



Was Jesus crucified on a Friday?

Christians from all over the world unanimously accept that Jesus, the Son of Man, was crucified, died, and was buried on a Friday and have noted that day of the year as to be called, "Good Friday". However, Christ, in His own Words, said that He would be in the heart of earth for three days and three nights.

Notice the Words of Jesus found in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 12:38-40, ³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just 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.” Observe the Words of Christ, as Jonah was three days and three nights in the great fish; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The problem with this text is our statement of “Good Friday” and “Resurrection Sunday” do not align with the Words of Christ. Three days and Three Nights are THREE-24 hour periods of time. Thus if Jesus was buried at sunset of Friday (6pm) and was then resurrected at dawn on Sunday, this equates to only two nights and one day, which is only half of the time that Jesus said it would be; therefore something is wrong with this equation. For us to know the truth, let us look to the Word of God, the Bible, and discover what actually happened.

First off, let's discuss the Three Days and Three Nights for a moment.

In order to point out the time of Resurrection in range from the time of his burial, the Bible uses four phrases. Since the Word of God has no contradictions within the Biblical Text, the four phrases must denote one thing and what is that thing? The four phrases are: three days and three nights, the third day, in three days, and after three days.

Even though they appear to be different, they all say the same thing. In common use; one day is a compendium of a day and a night. The first one is: three days and three nights - it is as is. The second phrase is: the third day - therefore the ending of the third day will give three full days and three full nights. Subsequently, it is the same as the first. The third phrase is: in three days - In three days denotes three full 24 hour periods of time which gives us three days and three nights.

And the fourth phrase is: after three days - Here, we are cautious not to go into the fourth day and give the full third day its completion, consequently this equates to three days and three nights. The word of God requires from us to understand the Word to teach the Word and if we look into the Word in this context, the phrase means three days and three nights. Again, even Jesus said Three Days and Three Nights.

The Scripture References are as follows denoting the above mentioned Phrases:

In three days: John 2:18-22, “¹⁸So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple,^[c] and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body.²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The third day: Matt 16:21, “²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Matt 17:22-23, “²²As they were gathering[¶] in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.”

Matt 20:17-19, “¹⁷And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸“See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

Mark 9:30-32, “³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

Luke 24:5-9, “³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

1 Cor 15:3-4, “³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

After three days: Matt 27:62-66, “⁶²The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, “You have a guard^{bl} of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

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

3 days and 3 nights: Matt 12:38-40, “³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just 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.”

Secondly, let's discuss the Crucifixion on the Passover Day!

Jesus Christ was crucified on a Passover day and the next day to the Passover day is the first day of the feast of the unleavened bread, which is a Sabbath day. In other words, the Passover Day is a day of preparation for the Sabbath day, which is the first day of the feast of the unleavened bread.

Somehow being ignorant, the top council decided that this Sabbath was a seventh day Sabbath, which made them think that Jesus was crucified on a Friday, in spite of the fact this Sabbath day is differentiated as a high day, but not as the seventh day.

1 Corinthians 5:6-7, “⁶Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”

John 19:31-33, “³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.”

Lev 23:1-8, “The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, these are the appointed feasts of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts. The Sabbath ³“Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the Lord in all your dwelling places. The Passover ⁴“These are the appointed feasts of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. ⁵In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight,^[a] is the Lord's Passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. ⁷On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. ⁸But you shall present a food offering to the Lord for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.”

So if Jesus was Crucified on the preparation day leading into a Sabbath Day which was a High Day, it could not have been Friday or Saturday, it had to have been earlier in the week.

Thirdly, we have this conundrum of Dead, Buried and Resurrected in Three Days according to the Scripture.

Jesus Christ, being the Passover Lamb, was crucified on the Passover day at 9:00 am. The land was covered with darkness from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Jesus Christ died at 3:00 pm.

Mark 15:24-25, “²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him.

Mark 15:33-34, 37, “³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?””

Verse 37 - ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

Third Hour - 9am

Sixth Hour - 12pm

Ninth Hour - 3pm

A Jewish day starts at the sunset and ends at the sunset. The reason for this line of thinking is due to the Record in Genesis during the Creation Period that the Bible states that Evening and Morning and that was the first day and so on. The Passover day ends at sunset and the Sabbath for the feast of the unleavened bread starts at the sunset. So, they were in a hurry to bury the body before the Sabbath that is the sunset.

Luke 23:50-56, “⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it

in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.”

John 19:41-42, “⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.”

Fourthly, what happened in the Time Frame between the Burial of Christ and the Resurrection of Christ?

They gave him a quick burial since at sunset which began a high Sabbath day. They can do nothing on that day since that was a Sabbath day beginning at 6pm on Wednesday evening and ending at 6pm on Thursday therefore now one day is gone. Then they prepared spices and ointments on the second day which was Friday. Then they had to rest one more day since it was also a Sabbath day which was Saturday; the seventh day Sabbath. This is the third day that ends at sunset; 6pm on Saturday Evening.

At night the disciples and the women cannot embalm the body because there no light and so they came early in the morning before sunrise.

Luke 23:54-56, “⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.”

and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

Luke 24:1-9, “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.”

The body of Jesus was not there even before the day had dawned; even during the night, Saturday going into Sunday, the body was not there. That is, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead at the end of the seventh day Sabbath. That is, He was raised at the sunset of Saturday and the people found that out at the early morning before the dawn of Sunday morning.

So, he was in the tomb, at the heart of the earth, for three days and three nights just as He had said.

Fifthly, how does the time line that the Biblical Record fit and on what day of the week of Christ crucified? (Pass Out the Printed Document)

Simply put, Christ was Crucified on a Wednesday. Jesus was crucified on a Passover day, which was the preparation day, and was buried at the sunset on Wednesday. Then, there was an unleavened feast Sabbath day (Thursday), a regular day (Friday) and a seventh day Sabbath before Resurrection.

Some might say, “But wait, if they had a regular day then why not go and prepare Jesus’ body for burial on that day?” Two reasons:

Reason #1) soldiers were set to guard the tomb for three days due to the fear of the Pharisees afraid of his body being stolen thus the soldiers would have refused to let anyone inside in fear that the body could be stolen. The tomb had to remain closed for three days because the Pharisees wanted to prove that Jesus was a false prophet by not resurrecting in the time frame that He established.

Reason #2) In the Law of Moses, a person who touches a dead body is ceremonially unclean for 7 days and cannot part take of the Sabbath due to being unclean. They would have been prohibited from partaking of the Sabbath by touching Jesus’ body, if they could have even got to him behind the stone rolled in the way of the entrance of the tomb.

The seventh day Sabbath was Saturday, the regular day must have been Friday which is technically a day of preparation for Shabbat or the Sabbath day, the unleavened feast day Sabbath must have been on Thursday, therefore Wednesday must have been the day that Jesus was crucified. In the same way we can also see that His resurrection was also immediately after the sunset on Saturday Sabbath, even though people found that out at early dawn on Sunday morning, which was still night but in the Fourth day because day three ended and day four started at 6pm on day three which was Saturday.