

*How Long Was Jesus Christ  
In The Tomb?*

*Matthew 12:40*

**THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS**

*He is Risen*

**ONLY ONE SIGN**

**ONLY ONE SAVIOUR**

**AND DOES IT MATTER?**

By

**Leslie Rendell**

*Copyright Print Book*

How Long Was Jesus Christ in the Tomb

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Published by Leslie Rendell at Draught2Digital

Second edition 2022

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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 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.

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.

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.

## *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. 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 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 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 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.

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 than that 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 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 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.

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?

## *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 Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction 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 At this, many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

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

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

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

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 a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

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.

## *The Sign Of Jonah*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joh 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal

for your house will eat me up.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then, to empathize that he meant exactly seventy-two hours, he told his disciples “after three days” he would be raised from the tomb. Also, the Pharisees remembered Jesus had told them that after three days, he would rise again. We see these things in the following scriptures.

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

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

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

So in these passages we see he was to be in the tomb until "after three days". No less than three days. No less than seventy-two hours.

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

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

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

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

So far, we have seen three different ways to describe the time that Jesus was to be in the tomb. First was "in three days", and then "after three days", and last was "on the third day". So starting from "in three days" we can clearly see that this is no longer than 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?** Seventy-one hours is not long enough and seventy-three 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.

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 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 account of "three days and three nights".

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

Notice Mat 12:39 where it states that the only sign that he will give them is the sign of Jonah, that he will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. It is not possible to squeeze this time frame into a good Friday crucifixion and a Sunday morning resurrection. At the most, you will get 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.

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

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

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

Please notice the problem that arises here for the Sunday morning resurrection theory. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark. And Jesus was already resurrected before Mary Magdalene got to the tomb.

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

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

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

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

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

It is important to see in verses 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.

## *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 read again the evidence I have provided, and read carefully 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 day. All meals were to be prepared before sunset, so the only thing to do on the Sabbath day was to serve the food. This practice was to make certain that no work of any kind was done on the Sabbath. 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 When evening had now come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,  
Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent council member who also himself was looking for God's Kingdom, came. He boldly went in to Pilate, and asked for Jesus' body.

Here in verse 42 it is 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 day. But it was a "Special Sabbath". After Jesus died on the cross, the Jews ask Pilate for the bodies that they may be buried before the Sabbath day began, as we see in Joh 19:30-31.

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

Joh 19:31 Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn't remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one),

asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Without a proper understanding of these 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.

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

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

Those who believe in the good Friday Crucifixion of Jesus, accept the day of preparation mentioned in the above verses, refer to the 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. We see this is recorded for us in Mar 15:42-47.

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

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

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

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

Mar 15:46 He bought a linen cloth, and taking him down, wound him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb which

had been cut out of a rock. He rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

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

Following are three more passages of scripture that support the fact that Jesus was crucified and buried on “the preparation day.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



of what a “Special Sabbath” is.

## *Special Sabbath*

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

The “Special Sabbaths” are on appointed dates in a month and therefore do not 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 in the following scriptures.

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

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

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

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

Num 28:20 With each bull offer a grain offering of three-

tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil; with the ram, two-tenths;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For this book, I will only refer to the "Passover" and "the first day" of the festival of unleaven bread, that is a "Special Sabbath".

## *On What Day Was Jesus Crucified?*

I hope you have read 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.

In the days when Jesus was present here on the earth, women were not held in high regard and even their testimonies held very little value in a court of law just because they were female. I guess this status for women has not changed too much even today as we see women regarded as lower-class citizens in many countries. But God has never seen women in this class. He sees us all as equals. I believe God used the activities of the women from the time Jesus was crucified until he rose from the grave to reveal when these events happened. Maybe this is God’s way of telling us we are all equal in his eyes.

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 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Luk 23:47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Luk 23:48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

Luk 23:49 But all those who knew him, including 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, a member of the Council, a good and upright man,

Luk 23:51 who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God.

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.

Luk 23:55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.

Luk 23:56 Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience 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.

Mar 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

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 fifty-four and fifty-five of Luke chapter twenty-three, 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.

A reminder of what we read in the last chapter is needed

here to emphasize that this Sabbath mention here is actually a special Sabbath and not an ordinary weekly Sabbath.

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.

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 went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience 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 twenty-four and verses one through to three.

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

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

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



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, as we can read below.

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.

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 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”. Jesus told the leaders of the Jews he would be in the tomb for this exact amount of time, the same amount of time Jonah was in the belly of the enormous fish. And this was to be the **ONLY SIGN** Jesus was going to give. 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.

## *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 On the first day of unleavened bread, when they sacrificed the Passover, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare that you may eat the Passover?”

Mar 14:13 He sent two of his disciples, and said to them, “Go

into the city, and there you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him,

Mar 14:14 and wherever he enters in, tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'

Mar 14:15 He will himself show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Get ready for us there."

Mar 14:16 His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found things as he had said to 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 They came to a place which was named Gethsemane. 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 Judas then, having taken a detachment of soldiers and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

After this, Jesus was taken before Pilate.

Mat 27:1 Now when morning had come, 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 up to Pontius 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 It was the third hour, and 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 set feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed season.

Lev 23:5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening, is Yahweh’s Passover.

Lev 23:6 On the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread to Yahweh. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

Lev 23:7 In the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no regular work.

Lev 23:8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to Yahweh seven days. In the seventh day is a holy convocation: you shall do no regular 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 wares or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and that we would forego 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.

## *What Time Of The Day Was Jesus Crucified?*

Many people assume the death of Jesus Christ on the cross must coincide with the time the Passover lambs were killed. But this is incorrect, as I will show you in this chapter.

One question we have here is this. Should we observe the Passover at the same time of the day Jesus did with his disciples from the very beginning of the day immediately after sunset on the 14th of Nisan? Or should we observe it at the time Jesus died on the cross at about 3pm that day? Another idea is the Passover meal should be kept in the early hours of the 15th of Nisan, the day after the Passover.

The first thing I would like to say on this matter is this. Almighty God had all of eternity to plan what was going to happen here on his earth. He created Adam and Eve to start humanity. He caused the great flood to erase most of humanity after their sins became so great. Through his power, he has made kings and brought down kingdoms. God has constantly displayed his power and control over his entire universe, not just the earth.

With this incredible power and control, he planned



everything down to the smallest detail. Therefore, we can be 100% certain that Jesus Christ was born at exactly the correct time. He suffered and died and also rose from the dead at exactly the correct time. There is nothing in all of creation that is not under his feet, as we see in Eph 1:22.

Eph 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.

Now, with those thoughts in mind, let me ask you this one question. Did Jesus Christ keep the Passover meal at the correct time, and did he also die on the cross at precisely the correct time? Or did he somehow get the times mixed up?

I believe that anyone who has faith in our Lord Jesus Christ will agree he made no mistakes. His timing all throughout all time has been perfect. Therefore, he kept the Passover meal at the correct time. He also died on the cross at the correct time. All we need to do is to trust Him and to follow his perfect example and we cannot go wrong.

I have already covered some of this in previous chapters, but let me quote once more from God's holy scriptures to establish the correct time to observe the Passover.

Num 9:2 "Moreover let the children of Israel keep the Passover in its appointed season."

Num 9:3 On the fourteenth day of this month, at evening, [ben ha arbayim] you shall keep it in its appointed season—according to all its statutes, and according to all its ordinances, you shall keep it.

Num 9:4 Moses spoke to the children of Israel, that they should keep the Passover.

Num 9:5 They kept the Passover in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening, [ha arbayim] in the wilderness of Sinai. According to all that Yahweh commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did.

I believe the instruction here are very clear. The Passover is to be kept on the 14th day of Nisan in the evening. This word evening is taken from the Hebrew term “ben ha arbayim”. I covered this in the chapter titled “The Exact Meaning Of Ben Ha Arbayim”. I believe God has very well proven to us the exact time of the day this term is referring to. It can only mean immediately after the sun has set and a new day is starting.

This is the timing for the Passover meal to be eaten. Now we must answer the question. “Why did Jesus not die on the cross at precisely this time if he is our Passover Lamb?” Why about twenty-one hours later?

Jesus Christ did not die at the hour we would normally expect, the same hour the Passover lambs were killed. The death of Jesus on the cross on the 14th of Nisan in the afternoon and at about 3pm must have very special significance. The death of our Lord on this Roman cross is one of the greatest moments in all of history. Therefore, there must be a lesson we can learn from this about why such a historic and world-changing event would happen on that day, and at that very hour of the day. At about 3pm on the 14th of Nisan. I said earlier, all this was according to the eternal plan. This was not an accident, or a change in plans, or Christ making a monumental mistake. Also, the day and the time of the day of Jesus Christ dying on the cross does not appear to coincide with any holy day or any other special event, or does it??

So, finding the significance of that day and hour, we must look into God’s holy scriptures. The first part of the answer is found in Exo 12:40-42. From the AFV version of the bible.

Exo 12:40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel in  
Egypt was four hundred and thirty years,

Exo 12:41 And it came to pass at the end of the four

hundred and thirty years, it was even on that very same day, all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. Exo 12:42 It is a night to be much observed to the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD to be observed by all the children of Israel in their generations.

The Israelites had fulfilled all the requirements for the Passover on the 14th of Nisan. The last thing they did on this day was to travel to Rameses to be ready to depart Egypt the following night. In the following verses, Num 33:3 and Deu 16:1 reaffirm the Israelites left Egypt from Rameses on the 15th day of Nisan. This is important to remember that they left at night. After sundown and at the very start of the 15th of Nisan.

Num 33:3 The Israelites set out from Rameses on the fifteenth day of the first month, the day after the Passover. They marched out defiantly in full view of all the Egyptians,

Deu 16:1 Observe the month of Aviv and celebrate the Passover of the LORD your God, because in the month of Aviv he brought you out of Egypt by night.

According to Num 33:3 and Deu 16:1, the Israelis left Egypt at night at the very start of the 15th of Nisan. Now notice what Exo 12:41 above revealed to us. They left after 430 years “even on the very same day”. This is easy to read over and not give it another thought. But what is that “even on that very same day” referring to? It must be looking back to something that has already happened. It cannot be some day in the future, it can only be a day in history. And that very same day is the time of the original promise God had made to Abraham in Gen 15:1-9 some 430 years earlier, to the very same day.

Gen 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in

a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Gen 15:2 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Gen 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."

Gen 15:5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Gen 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Gen 15:7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

Gen 15:8 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

Gen 15:9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Gen 15:10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

Now the scene is set, and God is about to ratify his promise to Abraham. This type of promise and the way it is sealed are important to understand. The person making this promise, and in this case it is God Himself, must suffer the same fate as the animals and be cut in half if he does not keep his promise. Therefore, this is no insignificant promise. It is now up to God to keep his promise. This type of covenant, and the penalty for not keeping the promise, is described in

Jer 34:18.

Jer 34:18 I will give the men who have transgressed my covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts:

Jer 34:19 the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land, who passed between the parts of the calf;

Jer 34:20 I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life. Their dead bodies will be food for the birds of the sky and for the animals of the earth.

So here we have a very graphic description of what happens to those who failed to keep such an important covenant or promise. And as we will see soon, this is the same type of promise God made to Abraham. And since it will be God Himself who will walk between the carcasses, he is declaring that may he be cut in half if he does not keep his part of the promise. Continuing in Gen 15:12, God explains to Abram what his offspring will have to endure in the future. This happened in the late afternoon as the sun was going down. I would speculate about 3pm.

Gen 15:12 When the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. Now terror and great darkness fell on him.

Gen 15:13 He said to Abram, "Know for sure that your offspring will live as foreigners in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them. They will afflict them four hundred years."

Gen 15:14 I will also judge that nation, whom they will serve. Afterward they will come out with great wealth;

We know from Exo 12:36 the Israelites plundered the Egyptians on the 14th of Nisan just before they left Egypt the following night on the 15th of Nisan, so fulfilling this part of

God's promise they would come out with great wealth.

Exo 12:36 Yahweh gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. **They plundered the Egyptians.**

We know the Egyptians were plundered on the 14th of Nisan. God reveals this truth to us in the book of Exodus.

Exo 3:19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

Exo 3:20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

Exo 3:21 "And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.

Exo 3:22 Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.

Here, even before Moses goes to the Israelites to lead them out of Egypt. God confronts Moses in the burning bush and notice what he tells Moses is going to happen. Verse 19, God told Moses the king of Egypt would not let them go unless a mighty hand compels him. Then notice carefully what God says in verse 20. He will strike Egypt will **all his wonders** and only after that will the king will let them go.

In the chapter titled "God Shows Pharaoh Ten Wonders" we can see ALL THE wonders God performed and this obviously includes the last wonder. Killing of all the firstborn of Egypt, both man and beast. It was after **all these wonders** were carried out that God told Moses, "he will let you go". The last wonder was the death of the firstborn, and we know this happened at midnight on the 14th of Nisan.

Then in verses 21 and 22, God foretells Moses: the Israelites will not leave empty-handed and they will plunder the Egyptians. Therefore, the plundering happened after midnight on the 14th. And since God had instructed the Israelites, they were not to leave their houses until morning. The only time left for plundering was after the sun rose on the daylight portion of the 14th, and before they set out to gather at Rameses.

Another reason this plundering would not happen prior to this is the simple fact that, until this time, the Egyptians still regarded the Israelites as their slaves. And they certainly would not have handed over all their valuables to their slaves. Plus, by now they are burying their dead and are terrified of all dying at the hands of the God of Israel. This was the twofold effect of the last wonder. First, the Pharaoh was now keen to be rid of the Israelites. And second, they were now easy to plunder because of their fear of what may happen to them if they refuse to hand over their wealth.

Therefore, when God told Abraham in Gen 15:14, they will go out with great wealth. This must be referring to this exact day 430 years later.

Now, back to Gen 15:14. It was late in the afternoon as the sun was going down. Abram went into a deep sleep. God then foretold Abram what was going to befall his offspring.

While Abram was in this deep sleep, God tells him his offspring will be slaves in Egypt, but will then come out with great wealth. This is followed by God now ratifying his promise to make it binding on Him to deliver this promise. Notice it is now when the sun had gone down. A new day has started since Abram prepared the animals, as God had instructed him to do.

Gen 15:17 It came to pass that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold, a smoking furnace and a flaming

torch passed between these pieces.

Gen 15:18 In that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram, saying, "I have given this land to your offspring, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates:

It is interesting to note that the day the *smoking furnace and a flaming torch* passed between the carcasses happened after the sun had set and it was dark. This happened the day after Abraham arranged the animal pieces and God made his promise to Abraham.

In the two verses below, we see God described as a smoking furnace and as a flaming torch. The same symbols that passed between the carcasses of the animals. This proves it was God Himself who passed between the parts of the animals.

Exo 19:18 All of Mount Sinai smoked, because Yahweh descended on it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

Dan 10:6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as flaming torches. His arms and his feet were like burnished brass. The voice of his words was like the voice of a multitude.

In Gen 15:17, a smoking furnace and a flaming torch passed between the pieces of the animals. This is God putting his signature on the promise. Now the promise is unconditional and God must keep his end of the deal.

Remember how binding and final this type of covenant is, as we read earlier in Jer 34:18-20.

God cannot lie, and he is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Therefore, this promise is binding. God's promise to Abraham was he would make him a great nation, and that all



nations on earth would be blessed through him. This is recorded in Gen 22:15-18.

Gen 22:15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time

Gen 22:16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,"

Gen 22:17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,

Gen 22:18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

God made this covenant with Abraham to reassure him his descendants would inherit the land. But this goes a lot deeper than just the land. As we see in verse eighteen, "all nations on earth will be blessed". So this is also a spiritual promise.

The promise God made to Abraham about the vast number of his offspring goes beyond the physical children. In Gal 3:29, those who belong to Christ are also Abraham's children. Not through physical descent, but by faith in Jesus.

Gal 3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

It is very interesting to note what Gal 3:8 tells us. Abraham heard the good news preached and knew all the earth would be blessed through him.

Gal 3:8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Good News beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you all the nations will be blessed."

Jesus also spoke of Abraham seeing Him in the future in

Joh 8:56.

Joh 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it, and was glad.

My question here is, did Abraham, while he was in this deep sleep, actually see in a dream what was going to happen to Jesus on the cross? Knowing who he would be, this could have been the reason for the terror and great darkness that came over Abram. Also, this type of death penalty was never used in Abram's day. So the very sight of anyone dying in this manner would have been a horrific sight for him to see.

Another thing to consider is the darkness that came over Abram late in the afternoon as he was asleep. This may have been the same type of darkness that came over all the land the day Jesus was dying on the cross as in Mat 27:45.

Mat 27:45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

God made another promise to Abraham in Gen 13:14-15.

Gen 13:14 Yahweh said to Abram, after Lot was separated from him, "Now, lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,

Gen 13:15 for I will give all the land which you see to you and to your offspring forever.

But the only land Abraham possessed during his lifetime was the small plot of land he purchased for his wife Sarah to be buried in. Therefore, in these verses, we see a promise of eternal life and of inheriting all the land Abraham could see. This will occur when Jesus Christ returns in all power and glory and resurrects the dead.

This will include Abraham, his direct descendants, and

those who belong to Abraham through their faith in Jesus Christ they will be raised incorruptible and will inherit the land.

When Jesus died on the cross, this is when the promise God had made to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him became a reality, at 3pm the moment Jesus died on the cross on the 14th of Nisan as recorded in God's bible. This is the lesson we learn about the timing of the death of our Lord on the cross. This very day and hour coincides with the very day and hour God made this amazing promise to Abram. He made the promise as the sun was going down on the 14th of Nisan 430 years earlier to the very day.

Jesus died for all peoples, all nations, that their sins may be forgiven. This opens the door for those who choose to enter the Kingdom. For those who are the children of Abraham by both birth and by faith in Jesus Christ.

The day after this promise was made to Abraham was when the promise was ratified by God passing through the pieces of the carcasses on the 15th of Nisan.

The day after this promise was made to Abraham was when the promise was ratified by God passing through the pieces of the carcasses on the 15th of Nisan.

When the Israelites left Egypt on the 15th of Nisan at night, the same time of the day God passed between the pieces of the carcasses, they went from being slaves to the Egyptians to being a free people and now a great nation, and after plundering the Egyptians they came out with great wealth.. Fulfilling God's promise to Abraham that he would be a great nation as we read in Gen 22:17-18.

Gen 22:17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take

possession of the cities of their enemies,  
Gen 22:18 and through your offspring all nations on earth  
will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

So, now when we read Isa 66:8, is this the first time Israel became a great nation, and in 1948 it is the second time?

Isa 66:8 Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she gave birth to her children.

Both parts of this amazing promise were ratified on the 15th when God passed between the parts of the animal carcasses. All nations are now blessed since the sacrifice of Jesus. Israel became a great nation and wealth nation when they left Egypt on the 15th of Nisan.

The promises God made to Abraham have been partially fulfilled. The entire world has been blessed because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Israel became a great nation. All that is needed now is the return of Jesus, Abraham and his children, both physical descendants and his spiritual children, to be resurrected and to claim the land God promised.

Christ's sacrifice confirming the New Covenant occurred on the anniversary of God's covenantal promise to Abraham, ***it was even on that very same day*** on the same day and hour! Its specific timing draws our attention to the "eternal inheritance" promised to Abraham and his spiritual seed. Jesus set the example of when and how he wants us to observe the Passover, at the beginning of the 14th of Nisan, and then on that afternoon, he shed his blood so that a New Covenant could be completed.

This covenant is an outgrowth of the covenant God made with Abraham, making his "great nation" a reality. It provides

for justification based on faith, for Israelite and Gentile alike, and promises eternal life to those who continue to the end in faith. Christ is our Passover, not by lining up with the timing outlined in the instructions given to Israel for the killing of the Passover lambs, but by renewing and advancing the covenant God made with Abraham 430 years earlier, **even on that very same day.**

So yes, this day and the hour of Christ's death on the cross coincide with a special event in history. God's eternal promise to Abram and his offspring of both eternal life and of our redemption through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## *The Resurrection*

The days and the time of the day of Christ's death, burial and resurrection are all recorded in the Bible. You will need to examine and compare scriptures from at least three original books of the bible to see the complete picture, and to come to understand the truth. We have already covered the meaning of "Preparation Day" and "Special Sabbath Days" in the previous chapters of this book. The chapter "The Resurrection" covered some points about Jesus rising from the dead, but now let us look at this again in some more detail.

When seeking the truth about this topic, it is crucial to keep in mind exactly what the bible reveals. It is just too easy to read over certain words and not let them register in your mind their relevance in the matter. So please do not hurry through this book just to reach the end. Please consider all I say and weigh it all up against the scriptures I present to you.

One of these points we must not read over is the time of the day Jesus was laid out in the tomb. As we can clearly see in Luk 23:54, the Sabbath was about to begin. Again, it is

important to remember that when we read these passages of scripture, the writers and the early readers were Jewish. Therefore, it is vital to use the starting times of the Jewish days. In the chapter “What Does Three Days and Three Nights Mean?” we can see that each twenty-four-hour day started at evening as Gen 1:5 clearly states.

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

So in Luk 23:54 below, we know Jesus was put into the tomb just before sunset on preparation day, the day he was crucified. This can only mean a brief period before sunset and the start of the next day (according to Jewish customs) which was the annual Sabbath of Passover, not the weekly Sabbath as many people wrongly believe. This was also covered in a previous chapter “Preparation Day”.

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

Another fact we should not forget is recorded in Joh 19:14. Here, Jesus comes before Pilate in the afternoon. Meaning by the time all the other things occurred, such as Jesus being flogged, crucified, and then buried. The end of the day had to be very close.

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

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

Sabbath.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Luk 24:8 They remembered his words,

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

"As you saw in Prov 25:2, you must search for the truth. To find the answer to this question will require looking at 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."

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

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

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

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

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

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

May our amazing God bless you richly as you seek the truth.

## *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 He said to them, "Foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"

Luk 24:26 Didn't the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter into his glory?

Luk 24:27 Beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he explained 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, for the Son of Man will be delivered up into the hands of men."

Luk 9:45 But they didn't understand this saying. It was concealed from them, that they should 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.

## *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 How then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that it must be so?

Mat 26:55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out as against a robber with swords and clubs to seize me? I sat daily in the temple teaching, and you didn't arrest me."

*Mat 26:56 But all this has happened, 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 Luke, chapter twenty-two and verses fifty four to sixty-two.

Luk 22:54 They seized him, and led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed from a distance.

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

Luk 22:56 A certain servant girl saw him as he sat in the light, and looking intently at him, said, "This man also was with him."

Luk 22:57 He denied Jesus, saying, "Woman, I don't know him."

Luk 22:58 After a little while someone else saw him, and said, "You also are one of them!" But Peter answered, "Man, I am not!"

Luk 22:59 After about one hour passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Truly this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean!"

Luk 22:60 But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

Luk 22:61 The Lord turned, and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he said to him, "Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times."

*Luk 22:62 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.

## *Our Friend "Doubting Thomas"*

The changes that came over the disciples were 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 twenty and verses twenty-four and twenty-five, 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 When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were locked where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the middle, and said to them, "Peace be to you."

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

Joh 20:21 Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be to

you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.”

Joh 20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit!”

Joh 20:23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone’s sins, they have been retained.

Joh 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, wasn’t with them when Jesus came.

Joh 20:25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “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.”

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 sixteen and verse twenty-one. 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 twenty-five 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 anyone 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 twenty and verse twenty-six, 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 two verses that he kept this attitude for the full seven days.

Joh 20:26 After eight days again his disciples were inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, the doors being locked, and stood in the middle, and said, “Peace be to you.”  
Joh 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, “Reach here your

finger, and see my hands. Reach here your hand, and put it into my side. Don't be unbelieving, but believing."

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 twenty-eight. 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 twenty-nine to see this very reassuring message from our Lord.

Joh 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and 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.

## *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 slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

Act 9:2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Act 9:3 As he travelled, he got close to Damascus, and suddenly a light from the sky shone around him.

Act 9:4 He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Act 9:5 He said, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am

Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

*Act 9:6 But rise up, and enter into the city, and you will be told what you must 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 two Corinthians chapter eleven and verses twenty-three to twenty-eight.

2Co 11:23 Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as one beside himself) I am more so; in labours more abundantly, in prisons more abundantly, in stripes above measure, in deaths often.

2Co 11:24 Five times from the Jews I received forty stripes minus one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I suffered shipwreck. I have been a night and a day in the deep.

2Co 11:26 I have been in travels often, perils of rivers, perils of robbers, perils from my countrymen, perils from the Gentiles, perils in the city, perils in the wilderness, perils in the sea, perils among false brothers;



2Co 11:27 in labour and travail, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, and in cold and nakedness.

*2Co 11:28 Besides those things that are outside, there is that which presses on me daily: anxiety for all the assemblies.*

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 God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh;

Php 3:4 though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has confidence in the flesh, I yet more:

Php 3:5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

*Php 3:6 concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, found 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 However, I consider those things that were gain to me as a loss for Christ.

Php 3:8 Yes most certainly, and I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and count them nothing but refuse, that I may gain Christ

Php 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Php 3:10 that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed to his death;

*Php 3:11 if by any means I may attain to 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.

## *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 John chapter seven and verses one through to five.

Joh 7:1 After these things, Jesus was walking in Galilee, for he wouldn't walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill him.

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

Joh 7:3 His brothers therefore said to him, "Depart from here, and go into Judea, that your disciples also may see your works which you do."

Joh 7:4 For no one does anything in secret, and himself seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, reveal yourself to the world.

*Joh 7:5 For even his brothers didn't believe 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 Matthew chapter thirteen and verses fifty-four to fifty-eight.

Mat 13:54 Coming into his own country, 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 Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother called Mary, and his brothers, James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

Mat 13:56 Aren't all of his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all of these things?"

Mat 13:57 They were offended by him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and in his own house."

*Mat 13:58 He didn't 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 be with child, and shall give birth to a son. They shall call his name Immanuel;" which is, being interpreted, "God with us."

Mat 1:24 Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took his wife to himself;

*Mat 1:25 and didn't know her sexually until she had*

*given birth to her firstborn son. He named him 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 fifty-seven, 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?

## *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 Acts chapter one and verses thirteen to fourteen.

Act 1:13 When they had come in, they went up into the upper room, where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

*Act 1:14 All these with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer and supplication, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with 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.



## *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 Now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your

servants to speak your word with all boldness, 43

Act 4:30 while you stretch out your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of your holy Servant Jesus.

Act 4:31 When they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were gathered together. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke 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.

## *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, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

Mat 28:2 Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from the sky, and came and rolled away the stone from the door, and sat on it.

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

Mat 28:4 For fear of him, the guards shook, and became like dead men.

Mat 28:5 The angel answered the women, "Don't be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who has been crucified."

Mat 28:6 He is not here, for he has risen, just like he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying.

Mat 28:7 Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead, and behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, 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 preached, that he has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1Co 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither has Christ been raised.

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

1Co 15:15 Yes, we are also found false witnesses of God, because we testified about God that he raised up Christ, whom he didn't raise up, if it is so that the dead are not raised.

1Co 15:16 For if the dead aren't raised, neither has Christ been raised.

1Co 15:17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.

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

1Co 15:19 If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable.

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.

## *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 who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the 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 them, and I will raise them up at the last day."

Joh 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at 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 has been made a little lower than the angels, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for everyone.

Heb 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many children to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Heb 2:11 For both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one, for which cause 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 will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will render to everyone according to his deeds.

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 said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Mat 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose 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 life? Or what will a man give in exchange for his life?

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.

## *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, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change — he will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God.

Jas 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

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 Rendel 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](http://www.leslierendell.com))