

*Quid magis est durum saxo, quid mollius unda? dura tamen molli saxa cavantur aqua.*¹

Bible Words: *saxum*



Saxum (*SAX-um*) is a second declension neuter noun meaning “stone, rock.” The stone is a crucial element in the account of Christ's resurrection. If you have never read Frank Morison's fascinating book *Who Moved the Stone*, now would be an excellent time to do so. You can buy a cheap copy here: <https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/1745/who-moved-the-stone> or read it on-line here: <https://www.gospeltruth.net/whomovedthestone.htm>.

et posuit illud in monumento suo novo quod exciderat in petra et advolvit saxum magnum ad ostium monumenti et abiit Matthew 27:60.

This verse describes the action of Joseph of Arimathaea after the crucifixion. There are plenty of words that you already know here: *et, in, ad*. You may remember *quod* from learning about QED last week.² It means “which” or “because” and should go in your notebook. Notice how, in Latin, words that go together often have similar endings: *monumento suo novo; saxum magnum*. This is because the adjectives like *magnum* and *novo* have to agree (match up) with the noun or pronoun they are qualifying (describing). If a noun is in the nominative case and is plural, for instance, then the adjective must be too. We have not looked at the case endings of adjectives yet but quite often this means they are the same as that of the noun. I'm sure you can guess the adjective *magnum*. The manufacturers want you to think you are getting a *large* ice-cream if you ask for one! *Novo* you will get if you know the expression *de novo* which is used in science to mean “from the beginning” i.e. “anew.” It is related to the word “novelty,” and “novel” and also to the place name Nova Scotia which means “New Scotland.” *Monumento* you can guess. The verbs all tell you what Joseph did or had done: *posuit* (related to position), *exciderat* (might be related to excavate, I think, although it literally means “fell”) and *abiit* (related to “absent.”) Can you translate the verse now? Check your answer by looking it up.

So... what kind of salt is this?
Answer on the next page!



¹ What is harder than stone, what softer than water? Yet hard stones are hollowed by soft water. Ovid.

² Term3W1D3

Answer: Rock salt