

THE DAY OF THE RESURRECTION

I was reading the Sunday School lesson that many churches will study on Easter morning and I had a couple of questions. At the top of page 60 the writer of the lesson quotes Matthew 28:6 “*He is not here! For He has been resurrected, just as He said.*” Holman CSB

I looked up the scriptures in Matthew to see just what **Jesus said** about His resurrection and found the following:

“21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and **on the third day** be raised.” Matthew 16:21 The New American Bible

“22 As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, 23 and they will kill him, and he will be raised **on the third day.**” And they were overwhelmed with grief.” Matthew 17:22-23 The New American Bible

“17 As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve (disciples) aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, 18 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, 19 and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised **on the third day.**” Matthew 20:17-19 The New American Bible

“39 He said to them in reply, “An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 40 Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale **three days and three nights,** so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth **three days and three nights.**” Matthew 12:39-40 The New American Bible

Jonah 1:17 also says the same thing about the time Jonah was in the belly of the whale. “Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish **three days and three nights.**” KJV

We know that the first 12 hour period His body was in the grave was at night because the scriptures say Jesus died about the 9th hour (3 PM our time) Also, the scriptures say they were in a hurry to put him in the grave because the next day was quickly approaching.

“This [man] went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on.” Luke 23:52-54 KJV

WHAT THREE NIGHTS WAS THE MATERIAL BODY OF JESUS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH?

Was it (1) **Friday night** and (2) **Saturday night**? If so, Jesus was crucified on Friday and would have been in the grave **Friday night**, Saturday, and **Saturday night**- **two nights and one day**. They found the tomb empty Sunday morning. This, of course, would mean that Jesus did not tell the truth *“40 Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale **three days and three nights**, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth **three days and three nights**.” Matthew 12:40 *The New American Bible.**

Was it (1) **Thursday night**, (2) **Friday night** and (3) **Saturday night**? If so, Jesus was crucified on Thursday and would have been in the grave **Thursday night**, Friday, **Friday night**, Saturday, **Saturday night** and **all day Sunday**. But they found the tomb empty Sunday morning.

Was it (1) **Wednesday night**, (2) **Thursday night** and (3) **Friday night**? If so, Jesus was crucified on Wednesday and would have been in the grave **Wednesday night**, Thursday, **Thursday night**, Friday, **Friday night** and all day Saturday. They found the tomb empty Sunday morning.

Was it (1) **Wednesday night**, (2) **Thursday night**, (3) **Friday night** and (4) **Saturday night**? If so, He would have been in the grave three days and **four nights**. They found the grave empty Sunday morning. This, of course, would mean that Jesus did not tell the truth *“39 He said to them in reply, "An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 40 Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days*

*and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth **three days and three nights.**"*
Matthew 12:40 The New American Bible

It is important to remember that the Jewish Passover is not always on the same day of the week. It is also important to remember that the people of the Jewish faith have always known the day of Passover ever since God had them celebrate the first Passover in Egypt (Exodus chapter 12).

If Jesus spent three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, what day do you think He was crucified?

After reading the Sunday School lesson my thought was this. **If** Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday, it changes many of the things we have been told by others. For instance, John 12:1 tells us that Jesus went to Bethany six days before the Passover. According to John 12:12-13, the next day (five days before the Passover) Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey while the people spread branches of the palm trees before Him. If Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday, the day they spread palm branches before Him would have been a Friday. Friday would have been five days before the Passover that year (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday). The people would not have spread palm branches before Jesus Christ on a Sunday.

What do you think we should believe? Who do you think we should believe?