

# Three Days And Three Nights

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Counting from “Good Friday” to Sunday-resurrection doesn’t give anyone three days and three nights (no matter what model/system of counting you use). But in Matthew 12:40, Jesus said “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.” Instead of a Thursday-crucifixion, almost all churches observe “Good Friday”. There are few groups who acknowledge this truth, yet they still observe Good Friday.

Why do those groups continue to observe Good Friday while acknowledging that it falls short of three days and three nights?

They are afraid of standing alone.

The Roman Catholic influence still has power over many churches. Like Islam, the Roman Catholic empire at one time had the whole world under its iron claws by the sword, bloodshed and fear.

The true Jesus is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for our sins on a Passover Day (a Jewish feast) as each Jewish family were sacrificing the Passover lambs that afternoon, He was on the cross about to descend to Paradise (**Abraham’s bosom, formerly the good side of Hell/Sheol/Hades**) Not to go there to suffer, but to announce His victory (finished-work). Luke 23:43, on the cross, “Jesus said to the repentant criminal ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise.**” Jesus finished the eternal punishment for our sins on the cross before He descended to Abraham’s bosom (which was formerly the good side of Hell/Sheol/Hades).

Passover (a Jewish feast) is always on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan (Abib). In the year Messiah died for our sins, it had to be a **Thursday, not Friday**. Matthew 12:39-40 “Jesus said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and 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.’” If you count by acknowledging any part of daylight Thursday (that Passover on which the Lamb of God died for our sins) and night-time Thursday to early Sunday, you will get three days and three nights. However, if you follow the Roman Catholic error (Good Friday), like most churches, you will never get three days and three nights (no matter what model/system of counting you use). Almost every group is uniting with the Roman Catholic kingdom but those who belong to God reject this coming one-world-religion. Revelation 18:4 “And I heard another voice from Heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.’”

Explanations For The Statements I Boldened Above:

Some preachers say that Jesus had to be punished by Satan, in Hell, for three days and three nights for our Salvation.

(#1) That's not what the Scripture say. Colossians 1:19-20 "For it pleased the Father that in Christ all the fullness should dwell, and by Christ to reconcile all things to Himself whether things on earth or things in Heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross.**" Jesus finished the work of Salvation for us **on the cross, not in Hell/Sheol/Hades.**

(#2) Satan doesn't want anyone to be saved, if that teaching was ever true, then Satan would have tortured Jesus just enough to pain Him but never enough to save any human being. That's the kind of spirit Satan is. Neither can the Roman soldiers' torture of the Lord save anyone, it only shows how much we hate God.

(#3) The Word of God says, God the Father (YAH - I AM WHO I AM) was the One who poured out His Holy Judgment upon God the Son so that we can be saved. Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and **the LORD [YAH] has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**" 53:10 "Yet it pleased YAH to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief ..."

Hell/Sheol/Hades are synonyms. Revelation 1:17-18 (KJV) "And when i saw Him, i fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of **hell and of death.**" **New KJV** "And when i saw Him, i fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of **Hades and of Death.**"

An Internet encyclopedia states:

**Sheol** (pronounced "Sheh-ole"), in Hebrew שְׁאוֹל (Sh'ol), is the "abode of the dead", the "underworld" or "pit". Sheol is the common destination of both the righteous and the unrighteous dead, as recounted in Ecclesiastes and Job (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheol>).

Hell was formerly divided into two. The good side (Paradise) was known as Abraham's bosom. In Luke 16:22-26, Jesus said "... the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to **Abraham's bosom.** The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham **afar off,** and Lazarus [the beggar] in **Abraham's bosom [Paradise].** Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for i am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things, but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, **between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.**" In 23:43, on the cross "Jesus said to the repentant criminal 'Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise.**"

Jesus went to Hell/Sheol/Hades (**Abraham's bosom, Paradise**) Not to suffer, but to announce the victory (finished-work) which He accomplished for us on the cross. Eternal punishment for our sins was finished on the cross. John 19:28-30 "After this, Jesus, **knowing that all things were now accomplished**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled ... when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, '**It is Finished!**' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit." In Greek finance, the word Tetelestai (**It is Finished, Paid In Full**), is stamped whenever payment had been completed.

In Psalm 16:10, exactly as God fore-showed David, many centuries later Messiah came, went to Sheol (in His death) and took the Old Testament believers to Heaven (in His resurrection). Psalm 16:10 (New KJV) "You will not leave my soul **in Sheol**, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption." KJV "For Thou wilt not leave my soul **in hell**, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption."

The Old Testament believers had to wait for Messiah to come and proclaim His finished-work (which He accomplished for us on the cross) over the world of the dead (where they were waiting) before they could be taken to Heaven. Hebrews 11:39-40 "And all these [Old Testament believers], having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us." Matthew 27:50-53 "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints [Old Testament believers] who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the graves **after His resurrection**, they went into the holy city and appeared to many." Ephesians 4:8-10 "Therefore he says: 'When He ascended on high, **He led captivity captive**, and gave gifts to men.' (Now this, 'He ascended'--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)"

See Luke 16:22-26. Before Jesus went to Hell to announce His victory and to glorify/raise the Old Testament believers, Hell was divided into two areas (separated by an unbridgeable gulf). At that time, the good side of Hell was known as Abraham's bosom (Paradise). 23:43, on the cross "Jesus said to the repentant criminal '**Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**'" After Jesus rose from the grave: John 20:17-18 "Jesus said to Mary, 'Do not cling to Me, for **I have not yet ascended to My Father**, but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her."

1Peter 3:18-20 "Christ suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, **by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison**, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared ..." When Jesus descended to Hell to announce His victory, **all Hell heard the Good News, not only those in the good side of Hell** (which no longer

exists). Jesus emptied the good side of Hell by taking the Old Testament believers from there to Heaven.

Catholic teaching (Purgatory) is a lie. The Word of God doesn't teach Purgatory. Those who now die are either taken into the presence of God (Heaven), or they are taken to Hell/Sheol/Hades. In the future, those in Hell will be transferred to the Lake of fire. Revelation 20:13-15 "The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and **Death and Hades** delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then **Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire**. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." For those who belong to God: 2Corinthians 5:8 "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." Philippians 1:21-25 "For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain ... **having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better**. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith"

#### Explanations For A Thursday-Crucifixion:

Instead of Thursday, almost all churches observe a Friday-crucifixion because most of the New Testament accounts simply say that, after Jesus died for our sins, a Sabbath followed immediately. For example Luke 23:52-54 says "Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. That day was the Preparation, **and the Sabbath drew near.**"

Counting from Friday afternoon to early Sunday doesn't give anyone three days and three nights (no matter what model/system of counting you use). 1Corinthians 15:1-4 says that, the fact that Jesus rose from the dead on **the third day** is part of Christian foundation. In Mark 8:31 and many other Scriptures, Jesus clearly said "... on the third day ...", and "... after three days ...". See Matthew 27:62-64, even His enemies watched for "the third day". Luke 24:46-48 "[After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples and said] 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead **the third day**, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.'

#### **When Will Christians Begin Standing On Scriptural Grounds Rather Than Compromising Everything?**

The various New Testament accounts concerning the death of Jesus simply say that, there was a Sabbath immediately after Jesus died for our sins. Only John highlights a technical detail which is helpful to all those who don't know the details of the Jewish feast. The detail John highlighted is this: A High Day was kept. **High Days are kept as a Sabbath**. From John 19:31, the Sabbath (High Day) which immediately followed Jesus' death, was followed by a regular weekly Sabbath. John 19:31-38 "Because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should Not remain on the cross on the

Sabbath (**for that Sabbath was a High Day**), the Jews asked Pilate that ... those crucified might be taken away ... After this, Joseph of Arimathea [a Jewish leader], being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission ...”

Regular Sabbath starts from Friday evening and ends on Saturday evening (which is every weekend). The afternoon Jesus died (Thursday), isn't **the afternoon before a regular Sabbath (Friday EVENING)**, but **the one before a High Day**; that High Day was from Thursday EVENING to Friday evening. Jesus died for our sins three hours before that High Day began. **High Days must be kept as a Sabbath**. That day was a High Day because it was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (a yearly Jewish feast).

Leviticus 23:3 (regular Sabbath, weekly) “Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.” 23:5-8(Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, Yearly) “On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight [END OF THE DAY] is the LORD's Passover. And on the fifteenth day [EVENING OF THE 14<sup>th</sup>] of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. **On the first day [HIGH DAY] you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.** But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.” In other words, the first and last days of the Feast must be kept as a Sabbath. They are not the regular weekly Sabbaths; they are called **High Day Sabbaths**. I think they usually fall on ordinary days, not a weekly Sabbath.

John 19:31 “Because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (**for that Sabbath was a High Day**), the Jews asked Pilate that ... those crucified might be taken away.” Keep the following in mind: **Jewish day always begin in the evening and ends the next evening.**

The first month of the Jewish religious calendar is Nisan (also called Abib). It's around March-April. Israel also has a secular calendar (unacceptable to their God). The following is what Leviticus 23:5-8 is saying: 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, at evening, is when the annual Passover Supper takes place (the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan began on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup>).

15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan is the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (a High Day Sabbath; it begins on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>).

Feast of Unleavened Bread is for seven days.

21<sup>st</sup> of Nisan is the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (a High Day Sabbath).

Passover Day is also known as Preparation Day because all Israel use the whole day for preparing for the annual Passover Dinner which is the beginning of the seven-day Feast. On that day, they clean all their possession, making sure that no leaven is in any of their possession/dwelling. Also, they prepare the lamb. Note: Jewish day begins in the evening and ends the next evening. Keep the following complication in mind: Passover Day (Preparation Day) is also referred to as “first day of Unleavened Bread” because the first day of the Feast begins on the evening that the Passover Day/Preparation Day ends.

#### A Cultural Disadvantage:

For many who are not familiar with the details concerning Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the following scripture easily leads them to a wrong conclusion: Mark 14:12 “Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread [the 15<sup>th</sup>; beginning on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>], when they killed the Passover lamb [afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>], Jesus’ disciples said to Him, ‘Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?’” Verses such as 14:12 superficially supports a Friday-crucifixion, it also superficially sounds as if Jesus ate the annual Passover Supper. **But there is a need for further study of Scripture.** Leviticus 23:5-7 is very helpful: “On the fourteenth day ... at evening is the LORD’s Passover. And on the fifteenth day ... is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day [the 15<sup>th</sup>; beginning on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>] you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it”.

#### Another Helpful Scripture Only Found In John:

Here is another technical detail and specification which we only find in John’s account of the crucifixion: 18:28 tells us that on the morning of the crucifixion, the Jews were preparing for the annual Passover Supper. All the other accounts superficially sound as if the Messiah ate the Passover with His disciples. 18:28 says “[The morning after Jesus’ last supper with His disciples] they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves [the Jews] did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, **but that they might eat the Passover.** Pilate then went out to them and said ...”

The last meal Jesus ate with His disciples was the first meal of the Passover Day (at evening), **not the annual Passover Supper which took place the next evening (last meal of the Day, three hours after Jesus died for our sins).**

Matthew 26:17-19 (Wednesday; evening of the 13<sup>th</sup>) “... disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, ‘Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?’ ... So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover [first meal of the Day, not the annual Passover Dinner which is the last meal of the Passover Day].” (Thursday; morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>) John 18:28 “Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves [the Jews] did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, **but that they might eat the Passover.** Pilate then went out to them and said ...” That morning and afternoon on which Jesus hung on the cross, all Israel was preparing for the annual Passover

**Supper.** Scripture calls that morning and afternoon: **Preparation Day (Passover Day)**, the previous evening being the beginning of that Day.

If the last dinner Jesus ate with His disciples was the annual Passover Supper (the last meal of Preparation Day; evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>) then a Friday-crucifixion would be true (as the world believes). But John 18:28 tells us that, on the morning after Jesus' last supper with His disciples (morning of the crucifixion) the Jews were preparing themselves for the annual Passover Dinner; Pilate had to go out of the Praetorium to speak with them.

John 13 took place after Jesus' last meal with His disciples (which was on Wednesday night). 13:1-5 says "Before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And **supper being ended**, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus ... poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded." 13:27-29 "After [Judas took] the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to Judas, 'What you do, do quickly.' But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, 'Buy those things we need **For The Feast**,' or that he should give something to the poor." The last supper Jesus ate with His disciples was not the annual Passover Supper.

#### Three Days And Three Nights:

The world is wrong; counting from a Friday-crucifixion to Sunday-resurrection does Not give anyone three days and three nights (no matter what model/system of counting you use). In Matthew 12:40, Jesus said "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." Those words are faithful and true; the only way we can get three days and three nights is by acknowledging any part of daylight Thursday and night-time Thursday to early Sunday.

Not a 24-hour model:

Thursday: Daytime and night #1

Friday: Day and night #2

Saturday: Day and night #3

The only One who is "The Source of the First-fruits" rose from the dead early Sunday while it was still dark.

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