

HOW LONG WAS JESUS CHRIST IN THE TOMB?



72 HOURS

3 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS

Title Page

How Long Was Jesus Christ In The Tomb

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To God Be The Glory

Dedication

To our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ—

Our Light in the darkness, our Rock of salvation, and the Author of our faith. May the words of this message bring glory to Your name and draw hearts ever closer to You.

Romans 11:36

"For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

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Introduction

The Bible is a simple, and also very complex book. Simple because it can be read like any other book and one will gain a great deal of understanding from its pages. But when you delve deeper into it, you will find a real treasure trove of information.

When you begin to really study this amazing book you need to keep a few scriptures in mind. First is Proverbs 25:2

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

Here we see how God has concealed information in his holy bible that we will only learn if we search the scriptures. God has not concealed them to keep them a secret from us. No, he expects us to spend time in searching for the truth that is there for us to find. The bible is the inspired word of God and must be what influences our thoughts on all things. Keep in mind the following scripture as you read this book. Also remember this verse is referring to the entire bible, not just the new testament. Jesus quoted the bible often, and every time he quoted only from the old testament. This is because none of the new testament was written while Jesus was alive on this earth.

This part of the bible was written mostly by his disciples and after his crucifixion and resurrection. So what scriptures do we need to search? The answer is in 2 Timothy 3:16.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

What does all scripture mean? It is referring to both the Old Testament and the New Testament. As you look for the hidden treasures of information in the bible, you will discover that they reference each other many times. Also remember the Old Testament was the only bible Jesus had, yet he quoted from its pages often. Read now what the prophet Isaiah said that backs up Proverbs 25:2.

*Isa 28:9 "To whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast?
Isa 28:10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little."*

This explains to us we are expected to search all of the scriptures if we truly want to grow in knowledge and understanding. As you spend more time in study, you will grow in faith, and that growth will come from the Holy Spirit.

The bible I will be quoting from is the "English Standard Version" unless otherwise quoted.

Chapter 1 - where to find the truth

The greatest event to have ever happened in the entire world is undoubtedly the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. There has always been a great deal of controversy about the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of our Lord.

Christians have many beliefs about this all important incident. Most Christians believe he was resurrected from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday, and have used this belief to justify Sunday as the day they worship God. You may be surprised to learn that this is incorrect and Jesus was actually resurrected on the Sabbath day. Please continue to listen to this book to discover the truth.

With so many ideas on this topic, I will seek the truth of this topic from the only source that really matters, and that is the Holy Bible. The full story from the time of Christ's crucifixion until his resurrection from the dead has been recorded in great detail in this amazing book. You will need patience and be willing to search the scriptures to find the truth God has buried in this book. The answer will not be found in just one place, a careful study in several original books of the bible will be needed to find the truth.

It is my aim in this book to follow the scriptures that describe this amazing event, and find the truth that is buried in the scriptures. If you are just seeking the truth from God's words on this very important subject, then you may be surprised at some statements I make. But please keep referring to your bible as you listen this book. To come to the right conclusion, you will need to listen with an open mind. If you already have an opinion on this topic, you may find it difficult to believe what I am saying. It is much harder to "unlearn" something that it is to learn a new thing. You are always influenced by your own understanding and to believe something that is contrary to your previously held beliefs may be difficult.

The secret to coming to the truth is always to listen to the word of God and accept what he is saying to you. You need to put man's traditions out of your mind and allow the words of the bible to convince you of the truth. Remember, if the bible tells you something different to man's teachings, then the bible is always right and should be your only source of consideration. If you accept the words of man over the words of God, then you will never learn the reality of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

The Bible that I have used for references in this book is the "World English Bible" (WEB). If you have a different version of the bible that is perfectly OK. The wording may be different, but I am sure you will find the meaning of the verses to be the same.

I pray that our amazing God will lead you into truth from his word, The Holy Bible. Remember, this is a controversial topic, so you will need patience and time to find your own answers to this issue.

Chapter 2 - Who is Jesus Christ

When we are discussing anything from the bible, the first thing we must determine is the existence of God. There are only two answers to this question. Either yes, he exists, or no, he does not exist. There can be no half right or wrong. You cannot have a foot in both camps, so to speak. If you believe in God, then the rest is easy. Just believe what he will reveal about Himself and his creation in his amazing book, “The Bible”.

If you believe in evolution. Then there are many things you must prove, beyond any shadow of doubt, that will backup what you believe. As more science is revealing a Creator caused our existence, then the theory of evolution is becoming more difficult to prove every day.

The first thing we must do is to establish who Jesus Christ is. To do this, I will look into God’s holy scriptures for an answer in the book of John we get a wonderful description of who Jesus is and just why we believe Him to be the Messiah, or the Son Of God. Reading from John chapter one and verse one through to verse 18.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Joh 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Joh 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

Joh 1:7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

Joh 1:8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

Joh 1:9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

Joh 1:11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Joh 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Joh 1:13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Joh 1:15 (John bore witness about him, and cried

out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)

Joh 1:16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Joh 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Joh 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

What does this section of scripture tell us? From verse one, we see “The Word” was with God and he was God. Then we learn “The Word” was responsible for the creation of all things. There is nothing in all the vast universe that he did not bring into existence. This “Word” then became flesh and dwelt among us and made God The Father known to everyone who will believe.

Whoever “The Word” may be, is obviously a powerful person and we can deduce from the scriptures above that “The Word” is in fact, Jesus Christ. This thought is reinforced in Joh 1:29.

Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Now John, known as “John the Baptist,” sees Jesus coming to be baptised by Him in the river. He declares Jesus to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

This same Jesus Christ is the one who was crucified, buried and resurrected as I will explain in the rest of this book.

By proving Jesus was, in reality, resurrected from the dead, we are also proving the divinity of Jesus Christ. We also prove the validity of those first eighteen verses of the book of John.

Chapter 3 - Jesus Christ in prophesy

There are many people in the world who do not believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and therefore do not believe that he ever rose from the dead. How can we prove first that he even existed? Well, the Jewish Rabbis from the time of Jesus did not like him or his followers. They hated him so much they had him crucified on a Roman cross. A terrible form of execution that caused as much pain and suffering as possible. They accused him of being a magician and of leading people away from their religion. But the one thing that they never did was to claim that he never existed. There is enough proof in history books that will prove that Jesus Christ was an actual person.

Then there are the many prophecies in the Old Testament of the Bible that point directly to Jesus. Some are a little obscure, but some also clearly point to the man Jesus Christ. Look at what the Prophet Isaiah wrote about this amazing man about seven hundred years before Jesus was even born. His description of Jesus in chapter fifty-three is remarkable and is a perfect description of the life and death of Jesus. He told of a man who would die for the sins of the world. Read Isaiah fifty-three and see the amazing resemblance to the life of Jesus Christ as has been recorded for us in the bible.

Isa 53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Isa 53:2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isa 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Isa 53:8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

Isa 53:9 And they made his grave with the wicked

and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Isa 53:10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Isa 53:11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

When you realise that this passage of scripture was written about seven hundred years before Jesus came on the scene, you see a very accurate portrayal of the life and death of our Lord. There are many other prophecies recorded for us in the Bible, but I think this one gives us the most vivid picture of Jesus Christ.

It is my belief that when you combine the historical facts with prophecies, there can be very little doubt about whether Jesus Christ was a real person. To claim Jesus never existed is to ignore the evidence in both the history books and the revelations found about him in the bible.

Once you come to believe Jesus was, and still is, real today, you are well on the road to accepting him as your Lord and God. Jesus made some amazing claims in the approximately three and a half years he was spreading the gospel. His greatest claim was that he was the Messiah, the Son of God. He even predicted he would be arrested, betrayed, spit upon, scourged, and then killed. The similarities between his life and the prophecy of Isaiah are absolutely unmistakable. Jesus also told the leaders of the synagogue and his disciples that he would be raised to life after three days. This incredible prediction has been recorded for us in the book of Mark, chapter ten and verses thirty-two through to verse thirty-four.

Mar 10:32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him,

Mar 10:33 saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles.

Mar 10:34 And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

It would be a very brave man indeed to make such a claim if he was not absolutely sure of his facts. Until this time, no one had ever come back from the dead.

The Jewish Pharisees and Sadducees knew their old testament scriptures very well. Many of them could recite the

scriptures by heart. Some prophecies about the coming of their Messiah were very clear, so at about the time Jesus came on the scene, they were already expecting him to come. They read and understood from the prophecies that their Messiah was due to arrive on the earth. The problem for them is that they did not see him coming as a suffering servant who was going to die for them to save everyone from their sins. No, what they were expecting was a conquering King who would overpower the Romans. They totally missed the reason for his coming, so they refused to acknowledge that Jesus could be the Messiah. Their dream of freedom from the Romans hung on the arrival of their Messiah.

These Jewish leaders demanded a sign from Jesus to prove he was the Messiah they were looking for. Read Mat 16:1-4 and see these Pharisees and the Sadducees challenging Jesus to prove he was who he claimed to be and Christ's reply to them.

Mar 12:38 And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces

Mar 12:39 and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts,

Mar 12:40 who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

The answer Jesus gave to these Pharisees, and the Sadducees, was a prophecy about his soon coming death and resurrection. Here Jesus plainly tells them he would be three days and three nights in the tomb, the exact time Jonah was in the whale's belly. It is important to note one thing from this section of scripture. Jesus told them the "ONLY SIGN" he

would give them was the sign of Jonah that we read above in verse forty.

Everything that Jesus taught, and the claim that he was the Messiah, all hinged on him fulfilling exactly the sign of Jonah. He was to be exactly three days and three nights in the tomb. If he was more or less that than period in the tomb, then he must be a fraud and an impostor. This was going to be the ultimate test of the authenticity of Jesus Christ. If you can prove that he got it wrong and that he was not in the tomb for this exact amount of time, then he is a fraud. But then if we can prove that he was in the tomb for exactly three days and three nights, fulfilling exactly the “sign of Jonah”, then we have found our Messiah!

The resurrection from the dead of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is one of the most important of all Christian beliefs. For all Christian's today must believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, otherwise they have nothing to base their faith in him upon. It is only by his defeating the last enemy, and that is death, that we can have any genuine hope of a future with him.

There is only one way to prove if Jesus is who he claims to be, and that is to search the scriptures for the answer and accept what we learn from these sacred words as the truth. Did he fulfil this sign he gave to the Jewish leaders of his day, or did he fail this test or sign?

One thing that is for certain, and I hope anyone, regardless of what they believe, will agree upon. If Jesus rose from the dead, as he claimed, he would. Then how can he possibly not be the Son Of God, and if he is the Son of God, then what is stopping people from accepting him into their lives?

If he did not rise from the dead, then he is obviously a fake and an impostor and therefore someone we should not follow or worship. Since there is so much depending on the truthful answer to this question, we need to be thorough and believe only what God has revealed to us.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, made the importance of answering this question correctly when he said the following in 1Co 15:19.

1Co 15:19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

The Apostle Paul really put it very well here. If Jesus is a fake, then the disciples who followed Jesus, and right down to the millions of Christians who follow him today, have been fed a massive lie. We have no future in God's Kingdom and therefore no hope in all the world. That is why it is vital to study carefully this topic and come to the right conclusion.

One thing I still find amazing is the disciples who were with Jesus for just over three years did not fully understand what Jesus had told them about his death, and the amazing event that was going to follow in three days. By this time, they had seen many miracles, and they certainly understood Jesus was "The Christ" and we read this in Luke chapter nine and verses eighteen through twenty.

Luk 9:18 Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

Luk 9:19 And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen."

Luk 9:20 Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

So the disciples understood who Jesus was, and we see in the next two verses where Jesus has told them he must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders. But even though the disciples heard these words, they could not truly believe them. They also, like the Jewish leaders, failed to see why Jesus had come down from heaven

Luk 9:21 And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one,

Luk 9:22 saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

Again, in these verses, we see Jesus predicting his death and that he was going to be raised to life on the third day. Remember, this was the only sign we have that Jesus Christ is our Messiah.

Luke recorded again in Luk 18:31-34 what Jesus told his disciples about his death and resurrection. Then recognise from the last verse that his disciples did not understand what he was saying, the truth was actually hidden from them.

Luk 18:31 And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.

Luk 18:32 For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated

and spit upon.

Luk 18:33 And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.”

Luk 18:34 But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

So, what is the evidence that we can see in these Ancient Words that can help us believe Jesus Christ is The Son Of God and has indeed risen from the dead?

Chapter 4 - How Long Was Jesus Christ in the Tomb

Jesus Christ predicted exactly how long he would be in the tomb. So, would it make any difference if he failed to be in the tomb for the correct time he predicted? When you read this book, you will find the answer to these questions and the explanations may just surprise you.

There are many conflicting perspectives about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 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 knew I could get the truth. And that is from God's Holy Bible. I would expect to find the truth in this book.

If you are seeking answers to any of today's questions on matters of faith and your relationship with your Almighty Creator. These answers can be found in his Holy Bible. After-all, he is not only the one who created all things, including you. 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 shows these passages of scripture were spoken by God Himself and recorded for all future generations, including

us today. If you want the truth on this matter, you must look into God's word. Some people will disagree with me, but if they are using man's teachings, as opposed to God's teachings. Then who are you going to believe? I sincerely hope you choose to believe the word of God over man's words. Everything I write here I will back up with scriptures from the bible, and I hope you will examine these passages of scripture in your own bible to confirm what I write. Consider the words recorded in the book of 2 Timothy 3:16.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

This refers to both the old and new testaments. They were both inspired by God and were written for our benefit.

It's hard to unlearn something you've held as the truth for a long time. 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 wrong.

I am hoping you are here reading this book to find the truth. If you are, 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 mindset 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 a simple 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 many of those who were following Him decided it was too hard to continue. Jesus ask them if they also wanted to leave and stop following Him.

Joh 6:66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

Joh 6:67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

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

Joh 6:69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Therefore, you simply must not give up on the truth. Jesus is the "Word of God" as is clear in John 1:1. There is no greater teacher than Jesus, so listen to what he says in his Bible. If you find conflicting ideas from anywhere else but in the bible, then please always accept the word of God over the words of mere mortal men.

The timing of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is controversial. 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 powerful, so if you ask God for understanding and wisdom, you will receive it. Only do

not expect it overnight. This journey you may be about to embark upon will be a lifelong trip and you will continue to grow, but only if you do not give up. Remember the good advice you see in Pro 25:2.

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

So, consider yourself a King and search out the truth. Examine the scriptures and find 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 original books in the Bible. Comparing the words from each and putting the puzzle together in your own mind. This will not be a simple task, so read it several times to fully understand.

May our awesome God guide you as you study his word. This book gives you the groundwork for your studies. You must come to your own conclusions from what you read.

Chapter 5 - The Sign of Jonah

Now let us look at some more scriptures that describe how long Jesus was to be in the tomb. Jesus used three terms to describe how long he was to be in the tomb. Please look at these three terms. First “In three days”, then “after three days”, and finally “on the third day”.

I believe these three terms are used to give us the precise time Jesus was in the tomb. Let us start with “in three days”. This means inside three days, it cannot be longer than three days or 72 hours. It must be equal to, or less than, exactly three days or 72 hours.

Now let us look at the term “after three days”. This means that the time can be no less than three days, it has to be equal to, but no more than 72 hours.

When you compare these 2 scriptures you can see the time Jesus was to be in the tomb had to be exactly three days, or exactly 72 hours. This is the only way it can satisfy both of these terms, “in three days” and “after three days”.

Now let us look at the term “on the third day”. We should always look to God’s scriptures to discover how long this is, and the very best way is to go to the very first book in the bible,

Genesis, and look at the first 13 verses. This describes the first three days of creation. Rather than reading all of these verses, let us look at just three.

Gen 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

We have had 1 period of darkness and one of light. A period of 24 hours. This is referred to as “the first day”. This is followed by verse 8.

Gen 1:8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

Now in verse 8 we have had another night and another day. Another period of 24 hours and so we have “the second day”. A total of 48 hours from the start of creation. Now we come to the all important verse 13.

Gen 1:13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

Here the term “the third day” is used to describe the first three days of creation consisting of three nights and three days, each with 12 hours for a total of 72 hours. If you ever need a perfect description of “in three days” this is where you will find it, in the first 13 verses of the bible.

Now let us look at where these terms have been used starting with the term “in three days”. It 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 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

Joh 2:15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

Joh 2:16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

Joh 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Joh 2:18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing 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 then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

Joh 2:21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

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

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 three days. No longer than seventy-two hours. 2 other verses that used this term “in three days” are.

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, not made with hands.’”

And then in.

Mar 15:29 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,

Then, to empathise that he meant exactly seventy-two hours, Jesus 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 this term used in the following scriptures.

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

Mat 27:62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate

Mat 27:63 and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’

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

seventy-two hours.

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

Luk 24:46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

Act 10:40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear;

1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with 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 three days or seventy-two hours. Then “after three days” means that it will not be longer than three days or seventy-two 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 seventy-two hours.

Therefore, Jesus was in the tomb for exactly seventy-two hours. Surely, if you take scripture seriously, then how can you possibly say that Jesus was not in the tomb for exactly seventy-two hours? Not 71 hours, that is not long enough, and 73 hours are too long. His resurrection would have been seventy-two hours after he was laid out in the tomb. Otherwise, by his own words, he is an impostor and not the Son of God.

Therefore, with this information we can clearly see that the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, had to coincide

exactly with the time Jesus was laid out in the tomb. This means that if Jesus was laid out in the tomb at 5pm, then his resurrection from the dead had to be at precisely the same time, 5pm three days and three nights later.

Many people want to use the measuring of three days and three nights by using other than biblical methods of measuring time, or 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 are equal to exactly seventy-two hours. Some will claim that any part of a day will count as 1 day. Therefore, if you count days from five minutes before the end of a day, that five 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 forty-nine hours to seventy-two hours. This certainly is not biblical, as we saw from the Genesis 1:13 account of the term "The third day".

This is where you must decide if you will believe the written word of God, the Bible. Or are you going to accept the words and the traditions of man? This will possibly be one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. This is where we must remember what Jesus told his accusers in.

Mat 12:39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Here 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 one part day, Friday, and one full day, Saturday, and only two 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.

Now we do know the time of the day that Jesus was laid in the tomb. This is recorded in Luk 23:52-54.

Luk 23:52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Luk 23:53 Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.

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

Verse 54 states that the Sabbath was drawing near, Therefore it must have been just before sunset that Jesus was laid in the tomb. We have already established the fact that Jesus had to be in the tomb for exactly 72 hours to fulfil the prophecy of the “sign of Jonah”. This can only mean that Jesus was resurrected from the dead exactly 72 hours later, or just before sunset three days and three nights after he was placed in the tomb.

In the chapter titled “on what day was Jesus crucified” I will determine the day of our Lords death and burial. Then from there we can easily deduce the exact day, and the time of the day that Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead.

When Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, he gave us some important information that we must also consider. And this is that Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected “according to the scriptures” as we see in 1Co 15:1-4.

1Co 15:1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,

1Co 15:2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

It is important to see in verses three and four 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.

Chapter 6 - 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 this, then I suggest you listen again to the evidence I have provided, and listen carefully to the scriptures quoted. The evidence I have provided for the time Jesus was in the tomb is according to 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 any Sabbath day. To enforce their strict observance of the Sabbath day, the Sadducees and Pharisees

were to make preparations for the Sabbath well before the actual starting time of the Sabbath. 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. Therefore, the day before any 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. Therefore, 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 And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath,

Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Here in verse 42 it is clarified 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. 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 had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Joh 19:31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on

the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.

Notice it was on “the preparation day” that the Jews 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.

Joh 19:31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.

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 scriptures, 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.

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, refers to the preparation day that occurs just prior to a 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. Now let me prove to you that this is not the usual Saturday Sabbath, but is the day before the Passover. This is evident from John 19:14-15.

Joh 19:14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was 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 day Jesus was crucified was on the preparation day 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 on the fifteenth day of the first month. Please read carefully the following explanation of what a “Special Sabbath” is.

Chapter 7 - Special Sabbath

People in the Western world do not follow the practices of the Jews when it comes to the time when days start and finish. We have also abandoned the holy days of the bible for the new Christians seasons like advent, lent, Christmas and Easter. Our days begin and end at midnight instead of the biblical time of sunset.

We need to understand the Hebrew calendar to fully understand the activities of Jesus during his earthly ministry and especially to how the holy days relate to his crucifixion, death and burial.

The first month on the Hebrew calendar is Nisan. On the 14th day is Passover and the 15th day is the first day of unleavened bread as we can see in Num 28:16-18.

Num 28:16 “On the fourteenth day of the first month is the LORD's Passover;

Num 28:17 and on the fifteenth day of this month is a feast. Seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.

Num 28:18 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work,

The 15th is a high day Sabbath because it is the first day of the feast of unleavened bread. The last day of this feast is also a holy day recorded in verse 25.

Num 28:25 And on the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work.

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 fall on a weekly Sabbath. The Passover is always during the first month of the year according to the Jewish calendar, as we can see from Num 28:16-18 above.

These 2 high day Sabbaths during the feast of unleavened bread are the first 2 high day Sabbaths for the year, the other 5 “Special Sabbaths” are Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, and two during the Feast of Tabernacles.

The weekly Sabbath is never referred to as a high day unless a high day happens to fall on the weekly Sabbath. This can happen because these days are on monthly days and not week days.

From this information we can see that Passover which is not a high day Sabbath is followed by the first day of unleavened bread that is a high day. Therefore Jesus was put into the tomb on Passover just before this high day Sabbath began.

Chapter 8 - On What Day was Jesus Crucified

I hope you can remember the chapter titled “What Is A Preparation Day” to understand the meaning of the terms “Preparation Day” and “Special Sabbath”. It is very important to understand the meaning of these terms before going any further.

Probably the best and most accurate way to find the day and time of Christ’s burial and resurrection is to follow the activities of the women. They hold the answer to the question of when Jesus was buried and resurrected from the grave.

Women were not respected in the time of Jesus, and their testimonies were worth very little in a court of law simply because they were female. I suspect that the status of women has not significantly changed, as we continue to observe women being classified as lower-class citizens in numerous countries. Yet, God has never seen a woman as being a lower class citizen. We are all equals in his eyes. I am of the opinion that God employed the actions of the women from the time of Jesus' crucifixion until his resurrection to provide insight into the sequence of events. Perhaps this is God's way of letting us know that, in his eyes, we are all equals.

Let us start with the narrative from Luk 23:46-56 and see that the women were all there when Jesus was crucified and put into the tomb.

Luk 23:46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Luk 23:47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

Luk 23:48 And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

Luk 23:49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Luk 23:50 Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, Luk 23:51 who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.

Luk 23:52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Luk 23:53 Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.

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

Luk 23:55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his

body was laid.

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

In verse forty-nine, the women who had followed Jesus were all there, standing at a distance. Verse fifty five tells us the women saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Therefore, they were at the tomb very late on the day Jesus was crucified, and the Sabbath was about to begin. So the women would not have had time to buy the spices necessary to anoint Jesus' body before the start of the Sabbath. Also note that ALL the women were there, so there was no one who could have purchased the spices prior to the Sabbath starting.

The women were all there witnessing the crucifixion and burial of Jesus (verse fifty five). Then, in verse fifty six, 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 clear they purchased the spices AFTER the Sabbath.

Remember, I said at the start of this book that you will not find the answer in just one place, but that a careful study in several unique books of the bible will be needed to find the truth. Let us now look into what Mark said in chapter sixteen and verse one and two.

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

Mar 16:2, And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the

rising of the sun.

The women 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, and verses 54 and 55 of Luke chapter 23 shows the Sabbath was drawing near. Therefore, they would not have had time to purchase the spices prior to the Special Sabbath starting. And purchasing and preparing the spices on the special Sabbath would have violated the Special Sabbath day law. Apart from that, any shopkeeper who would have sold these spices would have closed shop by now to prepare for the Sabbath.

These verses are a major stumbling block for the traditional Good Friday, Easter Sunday beliefs. According to these verses the women waited until the Sabbath was over before purchasing and preparing the spices to anoint the body of Jesus Christ. The women would have to wait until the stores were open to purchase the spices and then they would have to spend time in preparing them on the day after the Sabbath or on the first day of the week, but we are told the women were at the tomb very early on the first day of the week, Sunday, and by this time Jesus was already risen from the dead.

A reminder of what we read in the last chapter is needed here to emphasise that this Sabbath mention here is actually a special Sabbath and not an ordinary weekly Sabbath.

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

Joh 19:31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on

the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.

Mar 16:1 informs us it was after the Special Sabbath that the women purchased the spices. So we can see that one Sabbath day has passed since Jesus was laid out in the tomb. And it is after this Sabbath the women purchased and prepared the spices.

Back to Luk 23:56, this explains the women prepared the spices and then rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment before going to anoint Jesus' body. Now we have a second Sabbath in the story. After resting on the first Sabbath, the special Sabbath, the women purchase the spices they need and prepare them. Then they rested on the Sabbath. This one is the usual weekly Sabbath.

We know from Joh 19:31 the Sabbath that was about to begin after Jesus was buried was "The Special Sabbath" and not the weekly Saturday Sabbath. So now, if we follow the timetable of these events, we have to come to the following conclusion.

After witnessing the burial of Jesus very late on the preparation day, too late to purchase the spices before the Special Sabbath began, the women rested on the Special Sabbath. Then they purchased and prepared the spices the day after the special Sabbath. This is clear from Mar 16:1. Then, after preparing the spices, the women rested again on the weekly Sabbath, as is clear from Luk 23:56.

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

From these verses, we can plainly see two Sabbaths with one ordinary day in between. 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 shows 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. We know Jesus was exactly seventy-two hours in the tomb (Three days and three nights) He was put into the tomb at the very end of the day of preparation as the day was ending. Therefore, he must have risen at the same time of the day three days later.

Very early on the first day of the week, and that is Sunday, the women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. But note what was recorded in Luke chapter 24 and verses 1-3.

Luk 24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

Luk 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

Luk 24:3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Jesus was placed in the tomb at sunset on the day he was crucified, and he had to be in the tomb for exactly seventy-two hours. This was to fulfil the prophecy he gave to the Jewish leaders that he would be in the tomb for the same time Jonah

was in the whale's belly, let us recap on that section of scripture.

Mar 12:38 And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces

Mar 12:39 and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts,

Mar 12:40 who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

Since he was already risen very early on the first day of the week, Sunday, he could not have risen on this day because he had to rise as the sun was setting. This only leaves the day before on the weekly Sabbath as the day for Him to be resurrected from the dead.

To determine what day Jesus was crucified, all we need to do is to count backwards from the time of his resurrection for exactly seventy-two hours. Starting at the end of the regular weekly Sabbath. Count back one day and this is Friday. Friday, the day after the Special Sabbath, and the day the women purchased and prepared the spices. Count back one more day and it is Thursday. This is the Special Sabbath after Jesus was crucified. This was the first day the women rested. Therefore, the day of preparation, the day of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ, had to be on the Wednesday. Just before sunset.

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 seventy-two hours, or three days and three nights, from the time of his burial.

This timetable fits in perfectly with the definition of “three days and three nights” that Jesus told the leaders of the Jews he would be in the tomb for this exact amount of time. It also fits perfectly with the other terms Jesus used such as “on the third day” in “in three days”, and “after three days”. Jesus used these four terms to pinpoint exactly how long he was to be in the tomb, because this was the **ONLY SIGN** he was going to give them that he is our Messiah. No other sign will conclusively prove he is our Messiah.

Even though Jesus performed many miracles, pointing to Him being God. This one sign, three days and three nights, is all he gave as the conclusive proof he was who he claimed to be. God in the flesh. The Messiah of the Jews. Our Messiah.

Also note how the other expressions “in three days’ and “after three days” fit perfectly into this timetable.

Chapter 9 - The Two Sabbaths

The vast majority of Christians today hold that Jesus was crucified on a Friday and this is supposed to be the “Passover”. Then he rose from the dead on the following “Sunday” morning. This chapter looks at the complete picture of this timeline from both the “new testament” and the “old testament”. We must understand what the “old Testament” can reveal to us about the original Passover season, and co-ordinate this with what we can see in the “new testament”.

Yeshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus) kept all the holy days and Sabbaths that the commandments from the old testament in Leviticus 11, Exodus 12, and in Numbers 28:16-25 required all Jews to observe. Jesus instructed his disciples to prepare a place for them to eat the Passover meal. This is recorded in the following passage of scripture.

Mar 14:12 And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

Mar 14:13 And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying

*a jar of water will meet you. Follow him,
Mar 14:14 and wherever he enters, say to the
master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my
guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my
disciples?'*

*Mar 14:15 And he will show you a large upper
room furnished and ready; there prepare for us."*

*Mar 14:16 And the disciples set out and went to
the city and found it just as he had told them, and
they prepared the Passover.*

After Jesus and his disciples had eaten the Passover meal, they all went out into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

*Mar 14:32 And they went to a place called
Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here
while I pray."*

And we know from the following scripture that when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, it was still dark, because they needed torches to light their way into the Garden.

*Joh 18:3 So Judas, having procured a band of
soldiers and some officers from the chief priests
and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and
torches and weapons.*

After this, Jesus was taken before Pilate.

*Mat 27:1 When morning came, all the chief priests
and the elders of the people took counsel against
Jesus to put him to death.*

*Mat 27:2 And they bound him and led him away
and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.*

Jesus was then crucified at the “third hour”. He actually died at about the ninth hour or approximately 3pm on the Passover day.

Mar 15:25 And it was the third hour when they crucified him.

Now, as I wrote at the start of this chapter, it is the traditional belief that Jesus was crucified on a Friday and rose from the dead on the following Sunday morning. But in the chapter titled “The Sign Of Jonah,” I explained how that tradition is wrong and is certainly not according to the scriptures. To better understand the events of the Passover, we need to look back into the old Testament at what Leviticus chapter 12 can teach us about the original Passover season.

Lev 23:4 “These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them.

Lev 23:5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's Passover.

Lev 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

Lev 23:7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.

Lev 23:8 But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.”

The first thing we must notice is that these feast days are

the feast days of Yahweh (Almighty God) and are regarded by Him as holy convocations, or Sabbath days. These are not Jewish holy days, they are God's.

Verse five clearly tells us the fourteenth day of the month AT EVENING is the start of Passover and this is followed by the fifteenth day of the month that is to be observed as a "holy convocation" or a Sabbath day. This is the first day of the seven-day feast of Unleavened bread. The first and the last days of this feast are both "special" or "high day" Sabbaths. And because they are celebrated on a day of the month, they can fall on any day of the week and are not the usual weekly Sabbath.

And this first day of the feast of unleavened bread is the Sabbath that Yeshua (Jesus) had to be taken down from the cross before it began. This I also covered in the chapter titled "Preparation Day".

It is important to remember that the Passover is NOT a Sabbath day, not a day of rest. It is the preparation day before the annual feast of unleavened bread. This feast begins on the Sabbath of the fifteenth day of the month. The day of Passover and the feast of unleavened bread are two completely separate events, and must not be joined as one festival as some are prone to do today. Look at Lev 23:4 above and you will see they are to be kept in their "appointed seasons"

Yeshua died on the cross on the day of preparation. His body was taken down just before sunset, as the first day of the feast of unleavened bread was about to start. The high day Sabbath was about to start, so all Joseph had time to do was to wrap Jesus in a sheet and place Him in the tomb. And since the women could not work or buy the spices on the Sabbath, they rested. The Jews did not buy or sell on the Sabbath, as is clear from Neh 10:31.

Neh 10:31 And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

During the time of Christ's burial until his resurrection, there were two Sabbaths. The first one was the annual high-day Sabbath of the first day of the feast of Unleavened bread, and the second Sabbath was the normal weekly Sabbath. If you have failed to understand this, please go back and read again what I have covered so far.

Chapter 10 - The Disciples were not expecting the resurrection

It is amazing how the disciples of Jesus Christ were not expecting Him to be resurrected from the dead, because if they understood this, then they would have been waiting at the tomb after three days, ready to celebrate. Maybe with six earthen jars filled with water and hoping for a repeat of his first miracle. But instead of waiting and looking for his resurrection, the disciples were afraid of what the leaders of the Synagogue may do to them, so they were hiding from them. Two of the disciples were on the road to Emmaus, which is a short distance from Jerusalem. They were trying to understand what had happened on Calvary.

The man they thought was their Messiah had been executed by the Romans, so their dreams of Him setting up his kingdom on the earth were shattered. They were not expecting Jesus to be raised from the dead, so they were on their way home. These two men were joined on their walk by a man whom they did not recognize and who taught them everything that was to happen to their Messiah, as was written in their scriptures, the old testament. Suddenly, they realized who this man was when Jesus disclosed himself to them as they were breaking bread.

Luk 24:25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones,

and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

Luk 24:26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

Luk 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

The women who had followed Jesus from the first day were not expecting Jesus to be resurrected either. They must have been demoralized by the events that had taken place on the day Jesus was crucified. We read in the epistles that they were preparing the spices and perfumes that were needed to prepare his body for burial. Even though Jesus had spoken of his resurrection, nobody understood just what this meant. The women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. They did not expect to find that the tomb was empty.

Jesus had deliberately hidden the understanding that he was going to rise from the dead. Even though he had told them frequently what was going to happen, they did not fully comprehend, as is clear in Luk 9:45.

Luk 9:44 "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men."

Luk 9:45 But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

The disciples were all afraid of the Jews. After three and a half years of following Jesus, they now had the humiliating

feeling that they were the laughingstock of all Jerusalem and were too embarrassed to go out, so they hid in the upper rooms.

They also feared what the leaders of the Synagogue would do to them. They had just seen Jesus tortured and crucified, so they may have been fearing the same fate if they were caught. I think we can understand the predicament the disciples now found themselves in.

There was no-one at the tomb after the third day, because no-one understood what Jesus had said regarding his death and resurrection.

For me, the one event in the entire Bible that convinces me that Jesus is the real deal has to be the story of his resurrection, and how this event changes the lives of his disciples. Their entire worlds were turned upside down and their behavior changed. The Disciples went from hiding from everyone to being powerful and unafraid witnesses for their Lord.

They had seen many miracles that Jesus performed during their time with Him; After they had witnessed blind men regaining their sight, paralyzed men being able to walk again, Lazarus coming back from the dead must have been a convincing miracle that should have left them in no doubt just who was there with them. But it was only after they saw Jesus risen from the dead that their trust and faith in Him became unshakable.

After Jesus was crucified, and before he was raised from the dead, this period must have been the worst time in the lives of the Disciples. They had found their Messiah, seen his miracles, then witnessed the unthinkable as the man they believed was the Son of God was murdered on the cross. Can

we imagine how we would have felt if we were in their shoes?

Now we have the advantage of hindsight and know how the story ends, but the disciples did not have this advantage, they would have been left shattered. What was going through the minds of the Disciples? They would have been devastated, confused, sad and with about a thousand emotions running through their minds? These men had lost their Lord and had no one to turn to and explain to them just what had happened and just what the future may have held for them now that Jesus was dead. When Jesus was with them, they were no doubt considering their places in the Kingdom of God. Now, suddenly, these dreams were taken away from them.

In the following chapter, I will cover the changes that came over these men. From being afraid to being unshakable in their faith and love for Jesus.

Chapter 11 - The Disciples were afraid

The disciples, who would have been the most convinced that he was the anointed one, still did not understand what Jesus had so clearly told them. Their faith and trust in him was not strong, and they were afraid for their own safety. We can see how they reacted when Jesus was arrested. We can read about this in Matthew 26:54-56, when Jesus was about to be arrested in the garden of Gethsemane.

Mat 26:54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

Mat 26:55 At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me.

Mat 26:56 But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples left him and fled. Yes, these disciples (who all believed that Jesus was the Son Of God) fled for their own safety even though they were witnesses to his miracles and believed him to be The Son of God. Even Peter was afraid of the Jews, and did not want to be recognized as one of his disciples. But he was still curious enough to follow at a

distance to see what was going to happen to Jesus. We can read of this in Luk 22:54-62.

Luk 22:54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance.

Luk 22:55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them.

Luk 22:56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him."

Luk 22:57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

Luk 22:58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not."

Luk 22:59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean."

Luk 22:60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

Luk 22:61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

Luk 22:62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

Peter had earlier in verse thirty-three said, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death". Yet here he was

denying three times he even knew Jesus. he had earlier declared that Jesus “was the Messiah”. But in the final crunch, Peter was anxious for his own welfare, so he took the simple way out and denied that he knew Jesus. The rest of the disciples went into hiding. These men were sure he was the Son of God, but they were still more concerned with their own welfare and safety. Their faith was weak and more proof was needed that he was who he claimed to be.

The same thing can be said about us today. Our faith in Jesus is not strong when we first believe. It is only after more proof has been discovered can we can have a strong enough faith in Jesus to dedicate our lives to him. Our faith, trust, belief and love for him will not happen in an instant. No, it will only come from regular and consistent bible study. That is the aim of this book, to strengthen our faith and love for our Lord.

Chapter 12 - Our friend doubting Thomas

The changes that came over the disciples was incredible. But the most amazing of all, and the one that should help us all in our journey of faith, is the experience of our good friend that we know as, “doubting Thomas”. Consider his attitude after the crucifixion of Jesus and before he saw Him resurrected from the dead. In John 20 :24-25, we see Thomas refusing to believe what his fellow disciples were trying to tell him about Jesus being resurrected from the dead.

Read this account in Joh 20:19-25.

Joh 20:19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

Joh 20:20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Joh 20:21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Joh 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Joh 20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Joh 20:24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.

Joh 20:25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

We can see from verse 24 that Thomas was not present when Jesus first presented himself to the other disciples. It is important we remember Thomas had spent the last three years intimately acquainted with Jesus. Witnessing all his miracles and even hearing his prophecies about his coming death and resurrection, as has been recorded for us in Matthew chapter 16 and verse 21. That, and the testimony from the other ten disciples about Jesus' resurrection, should have been enough to convince him Jesus was indeed resurrected from the dead. But because he had not seen Jesus, he could not believe the impossible. That someone could come back from the grave. So he continued to not believe.

I can just imagine the other disciples trying to convince Thomas that the Lord had indeed risen from the dead. They would have tried every form of persuasion to get Thomas to believe them, but we can see in verse 25 what Thomas thought. He was not about to take anyone's word for it. He had to see the evidence for himself. "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand

into his side, I will not believe.”

He had already seen Jesus Crucified and buried, so he needed actual proof before he would believe that Jesus was resurrected. And the longer Jesus stayed away, the more adamant, and the more determined Thomas would have been in his thoughts, and the more he would have said “I will not believe”. If Jesus had never shown Himself to Thomas, then Thomas would have never believed that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead.

We read in the next verse in John chapter 20: 26, that it was a week later before Jesus showed Himself to his disciples again. I think those 7 days between his first and second appearances to his disciples tell a very interesting and powerful story. One that is very easy to just read over and not consider the full and true meaning of this period.

Can you imagine these 7 days? If the Disciples slept for 8 hours a day, then they were awake for about one hundred and twelve hours, and just what do you think they were talking about? They may have still been arguing about who was to be the greatest in the Kingdom, who was to sit at his right hand and who at his left, and no doubt wondering how Jesus was now going to kick the Romans out of Jerusalem. But I think their major topic of conversation for those days would have been about their resurrected Lord, and how things might now change.

But what about Thomas for those one hundred and twelve hours? He must have been wondering what was wrong with the last bottle of wine the others had drunk to believe such a thing. People do not come back from the dead. We know from the next three verses that he kept this attitude for the full seven days.

Joh 20:26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Joh 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

Joh 20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas had kept on doubting for the full seven days, but after seeing the resurrected Jesus, the change in him is complete and immediate. As we see in verse 28. He needs no more proof that Jesus is indeed risen, or that he is the Son Of God. Thomas spent the rest of his life teaching about Jesus and his crucifixion and resurrection from the dead, and tradition has it he was killed with a sword for teaching these things.

I wonder why there were seven days between these two appearances, and why Thomas was not present the first time Jesus appeared to his disciples. Maybe it was for us to see the determination of Thomas sticking to his guns for seven days and refusing to be persuaded, but demanding physical proof of Christ's return from the dead. Then his total acceptance after he saw the resurrected Jesus. His story is powerful proof that our Lord is indeed alive today.

As an extra encouraging note to future Christians, and that is us, Jesus says in the next verse. Those who have not seen Him but still believe are blessed. Read verse 29 to see this very reassuring message from our Lord.

Joh 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed

because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

It is my thoughts that God made absolutely certain that Thomas was not present a week earlier, because he knew the heart and mind of Thomas and that he would stubbornly continue to say “I will not believe”, until he had the absolute proof he needed.

If Jesus had not returned and shown Himself to Thomas, then our good friend Thomas, no longer Doubting Thomas, would have never believed, but this stubborn man was now convinced, and we can also believe that Jesus was resurrected thanks to the change in Thomas’s attitude after he saw Jesus resurrected.

Chapter 13 - Paul's Conversion

We all know the story of Paul and how he was converted on the road to Damascus. He went from persecuting the church to being one of its strongest witnesses, and what was it that changed this man so much? Simple, he saw the resurrected Jesus. In the book of Acts, we see recorded this amazing event that changed Saul, later to be renamed Paul. This was when he changed from being a true hater of Christ's disciples to being one of their most powerful allies.

Act 9:1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

Act 9:2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Act 9:3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.

Act 9:4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Act 9:5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

Act 9:6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Paul was converted almost instantly on this road to Damascus. His encounter there with Jesus after his death and resurrection must have been an incredible thing for Paul to experience. Paul was not a member of the original twelve, but he was an Apostle of Jesus. He went from persecuting the church to being responsible for much of what we know today as the New Testament, and the one incident that started Paul's conversion would no doubt have been when he was confronted by the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus. Paul spent the rest of his life preaching about Jesus and was eventually beheaded for his beliefs.

Paul had gone from persecuting the church to being a powerful witness for Jesus. When he was writing to the Corinthian Church, he explained some suffering he had undergone for Jesus. Please read his account in 2Co 11:23-28.

2Co 11:23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.

2Co 11:24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;

2Co 11:26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own

people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;

2Co 11:27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2Co 11:28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

These are some hardships that Paul had to face, yet he never flinched or wavered from speaking the truth about Jesus. He would never have done this if he knew Jesus was a fake and not the Messiah, if he knew Jesus was not the real deal, then why would he continue to preach about him and be prepared to suffer so much punishment, his body bore many scars from the 195 lashes that he received, not to mention the other injuries he suffered. Why would he be prepared to suffer all this if Jesus was a phoney?

We must remember where Paul came from. He had a very comfortable lifestyle until he met Jesus. We can see this in Philippians chapter three and verse three to six.

Php 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

Php 3:4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

Php 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew

*of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
Php 3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as
to righteousness under the law, blameless.*

Paul was highly regarded among his fellow Jews prior to his conversion on the road to Damascus. They would have looked up to him with respect and admiration. He probably had the best seats at festivals and Jewish feasts. His opinions on all matters would have been sought after. He was a man of importance and held in high regard by the Pharisees and Sadducees of his day. But all this ended on the road to Damascus.

The question we must ask here is, why would he give this way of life up and then be hated by the Jews and punished for his ideas? Unless of course, he knew Jesus was the real deal. And then in the next five verses, we see what the past lifestyle of Paul now meant for him.

*Php 3:7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss
for the sake of Christ.*

*Php 3:8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because
of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my
Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all
things and count them as rubbish, in order that I
may gain Christ*

*Php 3:9 and be found in him, not having a
righteousness of my own that comes from the law,
but that which comes through faith in Christ, the
righteousness from God that depends on faith—*

*Php 3:10 that I may know him and the power of his
resurrection, and may share his sufferings,
becoming like him in his death,*

Php 3:11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

In verse eight, the term refuse, or garbage, is used, but other versions of the bible are a little more graphic and say dung. So I think this gives us a rather powerful sign of what Paul thought of his former way of life and all the trapping of comfort and privileges that he once enjoyed. But now that he has found Jesus, he sees all this comfort and privilege to be worth nothing.

Paul was a changed man after seeing his risen Lord. The other disciples would no doubt have had a similar view of their former lifestyles. They did not have the same position in life as that of Paul, but they gave up their former ways of life to follow Jesus and to suffer for his name's sake. We can only imagine what they suffered as they preached about the Kingdom of God.

Chapter 14 - James the brother of Jesus

James, the half brother of Jesus, is another perfect example of someone who has seen Jesus risen from the dead. He and the other half brothers of Jesus did not believe that he was who he claimed to be while he was alive, and we can read this in Joh 7:1-5.

Joh 7:1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.

Joh 7:2 Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.

Joh 7:3 So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing.

Joh 7:4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world."

Joh 7:5 For not even his brothers believed in him.

We read in verse five that his half brothers did not believe that he was "The Christ". Yet, in verse three, they tell Jesus to go to Judea so his disciples can see the works that he does.

Therefore, they must have seen, or at least heard about some miracles Jesus had performed. But they still did not believe. The following verses are more proof of this in Mat 13:54-58.

Mat 13:54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

Mat 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

Mat 13:56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

Mat 13:57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household."

Mat 13:58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

This is an interesting passage of scripture for anyone who still believes that Mary, the mother of Jesus, remained a virgin all her life. It is very clear here that Jesus was in his hometown, so the people gathered there would have known Jesus and his family very well. The fact Jesus had siblings was recorded here to let us know, from God's own bible that Mary was only a virgin till the day Jesus was born. If you doubt this, then read Mat 1:23-25.

Mat 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Mat 1:24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as

the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,

Mat 1:25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

How clear does God need to make this before people will believe the truth and accept what he has had written in his precious book for our benefit? Note especially verse 57, where Jesus states a Prophet is not without honour EXCEPT in his own town and in his own home. We know from the story of Jesus' birth that Mary and Joseph were both told by the angel exactly what was going to happen, and exactly who their first-born son was going to be. So those of "his own home" must have been others apart from Mary and Joseph, so it can only mean the half brothers and half sisters of Jesus.

Yet after the resurrection of Jesus, James also became a believer and wrote the book of James in the New Testament where he describes himself as, "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ", Why the change now, and why not believe while Jesus was alive and performing his miracles.

James, and his brothers must have witnessed, or at least heard, about the works that Jesus was performing, so why only after his death did they believe that their half Brother, Jesus, was the Lord? Very simple, they had seen him crucified and buried and had mourned for him for three days, and now they have seen the resurrected Jesus. What could be more powerful proof than to witness the power of the resurrection, to see Jesus shrug off the chains of death?

Chapter 15 - The other brothers of Jesus

The other half Brothers of Jesus were also believers only after the resurrection, and we can read of this in Act 1:13-14.

Act 1:13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

Act 1:14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Here the eleven Disciples are all named and along with them are mentioned the half brothers of Jesus. So these half brothers were not disciples, but half brothers of Jesus. Many people do not believe Jesus had any siblings, but here is proof positive that he has siblings. So, the resurrection of Jesus is the turning point for many to come to believe that he is the Son of God. Even his unbelieving half brothers and sisters were now totally convinced.

The other disciples of Jesus were 100% convinced of

who he was and were prepared to go through many hardships. To be persecuted and mistreated by many as they preached about Jesus. They witnessed the persecution and death of their Lord. Therefore, they must have known their own lives would be in danger if they continued to preach about Jesus and the coming Kingdom of God. Yet they never stopped preaching until the day they were put to death because of their faith in Jesus.

You and I can also believe that Jesus is our Lord by the witnessing of his disciples. And the incredible changes that occurred in their lives after they saw Jesus resurrected from the dead. These fishermen and a tax collector all saw the works of Jesus, saw his death and resurrection and were the foundation members of Christ's Church.

For me personally, it is this amazing change in their attitudes and lives after the resurrection of Jesus Christ that really seals it for me. How many of these men would have lived their lives this way? And have been prepared to suffer the kinds of death they experienced? If they knew that this was all just a fantastic lie? It makes no sense to think that any of them would do this.

Chapter 16 - Jesus appears to the Disciples

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples when they were in an upper room. This is the first time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after his crucifixion. We see here that the disciples had locked the door for fear of the Jewish leaders, so they spent the last three days hiding and fearing the Synagogue leaders.

Can we imagine how the disciples felt now? Confused, happy, excited, elated, and ecstatic, there would have been another thousand emotions running through their minds. But this time they would have differed totally from those they experienced just three short days ago. Now they had their Messiah back from the dead, and if they had any doubts about whether he was the Son of God, these doubts would now have been dispelled from their minds.

This was the ultimate proof they needed, and after this, these men were so convinced of what they knew, they were prepared to suffer many things for the Lord, and indeed they did. Their lives would now never be the same.

Not a lot of information has survived about the fate of these men, but here is what's available from various sources, including the New Testament itself, apocryphal texts, early

Christian historians, legends and lore.

Andrew was crucified.

Bartholomew was crucified.

James, son of Alphaeus, was crucified.

James, son of Zebedee, was killed by the sword.

John died at a good old age and of natural causes, the only one to do so.

Matthew was crucified.

Peter was crucified upside down.

Philip was crucified.

Simon was crucified.

Thaddeus was killed by arrows.

Thomas died of a spear thrust.

Some of these reports are indeed accurate and some may be a little more uncertain, but it is well believed that all the men (except for John) met very premature and violent deaths. All but John died at a relatively young age and their deaths were violent and no doubt painful.

The difference between before the resurrection, to after the resurrection is remarkable. These men went from hiding to being the founders of the new church. When they were filled with the Holy Spirit, there was no stopping them. Please read Act 4:29-31.

Act 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats

*and grant to your servants to continue to speak
your word with all boldness,*

*Act 4:30 while you stretch out your hand to heal,
and signs and wonders are performed through the
name of your holy servant Jesus.”*

*Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in
which they were gathered together was shaken, and
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and
continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

The Apostles were now speaking with authority and power and there was no way the Jewish leaders, or the Romans, were going to deter them from the task that Jesus had set before them. Now they had their futures laid out before them, and that was all they needed to withstand all threats and punishments that were handed out to them.

So, ten of the original twelve were martyred because of their love and trust in Jesus. (Judas, who betrayed Jesus, committed suicide). John lived to a good old age and died of natural causes. He still had a job to do for God because it was he who was delegated the task of writing the book of Revelation. After the resurrection, the Apostles became bold in their preaching. This was when they stopped being afraid and put their total trust in their Lord.

We have a great deal we can learn from these men. Their faith and trust must be an inspiration for us to follow in their footsteps.

Chapter 17 - Why is the resurrection so important

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb is the most important belief for any Christian to hold and believe. To acknowledge the death of Jesus on the cross and all that means for Christians is important. This is because by his death, he died for the forgiveness of our sins. Without this amazing self sacrifice, we would all still be in our sins.

Christ's dying on the cross is one thing, but his resurrection from the dead is the centre of redemption for everyone. If there is not an empty tomb, then there is no resurrection. And if there is no resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ, then he is not who he claims to be. The Son of God, our Messiah. Without the resurrection, what Jesus came to do must end in defeat and disillusion for us all.

It is only from the words we see in Mat 28:1-7 that we can have confidence in Jesus Christ having the power over death and Satan.

Mat 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

Mat 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended

from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Mat 28:3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

Mat 28:4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

Mat 28:5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Mat 28:6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

Mat 28:7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

All four gospels end with the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, makes it very clear how important the resurrection is. Please read the following verses and understand the meaning they contain.

1Co 15:12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1Co 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

1Co 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

1Co 15:15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

1Co 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

1Co 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

1Co 15:18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

1Co 15:19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

These verses describe the situation we would find ourselves in if Jesus has not told us the truth, and if Almighty God had not raised Him from the dead. The millions of people who profess to follow Him would do so in vain.

If Jesus did not rise from the tomb, then Christians have nothing to put their trust in. The bible would be irrelevant and there would be very little purpose in our lives. But since we can believe Jesus was resurrected, everything changes and our futures in God's Kingdom are certain.

Chapter 18 - If there was no resurrection

Many people do not believe in God. Therefore, they obviously do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ or any other resurrection. When they die, they just disappear and they have absolutely no future after death. A very sad thought and ending to anyone. So let us examine what the future holds for us if Jesus Christ was not resurrected from the dead. Please consider the following points.

1. Every promise Jesus has given us would be untrustworthy. Jesus promised many times he would rise from the dead. So if he failed to accomplish this, then he is to be pitied as an impostor and someone we cannot rely upon for anything. When you consider that almost the entire bible, old and new testaments, speak of Jesus. Then his failure to beat death by not being resurrected would make the entire bible a sham.

By keeping the promise of his ability to defeat death, we can now depend completely on every other promise he has made. What could be more difficult than to beat death? So if he can do this, then every other promise would be easy for Him.

2. The resurrection is the endorsement of God the Father that Jesus Christ is the risen Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

He is no longer as he was before his resurrection when he was born of a woman and lived like any other human being. Now his divine son-ship and deity are revealed and made clear.

Rom 1:4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

His shed blood on the cross now covers our sins, and is a sure sign he will also resurrect those who believe and trust in Him. Just as he promised in the following verses from the book of John.

Joh 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Joh 6:40 For this is the will of my Father; that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

Eternal life and a resurrection from the dead are certain for all those who look to Jesus as the Son of God.

3. Without the resurrection, we would not have any foundation for the church. It was only the resurrection that turned the first Christians into faithful and unafraid followers of their Lord. When you compare the attitudes of Christ's disciples from before his resurrection to after his resurrection, you see a massive change in their lives. They went from being afraid and hiding from the Synagogue leaders, to boldly proclaiming the good news about Jesus.

The disciples were all killed at a relatively young age (except for John) because of their preaching. They trusted

Jesus to care for them in life and in death. They had witnessed Jesus defeat death and knew they would also be raised from the dead on the last day, as Jesus had promised them and us.

It is totally inconceivable to think these disciples would be prepared to suffer and die the way they did if they knew Jesus was an impostor, and not the real Son of God.

The gospels are all centered on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But the cross does not have a lot of meaning without the all important resurrection. Any “gospel” that does not put the cross and the resurrection together as both vital for the Christian to understand and proclaim is not a complete gospel and not the authentic message given to us by Jesus and his disciples.

The following passage of scripture in the book of Hebrews is very reassuring. We see Jesus crowned with glory but still working to save his elect. He is the creator of all things, but he still calls us brothers and sisters.

Heb 2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Heb 2:11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

4. Without the resurrection, the millions of Christians who have been martyred would never find justice.

There would not be any final reckoning for sin. Satan, who has caused our pain and suffering in this world, would have won his struggle against God. But the resurrection of Jesus has shown us who is ultimately in control. Satan's days are numbered, and that number is growing less every day.

Jesus will return soon, even though less and fewer people believe this any more, and when he returns it will be in great power and not as the suffering servant from his first appearing on the earth.

Mat 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

5. Jesus Christ led by example and taught us the principles for living a good life. In the book of Matthew, Jesus instructs us we must sacrifice our self-centered and uncaring life styles and consider the needs of others. He put is very clear by saying if we lose our lives for his name's sake, we will actually find life. It sounds like an oxymoron, but it is the way to live if we want to see the resurrection become a reality in our own lives.

Mat 16:24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Mat 16:25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Mat 16:26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what

shall a man give in return for his soul?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was witnessed by many people. He has promised to return and we can be sure this will happen. It does not matter if anyone does not believe this, it will happen regardless. When this happens, he will resurrect those who are faithful to Him.

We can put our faith in the scriptures and in the understanding Jesus was resurrected from the dead, and he will do the same thing for us upon his return.

Chapter 19 - Conclusion

The word of God, otherwise known as the bible, was written as a guide on how to live our lives according to the wishes of our Creator God. He does not change who he is, or his laws. He has always been the same and will always remain the same. This world would be thrown into complete confusion if God kept changing his character or his laws. And it would be impossible to know what is right or what is wrong anymore. Consider the following two scriptures, one from the old testament and one from the new testament that tell us God does not change.

Psa 55:19 God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, Selah because they do not change and do not fear God.

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

With this thought in mind, we can trust what has been recorded in this amazing book for our learning and guidance on how to live. It is unfortunate many of God's commands have been altered by human tradition. His holy days and Sabbaths

have been altered to suit the desires of mankind. But just because man has changed God's commands to suit their own purposes, God has not changed and nor has his commands.

Therefore, when you read the scriptures I have quoted in this book, you can remain certain they are accurate and are all under God's teachings.

This may be the end of my book, but I sincerely hope it is not the end of your seeking the answer to this question of how long was Jesus Christ in the tomb? There is a great deal of information on the world wide web that can help you learn more about God. But great caution must be taken because, as Jesus has warned us, there are many false preachers in the world who will lead you astray. Always compare what they may tell you with what is contained in God's holy scriptures. If they are the same, that is good. But if they differ from God's words, please remember that the word of God will always be the truth.

God bless you for reading this book, and may you continue to grow in knowledge and understanding of God's word.

About The Author

Leslie Rendell worked most of his life in an agricultural support industry, mostly in the supply of spare parts for machinery. Since his retirement in 2014 he has dedicated much of his time to bible study and writing books as he comes to understand biblical topics.

He understands the bible is a very complex book and one that is easy to misinterpret and believes this is one of the main reasons why there are so many different version of the bible and different religions around the world.

What he writes is his own interpretation of God's holy scriptures. He studies the thoughts of other writers to try to see things from their point of view, but always comes back to the bible as the final authority on any topic. His main aim in writing, is to give anyone who is seeking the truth from God's words a starting point in their own research.

Leslie's other interest are photography, and his growing family.

Bibliography

All scriptures quoted in this book are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

The King James Version (KJV) occupies a unique and revered position in the history of Christian scripture, often regarded by its advocates as the most accurate and faithful English translation available. Commissioned by King James I of England and first published in 1611, the KJV was the result of the collaborative effort of 47 distinguished biblical scholars, all highly proficient in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. These scholars approached their task with deep reverence, striving to preserve the integrity of God's Word while rendering it in a majestic and poetic style that has profoundly shaped both Christianity and English literature.

One of the reasons many consider the KJV superior is its reliance on the Textus Receptus manuscripts for the New Testament, which were widely regarded as reliable by scholars of that era. Advocates of the KJV often argue that modern translations deviate from these ancient texts and incorporate contemporary interpretations that risk diminishing the Bible's original meaning. Additionally, the language of the KJV, though more complex than that of modern translations, is

praised for its precision, reverence, and reflection of the sacred nature of Scripture.

The historical impact of the KJV on English-speaking Christian communities further underscores its importance as a foundational text. For those who value both doctrinal fidelity and linguistic beauty, the King James Bible continues to be a cherished and authoritative version of Scripture.