

THE STORY OF THE STONE **Matthew 27v57-28v20.**

1) THE STONE SET IN PLACE.

Joseph of Arimathaea went and asked for the body of Jesus and then laid it in his own new tomb and rolled a great stone to the door of it.

Jesus was placed in a borrowed tomb. He would only need it for a few days. It was not possible for him to be holden of death. Rom.6v23. But He had no sin and that which he had taken upon himself was now paid for. Death had no claim upon him.

The events of the cross brought Joseph out into the light to stand for the Lord. He was a counsellor, Lk.23v50 = member of the Sanhedrin who had not agreed with their decision. What did meditating on the cross do for us these past few days? Rom. 12v1-2.

The prophesy was fulfilled in Is 53v9.

But the stone was set in place. A huge millstone rolled back and forward in a groove. The women could not shift it. It was "a great stone"v60, Mk16v4, "very great". What claims were buried with him!

2) THE STONE SEALED.

v62-66 Sealed by the Chief Priests and Pharisees. He said he would rise again. They would make sure that would not happen and that no-one would steal the body. Yet He was gone from the empty tomb. Gives the lie to those who suggest that the disciples stole the body. His disappearance had to be explained away.

3) THE STONE SAT UPON.

28v1-2. Angel sat upon the stone. For Hendriksen, out of its groove and lying flat. This signifies God's complete triumph over those who would try to overthrow his purpose, Ps 2vv1-4,6. Jesus had risen and the stone was rolled away to show that the tomb was empty.

We see

(a) Consternation. v2-4.

They were overwhelmed, paralyzed in terror in the august presence of the angel.

The whole was only a little foregleam of what will happen when God shakes the earth. Men will not be able to stand before him.

(b) Consolation. v5-6.

His own need not fear. They are accepted, preserved, safe in Christ. John 5v24, Rom. 8v1.

(c) Adoration.

v9 Worshipped at the beginning, 2v11 and now as the risen Christ. Let us worship him.

(d) Proclamation. v18-19.

We have a great message to proclaim.

(e) Communion. v20

He will never leave us. He is the risen Christ