

Treasure Hunt

- How did the priests understand the Lord's teaching better than the disciples did?
- Who are the "kings" and the "rulers" in Psalm 2:2?
- What are some of the meanings of a seal in the ancient world?
- How many points of similarity can you find between the burial of the Lord Jesus and putting Daniel in the lions' den?
- How is Daniel 6 like Exodus 1-2, 1 Kings 22, and Esther in Matthew's understanding of the Lord's experiences?
- What practical lesson are we to learn from these parallels?
- How is ch. 28 organized differently from earlier contrasts between the Lord's friends and his enemies, and why?
- How does the angel's behavior after opening the tomb continue the fulfillment of Psalm 2?

Contrasting Parties in Matt 26-28

	The Lord's Friends	Transition	The Lord's Enemies
Purpose: Jesus' Death	26:1-2 Fourth Announcement		26:3-5 Planning in the Palace
Preparation for Death	26:6-13 Anointing in Bethany		26:14-16 Contract with Judas
The Lord is betrayed /delivered	26:17-46 Jesus with the Disciples: Last Supper (Judas), Gethesemene (Peter)		
		26:47-56 from the Disciples to the Jews (Judas)	
			26:57-27:56 Jesus with the Jews: Trials (Peter, Judas), Crucifixion (women)
Preparation for Burial	27:57-61 Joseph of Arimathea		27:62-66 Sealing the Tomb
Responses to the Resurrection	28:1-10, 16-20 Spread the gospel		28:11-15 Deny the Resurrection

OT Background to the Priests' Request

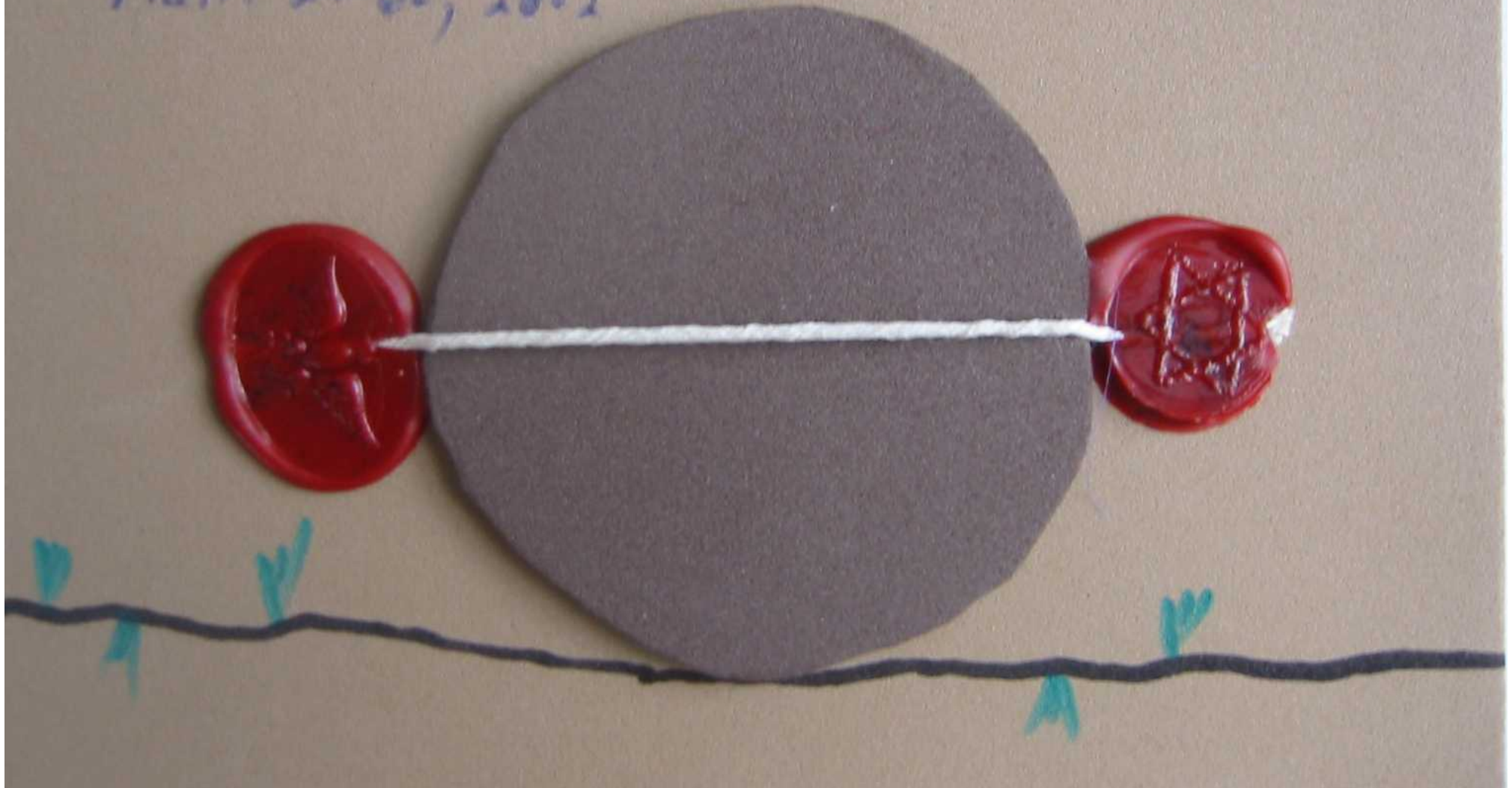
Mat 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; **so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

Act 4:24 they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, **Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ [Psa 2:2]. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.**

Psa 2:1 **Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,** 3 **Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.**

How the Stone might have been Sealed

so they... sealed the stone...
[but] the angel... rolled back the stone...
Matt. 27:66; 28:1



Seals in the OT

Agreement

Neh 9:38 And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, **seal** unto it.

Authority

Est 8:8 for the writing which is written in the king's name, and **sealed with the king's ring**, may no man reverse.

Protection from Tampering

Jer 32:9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that *was* in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, *even* seventeen shekels of silver. 10 And I subscribed the evidence, and **sealed it**, and took witnesses, and weighed *him* the money in the balances. 11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, *both* that which was **sealed according** to the law and custom, and that which was open: 12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's *son*, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.

The Sealings of Daniel and our Lord

Dan 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. 17 And a **stone** was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king **sealed** it with his own **signet**, and with the **signet** of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. ... 21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 22 My God hath sent his **angel**, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me:

Description	In Daniel	In Matthew
Righteous Jew, unjustly persecuted	Daniel	Jesus
Jealous adversaries	Rival bureaucrats	Jewish leaders
Reluctant legal authority,	King Darius	Pilate
Sealed confinement	Den of lions	Grave
Delivering angel	Shut lions' mouths	Opened the grave

Adversarial Allusions in Matthew

	2:1-18 Slaughter of Innocents	26:63-68 Trial before Sanhedrin	27:19 Pilate's Wife	27:62-66 Sealed Tomb
OT Parallel	Exodus 1-2 & Targum	1 Kings 22	Esther	Daniel 6
Salient Feature	Slaughter of Babies	Adjure, slap and demand for prophecy	Woman interrupts husband	Sealed stone door
Righteous Victim ~ Lord Jesus	Moses	Micaiah	Mordecai	Daniel
Accusers ~ Chief Priests	Jannes and Jambres (Targum)	Ahab, Zedekiah	Haman	Jealous colleagues
Government ~ Herod, Pilate	Pharaoh	Ahab	Ahasuerus	Darius
Fall of Accusers	Plagues on Egypt	Ahab slain in battle	Haman hanged	Cast into lions' den

Mat 10:17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Mat 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Continuing Psalm 2

Ps 2	Matt 27-28
2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, <i>saying</i> ,	27:62 the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, ... 65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make <i>it</i> as sure as ye can.
3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.	27:66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.
4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.	28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.