



**The DAILY JESUS NEWS #329**  
**Friday... Day of Agony and Atonement**

**Jesus Is Buried in the Garden Tomb**

**Jesus is Buried in Joseph's New Garden Tomb**  
**JN 19.39-42 (Parallel Texts: MT 27.59-60MK 15.46; LK 22.53-54)**

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39 <sup>M</sup>So, Joseph took down the body. <sup>J</sup>He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of <sup>MT</sup>clean linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden was <sup>MT</sup>this (Joseph's) own new tomb, that he had cut out of the rock, <sup>J</sup>in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. Then Joseph rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb, and went away.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	A New Garden Tomb, Near Golgotha
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	E. Friday: Day of Agony and Atonement
	Jesus is Buried in the Garden Tomb
Title:	Jesus is Buried in Joseph's New Garden Tomb

Today's reading shows us that Jesus' body was buried with extreme haste. It was late afternoon, and the work had to be done by sundown because it was the start of the Sabbath. Normally a body would be washed with water before application of the glue-like perfume and spices. However, there was no source of water, nor time available at the garden tomb. This meant that the anointing with burial perfume by Mary in Bethany a week earlier really did comprise preparation for Jesus' burial, too.

After removing Jesus' body from the cross, Joseph and Nicodemus would have carried it to Joseph's new tomb located nearby, in a garden. Joseph had probably developed this burial plan as he saw Jesus dying on the cross. It was appropriate for Jesus because the tomb was new, and unused. Like the donkey foal on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem, his tomb would be dedicated to his exclusive use.

As everything else in Jesus' life, the circumstances that allowed for a quick burial had been sovereignly prepared beforehand.

After cleaning the body with cloth and water to the best of their ability, the two men covered it with the burial paste made of crushed aloes and myrrh. 75 lbs of this paste was applied to the body of Jesus--a thick coating. It was intended to keep vermin out, cause the linen strips to adhere to the body, and create a pleasing smell to reduce the odor of the decomposing body after three days in the tomb.

Years later, after the body had totally decomposed, the bones would be removed and placed into a large porcelain lidded jar for permanent internment until the resurrection. This was their plan, anyway.

The linen strips were wrapped sideways around the body, with the arms against the sides, held firmly in place by the cloth. A separate piece of linen would wrap the head, and a final napkin was laid on the head. By the time the body was covered with the burial paste and wrapped in the long linen cloths it was tight and secure, and protected from direct contact with the air.

This preparation of the body in linen cloths with burial paste was important for understanding the resurrection. It would have been impossible for Jesus to remove himself from these cloths.

When Jesus resurrected Lazarus, he had to direct the people to quickly remove the cloths so that Lazarus could breath. The removal of the cloths would leave solid evidence of the presence and activity of people other than the corpse. This will be important on Sunday morning when Jesus' tomb was found to be empty. The condition of his burial cloths will become crucial evidence for his resurrection.

Paul stated the core of the gospel--that he had received from Christians as he persecuted, interrogated, and tortured them as heretics--as follows:

*"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas and to the twelve..."* 1 Cor. 15.3-5

Jesus' burial is an integral part of the gospel. It is evidence of both his death, and his resurrection. It is amazing that Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be buried by rich men, in a rich man's tomb, when the rich man himself (Joseph) had no idea that he was actually preparing his Lord's grave when he paid to have it carved out of stone in the garden near Golgotha. God's timing and ways are always perfect.

#### APPLICATION:

Just as the Trinity perfectly planned, prepared and performed every detail of the earthly life of Jesus, as prophesied in the Scriptures, he has planned and prepared good works for each of us to do.

God knows everything in advance, and he also knows the end result he will produce. We see this so clearly in Jesus' life, even in the events of his burial that he had no influence over.

*Jesus lived by faith in his sovereign Father's plan and presence. We must do the same.*

*How do you need to trust in God's plans for you today, when it might seem that everything is crashing down around you?*

*How will you pray and depend upon God in your present circumstances to reveal his Glory?*