

How long was Jesus Dead?

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word, and not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

Most of Christianity accepts the teaching that Jesus died on Friday and was resurrected Sunday. This is based on the text that says he was crucified on the preparation day and that the following day was a Sabbath. This in fact is not a scholarly way to determine this. The Bible says that true prophets of God will not error in His prophecy. Please read Isaiah 9:15; Deuteronomy 18:18-22 we see that for one to be a prophet of God their prophecy must be accurate, and true. Before we get into the study I would like to present all the text that have to do with Jesus being in the grave for three days. There are only two texts that actually are statements from Jesus prophesying how long he would be in the grave.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The following scriptures are quotes from other people, and in most cases from those who were out to discredit Jesus. Matthew. 26:61; 27:40, 63; Mark 8:31; 14:58; 15:29; John 2:20. After reading these text's one can see that they can not be used to refute the actual prophecies given Matthew 12:40 and John 2:19 all they can be used for is to state the importance that was put on this prophecy. The fact is that we must harmonize scripture by using Matthew 12:40 as it is the only one giving us specific information. We cannot ignore this scripture the scribes and Pharisees ask for one more sign verses 38, 39 Jesus says no that this will be the only sign given them. We must consider that this sign would not be realized till after his death, and once again Jesus was giving a very specific prophecy, basing it on a story that the Jews knew very well. Jonas and the great fish, but Jesus quotes the significant part of this story, and that is that as Jonas was in the fishes belly three days and three nights so would the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The Christian churches teach us that Jesus died Friday, and that is because the Bible states that it was the preparation day for the Sabbath, and that Jesus rose Sunday morning. One does not have to be a mathematician to figure out this at best would only work out to three days and two nights. If we accept this then Jesus erred in the prophecy left to all mankind showing him to be the true Messiah, this is based on the scriptures first given in this study that a prophet in error is not a prophet of God. We will now look at scripture to see if they will support a three day and three night teaching to show us that Jesus is a true prophet, and the Saviour of the world.

There are six scriptures dealing with the preparation day, but it is important for us to now what this day was in preparation for. Matthew 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54 these three text do not give us much information other than it was a preparation day for a Sabbath. We must understand that the seventh day was not the only Sabbath Leviticus 16:27-29; 23:24; 23:32 these are only a few scriptures to show you that the high days were considered Sabbaths as well as the seventh day of the week.

John 19:42 says it was a preparation day, but John gives us more detail.

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Here John tells us it was a high day Sabbath which high day was it?

John 19:14 And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

It was the preparation day for the Passover, and not a seventh day. We now need to look to scriptures to see if the information is there to know what day Jesus did die and that would support his prophecy and harmonize all the scriptures?

Mark 16:1 ¶ And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Luke 23:56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.

These two scriptures which when read carefully would seem to contradict one another; in fact they give us the insight to understand the time element to Jesus death. Mark says the woman bought the spices after the Sabbath and Luke says they prepared the spices before the Sabbath if this was a seventh day Sabbath (Saturday) then this scripture would be wrong, but in fact because we now know it was a high day Sabbath we can easily understand that the woman bought the ointments before the High day Sabbath, and prepared them after the high day Sabbath, but before the seventh day Sabbath thereby both writers are correct. This then would mean that the day the spices were bought and prepared would have to be Friday. Thursday would have been the high day Sabbath spoken of by John

putting Jesus crucifixion and burial at the end of Wednesday just before sundown. We know that the priest and scribes went to Pilate to have guards put around the sepulchre.

Matthew 27:62-65

62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

With these scripture we can understand that nobody would have been able to come to the grave till the time of the prophecy had passed three days, and since the night starts the day three nights would be filled after three days. So Mark and Luke harmonize in their account of what the woman did, the spices were bought after the one Sabbath and prepared before the other. We have Jesus in the grave Wed. night and all day Thursday making one night and one day, then we have Thursday night and all day Friday making two nights and two days, we then have Jesus in the grave Friday night and all day Saturday making three nights and three days as our Lord Jesus prophesied to the scribes and priest. The resurrection we will see coincides with this as well.

Matthew 28:1 ¶ In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Let me remind you that the Jewish day started at evening so the beginning of a day is in fact at sundown, plus the scriptures clearly state that it was the end of the Sabbath which would be at sundown. One must also remember that words which are Italic are ad in words for an example the above scripture in its original form would read "as it began to dawn toward the first of the week". The fact is by God's word the only thing we really know about the time of the woman's arrival is that Jesus was already resurrected when the women who were the first at the grave sight came. We have underline and bold in some very important text.

Matthew 28: 5, 6

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

*6 **He is not here:** for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

This is the end of the Sabbath and Jesus body is already resurrected.

Mark 16:1

1 ¶ And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Luke 24:1,2

1 ¶ Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

John 20:1

1 ¶ The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

These scriptures do not vary far from the record of Jesus resurrection as recorded in Matthew. In fact this account of the time table of Jesus resurrection harmonizes much better than does those presented by the world churches.

John 20:11-13

11 ¶ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

If you read all of John 20 you will see that a lot of things happen before Jesus presents himself to Mary as just read. The women see the grave leave to tell the disciples return with the disciples and then the disciples leave, and then Jesus is revealed to Mary. All of this has taken place in what we call Saturday night after sunset making it the first of the week.

Dear reader we can chose to believe that Jesus was wrong on the prophecy left to the scribes and Pharisees stating a sign that would show the true Messiah, or we can chose to believe God's word, that a prophet must prophecy correctly, and Jesus did when he prophesied that he would be in the grave three days and three nights. Some will tell you about part days being counted as whole days, and that is fine ask them to put Jesus in the grave three nights with a Friday crucifixion even three part nights. They can't the teaching is wrong and makes our Lord Jesus prophecy to

the scribes and Pharisees wrong which in turn reveals that their Jesus is not a true prophet for he errors in his prophecies. Let us realize that there is a false Christ in this world today, and the only way for us to know whose teachings are true to the word of God, is to use God's word to test them by.

2 Timothy 3:15-17; 4:1-4

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

1 ¶ I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Please remember these words and build your salvation on God's word.

Created by The Church of God
Headquarters at Oshawa, Ontario
www.thechurchofgod.info (postmaster@cogsd.org)