28. And the scribes and the Pharisees and the elders gathered together with one another when they heard that all the people grumbled and beat their chests saying, ‘if at his death these greatest signs have happened, behold how just he was.’ 29. The elders were afraid and came to Pilate petitioning him and saying, ‘Give to us soldiers that I may guard his tomb for three days, lest his disciple come and steal him and the people suppose that he is risen from the dead, and they might do evil things to us.’ 31. And Pilate gave to them Petronius the centurion with soldiers to guard the tomb. And with them went elders and scribes to the tomb. 32. And having rolled a great stone towards the centurion and the soldiers, where all those who were there set it at the entrance of the tomb. 33. And they spread out seven seals and pitching a tent there, they kept watch.

Text Critical Notes

1. The scribe shows yet another variation in forming the double lambda combination. This is perhaps one of the more successful attempts in terms of legibility, since both letters are nearly identical in shape. The right-hand leg is almost perpendicular to the left-hand leg which is only slightly askew from the vertical. The result
is that the right-hand stroke descends only a little below horizontal at the vertex where the two legs join.

2. The formation of the letter α is most irregular in this line. Gebhardt notes the generalized tendency in forming this letter: ‘The α appears only in the minuscule form; it is smaller than the other letters, usually open at the top, occasionally only a point with a checkmark as part of it.’\textsuperscript{535} A number of these features are present in this case, but it is less ‘point-like’ than some example of the α contained on this line. In λαός the letter is both minuscule and small, yet it is written in an open fashion and not as a single point with a tail.

3. By contrast with the preceding α in the word λαός and the second occurrence in this word ἀπας, the initial α is like a fullstop with a tail.\textsuperscript{536}

4. This is perhaps the most idiosyncratic form of the varying styles of the letter α shown on this line. It follows an enlarged τ contained in the word κόπτεται, the vertical stroke measures 4mm. By contrast the first τ in κόπτεται is only 2mm tall. The α is written in a raised position, the topmost part level with the enlarged τ, but the α measuring only 1mm in height. It is, however, written as an open letter and not as a point.

5. The verbal form φυλάξω, a first person singular aorist subjunctive, is corrected by most commentators in one of two ways. The more prevalent emendation is to the form φυλάξωμεν, thereby making it a first person plural subjunctive. This reading is adopted by Harnack, Swete, Mara, and Kraus and Nicklas among others.\textsuperscript{537} Another option that has been suggested is when the form is modified to a third person plural aorist subjunctive, φυλάξωσιν. This emendation is proposed by Robinson, Zahn and Vaganay.\textsuperscript{538} Bouriant and Lods

\textsuperscript{535} ‘Das α erscheint nur in das Form der Minuskei; es ist kleiner als die anderen Buchstaben, gewöhnlich oben offen, zuweilen nur ein Punkt mit einem Häkchen daran.’ Gebhardt, \textit{Das Evangelium und die Apokalypse des Petrus}, 10.

\textsuperscript{536} Again see the fuller comments of Gebhardt on the formation of the letter α; \textit{Das Evangelium und die Apokalypse des Petrus}, 10.
