

What is the only sign that proves

JESUS CHRIST

is

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

Most people do not realise that Jesus Christ gave

ONLY ONE SIGN

That He is our Messiah. And if this sign fails,
then He is not who He claims to be.

*The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ
are well documented in the Bible as proof of His Deity*

Leslie Rendell

Only One Sign

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Scripture quotations taken from The World English
Bible

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Prelude

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 Jesus Christ.

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.

With so many ideas on this topic, I will seek the truth of this matter 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.

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.

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

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 read this book. To come to the right conclusion, you will need to read with an open mind. If you already have an opinion on this topic, you may find it difficult to believe what I am writing. 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. One excellent bible study tool that I have found to be of immense help is a program called “Esword”. It is free to download from the web and has many bible versions and other reference books. Well worth getting, as it will help with your own studies.

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.

Introduction

How long was Jesus in the tomb? And does it really matter? The answer to these two questions can be found in Mat 12:38-40:

Mat 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."

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

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

The first question is answered in verse 40. Jesus declares He will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Or in the tomb. The second question is answered in the previous verse. Here Jesus tells His doubters He would give them only one sign. The sign of Jonah. In Luk 11:29, Jesus is again recorded as giving the crowd only one sign. The sign of Jonah.

Luk 11:29 When the multitudes were gathering together to him, he began to say, "This is an evil generation. It seeks after a sign. No sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah, the prophet."

In Jon 1:17, the old testament records for us how long Jonah was in the belly of the great fish. Some translations say it was a whale. It really makes no difference. He was in the belly for 72 hours.

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

There can be no doubt Jesus fulfilled the sign as He promised, the one and only sign of Jonah. Therefore, if He was not in the tomb for this allotted amount of time, then He is not who He claims to be. But He must be an impostor. Such an important issue must be resolved truthfully to answer the two questions above.

Let us answer the second question first, as this should be the simplest to answer accurately. The question, does it matter? Well, Jesus has answered that clearly in Mat 12:39 and again in Luk 11:29. This is the only sign He would give. If He does not fulfil this sign, then He is an impostor. This makes the time frame of His being buried in the tomb of vital importance. If Jesus is to prove He is the "Son of God", then how long must He be in the tomb? This is the answer to the first question: How long was Jesus in the tomb? Three days and three nights.

By our clocks today, that would be 72 hours. Three nights of about 12 hours each, and three days also of about 12 hours each. Add them up and you get 72 hours. Therefore, Jesus had to be 72 hours in the tomb to prove He is the "Son

of God”.

This time period is so important that the writers of the New Testament described this period in several ways.

Mat 12:40 tells us He would be three days and three nights in the tomb.

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

Then in Joh 2:19, Jesus used the term “in three days”.

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

Next we are told He would be raised after three days.

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

Then finally, in 1Co 15:4, the term “on the third day” is used.

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

From these 4 scriptures, we see the four different ways the time frame is described. First, it is just “three days and three nights”. This is exactly 72 hours. Second comes the term “in three days”. Not over three days. The third example is after three days. Not less than three days. The last term is “on the third day”. Again, exactly three days. These four scriptures, and they are not the only ones, tell us Jesus was

exactly a full 72 hours in the tomb? Notice especially 1Co 15:4. On the third day was according to the scriptures.

Therefore, the answers to these two questions is. Jesus was a full 72 hours in the tomb. And does it really matter? This was the only proof Jesus was prepared to give the Pharisees. So yes, it matters a great deal if you believe Jesus is the “Son of God”.

What is the most important question you can ask when you are trying to prove the resurrection from the dead of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? There was only one sign Jesus gave to the Pharisees of His day that He is who He claimed to be. Since this was to be the only sign, it needs to be scrutinized to see if it stands or fails the test. The only place we can go to find out how the Pharisees were testing Jesus is in the bible. And it was recorded in Mat 12:38-42 along with the amazing response Jesus gave them.

Mat 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."

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

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

Mat 12:41 The men of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation, and will condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, someone greater than Jonah is here.

Mat 12:42 The queen of the south will rise up in the judgment with this generation, and will condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, someone greater than Solomon is here.

In these verses, Jesus explains to the Pharisees that

He was going to give them one, and one sign only, that He was Who He claimed to be. The Son Of God. And that sign was the sign of the prophet Jonah. Then He tells us the meaning of this sign. That He would be three days and three nights in the tomb, the same as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly. Following this, He then tells them someone greater than Jonah and Solomon is there, referring to Himself.

This is an enormous claim for anyone to make and one that the Pharisees would most definitely have objected to. And since this “sign of Jonah the prophet” is to be the only sign, then it is vital He keeps this sign exactly. Otherwise, He cannot be who He claims to be. This Sign was that He would be in the heart of the earth, or in the tomb, for this exact amount of time Jonah was in the whale's belly. Any other amount of time and He does not fulfil this all important and only sign. If He fails this test, that would make Him a false Messiah and not the Son Of God.

To emphasise the importance of this sign, the time Jesus was in the tomb has been described in a variety of ways, as I will now describe. The first was simply “three days and three nights” as we see above in verse 40. By our reckoning today, three nights of about 12 hours each, and three days also of about 12 hours each, add up to 72 hours. The second example is found in Joh 2:18-21, here Jesus used the term “in three days”.

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

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

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

three days?”

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

The term “in three days” means Jesus must be in the tomb for three days and three nights, but no longer than 72 hours. His resurrection must be inside this time period. In the third example, we are told Jesus would be raised from the tomb after three days.

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

This term “after three days” shows Jesus was again to be in the tomb for three days, but this time no less than three days. In other words, only after the full 72 hours have passed. The fourth and final example is in 1Co 15:4, here the term “on the third day” is used. 1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. The time in this example is made clear to us in the first book of the bible. This is when God is describing the days of creation. Notice verse 13 of chapter 1 and that it was according to the scriptures.

Gen 1:13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

So if we check this out, according to the scriptures, then after three days and three nights of creating, God recorded this was “the third day” and we can clearly see three nights at 12 hours each and three days of 12 hours each adding up to 72 hours. From these 4 examples of scripture, we see the four different ways the time frame for Jesus being in the tomb is described. First, it is just “three days and three nights”. And this equates to exactly 72 hours, as was shown

earlier. Second comes the term “in three days”. It must be no more than 72 hours if it is to be “in three days”. The third example given is after three days. It must be no less than a full 72 hours, otherwise it cannot be “after three days”. The last term is “on the third day”. Again, exactly three days. These four scriptures, and they are not the only ones, tell us Jesus was precisely a full 72 hours in the tomb. Notice especially 1Co 15:4 where it states this term, on the third day, was according to the scriptures.

Hopefully, by now we can see Jesus was in the tomb for 72 hours, otherwise He has failed the test of the only sign He gave to the Pharisees. So now we must ask, “does it matter, or make any difference to the claim that Jesus is the Son Of God?” The answer to that vital question is - it makes all the difference in the world. It either proves, or disproves, that Jesus Christ is our King of kings and Lord of lords. If He fulfils this sign, He is our Messiah. If He cannot fulfil it, then He is a fake Messiah.

Now that we have established the fact that Jesus was to be in the tomb for exactly 72 hours. We need to find the precise starting and finishing times of these 72 hours. These starting and finishing times of Christ’s burial and resurrection are explained in the next chapter. “On What Day Was Jesus Crucified”.

What Is A Preparation Day

There are two very important days that occurred at the time of Jesus Christ's crucifixion. These two days are "Preparation Day" and "Special Sabbath". It is vital to understand the meaning of these two days, and when they occur, to understand properly the timing of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

A "Preparation Day" as observed in Judaism, is the day immediately prior to a Sabbath day. To enforce their strict observance of a Sabbath day, the people were to make preparations for the Sabbath well before the actual starting time of this day of devotion to the Lord.. All meals were to be prepared before sunset, so the only thing to do on the day was to serve the food. This practice was to make certain that no work of any kind was done during the Sabbath. Leaving the entire day to worship of God. That is why it is called a "Preparation Day".

It is vital to realise that a preparation day always precedes a Sabbath day, whether it is a normal weekly Sabbath, or one of the Annual holy days that God has set apart to reveal His overall plan of salvation.

The term "Special Sabbath" never applies to a normal

weekly Sabbath unless one of God's annual holy days falls on a weekly Sabbath. There are seven high days, or "Special Sabbaths" throughout the year, that are observed by Jews, and by a minority of Christians. They are set on special dates according to the Jewish calendar, therefore, they can fall on any day of the week the same as any other annual celebration.

In the book of Leviticus, God instructs Moses to keep His appointed festivals. Please note here that the festivals are God's appointed festivals. They are not necessarily Jewish festivals, but God's festivals. Moses was to proclaim sacred assemblies for the people, as we see in Lev chapter twenty-two and verse two.

Lev 23:2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.'"

The first two of these annual sacred assemblies, or "Special Sabbaths," are during the Passover, and are always during the first month of the year, according to the Jewish calendar. These "Special Sabbaths" are described in Num 28:16-18.

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

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

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

Then, dropping to verse twenty-five, we see a second sacred assembly, or Sabbath, on the last day of the unleavened bread festival.

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

The Lord's Passover is on the 14th day of the first month. Then on the 15th day is the first day of Unleavened Bread, and it is a "Sacred Assembly". This festival is to last for seven days with a special Sabbath day on the first and on the last days of the festival. The last two "Special Sabbaths" occur during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Now we know what these days mean. Let us see why they are important for us to understand the timing of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. In the book of John 19:30-31, we see both terms used regarding the day of His crucifixion.

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

Joh 19:31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

It is clear from these verses Jesus was crucified on a "Preparation Day" and the next day was a "Special Sabbath", not a normal weekly Sabbath as is the popular belief in most Christian Churches today. This is just one of those places where you must put away your preconceived ideas and listen to the words of God. Assume nothing, but prove everything from the scriptures.

A tradition of the Jews was to have all bodies taken down from the cross before a Sabbath began. This was to avoid having to do this on a Sabbath day. 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 was made clear in John 19:31. Then, in Mar 15:42-43, we see Joseph asking Pilate for Christ's body on the preparation day.

Mar 15:42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Here in verse forty-two it is clarified that the day Jesus was crucified was on the "preparation day". This was followed by a Special Sabbath day as we saw in Joh 19:31 above.

Jesus was crucified and buried on this "preparation day". The most important thing I hope you will understand from this is that Jesus was crucified on a "Preparation Day", and this was followed by a "Special Sabbath". Following are three more passages of scripture that support the fact that Jesus was crucified and buried on a day that the Jews refer to as "the preparation day". Luk 23:52-54.

*Luk 23:52 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body.
Luk 23:53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.
Luk 23:54 It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.*

Joh 19:41-42

Joh 19:41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.

Joh 19:42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Joh 19:14-15

Joh 19:14 It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

Joh 19:15 But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Please understand from verse fourteen that it was the “Preparation Day” prior to the Passover, and not to a normal weekly Sabbath. Many people mistake this preparation day as being just before a weekly Sabbath, but it is just before the Passover Sabbath, and that is the first day of unleavened bread. As stated earlier, these special Sabbaths can fall on any day of the week and are not tied to the weekly Sabbath.

How does understanding these special Sabbaths and preparation days lead us to actually prove the days of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? The answer is revealed in the chapter “On What Day Was Jesus Crucified”.

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 possible 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. In the first eighteen verses of this book, we get a wonderful description of Jesus and just why we believe Him to be the Messiah. Or the Son Of God.

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

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made through him. Without him was not anything made that has been 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 hasn't overcome it.

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

Joh 1:7 The same came as a witness, that he might testify about the light, that all might believe through him.

Joh 1:8 He was not the light, but was sent that he might testify about the light.

Joh 1:9 The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world didn't recognize him.

Joh 1:11 He came to his own, and those who were his own didn't receive him.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name:

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 The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Joh 1:15 John testified about him. He cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me, for he was before me.'"

Joh 1:16 From his fullness we all received grace upon grace.

Joh 1:17 For the law was given through Moses.

Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. Joh 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The one and only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared him.

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 to 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.

Jesus Christ In Prophecy

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 firstly that He even existed? Well, even 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 our message? To whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed?

Isa 53:2 For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no good looks or majesty. When we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Isa 53:3 He was despised, and rejected by men; a man of suffering, and acquainted with disease. He was despised as one from whom men hide their face; and we didn't respect him.

Isa 53:4 Surely he has borne our sickness, and carried our suffering; yet we considered him plagued, struck by God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on him; and by his wounds we are healed.

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

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he didn't open his mouth. As a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he didn't open his mouth.

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

Isa 53:9 They made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased Yahweh to bruise him. He has caused him to suffer. When you make his soul an offering for sin, he will see his offspring. He will prolong his days, and Yahweh's pleasure will prosper in his hand.

Isa 53:11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light and be satisfied. My righteous servant will justify many by the knowledge of himself; and he will bear their iniquities.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will give him a portion with the great, and he will divide the plunder with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was counted with the transgressors; yet he bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

When you realize 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 They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus was going in front of them, and they were amazed; and those who followed were afraid. He again took the twelve, and began to tell them the things that were going to happen to him.

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

Mar 10:34 They will mock him, spit on him, scourge him, and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.

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 arriving 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.

Mat 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."

Mat 12:39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given

to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet.

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

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 this 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 Christians 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 we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable.

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 As he was praying alone, the disciples were with him, and he asked them, "Who do the multitudes say that I am?"

Luk 9:19 They answered, "John the Baptizer,' but others say, 'Elijah,' and others, that one of the old prophets is risen again."

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

So the disciples understood who Jesus was, and we see in the next two versus 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 But he warned them, 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, chief priests,

and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.”

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 He took the twelve aside, and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all the things that are written through the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be completed.

Luk 18:32 For he will be delivered up to the Gentiles, will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit on.

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

Luk 18:34 They understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they didn't understand the things that were said.

Before I get into the proof of Jesus being in the tomb for exactly three days and three nights, I would like to see more proof that He is the “Son of God”.

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?

Crossing The Lake In A Storm

Jesus performed many miracles during His time on the earth. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cured cripples and even cleansed people from leprosy. Still, most of His miracles were never recorded in the books of the Bible, as we can see from Joh 20:30.

Joh 20:30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

Jesus performed one powerful miracle that had a profound effect on His disciples. This miracle that involved the disciples was when they were crossing the lake and a fierce storm arose and threatened to swamp their boat and drown them all, we must remember, these men were all experienced fishermen and had spent their lives on the lake and would have encountered many storms. This storm was one of the worst that they had ever encountered, and we can know this from their call for Jesus to rescue them. We can read this in Matthew 8:23-27.

Mat 8:23 When he got into a boat, his disciples followed him.

Mat 8:24 Behold, a violent storm came up on the

sea, so much that the boat was covered with the waves, but he was asleep.

Mat 8:25 They came to him, and woke him up, saying, "Save us, Lord! We are dying!"

Mat 8:26 He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Mat 8:27 The men marvelled, saying, "What kind of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

In verse twenty-seven, they ask, "What kind of man is this?". Here, they witnessed how Jesus even had control of the elements and did what no man had ever done before. He stopped the furious storm and caused a complete calmness over the lake. This miracle alone would have had them believing that Jesus had powers that only belong to God. But I doubt they were fully convinced who was with them in the boat. They asked "what kind of man is this".

Another miracle they witnessed was recorded for us in Matthew 14:22-33. This time, the disciples had left Jesus on the shore and were crossing the lake when another storm rose and threatened to swamp their boat. Suddenly Jesus appeared to them walking up to the boat on the water and again calms the wind. This time the Disciples make the correct connection about just who Jesus is, when they say, "Truly you are the Son of God."

There are many other miracles recorded in the Bible that the disciples of Jesus saw and marvelled at, such as feeding of the four thousand, healing the lepers and curing the paralysed man who was lowered through the roof, these are just a few of the recorded miracles we know of, but there were other miracles that He performed and that were

witnessed by the disciples but never recorded.

The disciples must have witnessed hundreds of miracles ranging from small and almost insignificant to some of His biggest miracles, such as feeding of the 5 thousand and the calming of the sea. Those three and a half years must have been mind blowing for the disciples. Seeing the power Jesus possessed should have left no doubt in their minds if Jesus was the Son of God. But as we will see later in this book, it was not until after Jesus was resurrected from the dead that they were all fully convinced He was their Messiah.

The Disciples Were Afraid

The Disciples were Afraid

Not Expecting The Resurrection

Not Expecting The Resurrection

Jesus Ap[pears To The Disciples

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Paul's Conversion

Paul's Conversion

Our Friend Doubting Thomas

Our Friend "Doubting Thomas"

James The Brother Of Jesus

James the Brother of Jesus

The Other Brothers Of Jesus

The Other Brothers of Jesus

Jesus Appears To Others

Jesus Appears to Others

On What Day Was Jesus Cricified?

On What day Was Jesus Crucified?

What Then Is Our Future

What Then is Our Future?

Conclusion

Conclusion

Leslie Rendell has had no formal religious education. But he has been studying the bible for most of his life. When he is researching a topic, he looks at what other people have said in their books, or on the world wide web. He believes it is important to see opinions from every angle of a subject to give his own informed decision. But still the most important reference is always the bible. There is no other authority for matters of what God expects from those He has created in His own image. If there is a conflict between the bible and man's thoughts, the bible will win every time.

Although he has had no formal bible education, he believes the bible can be understood by the average bible reader. Otherwise, how could they ever understand what God's will is for their lives?

Apart from bible studies, Leslie loves to spend time with his family watching his daughter grow into a wonderful woman and mother. His grand children starting on their life journeys, and now some great grandchildren to watch growing up. It is a special time in his life to see his family grow.

He is retired and now lives in the South West of Western Australia. Apart from his love of the Bible and his family, his other hobby is photography, where he loves to photograph God's creation.

If you have read one of Leslie's books, he would appreciate you leaving a comment on his website (www.leslierendell.com)