

# **“THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS”**

## **Wednesday or Thursday or Friday: When did Christ die?**

All references are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

Matthew 12:38-40 “Then some of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.’ But he answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, no sign will be given to it, except the sign of the prophet Jonah: For as Jonah was **three days and three nights** in the belly of the great fish; so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights in the heart of the earth**’” (Luke 11:29-30, Jonah 1:17).

Most Christians believe that Christ died on Friday afternoon and rose from the dead after dawn on Sunday, the first day of the week. This period of time does not encompass three days and three nights. It covers just over 36 hours. How can this be consistent with Christ’s “sign of the prophet Jonah?”

A number of Christians hold the view that Christ died on Wednesday afternoon and was resurrected late on the afternoon of the Sabbath (Saturday). Matthew 12:38-40 is quoted as primary support for a Wednesday crucifixion. I do not believe that the Scriptural evidence points to this scenario.

Still other Christians believe that Christ died on Thursday. This is a strong possibility, but is not certain.

In this study I will explain:

1. According to prophecy, the body of Messiah would NOT decay between death and resurrection.
2. “On the third day” vs “after three days”
3. “Three days and three nights” vs “on the third day.” Can both be true?  
“The heart of the earth” - what does the phrase mean?  
Inclusive reckoning - Hebrew time keeping.
4. Punctuation problems. Does “dawn” mean late afternoon?  
Parallel version table.
5. When was the guard in place?  
Too late for spices? When did the women come to the tomb?  
Why did they not know about the Roman seal, and the guard?  
Two miles from Bethany on the Sabbath, carrying spices, to return home in the dark?
6. The prophetic holy days. How do they line up?  
The ancient commands.  
Table of the final week. Final week detailed.  
12 miles uphill from Jericho  
No objections based on Sabbath violation for the triumphal entry.  
The Passover lamb inspected from 10 Adar to 14 Adar  
The “preparation for the Passover” vs “the preparation day.”
7. The feast of the “firstfruits.”  
The ancient dispute as to the correct day.
8. Table comparing Wednesday-Thursday-Friday death to resurrection scenarios.

**PART ONE**  
**“NOR DID HIS FLESH SEE CORRUPTION”**

The Psalm predicted and Luke agrees, that the flesh of Christ did NOT decay.

Acts 2:25-27, 30-31 "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, **Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**" (Psalm 16:10) "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades (the grave), **nor did His flesh see corruption (decay).**"

Note: Peter's argument is that the body of Christ did not "see corruption," *because* He was raised from the dead. The argument is not for a miraculous preservation of flesh. Peter seeks to convince Jews that Messiah has come, and God has raised Him from the dead, in fulfillment of the Scriptures.

Any coroner will tell you that after 24 hours (much less 72 hours) a body will be in a state of decay, unless it is kept in cold storage. A cave in Jerusalem, in mid-April would be cooler than street level. Rather than debate temperatures and rates of decay, I would turn to Scripture. The meat of an animal offered as a peace offering, or freewill offering could be eaten on the day that it was killed and on the day following. On the third day it was considered to be decaying. The Lord said that it was "unclean on the third day, and it was "an abomination" to eat the meat (Lev. 7:16-18).

The sacrifice was a symbol of Christ "the Lamb of God." The remainder of the sacrifice was "burned with fire" before the end of third day, so that nothing remained - just as nothing of the flesh of Christ remained in the tomb, on the third day. To partake of the sacrifice after the second day, was to spoil the symbolism of Christ's death and resurrection. This to me, is a strong argument against Christ's body spending more than 48 hours in the tomb.

The manna also was a symbol of Christ (John 6:30-35). A double portion of manna fell on Friday. It did not spoil (see "corruption) over the Sabbath when it was to be eaten up completely, just like the Passover lamb (Exodus 16:14-36). If any Manna was kept until Sunday, it would spoil. It is worth noting the "Friday-Sabbath-Sunday" sequence of the manna, matches the "Friday-Sabbath-Sunday" of our Lord's death. On Friday, a "double portion" of divine love was given to men, as all of heaven was poured out in one amazing gift. The Father gave His only begotten Son. On Sabbath in the wilderness, there was no manna from heaven, just as during the Sabbath of Christ's entombment, there was no "Bread of Heaven" alive on earth.

**PART TWO**  
**REFERENCES TO THE THIRD DAY**

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | Matthew 12:40 “three days and three nights” |
| Matthew 16:21 “be raised again the third day”     |   |
| Matthew 17:23 “the third day he shall be raised”  |   |
| Matthew 20:19 “the third day he shall rise again” |   |
| Mark 9:31 “shall rise the third day”              | Mark 8:31 “after three days”                |
| Mark 10:34 “the third day he shall rise again”    |   |
| Luke 9:22 “be raised the third day”               |   |
| Luke 13:32 “the third day I shall be perfected”   |   |
| Luke 18:33 “the third day he shall rise again”    |   |
| Luke 24:7 “the third day rise again”              |   |
| <b>Luke 24:46 “today is the third day”</b>        |   |
| John 2:19 “in three days”                         |   |
| Acts 10:40 “Him God raised up the third day”      |   |
| 1Corinthians 15:4 “rose again the third day”      |   |

Note: In this list of references I have omitted those of Christ’s enemies, who might have misquoted Him.

**“the first day of the week” ... “today is the third day”**  
**Luke 24:1,13,21**

“Now upon the first day of the week (Sunday). . . And, behold, two of them went **that same day** to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. . . . Jesus himself drew near ... But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, ... ‘our chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, **to day is the third day since these things were done.**’”

*Christ is alive on Sunday, which is called “the third day.” I cannot get a Wednesday crucifixion from this text.*

**“THE THIRD DAY” - OTHER PASSAGES**  
**UNDERSTANDING HEBREW TIME EXPRESSIONS**

Exodus 19:10-11 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

**Note: In the Scriptures, the day after tomorrow is the third day.** As He came down in the sight of the people on the third day, so the risen Christ appeared to men on the third day.

Leviticus 7:16-18 “But if the sacrifice of his offering be a vow, or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offereth his sacrifice: and on the morrow also the remainder of it shall be eaten: But the remainder of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burnt with fire. And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings be eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be imputed unto him that offereth it: it shall be an abomination, and the soul that eateth of it shall bear his iniquity.” (See also Lev. 19:5-7)

*Note: Why? Because it would spoil the symbol of Christ - our sacrifice.*

Hosea 6:1-3 “Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. **After two days he will revive us: in the third day he will raise us up**, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.”

Note: The disciples were “torn,” and “smitten” with grief. And on the third day their grief was turned to joy.

| First Day      | Second Day     | Third Day              |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 00 to 24 hours | 25 to 48 hours | 49 to 72 hours         |
| Today          | Tomorrow       | The Day After Tomorrow |

**“ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES:” THE RESURRECTION FORETOLD**

Luke 24:45-46 (On the road to Emmaus) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, **Thus it is written**, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and **to rise from the dead the third day**:

1Corinthians 15:4 “He rose again the third day **according to the scriptures:**”

**Where do the Scriptures prophecy that the Christ would suffer and be raised from the dead on the third day?** The commands concerning the sacrifices - especially that of the Passover lamb, and the offering of the “firstfruits” typified the death and resurrection of Christ. The commands concerning what might remain of any sacrifice, on the third day, and the prophecy of Hosea. The command to gather a double portion of manna on Friday, which would keep until Sunday. - Everything pointed to Christ’s resurrection ON THE THIRD DAY.

## PART THREE

### “THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH”

How do we reconcile this prophecy with resurrection “on the third day?”

Can both be true???? Yes!!

Matthew 12:40-41 “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.**”

Either Christ contradicted Himself, or this prophetic statement must be reconciled with all of His other predictions, which specified “the third day,” with the written prophecies of the Old Testament, and with the prophetic imagery of the festivals appointed by God.

Jesus taught the people with parables and with obscure sayings (Matthew 13:34-35; Psalm 78:2). The phrase “in the heart of the earth” is not defined in the text. There are no parallel passages - only Matthew quotes Christ in this instance. **The phrase has been understood by most to mean “in the grave,” but the expression was not a Hebrew idiom for the grave. Jesus did NOT SAY that He would be “in the grave” for 3 days and 3 nights. He would be “in the heart of the earth.”**

“IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH” - What does it mean?

John 14:10 “Do you not believe that **I am in the Father**, and the Father in me?”

John 14:11 “Believe me that **I am in the Father**, and the Father in me: ...”

Note: Jesus had lived from the moment of His birth, “in the Father.” He lived in the presence of His Father. “He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone,” He said (John 8:28). Now He would experience something vastly different. Now He would be “three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” What does this phrase mean?

Genesis 6:5 “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye **evil** in your **hearts?**” (Matthew 9:4).

*Note: The heart (mind or thoughts) of the earth (mankind) was evil.*

The heart of Jerusalem, the heart of the appointed leadership of God’s people, was evil. Jerusalem was regarded as the center (or heart) of the earth. Jews were to travel from every part of the earth to Jerusalem, for worship on the Festival Days. (John 4:20; Acts 2:5-11, 8:27; Deut. 16:16). “**For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth**” (Psalms 74:12; Ezek 38:12). “**This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her**” (Ezek 5:5).

### THE HEART OF THE EARTH

As Jonah was thrown overboard into the sea, so Christ was “betrayed,” - “delivered into the hands of sinful men” (Luke 24:7), “delivered unto the Gentiles” (Lk 18:32), rejected, abandoned, forsaken of God (Luke 17:20; Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34; Matt. 26:56; Mark 14:50). **As Jonah was swallowed by the great fish, so Christ was swallowed by the evil which surrounded Him.** He was left to battle with Satan with all the demons of Hell, and with men under the control of demons.

Psalm 18:4-5: “The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about,: the snares of death prevented me.”

Psalm 88:4,6: I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength. Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps.”

*Compare the above passages written by David speaking prophetically as the suffering Messiah, with the following words by Jonah. Both speak of waters, deep, corruption, rejection, darkness, from which there is no escape.*

Jonah 2:6: “I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.”

**Verses which specify “the third day” include those things which Christ must suffer, not simply his death. The whole process of humiliation was included in this “belly of the whale” experience.** (Matt. 16:21, Mk. 8:31, Mk. 9:12, Lk. 9:22, Lk. 17:25)

To the mob near the garden, Jesus said, “**This is your hour, and the power of darkness**” (Luke 22:53). “Behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners” (Matthew 26:46.) “The hour” begins with the kiss of Judas.

The angels at the tomb said to the women: “He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, ‘The Son of man must be **delivered into the hands of sinful men**, and be crucified, and the third day rise again” (Luke 24:6-7).

From the kiss of Judas in the garden, to the glorious resurrection, “three days and three nights” - left without His Father - “in the heart of the earth.”

|  |  |
|--|--|
| NIGHT: Thursday late night: taken and tried.<br>(Cast into “the heart of the earth.”)<br>Hebrew calendar: <b>14 Adar</b> | DAY: Friday: scourged and crucified.<br><b>Death about 12 hours from the time of the betrayal.</b><br>Hebrew <b>14 Adar</b> continues.             |
| NIGHT: Friday night: Sleeping in death<br>Hebrew: <b>15 Adar</b> (Passover)  | DAY: Sabbath: Sleeping in death.<br>Hebrew: <b>15 Adar</b> - Passover continues.   |
| NIGHT: Saturday night: Sleeping in death.<br>Hebrew: <b>16 Adar</b>  | DAY: Sunday sunrise: Raised from the dead.<br>Ascended to a reunion with His Father - His sacrifice accepted.<br>Hebrew: <b>16 Adar</b> continues. |

**BOTH ARE TRUE.**

We have two prophetic periods.

- 1.) The time from death to resurrection – 2 nights & 3 days
- 2.) The time from betrayal with “suffering” to resurrection – 3 nights & 3 days

Because we “back up” to the garden betrayal, Christ could indeed spend “three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” AND be raised from the dead on the third day.

## MARK 8:31 vs MARK 9:31

Mark 8:31 “And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must **suffer many things**, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, **and AFTER three days rise again.**”

Mark 9:31 “... the Son of Man is being delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And **after He is killed, He will rise the third day.**”

Both verses are from the book of Mark, believed by most Bible scholars to have been authored by Peter, with Mark writing down the words. One verse says very clearly, “after He is killed, He will rise the third day.” The other can legitimately be understood to mean that He will rise three days AFTER He suffers many things. The three days of Mark 8:31 would then INCLUDE everything that He suffered, not just the period during which He was dead.

## INCLUSIVE RECKONING

This method of keeping time is called “**inclusive reckoning.**” Any part of a day was counted as a day. **Any part of a day was included in the count as a day.** The day (or any part of a day) on which the event began was called “the first day.” We still do this today: “Today is the first day of the sale.” How many times have you heard that one, even if the sale doesn’t begin until the store opens at 10 o’clock. (There is no 0 day.)

For example: An infant Hebrew male was circumcised when he was “eight days old” (Gen. 17:12), “the eighth day” (Lev. 12:3; Luke 1:59) or “when eight days were accomplished” (Luke 2:21). All three expressions mean the same thing. The day of birth was called “the first day,” whether the child was born at the beginning or at the close of the day. **There was no zero day.** The day of birth was day #1. The next day, on day #2, the child would be one day old. On day #8, the child would be seven days old.

### CONSIDER:

Jesus died near the close of day #1. **(There was no day #0.)**

At the close of day #2, Jesus would have been dead for one day, 24 hours.

At the close of day #3 Jesus would have been dead for two days, 48 hours.

Near the close of day #4 Jesus would have been dead for three whole days, 72 hours.

But then it would be said that He was raised on the 4<sup>th</sup> day, not *on* the third day.

### Another example of “inclusive reckoning:” The story of Peter and Cornelius.

1<sup>st</sup> Day: An angel appeared to Cornelius “about the ninth hour of the day” telling him to send messengers to get Peter who was at Joppa (Acts 10:3-8).

2<sup>nd</sup> Day: As the messengers sent by Cornelius neared the house “on the morrow ... about the sixth hour” (noon) Peter saw a vision. In response to the vision Peter received the messengers and they spent the night there (verse 9).

3<sup>rd</sup> Day: And on the morrow Peter went away with them” (verse 23)

4<sup>th</sup> Day: “And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea.” Cornelius met Peter and told him of the angel’s visit.” “**Four days ago,**” said Cornelius, “I was fasting unto this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing...” (Verses 24,30).

When he recounted the story to Peter, Cornelius said, “Four days ago I was fasting until this hour...”  
**72 hours, three full days had passed from the time Cornelius saw the vision, until he told the story to Peter. Yet he says, “Four days ago. This is significant!!!**

This would mean that one could say “three days ago” and mean 48 hours!!! Three AM Friday (when Christ was betrayed) to three AM Sunday is 48 hours.

## **THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR**

2 Peter 1:19 “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, **until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**”

Revelation 22:16 “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am** the root and the offspring of David, and **the bright and morning star.**

Malachi 4:2 “But unto you that fear my name **shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;** and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”

With sunset comes darkness, cold, night. Without light there can be no life. I have a hard time connecting the resurrection of Messiah, such a wonderful event, with sunset.

The imagery given, links Christ with the sun, with dawn, with light, with life.

Study continued with Part IV on the next page.

## PART FOUR PUNCTUATION PROBLEMS

An argument for Wednesday crucifixion explored.

Matthew 27:66 - 28:1-2 “So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch. **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. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it” (King James Version).

The Greek word “epiphosko” (Strong’s #2020), translated “dawn” can mean “drawing towards.” The Hebrew Sabbath **begins** at sunset, therefore the argument is made that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary set out for the sepulcher “in the end of the sabbath,” as it began “to approach towards the first day of the week. In other words, late on Saturday afternoon, before sunset.  
Let’s examine the text.

**The ancient Greek writings contained no punctuation marks, no spaces between the words, and no lower case letters.** These were added later, to make reading easier. **The ancient manuscripts contained no numbered verses, or chapter divisions.** Consider how the ancient text might have looked. (We will do this in English, but you’ll get the idea.)

SOTHEYWENTANDMADETHESEPULCHRESURESEALINGTHESTONEANDSETTINGAWA  
TCHINTHEENDOFTHE SABBATHASITBEGANTODAWN TOWARDTHEFIRSTDAYOFTHEW  
EEKCAMEMARYMAGDALENEANDTHEOTHERMARYTOSEETHESEPULCHRE

Let’s try that again, adding word division and punctuation.

SO THEY WENT AND MADE THE SEPULCHRE SURE, SEALING THE STONE, AND SETTING  
A WATCH 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.

Did you see the change? I simply moved the period from after the word “watch,” to after the word “sabbath.” I also eliminated the verse division, making “in the end of the Sabbath” the END of 27:66 instead of the BEGINNING of 28:1. **The passage can very legitimately be read:**

**“So they went and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch 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.” (Matthew 27:66 - 28:1).**

The story is changed, just by a change of punctuation. Now the guard is set late on Sabbath afternoon. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come to the sepulchre very early the next morning, as it began to dawn toward Sunday morning, just as they do in the other three accounts of this story.

Mark 16:1-2 “very early in the morning on the first day of the week”

Luke 24:1, 10 “upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning”

John 20:1 “the first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark”

Mary ran to tell the disciples. John and Peter both ran to the tomb all on Sunday morning.

## MATTHEW 27:66 -28:1 : OTHER TRANSLATIONS

“And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone. Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave” (New American Standard).

“So they left, and made the grave secure by putting a seal on the stone and leaving the guard on watch. After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the grave” (Today’s English Version).

“So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb” (New International Version).

“And they went and made the grave secure, putting a seal on the stone and leaving it under guard. When the Sabbath was over, just as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary from Magdala and the other Mary went to look at the tomb” (Phillips Modern English).

“So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard. After the sabbath, and toward dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre” (Jerusalem Bible).

“So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre” (Revised Standard Version).

“So they went and made the grave secure; they sealed the stone, and left the guard in charge. The Sabbath was over, and it was about daybreak on Sunday, when Mary of Magdala and the other Mary came to look at the grave” (New English Bible).

“So they went and made the grave secure by sealing the stone and putting the guard on watch. After Shabbat, toward dawn on Sunday, Miryam of Magdala and the other Miryam went to see the grave” (Complete Jewish Bible).

Note: The Douay Version and the James Moffatt Version follow the King James punctuation, as do the earlier versions of the New American Standard and the American Standard.

| <p>MATTHEW<br/>28:1-9</p>   | <p>MARK<br/>16:1-9</p>   | <p>LUKE<br/>24:1-10</p>  | <p>JOHN<br/>20:1-18</p>   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>1 In the end of the sabbath, <b>as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week</b>, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.</p> <p>2 ...there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.</p> <p>5 ...the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: ... 6 for he is risen,</p> <p>7 <u>...go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead;...</u></p> <p>8 ...they departed quickly from the sepulchre ...and did run to bring his disciples word.</p> <p>9 <b>And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.</b></p> | <p>1 And <u>when the sabbath was past</u>, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome,...</p> <p>2 very early in the morning the first day of the week, <b>they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.</b></p> <p>3 “Who shall roll us away the stone?...”</p> <p>4 ... saw that the stone was rolled away: ...</p> <p>5 ...entering ... sepulchre, they saw a young man ...clothed in a long white garment; ...they were affrighted.</p> <p>6 ...he saith ..., Be not affrighted: ...: he is risen; he is not here:</p> <p>7 ...tell his disciples ...</p> <p>8 ...they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.</p> <p>9 Now <b>when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene,</b></p> | <p>1 Now <b>upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, ...came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared,</b> 2 ... found the stone rolled away ... 3 entered in, and found not the body</p> <p>... 4... two men stood by them in shining garments:</p> <p>5 ...said unto them, ...</p> <p>6 He is not here, but is risen: ...</p> <p>8 And they remembered his words,</p> <p>9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.</p> <p>10 <u>It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them,</u> which told these things unto the apostles.</p> | <p>1 <b>...The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre,</b> and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. 2 ...she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. 3... 4 <u>So they ran both together: and..... came ...to the sepulchre.</u> 5... stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes</p> <p>6 ...Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, ...</p> <p>7 ... 8 ...believed.</p> <p>9 ...10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. 11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: ...</p> <p>12... seeth two angels. 13 ... 14..., <b>she...saw Jesus</b> 15 Jesus saith.. Mary! ... 18 <u>Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord.</u></p> |

## PART FIVE: TOO LATE FOR SPICES?

John 11:39 In the story of Lazarus, “Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to him, ‘Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.’”

Note: Here is an example of “corruption” of a corpse.

Note: I can see the women wanting to anoint the body of Jesus with aromatic spices approximately 36 hours after death (Fri. 3pm to Sun. at dawn), but I have a hard time believing they would want to roll away that stone, to put their spices on a stinking corpse after 72+ hours (Wed. 3pm to Sabbath near sundown). I can also understand why they wouldn’t want to be out at night, and would be hurrying to the tomb as soon as there was enough light on Sunday morning. Remember, the women probably lived in Bethany which was about 2 miles from Jerusalem. Why would they walk to the tombs, a dangerous place, at sundown knowing they would have to return the 2 miles home in the dark? And I cannot see the women carrying the spices to the tomb before sunset of the Sabbath – this would be a violation of the Pharisaic law which forbade carrying a burden on the Sabbath.

### WHY RETURN WITH SPICES?

If the two Marys worship the risen Christ, late on Saturday afternoon. If they RUN to tell the disciples, then WHY would they return on Sunday morning at dawn with spices to anoint the body? (Mark 16:1-2, Luke 24:1, 10). If the women RUN to bring the disciples, if they report the empty tomb late on Saturday, WHY would Peter and John wait until Sunday morning to RUN to the tomb? (John 20:4).

Luke 24:1: “on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they . . . came to the tomb, bringing the spices . . .” v. 10 confirms that Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James were among this party. Mark 16:1-2 also states that Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James came to the tomb “very early on the first day of the week” to “anoint him.”

### WHO WILL ROLL AWAY THE STONE?

#### WHY DID THEY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE SEAL AND THE GUARD?

Mark 16:1-4 “. . . Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And **very early in the morning the first day of the week**, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, **Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?**”

**Note: “Very early on the first day of the week,” they didn’t know about the guard. They didn’t know that the tomb had been sealed. Why didn’t they know?**

Assuming a Wednesday crucifixion, the tomb would have been sealed and the guard set by sundown Thursday (the Passover) (Matthew 27:62-66). **If the tomb was sealed and the guard posted on Thursday, why would the women expect to anoint the body of Jesus on Sunday morning, (or on Sabbath at sundown for that matter)?** Friday would have been a common work day. By the end of Friday everyone in Jerusalem would know about the guard. To break a Roman seal was a crime punishable with death. Pilate had commanded that the tomb be “made secure until the third day.” The wording suggests the tomb was guarded continuously - not just during the night. No one would be allowed to break the seal, move the stone, and anoint the body until the fourth day.”

If Friday was the day of crucifixion, then Sabbath (Saturday) would have been the Passover, and the guard would have been posted just at the end of the Sabbath - or Saturday at sundown. (This we have shown, is a legitimate translation of Matt. 27:66 + 28:1.) In keeping with Pharisaic law, the women most likely did not go out during the Passover (Friday sundown to Sabbath sundown). The disciples were in hiding because they feared the authorities. (John 20:19). From sunset Saturday to Sunday at dawn, the disciples would not likely have received news of the guard. People did not go out to the tombs at night in those days before public lighting, for fear of robbers, as well as fear of accidental defilement. (Tombs were whitewashed to identify areas considered unclean.) The women set out for the tomb as soon as there was enough light on Sunday morning - and **they were not aware that the tomb had been sealed**. Between the time that they set out (probably from Bethany 1 to 2 miles away), and their arrival at the tomb, there was an earthquake and Christ rose from the dead.

This is a strong argument against a Wednesday crucifixion.

## **PART SIX:**

### **THE PROPHETIC FESTIVAL DAYS: SCRIPTURE COMMANDS**

#### **THE PASSOVER**

Exodus 12:3: “On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb . . . for a household. v.5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. . . v.6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then . . . kill it at twilight. v7. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

#### **THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD (also called the Passover Seder)**

Exodus 12:8 “Then they shall eat the flesh on that night roasted in fire with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs. . . v.11 . . . It is the Lord’s Passover.” v.14 So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. v.15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day that person shall be cut off from Israel. v.16 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you.” v.17 “So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. v.18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.” (Lev. 23:5-8).

#### **THE OFFERING OF THE FIRSTFRUITS**

Leviticus 23:10 “When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. v.11 He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD; . . . **on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.** v.14 You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.”

#### **THE FEAST OF WEEKS (also called Pentecost, or Shavuot)**

Leviticus 23:15-22 From the day when the firstfruits were offered, fifty days were counted “to the day after the seventh Sabbath.” No customary work was to be done. Tradition says that Pentecost was the anniversary of the giving of the 10 Commandments from Mt. Sinai.

**THE PROPHETIC FESTIVAL DAYS with the required ceremonies.**

| 9 ADAR | 10 ADAR   | 11 ADAR                                       | 12 ADAR           | 13 ADAR           | 14 ADAR   | 15 ADAR  | 16 ADAR   | 17 ADAR   | 18 ADAR  |
|--------|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
|        | <b>Passover<br/>lamb chosen,<br/>tethered to<br/>the house for<br/>inspection</b> | lamb<br>inspected by<br>all of house-<br>hold | lamb<br>inspected | lamb<br>inspected | <b>preparation<br/>for Passover,<br/>afternoon<br/>lamb<br/>sacrificed,<br/>roasted in<br/>fire</b> | <b>PASSOVER</b><br>Passover<br>lamb eaten at<br>night with<br>bitter herbs,<br>unleavened<br>bread | Firstfruits<br>(Pharisees)<br>( <b>&amp;Sadducees<br/>if FRI death</b> )<br>(only Phar. if<br>TH death)<br>sheaf of | Firstfruits<br>( <b>Sadducees if<br/>TH death</b> ) | Firstfruits<br>( <b>Sadducees if<br/>WED death</b> ) |

**EVENTS RECORDED IN THE GOSPELS**

|  |   |   |  |  |   |             |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|-------------|--|--|--|
| 6 days before<br>Passover,<br>walks from<br>Jericho to<br>Bethany 13<br>miles uphill,<br>(John 12:1)<br><br><u>sunset</u><br><br>Feast at<br>Simon's that<br>evening | triumphal<br>entry, from<br>Bethany to<br>Jerusalem<br><br><b>Christ<br/>enters the<br/>Temple for<br/>inspection,</b><br><br>returns to<br>Bethany at<br>evening | cleanses<br>Temple,<br>teaching in<br>temple,<br>inspected<br>rulers/<br>people/<br>Greeks,<br><br>returned to<br>Bethany at<br>evening | inspected<br>by rulers/<br>people<br><br><br><u>sunset</u><br>spends<br>night on Mt<br>of Olives | last<br>teachings<br><br>leaves<br>temple<br><br><u>sunset</u><br>last supper<br>Gethsemane<br>taken<br>trial begins<br>before<br>dawn | trial<br><b>death about<br/>3PM</b><br><br>in the tomb<br>before<br><u>sunset</u> | in the tomb | (if died FRI<br>rose just at<br>sunrise<br>SUN)<br><br>OR<br>(if died TH)<br>still in tomb<br>Sabbath<br><br>OR<br>(if died<br>WED)<br>still in tomb<br>Friday | (if died FRI<br>risen<br>yesterday)<br><br>OR<br>(if died TH<br>rose just at<br>dawn<br>Sunday)<br><br>OR<br>if died<br>WED rose<br>just before<br>sunset of<br>Sabbath) |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|-------------|--|--|--|

**THREE (DAY-OF-THE-WEEK) SCENARIOS**

|                |                |         |           |           |           |          |         |         |         |
|----------------|----------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Sunday         | Monday         | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday    | Sabbath  | Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday |
| <b>SABBATH</b> | Sunday         | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday   | Sabbath | Sunday  | Monday  |
| Friday         | <b>SABBATH</b> | Sunday  | Monday    | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday  | Sabbath | Sunday  |

**NOTE: Remember that the Hebrew “day” began at sundown. NOTICE ESPECIALLY: How the first 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Day falls in each scenario.**

**NOTE: In celebration of the Firstfruits ceremony, the Pharisees and Sadducees are 2 days apart in the Wednesday scenario, 1 day apart in the Thursday.**

**\*\* Figures for the distance from Jericho to Bethany, to Jerusalem are from the NIV Study Bible (Zondervan).**

## WHY NO OBJECTIONS REGARDING SABBATH KEEPING?

In the Wednesday death scenario, Jesus would have entered Jerusalem, receiving loud praise, with coats and palm branches laid down over His path ON THE SABBATH DAY. It was forbidden to ride an animal on the Sabbath (Jub. 50:6-13), and it is even more difficult to imagine the Pharisees making no complaint specifically about the Sabbath day. Yet there is no mention of any such complaint in the Gospel accounts.

In the Thursday crucifixion scenario, Jesus would have hiked 13 miles uphill from Jericho to Bethany on the Day Sabbath, something that no observant Jew would have done. (The allowed “Sabbath days journey” was about half a mile.) Didn’t happen! We would certainly have heard something about Sabbath breaking from the Pharisees considering the crowds and the “spies” that followed Him. He was the guest of honor at a feast given by Simon, the evening before He continued on the 2 additional miles up to Jerusalem.

## THE FINAL WEEK

Friday, Nissan 7: enters Jericho. Goes to Zaccheus’ house late in afternoon (Luke 19:1).

Sabbath: Nissan 8: Rested over the Sabbath at Zaccheus’ house. (Luke 19:5)

Sunday: Nissan 9: From Jericho to Bethany, 13 miles steep uphill,\*\* (aprox 5 hrs - but probably took all day with the pilgrim crowds following Him) **6 days before Passover.** That evening, Simon the healed leper, gives a feast at his house. Mary anoints Jesus feet. (Luke 19:28, John 12:1)

Monday, ADAR 10: Pilgrims to the Passover Feast hear that Jesus is in Bethany. They accompany him towards Jerusalem. Triumphant entry begins at Bethany, topping the Mt of Olives and into Jerusalem (aprox. 2 miles). Presents Himself at the Temple, as the Passover lamb for inspection. Christ is examined by “the multitudes,” “chief priests and scribes” (John 12:12, Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19). Returned to Bethany at the end of the day. (Matt 21:17, Mark 11:11)

***NOTE: The lamb for Passover was to be inspected from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> by all members of the household, and then sacrificed on the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>. (Exodus***

Tuesday, Nissan 11: Returns to Jerusalem from Bethany, curses the fig tree (Matt 21:18-19, Mark 11:12-14) Cleans the “leaven” out of His House (Temple). (Matt 21:12-13, Mark 11:15, Luke 19:45-48). Again Christ (the intended Passover Lamb) is inspected by the rulers of the people, “the chief priests and scribes,” and now by Greeks (gentiles). The Father speaks from heaven (John 12:28). At the end of the day, returned to Bethany (Mark 11:19).

***NOTE: The master of the house was to search for and remove all leaven from his house in preparation for the Passover (Exodus 12:15).***

Wednesday, Nissan 12: Returns to Jerusalem, passes the now withered fig tree (Mk 11:19-20, 27). Returns to the Temple. Again inspected by the “chief priests, scribes, and elders” who were bent on killing Him (Mk 12:12, Luke 20:19, Matt 12:46). Inspected by Sadducees (Matt 22:23, Mk 12:18, Lk 20:27). Seven woes pronounced upon the scribes and Pharisees (Matt 23).

At the end of a long discourse on the last days, **towards the end of the day, Jesus says, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming”** (Matt 26:2, Mark 14:1) Jesus leaves Temple, and spends the night on the Mt. Of Olives with the disciples (Lk 21:37). Wed. night begins Nissan 13. Judas went to the chief priests late that evening, and arranged to deliver Jesus into their hands (Matt 26:14-16, Mark 14: 10-11, Lk 22:3-6.)

Thursday, Nissan 13: “Then came the first day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed” (Luke 22:7-13). The disciples meet that evening (which began the 14<sup>th</sup>) in the upper room for Passover Seder.

*NOTE: (Jesus commanded that the unleavened bread be eaten henceforth as the symbol of His body, not the roast lamb, strongly suggesting an end to the sacrificial system)*

*NOTE: Conservative estimates are that by the time of Christ, close to a million pilgrims crowded Jerusalem for the Passover. Dividing that number by 10 persons per household, gives us 100,000 lambs to be sacrificed on the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan. The sacrifice of the Passover lamb was not a simple killing. Psalms were sung over each lamb. Allowing 12 hours from 6 AM to 6PM this would be 8,333 lambs per hour. Allowing 20 teams of priests within the Temple courtyard, to kill, bleed, gut and skin the lambs before they were taken home to be roasted in fire, each team would need to perform 416.6 sacrifices per hour, or 6.9 sacrifices per minute. This was just not feasible. This is why many historians say that by Jesus time, two days were allowed for the sacrifice of Passover lambs. Luke’s use of the word “first day” supports this view.*

Later that night, (now the 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar) on the Mt of Olives in the garden, Jesus is taken into custody. He is taken first to Annas, then to Caiaphas, then to Herod, and finally to Pilate the next morning (still Adar 14).

Friday, Adar 14: Very early in the morning Jesus is led before Pilate. The priests and elders “did not themselves enter into the Praetorium in order that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover” (John 28:28). In the narrative, Pilate is still adjudicating (John 18:13) when John notes that “**it was the day of preparation for the Passover**” (John 18:14).

*NOTE: This tells us that it was not yet Passover. The day of preparation for the Passover is Adar 14. Women are baking unleavened bread and cooking for the Seder which will be held that evening (15 ADAR begins at sundown). The death angel passed over the blood stained houses on this night (Exodus 12:11-12) and the next morning, the Israelites left Egypt.*

Friday cont: Jesus is crucified, dies about 3PM, and is placed in Joseph’s new tomb just as the sun is setting. John and Mark record that “**it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath**” (John 19:31, Mark 15:42, Lk 23:54, John 19:42-56).

*NOTE: From Hebrew to English, the days of the week were called: first day, second day, third day, fourth day, fifth day, preparation day, and SABBATH. Mark was writing for Greeks, which is why he added, “that is, the day before the Sabbath” to be sure his readers understood that this was Friday. (Mk 15:42).*

***NOTE: John says it was the preparation day for the Passover. Luke says it was “the day before the Sabbath.” Put these two accounts together. In the year Christ died, Passover fell ON the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath.***

### **DID CHRIST EAT THE PASSOVER AT THE CORRECT TIME?**

If Christ was to BE the Passover lamb, sacrificed on the 14<sup>th</sup>, He COULD NOT eat the Passover on the 15<sup>th</sup>. He could eat the Passover on the 15<sup>th</sup> or He could BE the Passover on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I believe the later. I believe that Christ must die AT THE TIME prophesied.

I Corinthians 5:7: “For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”

## **PART SEVEN CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS**

The Passover Feast was eaten on the night of the first full moon when the harvest was ripe. Following the Passover, a unique celebration took place. On that day, the high priest entered the Temple with a sheaf of new grain - the first of the year. He waved the sheaf of grain before the veil in the Temple, in recognition of God’s blessing in the year’s harvest. **Until that sheaf of grain was offered before God in the Temple, no grain could be harvested.** Until this sheaf was offered, the Israelites were to eat of the grain from the previous year’s harvest. As soon as this sheaf was offered, the sickle was put to the fields of standing ripened grain. **This day was appropriately called “the Feast of Firstfruits.”**

1Corinthians 15:20-23 “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the **firstfruits** of those that have fallen asleep. . . . even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits;** afterward those who are Christ's at his coming.”

Christ’s sacrificial death for us, His wonderful resurrection, and His ascension to the Father’s throne, fulfilled the prophecies which had been acted out each year, for centuries, during the Spring “feasts of the Lord.” Christ, “the Lamb of God,” is called “our Passover” (1 Cor 5:7). **Because these events were indeed the fulfillment of prophecy, they must take place at the exact time prophesied.** The Torah commanded that Passover Lamb must be sacrificed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Adar, before sunset. The Passover feast must be eaten that night (the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Adar began at sunset). And the firstfruits must be offered in the Temple “on the day following the Sabbath.”

### **A DISPUTED COMMANDMENT: Which was the correct day?**

In the time of Christ, there was a dispute concerning the day for the presentation of the “firstfruits.” Though the Passover is NOT called “a sabbath” in any other passage of Scripture, the Pharisees taught that “the day after the sabbath” in the Leviticus 23:15 commandment, must be the 16<sup>th</sup> day of Adar (the day immediately following the Passover). (See also Joshua 5:11) The Sadducees however believed that “the day after the Sabbath” referred to the “first day of the week” (Sunday) following the Passover. **NOTICE!! If The Passover fell ON a 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath in the year Christ died, then the Pharisees and the Sadducees would have been in agreement regarding the celebration of the firstfruits offering.** For the Pharisees, it would have been the day following the Passover. For the Sadducees it would have been the day following the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath. Fifty days later, the Pharisees and the Sadducees would have celebrated Pentecost (Shavuot) together, on the same day - the day that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and Peter preached with power. (God does have a sense of humor!)

JOSHUA 5:10-12: “Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover (killed the Passover lamb) on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. And **they ate of the produce of the land (firstfruits) on the day after the Passover (16<sup>th</sup> of Adar)**, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year. Either the Passover fell on a 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath in this year also, or the 16<sup>th</sup> of Adar, the day which follows the Passover feast is the correct day.

The following is taken from First Fruits of Zion magazine archives. The full article is available on the web at ffoz.org. The section quoted concerns the counting of the *omer*, that is, the period from the offering of the firstfruits (which was called the *omer*) to the festival 50 days later - Pentecost/*Shavuot*.

“Two important, first-century eye-witnesses and contemporaries of the Apostles bring important testimony. Flavius Josephus, who was himself a member of the Temple priesthood, reports in Antiquities 3:10.5-6, ‘On the second day of Unleavened Bread, which is the sixteenth day of the month [Nissan/Adar], they first partake of the fruits of the earth, for before that day they do not touch them. . . . They also at this participation of the first-fruits of the earth, sacrifice a lamb as a burnt offering to God.’

Similarly, Philo, another First Century, Jewish eyewitness reports, ‘There is also a festival on the day of the Passover Feast, which succeeds the first day, and this is named the sheaf [omer], from what takes place on it; for the sheaf is brought to the altar as a first fruit...’ (Philo, Special Laws 2:29 150) Both Philo and Josephus agree that the ritual was practiced in accordance with the reckoning of the Pharisees. In addition, the Greek Septuagint version of the Torah (a version employed fairly extensively by the first-century believers) makes the matter explicit by translating Leviticus 23:11 as, ‘And he shall lift up the sheaf of the Lord, to be accepted for you. On the morrow of the first day the priest shall lift it up.’ The term ‘morrow of the first day’ can only be understood in accordance with the traditional Pharisaic reckoning.”

I (Rachel) might add here that when Christ quoted the Torah, it can be determined almost always, that He was quoting from the Septuagint. The translation to English, of the Septuagint has become my preferred version.

## **PART EIGHT**

### **WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY - FRIDAY**

### **SCENARIOS COMPARED**

The following page contains a table comparing the three crucifixion-resurrection daily sequence scenarios discussed in this article.

### WEDNESDAY CRUCIFIXION SCENARIO

| Wednesday (14 <sup>th</sup> )                                   | Thursday (15 <sup>th</sup> )   | Friday (16 <sup>th</sup> )  | Sabbath (17 <sup>th</sup> )   | Sunday (18 <sup>th</sup> )                  |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| work day - preparation day for the Passover                     | <b>PASSOVER -</b><br>no work allowed   | Firstfruits/ Pharisees<br>WORK DAY - preparation for the weekly Sabbath   | <b>weekly Sabbath -</b><br>no work allowed, no buying or selling  | Firstfruits/Sadducees<br>work day           |
| crucifixion,<br><br>body prepared, placed in tomb before sunset | disciples rested<br><br>Just before sunset the tomb was sealed and a <u>guard was stationed.</u> | women bought and prepared spices, but did not take them to the tomb (why?)<br><br>Romans guard tomb. (Women don't learn about this -why?) | (72+ hrs post mortem) women go to tomb carrying spices 1 mile from Bethany**<br>Christ raised from the dead, late on Sabbath afternoon, women find tomb empty | at first light, women go to the tomb again? |
| FIRST DAY   | SECOND DAY   | THIRD DAY   | FOURTH DAY  | FIFTH DAY                                   |

### THURSDAY CRUCIFIXION SCENARIO

| Thursday (14 <sup>th</sup> )   | Friday (15 <sup>th</sup> )  | Sabbath (16 <sup>th</sup> )                               | Sunday (17 <sup>th</sup> )   |
|--|---|---|--|
| preparation for the Passover<br>work day   | <b>PASSOVER</b><br>no work  | <b>weekly Sabbath</b><br>no work<br>Firstfruits/Pharisees | work day<br>Firstfruits/Sadducees  |
| crucifixion, death about 3PM body prepared with 100 pounds of spices, wrapped, placed in tomb just before sunset<br>women bought and prepared spices, but did not have time to return and anoint the body. | disciples rested - no one visited the tomb - this would make them unclean<br><br>Just before sunset the tomb was sealed and a <u>guard was stationed.</u> | Disciples rested<br><br>Roman guard at tomb.              | (Aprox. 63 hrs post mortem) women go to the tomb at first light with spices and find it empty, see angel, Mary sees risen Christ |
| FIRST DAY  | SECOND DAY  | THIRD DAY   | FOURTH DAY   |

### FRIDAY CRUCIFIXION SCENARIO

| Friday (14 <sup>th</sup> )   | Sabbath (15 <sup>th</sup> )   | Sunday (16 <sup>th</sup> )   |
|--|---|--|
| “preparation day”<br>work day  | <b>PASSOVER &amp; weekly Sabbath</b><br>no work allowed   | <b>Festival of Firstfruits is celebrated .</b><br>Pharisees and Sadducees.   |
| crucifixion, body prepared with 100 pounds of spices, wrapped, placed in tomb just before sunset<br>women bought and prepared spices, but did not have time to return and anoint the body. | disciples rested - no one visited the tomb - this would make them unclean<br><br>Just before sunset tomb was sealed and a <u>guard was stationed.</u> | (39 hrs post mortem) Women go to the tomb at first light, with the spices, feel the earthquake, see angels, find tomb empty, run to tell disciples. Jesus appears to women, to Mary, later to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. |
| FIRST DAY  | SECOND DAY  | THIRD DAY  |

*\*\*Note: There are many Bible scholars who believe Christ was crucified on the Mt of Olives and then buried in a garden tomb “nearby” on the same mount. (John 19:38-42). From this spot one could look down across the brook Kidron to the Temple courtyard with the alter of sacrifice. .It was considered a great honor to be buried (“under the alter” as it was called) on this mount, because Messiah would one day stand on this spot (Zech 14:4-5). Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin ruling council, and could have afforded/merited such a tomb. In prophetic type - King David ascended this mount weeping when he fled from his own son Absalom (2 Sam. 15:32). And more importantly, the “red heifer” was burned at this site, a prophetic symbol of the One who would be “sacrificed” “outside the camp.”(Num. 19:1-10, Talmud Para 3.6-7)*

*Note: Just a note of interest here: The Olive trees grew on the West side of the mount, and fig trees grew on the East side. Bethphage (meaning “house of figs”) would have been located on the East side of the mount, with Bethany located farther down on the lower slope. This why Jesus passed a fig tree coming and going from Bethany. Sunrise would light up the East side first, and the women would set out for the tomb. Just as the dawn reached the West side Garden Tomb, Jesus was raised from the dead.*

### **DIVERSITY WITHIN THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS**

I do not like to say that a doctrine absolutely is true, especially when it has precipitated much discussion concerning interpretation of the text. I think there is room for acceptance of differing views. I would rather say that, in my opinion, “the weight of evidence” falls towards a certain interpretation. I want to remain open to new discussion and insight. That is how we Christians grow.

My husband and I are members of the Church of God (Seventh Day). [We attend the small “Church of God at Tyler” because there is no COG7D meeting near where we live.] The founder of this denomination believed that Our Savior died on Wednesday, as do the majority of current membership. This view is detailed by Mr. Calvin Burrell, current editor of the “Bible Advocate.” His small book is titled “The Duration of Jesus’ Entombment - The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ.” It is available from BIBLE ADVOCATE PRESS, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

The “BIBLE ADVOCATE” is also published on the internet at [www.baonline.org](http://www.baonline.org).

While the majority of members believe that the crucifixion took place on Wednesday, a minority of very faithful members believe that Christ died on Friday. These two groups manage to meet together, to accept one another as fellow members of the body of Christ, and to love one another.

Klaus and I have been very gratified to find a church family which makes room for diversity of opinion in matters of interpretation which do not effect salvation. (No one will be saved for believing that Christ died on Wednesday, or lost for believing that He died on Friday.) This openness and acceptance of diversity stimulates study, discussion, and growth.

A list of doctrines held by the Church of God (Seventh Day) can be found at <http://www.denver.net/~cofgsd/Lit./LetDocBelief.html> .