

*How Long Was Jesus Christ  
In The Tomb?*

Understanding The Bible

Three Days  
And  
Three Nights

Edition One

And does it really matter?

*Author: Leslie Rendell*

# Copyright

All Rights Reserved.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or used in any manner without the written permission of the copyright owner except for the use of quotations in a book review.

This book contains information too valuable to not share with the world. Therefore, you are given permission to give this book away for free to anyone that you believe it may help.

**But under no circumstances may it be sold for financial gain.**

Scripture quotations taken from The World English Bible

# Three Days And Three Nights

There are many differing views about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But naturally there can only be one correct view. I needed to find the truth on this matter for myself, so I spent a considerable amount of time seeking the answer in the only place where I could get the truth. God's Holy Bible. The Bible is the only place I could expect to find the truth.

If you are seeking answers to all of today's questions on matters of faith and your relationship with our Almighty Creator. Then His Holy Bible is where to look for these answers. After-all, He is not only the one who created all things, including us. But He is also the author of the Bible.

This can be confirmed by the number of times it has been recorded for us in the Bible where God has said "Thus saith the Lord". This indicates these passages of scripture were spoken by God Himself, and recorded for all future generations. And this most certainly includes us today.

Another way to prove this, is in the book of 2 Timothy 3:16

*2Ti 3:16 Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness,*

Every scripture. The old and the new testaments were inspired by God and written for our learning.

It is very difficult to unlearn something you may have held as the truth for many years. Your first reaction may be to refuse to believe what you are reading for the first time. You prefer the old understanding and are uncomfortable with the new ideas. This is where many will just refuse to read any further and give up. Their minds are already made up even before they start. Traditions from many years in a particular mind set make it hard to see beyond what they believe to be right. Whether they are right or not.

I am hoping you are here reading this book to find the truth. If you are, then please read with an open mind. Seek the truth from God's words. Study His words in the Bible and settle for nothing less than the truth. Do not be surprised if you get a lot of opposition from family and friends who may be stuck in the same mind set you were once in. You, and you alone are responsible for your relationship with God. No one else is responsible. Therefore you owe it to yourself to trust God and reject any opposition you may encounter as you seek knowledge and understanding from the word of God.

This will not be an easy task, but if you really want the truth, then where else do you expect to find it? Read and understand what Peter said to Jesus when Jesus ask them if they also wanted to desert Him.

*Joh 6:66 At this, many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*

*Joh 6:67 Jesus said therefore to the twelve, "You don't also want to go away, do you?"*

*Joh 6:68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

*Joh 6:69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

This is why you simply must not give up on the truth. Jesus is the “Word of God” as is evident in John 1:1. There is no greater teacher than Jesus, so listen to what He says in His Bible.

The timing of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is a very controversial subject. There are many arguments about what is right and what is wrong. So again I ask you to seek the truth from God’s words.

One very important thing you must not neglect as you study this subject is to pray. Prayer is very powerful, so if you ask God for understanding and wisdom you will receive it. Only do not expect it overnight. This journey is a life long trip and you will continue to grow, but only if you do not give up. Remember the good advise you see in Pro 25:2.

*Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

So, consider yourself a King and search out the truth about the time that Jesus was in the tomb. Prove to yourself on what days, and at what hour of the day Jesus was both buried and resurrected.

As you saw in Prov 25:2 you must search for the truth. To find the answer to this question will require looking at different books in the Bible. Comparing the words from each and putting the puzzle together in your own mind. This will not be any easy task, so read it several times to fully understand.

May our awesome God guide you as you study His word. This book is designed to give you the ground work for your studies. But you must interpret what you read and come to your own conclusions.

# What Does Three Days And Three Nights Mean?

One of the most important passages of scripture in the Bible for us to understand, if we sincerely want to answer the question about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is Matt 12:38-40.

*Mat 12:38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."*

*Mat 12:39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."*

*Mat 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

The same thought is found in Luk 11:29. It is a vital clue to the whole question about the burial and resurrection of Jesus. Notice, the "sign of Jonah" is the only sign that Jesus was going to give to the Pharisees. And exactly what is this "sign of Jonah".

*Luk 11:29 As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah."*

In these verses we find the Pharisees asking Jesus for a sign to show that He is the promised Messiah, and the answer Jesus gave them is absolutely vital for us to understand correctly. Jesus said that the ONLY SIGN that would be given to them is that He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The same time that Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish.

Please notice that this is the ONLY SIGN that He was going to give them. Therefore, if He was not in the heart of the earth for that exact amount of time, then He is not who He claims to be, the Son of God. If He is there for either a longer, or a shorter time, then He is an impostor, a fraud and not the Son of God.

The sign of Jonah is that He would be exactly three days and three nights in the tomb. Therefore, it is imperative that we establish how long Jesus was in the heart of the earth, or the tomb. The answer is in the Bible, but be prepared to do a little research to find the truth.

There is a lot of controversy on just what the exact time is involved in the term "three days and three nights". To me it should be very easy to understand, but too many people interpret it in many ways, so what I aim to do here is to see how the Bible interprets it. If we are to get to the true answer, then we must rely only on what we can learn from the Bible. The thoughts and traditions of man do not enter these calculations, but only what can be proved from God's own word.

We can see from the verses above that the exact time Jesus was in the tomb is vital to understand if we are to believe He is the Son Of God. Not only did Jesus say He would be in the tomb for three days and three nights, but in 1 Cor 15:4 He also claimed He would be raised on the third day. The third day obviously fits with the three days and three nights He declared as the time He would be in the tomb. Notice in 1 Cor 15:4 He was to be raised according to the scriptures.

*1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

The only place we can get an accurate description of the term “the third day” is in Genesis chapter 1 and verses 1 - 13. This will settle once and for all what Jesus and His disciples meant by the term “three days and three nights”.

### The Creation of the World

*Gen 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Gen 1:2 The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and God’s Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

*Gen 1:3 God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.*

*Gen 1:4 God saw the light, and saw that it was good. God divided the light from the darkness.*

*Gen 1:5 God called the light “day”, and the darkness he called “night”. There was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

*Gen 1:6 God said, “Let there be an expanse in the middle of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”*

*Gen 1:7 God made the expanse, and divided the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.*

*Gen 1:8 God called the expanse “sky”. There was evening and there was morning, a second day.*

*Gen 1:9 God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear;” and it was so.*

*Gen 1:10 God called the dry land “earth”, and the gathering together of the waters he called “seas”. God saw that it was good.*

*Gen 1:11 God said, “Let the earth yield grass, herbs yielding seeds, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with their seeds in it, on the earth;” and it was so.*

*Gen 1:12 The earth yielded grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with their seeds in it, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.*

*Gen 1:13 There was evening and there was morning, a third day.*

Here we see a perfect example of three days and three nights. There were three periods of darkness and three periods of light, and the end of this time was referred to as “the third day”. And if we allow 12 hours for each period, then we have 72 hours. In the following scriptures we see this term used as the time that Jesus would be, and was, in the tomb.

*Mat 16:21 From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.*

*Mat 17:23 and they will kill him, and the third day he will be raised up.” They were exceedingly sorry.*

*Mat 20:19 and will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, to scourge, and to crucify; and the third day he will be raised up.”*

*Mat 27:64 Command therefore that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest perhaps his disciples come at night and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He is risen from the dead;’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.”*

*Mat 27:64 Command therefore that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest perhaps his disciples come at night and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He is risen from the dead;’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.”*

*Luk 18:33 They will scourge and kill him. On the third day, he will rise again.”*

*Luk 24:7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?”*

*Luk 24:21 But we were hoping that it was he who would redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.*

*Luk 24:46 He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,*

*Act 10:40 God raised him up the third day, and gave him to be revealed,*

*1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

At least 9 times in the above verses we see Jesus was to be in the tomb until the third day, So I believe that this is exactly how long He was in the tomb. Anything different and He is not the Son of God. And from Genesis 1:1-13 we see the perfect description of the term the third day.

Notice Especially 1Cor 15:4. Here the Apostle Paul said that Jesus was raised on the third day “according to the scriptures”. And as we can plainly see from the scriptures above, Jesus was resurrected on the third day. And according to the account from Genesis 1:1-13 that is equal to 72 hours.

*Jon 1:17 Yahweh prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

This is the sign of Jonah. Three days and three nights in the belly of the fish. In Luke 11:29 and Matt 12:39 we see Jesus saying that He would give only one sign He was the Messiah, and that was the “sign of Jonah”.

Surely there is enough proof in these verses to show that Jesus was in the tomb for exactly three days. And in the example from Genesis above, we can clearly see that on the third day is after three periods of dark and three periods of light, so it cannot be anything less than a full 72 hours.

# The Only Sign

Now let us look at some more scriptures that describe how long Jesus was to be in the tomb. This is an important topic to understand correctly, so make sure you have your Bible ready and check out the scriptures that I am going to use in this part of this book. Please look for these three terms. First “In three days”, then “after three days”, and finally “on the third day”.

The term “in three days” is used in the following verses to explain the time that Jesus was in the tomb.

*Joh 2:13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

*Joh 2:14 He found in the temple those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting.*

*Joh 2:15 He made a whip of cords, and threw all out of the temple, both the sheep and the oxen; and he poured out the changers' money, and overthrew their tables.*

*Joh 2:16 To those who sold the doves, he said, “Take these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace!”*

*Joh 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will eat me up.”*

*Joh 2:18 The Jews therefore answered him, “What sign do you show us, seeing that you do these things?”*

*Joh 2:19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”*

*Joh 2:20 The Jews therefore said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple! Will you raise it up in three days?”*

*Joh 2:21 But he spoke of the temple of his body.*

**Joh 2:22** When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he said this, and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

*Mar 14:58 “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’”*

*Mar 15:29 Those who passed by blasphemed him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Ha! You who destroy the temple, and build it in three days,*

**Joh 2:19** Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

In these verses we see the Jews wanted to know who gave Jesus the authority to drive the money changers out of the temple, Jesus knowing that they were going to crucify Him answered He would raise the temple of His body in three days. Notice that He said “in three days”. So this would mean that He was to be resurrected from the dead inside three days. No longer than 3 days. No longer than 72 hours.

Then to empathize that He meant exactly 72 hours, He told His disciples “after three days” He would be raised from the tomb. Also, the Pharisees remembered Jesus had told them that after three days He would rise



again. We see these things in the following scriptures.

*Mar 8:31 He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

*Mat 27:62 Now on the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees were gathered together to Pilate,*

Mat 27:63 saying, "Sir, we remember what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.'

So in these passages we see He was to be in the tomb until "after three days". No less than three days. No less than 72 hours.

The last term "on the third day" is then used in these verses..

*Luk 24:46 He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,*

*Act 10:40 God raised him up the third day, and gave him to be revealed,*

1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

So far we have seen three different ways to describe the time that Jesus was to be in the tomb. First was "in three days" and then "after three days" and last was "on the third day". So starting from "in three days" we can clearly see that this is no longer than 3 days or 72 hours. Then "after three days" means that it will not be longer than three days or 72 hours. Then the final one is "on the third day", and we saw earlier in Genesis that on the third day is after three periods of night and three periods of day, again exactly 72 hours.

Therefore, Jesus was in the tomb no less than 72 hours, no more than 72 hours, or exactly 72 hours. Surely if you take scripture seriously, then how can you possibly say that Jesus was not in the tomb for exactly 72 hours. 71 hours is not long enough and 73 hours is too long. His resurrection would have been 72 hours after He was laid out in the tomb. Otherwise, by His own words, He is an impostor and not the Son of God.

Many people want to use the measuring of three days and three nights by using other than biblical methods of measuring time, or in other words, using man's traditions. I am more than happy to go with the word of God on this and say that three days and three nights is equal to 72 hours. Some will claim that any part of a day will count as 1 day. Therefore, if you count days from 5 minutes before the end of a day, that 5 minutes counts as one day. If you use this method of calculating the time that Jesus was in the tomb, then it can vary from about 49 hours to 72 hours. This certainly is not biblical, as we see from the Genesis account of "three days and three nights".

This is where we must decide if we will believe the Bible, or the traditions on man.

Notice Mat 12:39 where it states that the only sign that He will give them is the sign of Jonah, that He will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. It is not possible to squeeze this time frame into a good Friday crucifixion and a Sunday morning resurrection. At the most you will get 1 part day, Friday, and 1 full day, Saturday, and only 2 nights, Friday and Saturday. Certainly not the required amount of time to prove that Jesus is the Messiah. Earlier I said if He was not in the tomb for the time He predicted, then He is an impostor and not the Son of God as He claims to be.

This is a very important thing to understand correctly. I hope you have been following along with your Bible and checking all the scriptures that I have been quoting. You need to prove for yourself how long Jesus was in the tomb. Don't just believe what some human has told you. Go to the only true source of information, and that is always the Bible.

Please read on to see why I have discounted the first day of the week, Sunday, as a part day. This is very important.

Joh 20:1 Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went early, while it was still dark, to the tomb, and saw the stone taken away from the tomb.

Please notice the problem that arises here for the Sunday morning resurrection theory. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early on the first day of the week while it was still dark. This is where we must start and finish our days according to the Jewish way of counting days, from sunset to sunset. Therefore, the start of the first day of the week was just after sunset on the Saturday Sabbath. Therefore, for Mary Magdalene to be at the tomb early on the first day of the week, she had to be there soon after sunset on Saturday. It would have just turned to night so it was still dark. And Jesus was already resurrected before Mary Magdalene got to the tomb.

Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected “according to the scriptures” as we see in the following verses.

*1Co 15:1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.*

*1Co 15:2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

*1Co 15:3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

*1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

It is important to see in verses 3 and 4 that Christ’s death and resurrection was all done “according to the scriptures” and that He was raised “on the third day”.

To come to any other conclusion is to ignore what the Bible has plainly told us, and to believe in a man made theory that is definitely not Biblical. Again, I will say that I take my evidence from what the Bible shows, Anything different will not stand the test of scripture.

# Preparation Day

Hopefully, by now we can see that Jesus was exactly three days and three nights in the tomb. If you still refuse to accept that Jesus was exactly three days and three nights in the tomb, then I suggest you read again the evidence I have provided, and read very carefully the scriptures quoted. The evidence I have provided for the time Jesus was in the tomb is from scripture.

Now I will endeavour to show on what days, and what time of the day Jesus was buried and resurrected.

There are two very important days that occurred at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. The meaning of these days is vital to understand. But remember these days are Jewish days. So the only way to understand their meaning is to look into the scriptures describing this event. Again, you will need to search the scriptures for the answer, but it is there. These two days that occur at the time Jesus was crucified are "preparation day" and "Special Sabbath". It is very important to understand the meaning of these days, and when they occur in relation to the timing of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Preparation day, as observed in Judaism, is the day immediately prior to a Sabbath day. To enforce their strict observance of the Sabbath day, the Sadducees and Pharisees were to make preparations for the Sabbath well in advance of the actual starting time of the Sabbath day. All meals were to be prepared before sunset, so the only thing to do on the Sabbath day was to serve the food. This practice was to make certain that no work of any kind was done on the Sabbath. This is why the day before and Sabbath is called a preparation day.

Another tradition the Jews kept was to not have any bodies left hanging on the cross during the Sabbath. This is why they approached Pilate to have the body of Jesus, and the two thieves that were crucified with Him taken down and buried before sunset. This is made clear in Mar 15:42-43

*Mar 15:42 When evening had now come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,*

Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent council member who also himself was looking for God's Kingdom, came. He boldly went in to Pilate, and asked for Jesus' body.

Here in verse 42 it is made very clear that the day Jesus was crucified was on the "preparation day". This was followed by a Sabbath day, and from Joh 19:31 below it was not an ordinary Sabbath day. But it was a Special Sabbath". After Jesus died on the cross, the Jews ask Pilate for the bodies that they may be buried before the Sabbath day began as we see in Joh 19:30-31.

*Joh 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished." He bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.*

*Joh 19:31 Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn't remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*

Notice it was on “the preparation day” the Jews (the Sadducees and the Pharisees) ask for the bodies. The following day was not just an ordinary Sabbath. It was a “Special Sabbath”. The weekly Sabbath is never referred to as a “Special Sabbath”. This term is reserved for special holy days throughout the year. In the next chapter I will further explain what a “Special Sabbath” is and when they occur.

The title 'Preparation Day' is referred to 6 times in the New Testament, and each time it is mentioned, it is the day that Jesus was crucified. This day was followed by a special sabbath. Not the usual weekly Sabbath, but a “Special Sabbath”.

*Mat 27:58 This man went to Pilate, and asked for Jesus' body. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given up.*

*Mat 27:59 Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,*

*Mat 27:60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut out in the rock, and he rolled a great stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.*

Mat 27:61 Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

Jesus was crucified and buried on this “preparation day”. We can plainly see this from Joh 19:31. It was on this day, that the chief priests went to Pilate and requested the bodies be taken down from the crosses so they could be buried before the “Special Sabbath” began.

Without a proper understanding of these scripture, many people will assume the term “Special Sabbath” is referring to the normal weekly Sabbath. And that the preparation day was on a Friday, but this is not correct. I will elaborate more on this in the next chapter.

Joh 19:31 Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn't remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

The most important thing I hope you will understand from this chapter is that the Sabbath following the burial of Jesus was a “Special Sabbath”,

Those who believe in the good Friday Crucifixion of Jesus, accept the day of preparation mentioned in the above verses refer to the weekly Saturday Sabbath. But notice that in the book of John 19:31 where this Sabbath is called a special Sabbath.

Jesus Christ died the day before a special Sabbath, and He was put into the tomb just before the day of preparation ended. Just before the special Sabbath was about to start. We see this is recorded for us in Mar 15:42-47.

*Mar 15:42 When evening had now come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,*

*Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent council member who also himself was looking for God's Kingdom, came. He boldly went in to Pilate, and asked for Jesus' body.*

*Mar 15:44 Pilate marveled if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead long.*

*Mar 15:45 When he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.*

*Mar 15:46 He bought a linen cloth, and taking him down, wound him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of a rock. He rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.*

Mar 15:47 Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joses, saw where he was laid.

Following are three more passages of scripture that support the fact that Jesus was crucified and buried on

“the preparation day”

*Luk 23:52 this man went to Pilate, and asked for Jesus' body.*

*Luk 23:53 He took it down, and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that was cut in stone, where no one had ever been laid.*

*Luk 23:54 It was the day of the Preparation, and the Sabbath was drawing near.*

*Joh 19:41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden. In the garden was a new tomb in which no man had ever yet been laid.*

*Joh 19:42 Then because of the Jews' Preparation Day (for the tomb was near at hand) they laid Jesus there.*

*Joh 19:14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, at about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!"*

*Joh 19:15 They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"*

One very important passage here is in verse 14. We see that the preparation day is for the Passover, and not for the weekly Sabbath. This is where many people mistake this preparation day as being just before a weekly Sabbath, but it is just before the Passover Sabbath. Please read carefully the following explanation of what a “Special Sabbath” is.

# Special Sabbath

So now it is vital that we understand just what a “Special Sabbath” is. There are seven high days, or “Special Sabbaths”, throughout the year that are observed by Jews and a minority of Christians. These days can fall on any day of the week as they are set on special dates in each month.

The “Special Sabbaths are on appointed dates in a month and therefore do not necessarily fall on a weekly Sabbath. The Passover is always during the first month of the year according to the Jewish calendar.

*Num 28:16 "On the fourteenth day of the first month the LORD's Passover is to be held.*

*Num 28:17 On the fifteenth day of this month there is to be a festival; for seven days eat bread made without yeast.*

*Num 28:18 On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.*

*Num 28:19 Present to the LORD a food offering consisting of a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old, all without defect.*

*Num 28:20 With each bull offer a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil; with the ram, two-tenths;*

*Num 28:21 and with each of the seven lambs, one-tenth.*

*Num 28:22 Include one male goat as a sin offering to make atonement for you.*

*Num 28:23 Offer these in addition to the regular morning burnt offering.*

*Num 28:24 In this way present the food offering every day for seven days as an aroma pleasing to the LORD; it is to be offered in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.*

*Num 28:25 On the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.*

The Lord’s Passover is on the 14th day of the first month. Then on the 15th day is the first day of Unleavened Bread, and it is a “Special Sabbath” (verses 18-19). This festival is to last for seven days. And then on the seventh day of the festival is another “Special Sabbath” (verse 25).

The other five “Special Sabbaths” are Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, and two during the Feast of Tabernacles.

For the purpose of this book I will only be referring to the “Passover” and “the first day” of the festival of unleaven bread.

# The Crucifixion

I hope by now you can see that Jesus was crucified on a “Preparation Day” the day before a “Special Sabbath”, and that day was the first day of unleaven bread. So now let us look into the time of the day that Jesus was taken down from the cross and buried in the tomb.

*Luk 23:46 Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” Having said this, he breathed his last.*

*Luk 23:47 When the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, “Certainly this was a righteous man.”*

*Luk 23:48 All the multitudes that came together to see this, when they saw the things that were done, returned home beating their breasts.*

*Luk 23:49 All his acquaintances, and the women who followed with him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.*

*Luk 23:50 Behold, a man named Joseph, who was a member of the council, a good and righteous man*

*Luk 23:51 (he had not consented to their counsel and deed), from Arimathaea, a city of the Jews, who was also waiting for God’s Kingdom:*

*Luk 23:52 this man went to Pilate, and asked for Jesus’ body.*

*Luk 23:53 He took it down, and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that was cut in stone, where no one had ever been laid.*

*Luk 23:54 It was the day of the Preparation, and the Sabbath was drawing near.*

*Luk 23:55 The women, who had come with him out of Galilee, followed after, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid.*

*Luk 23:56 They returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.*

The Sabbath was about to begin - “The High Day Sabbath” as recorded in Joh 19:31 - not the weekly Saturday Sabbath.

Joh 19:31 Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn’t remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

The women were there witnessing the crucifixion and burial of Jesus (verse 55). Then in verse 56, the women went home and prepared the spices. This sounds like they prepared the spices on that same day, the preparation day, when Jesus was crucified. But if you look at Mar 16:1 it is evident they purchased the spices AFTER the Sabbath. They would not have had time to buy these spices before the High Day Sabbath started. They were there to witness Jesus being laid out in the tomb right at sunset as verse 55 indicates. And preparing the spices on the Sabbath would have violated the Special Sabbath day law.

Mar 16:1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint him.

The women rested on the High Day Sabbath, the day after Jesus was buried before buying the spices and perfumes as we see in Mark 16:1, they prepared the spices and perfumes during the day after the Special Sabbath (Mar 16:1) When they had purchased and prepared the spices we see they rested on the weekly Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. We can plainly see this in Luk 23:56. This is the regular weekly Sabbath.

The timetable for all these events is as follows. After witnessing the burial of Jesus very late on the preparation day, then resting on the special Sabbath, then the women purchased and prepared the spices the day after the special Sabbath. Resting again on the weekly Sabbath, The women go to the tomb, very early on the first day of the week to anoint the body of Jesus. But He had already been resurrected from the tomb.

Luk 23:56 They returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

*Luk 24:1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.*

*Luk 24:2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,*

*Luk 24:3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

If we compare the details in both Gospels, we see where Mark tells us the women bought spices after the Sabbath (Mar 16:1), Then Luke relates they prepared the spices before resting on the weekly Sabbath (Luk 23:56). This indicates two different Sabbaths being mentioned. The first, as John 19:3 tells us, was the “high day”, or “Special Sabbath”, that was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The second Sabbath is the weekly Sabbath.

We saw the timetable of the events a little earlier. But now let us look at these events in reverse order to come to the exact day Jesus was crucified and buried. Counting back from the weekly Sabbath recorded in Luk 23:56 when the women rested according to the commandments. Friday before the weekly Sabbath was the day the women purchased and prepared the spices. This is after resting on the Special Sabbath which was the day before, or Thursday. Therefore, the day of preparation, the day of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ, had to be on the Wednesday. Just before sunset.

After purchasing and preparing the spices, the women now rested on the weekly Sabbath. Therefore we see 2 Sabbaths with one ordinary day in-between them. The high day Sabbath and the regular weekly Sabbath. Therefore the special Sabbath had to be on a Thursday and since Jesus was crucified the day before this special Sabbath, then He must have been crucified on Wednesday. Then buried very late in the day, Just before sunset, the start of the “Special Sabbath”.

Next we see the women arriving at the tomb very early in the morning of the first day of the week, Sunday. When they arrived Jesus had already been resurrected from the dead because the tomb was empty by this time.

*Luk 24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared.*

*Luk 24:2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.*

*Luk 24:3 They entered in, and didn't find the Lord Jesus' body.*

Jesus was buried just prior to the sun setting on the “day of preparation” on Wednesday. Therefore He would have left the tomb just prior to sunset on the weekly Sabbath exactly 72 hours, or three days and three nights from the time of His burial. No doubt the ladies wanted to anoint Jesus' body as early as possible before His body began to decay.



Therefore, they would have been there as soon as there was enough light to go to the tomb very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise. But Jesus was not there. He had already risen, just before sunset on the weekly Sabbath, at the exact same time He was placed in the tomb on Wednesday.

This timetable fits in perfectly with the definition of “three days and three nights” I discussed in the first chapter of this book. And remember, this was to be the ONLY SIGN Jesus was going to give. No other sign will conclusively prove He is our Messiah. No other!

Even though Jesus performed many miracles that point to Him being God. This one sign is all He gave as the final proof He was who He claimed to be. God in the flesh. The Messiah of the Jews. Our Messiah.

# The Resurrection

As we can clearly see in Luk 23:54 the Sabbath was about to begin. So Jesus was put into the tomb just before sunset on preparation day, the day He was crucified.

Luk 23:54 It was the day of the Preparation, and the Sabbath was drawing near.

In the chapter “The Crucifixion” we established Wednesday, just before sunset as the day and time of day when Jesus was put into the tomb. We can now count forward three days and three nights, or exactly 72 hours, and we can see the correct day and time that Jesus rose from the tomb. That can only be just before sunset on the Weekly Sabbath.

As we have already seen. The women rested on the High Day Sabbath before buying the spices and perfumes as we see in Mark 16:1, they prepared the spices and perfumes during the day after the Sabbath (Mar 16:1) But they rested on the regular weekly Sabbath in obedience to the commandment (Luk 23:56).

Therefore, Jesus must have been buried on a Wednesday at sunset and rose from the grave exactly 72 hours later, or just before sunset on the following Saturday Sabbath.

The women arrived at the tomb very early on the first day of the week. Remember that the Jewish days start and finish at sunset, They arrived at the tomb just after the sun had risen on Sunday the first day of the week. But Jesus was not in the tomb. He had risen just before sunset the day before. So the women would not have seen Him in the tomb. We see the evidence of this is in the following two sections of scriptures.

*Mar 16:1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint him.*

*Mar 16:2 Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.*

*Mar 16:3 They were saying among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?”*

*Mar 16:4 for it was very big. Looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back.*

*Mar 16:5 Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were amazed.*

*Mar 16:6 He said to them, “Don’t be amazed. You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen. He is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him!”*

The same event recorded for us in the book of Luke.

*Luk 24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared.*

*Luk 24:2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.*

*Luk 24:3 They entered in, and didn’t find the Lord Jesus’ body.*

*Luk 24:4 While they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling clothing.*

*Luk 24:5 Becoming terrified, they bowed their faces down to the earth. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"*

*Luk 24:6 He isn't here, but is risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee,*

*Luk 24:7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?"*

*Luk 24:8 They remembered his words,*

In the first chapter of this book I wrote the following.

“As you saw in Prov 25:2 you must search for the truth. To find the answer to this question will require looking at different books in the Bible. Comparing the words from each and putting the puzzle together in your own mind. This will not be any easy task, so read it several times to fully understand”.

With some honest and careful Bible study, you can prove these facts for yourself. But it will require an open mind. It will be difficult, but try not to be influenced by what you already believe. To find the truth, is finding treasure more valuable than gold or silver.

I hope you get as much pleasure from your Bible studies as I get from presenting my thoughts to you. Whether you accept or reject them. That final decision has to be yours, and yours alone.

May the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth. This is what God wants.

*1Ti 2:4 who desires all people to be saved and come to full knowledge of the truth.*

*1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

*1Ti 2:6 who gave himself as a ransom for all; the testimony in its own times;*

May our amazing God bless you richly.