremendous emphasis on secure here – being stated 3 times.

Slide # 17

v. 64 “command that the tomb be made secure”

v. 65 “make it as secure as you know how”

v. 66 “they went and made the tomb secure”

One thing is for sure this tomb was as secure as humanly possible, as secure as Rome could make it. No one was getting in there for at least 3 days. However, someone would be coming out – His name is LORD – THE LORD JESUS CHRIST – Who is LORD even over the grave!

Matthew included all this detail to emphasize the only way out of the tomb was by way of resurrection which is exactly what happened. This is what the OT Scriptures prophesied. It is what Christ prophesied! It happened accordingly. The tomb was found empty and the only reasonable explanation is the Christ was risen from the dead exactly as He said. And it all happened on the third day precisely as predicted.

Not only did they make the tomb secure with a Roman guard but they also put a Roman seal upon the stone. The seal involved a rope that was put across the stone held in place on both sides of the doorway with a glob of wax or perhaps a clay seal. Any tampering with the stone would break the seal and that was most serious.

Slide # 18

Everyone knew that a Roman seal carried the authority of Rome behind it. And to violate a Roman seal would be to defy Rome and called for the death penalty. Nobody in their right mind would mess with this.

And then just to make one final emphasis it sets “setting the guard”. The Romans guards took turns sleeping. Half of them would sleep while the others watched guard. If the one they were responsible to watch somehow escaped they themselves would be executed. There was no room for error!

This was deadly serious business. No one would mess with a Roman guard unless they had a death wish. No one would tamper with a Roman seal unless they had a death wish. This was absolutely as secure as possible which sets us up for the greatest miracle in the history of the world – the RESURRECTION of the Lord Jesus Christ which blew the door off the tomb and flattened these Roman soldiers and then sent them scurrying off into the crisp resurrection morning air.

God’s handiwork is amazing. We see His miraculous work at the cross as the sky became black as night in the middle of the day, we see it in the resurrection as the earth quakes and the tomb stone was rolled away. But in the burial of Christ we see God’s providential hand front and center.

Providentially He used a rich man from the supreme court and a most esteemed teacher in Israel in just the right time frame to fulfill Isaiah 53:9. Providentially Pilate agreed to let the rich man have Christ’s body. Providentially the two Mary’s were in a position to provided first-hand testimony to the empty tomb. Providentially the chief priests and Pharisees asked that Pilate command that the tomb be made secure thus providing sure-proof evidence that no one could take the body.

Every detail of the gospel story including Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection is in fulfillment of the OT Scriptures. Only God could predict this story and bring to pass all these coordinating details with absolute precision.

It seems to me that providence, if I can use a conundrum, providence is a greater miracle than a miracle. It seems to me that it would be easier if I were God to just say, *"I'm not going to fool with trying to pull all this together. I'm just going to do it."* And so the wonder of wonders to me is not just the miracle where God instantly invades and just interrupts and violates the flow of everything. To me the greater wonder is that God can take it all and still make it work for His will.

-John MacArthur

And this is exactly what God did surrounding all the details regarding Christ's burial which also is an amazing part of the gospel story.

The gospel is...

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV)

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

The only question that remains is this? Do you believe the gospel?

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. As Savior He died for all our sins, He was buried (proof of death) and then He rose again as Lord over all.

Have you believed on Him as your personal Savior and Lord?

The Bible says NOW is the accepted time, today is the day of salvation. We are not promised tomorrow. Today if you will hear His voice do not harden your heart.

Come! Now is the time to get right with God!