

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No.15b, April 18, 2014 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter** is a weekly Bible Study, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

[This EXTRA newsletter... will only be EMAILED. NEXT WEEK'S Newsletter: plan to mail on 4/22 and email on 4/25]

Some Evidence that Jesus was IN THE TOMB for 72 hours!

1. Genesis 1:5— God counts the length of a 24 hour day as being from sunset to sunset... instead of from dawn to dawn.
2. Matthew 27:46-50; John 19:28-42— The death and burial of Jesus was between 3 PM (9th hour and 6 PM (Sunset) on the day of His crucifixion.
3. Matthew 12:38-40— Jesus told the Pharisees, who were seeking a sign, that there would be NO SIGN given EXCEPT for 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."
4. Mark 16:1-9; John 20:1— In these verses we learn that very early on the first day of the week, the TOMB OF JESUS was ALREADY EMPTY— the stone had already been rolled away. JESUS WAS already risen.

WHY WOULD HE HAVE ALREADY BEEN RISEN? Simply because, in fulfilling the one sign He gave of being 'in the heart of the earth' for three days and three nights, JESUS WOULD HAVE RISEN the same time as He

was crucified— 72 hours from His crucifixion. SINCE the tomb was already empty on Sunday morning, He would have RISEN at around sunset, 6 PM our time, on what we call Saturday. Tracing back 72 hours, shows that Jesus was buried at around 6 PM, on Wednesday— not Friday.

Five different days of the week are involved.

Day 1 - Preparation Day, the day before the Passover (John 19:14)

Day 2 - Passover Celebration Day, a High Sabbath, rest day (John 19:31)

Day 3 - Spice buying day when shops reopened.

Day 4 - the 7th day of the week, Sabbath Day, Saturday (Matthew 28:1)

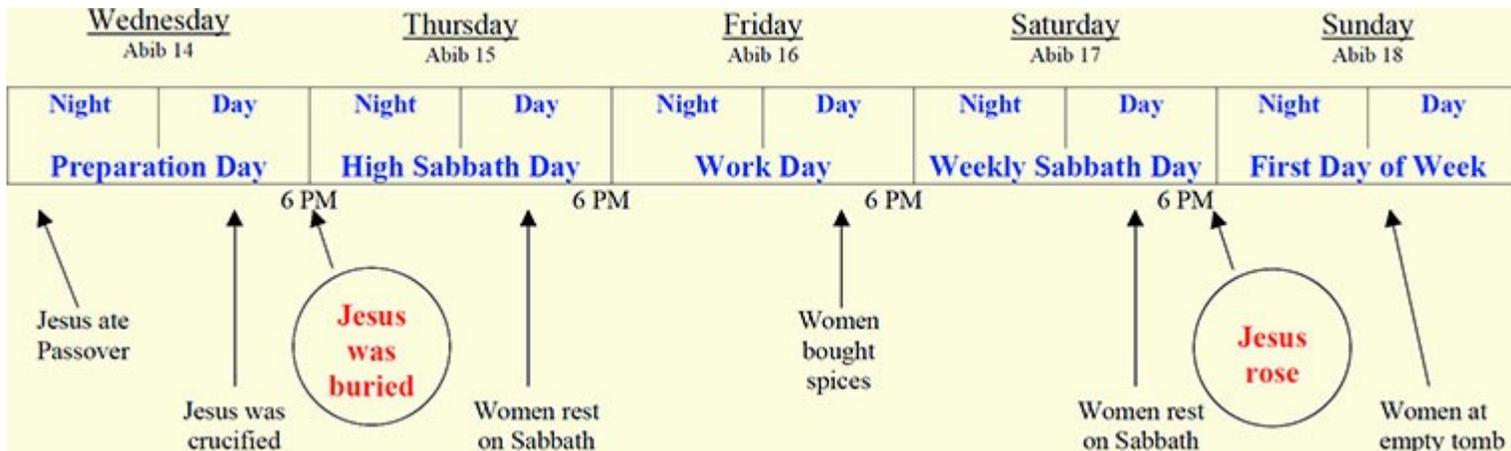
Day 5 - the 1st day of the week, Sunday (John 20:1)

Three Days and Three Nights

1. The greatest fact of the Bible is that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God ([John 20:30-31](#); [Acts 8:36-37](#); [I John 5:4-5](#)).
2. The gospel is the good news that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, according to the Scriptures ([I Cor 15:1-4](#)).
3. Scripture states that Jesus rose THE third day, IN three days, and AFTER three days ([Matthew 16:21](#); [26:61](#); [27:63](#)).
4. Only three full days - seventy-two full hours - will satisfy all the numerous statements of the New Testament.
5. Jesus gave only one sign to prove He was truly the Son of God - the time He would be dead ([Matt 12:38-40](#); [16:4](#)).
6. Jesus knew there were twelve hours in a day; therefore He prophesied seventy-two hours in a grave ([John 11:9-10](#)).
7. Satan is at war against Jesus Christ and wants to deny His gospel by any lie that He can ([II Cor 11:3-4](#); [Gal 1:6-8](#)).

8. The Roman Catholic Easter tradition has Jesus dying on Good Friday afternoon and rising Sunday morning - one day and two nights.

9. This tradition denies the very sign that Jesus Christ gave of His identity as the Son of God.



1. Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples on the evening of the fourteenth by Moses' law ([Ex 12:6-8](#); [Matt 26:17-20](#); [Mark 14:12-17](#); [Luke 22:7-15](#)).

2. The crucifixion began at 9:00 AM, and Jesus died after the darkness ended at 3:00 PM ([Matthew 27:45-50](#); [Mark 15:25,33-37](#); [Luke 23:44-49](#)).

3. Jesus was buried hurriedly as the preparation day ended and the high Sabbath day was about to begin ([Mark 15:42](#); [Luke 23:54](#); [John 19:14,31,42](#)).

4. The women who followed Jesus rested the high Sabbath day of the Passover before buying and preparing their spices ([Mark 16:1](#) cp [Exodus 12:16](#)).

5. The women bought their spices and prepared them on the regular workday between the two Sabbaths days this week ([Mark 16:1](#) cp [Luke 23:55-56](#)).

6. The women rested during the weekly Sabbath day after buying and preparing their spices the previous workday ([Luke 23:55-56](#) cp [Exodus 20:10](#)).

7. Jesus rose from the dead as the weekly Sabbath ended – three days and three nights after burial – as prophesied ([Matthew 12:39-40](#); [Mark 8:31](#)).

8. While it was still dark, the morning of the first day of the week, the women found the tomb already empty ([Matt 28:1-6](#); [Luke 24:1-3](#); [John 20:1](#)).

9. The gospel record of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection prove His identifying sign of three days and three nights ([Matthew 12:39-40](#)).

Note: The above outline and chart are from an unknown source.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Because in Matthew 12:38-40 There were no eye-witnesses to the resurrection. Even so-called "apostolic fathers" had no source of information save that record which is today available to us. Tradition, then, must be dismissed. What are the recorded facts? The doubting Pharisees were asking Jesus for a **SIGN** - supernatural evidence - in proof of His Messiahship. Jesus told the Pharisees that there would be NO SIGN given EXCEPT for 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." Now consider the significance of Jesus' statement! He declared that the **ONLY SIGN** He would give to prove He was the Messiah was that He would be **THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS** in the rock-hewn sepulcher in "the heart of the earth."

The Dilemma: One commentator says, "Of course we know that Jesus was actually in the tomb only half as long as He thought He would be!" Many ask us to believe that "in the **GREEK** language, in which the New Testament was written, the expression 'three days and three nights' means three **PERIODS**, either of day or of night!" Jesus, they say, was placed in the tomb shortly before sunset **FRIDAY**, and rose at sunrise Sunday morning -- two nights and one day.

The BIBLE Definition of the duration of "nights and days" is simple.

Notice Jonah 1:17: "And Jonah was in the belly of the fish **THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS!**"

How much time in a "day" and in a "night"? Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day... but if a man walk in the **NIGHT**, he stumbleth." (John 11:9-10).

The **BIBLE DEFINITION** of the expression, '**THE THIRD DAY.**' Text after text tells us that Jesus rose **THE THIRD DAY**. In Genesis 1:4 God "divided the **LIGHT** from the **DARKNESS**. And God called the **LIGHT** Day, and the **DARKNESS** He called Night. And the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were the **FIRST DAY** ...and the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were **THE SECOND DAY**,... and the evening (now three periods of darkness called **NIGHT** -- three nights) and the morning (now three periods of light called **DAY** -- three days) were **THE THIRD DAY.**" (Gen. 1:4-13)

Here we have the **ONLY BIBLE DEFINITION** which explains and **COUNTS UP** the amount of time involved in the expression "**THE THIRD DAY.**" It includes three dark periods called **NIGHT**, and three light periods called **DAY** -- three days and three nights, and Jesus said they contained **TWELVE HOURS** for each period -- a total of 72 hours!

The following is from:
http://lamblion.com/articles/articles_first11.php

A Final Problem: Another point of controversy about the resurrection week concerns the nature of the Lord's last supper with His disciples. **The church has traditionally taught that this was the Passover meal. But the scriptures clearly indicate that the meal was eaten the evening before Passover.**

Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation for the Passover. In fact, **He died at three o'clock in the afternoon at the precise moment that the Passover lambs were being slaughtered for the Passover meal that evening ([Matthew 27:45-46](#)).**

Jesus and His disciples had eaten their last meal together the evening before Passover. **Yet, Jesus referred to His last meal with His disciples as "keeping the Passover"** ([Matt. 26:18](#)). So, it must have been a Passover meal that was celebrated one evening early.

Professor Harold Hoehner of Dallas Theological Seminary has proposed a solution to this problem. [2] He says there is evidence that the Galilean Jews reckoned time differently from the Judean Jews. Whereas the Judean Jews counted a day from sunset to sunset, the Galilean Jews, according to Hoehner, counted a day from sunrise to sunrise. If this is true, then Jesus and His disciples, being Galileans, would have celebrated Passover one evening earlier than their Jewish brethren in the Jerusalem area.

On the other hand, since Jesus knew He was to be sacrificed as the Lamb of God for the sins of the world, He may simply have decided to celebrate Passover one day early so that His death on the cross could coincide precisely with the sacrifice of the Passover lambs the next day.

A Summary of the Order of Events:

1. Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal on a Tuesday evening (April 24th), one day early, in the Upper Room on Mount Zion.
2. After the Passover meal, Jesus and His disciples departed the Upper Room and walked to the Garden of Gethsemane in the Kidron Valley between the Old City and the Mount of Olives.
3. Jesus was betrayed and arrested early Tuesday evening. His various trials lasted throughout Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning.
4. Jesus was crucified at about 9:00 am on Wednesday morning (April 25th). At noon, darkness filled the land. At about 3:00 pm Jesus died.
5. Jesus was buried on Wednesday about sunset.
6. The two Marys waited until after the high Sabbath on Thursday (April 26th) to purchase the spices for the anointing of Jesus' body. They bought the spices on Friday (April 27th) and then rested again during the regular Sabbath on Saturday (April 28th) before returning to the tomb on Sunday morning (April 29th).

7. The resurrection of Jesus occurred on Saturday evening (Sunday by Judean reckoning of time). The resurrection was discovered on Sunday morning when the women returned to the tomb.

What Difference Does It Make? Lest you be tempted to write all this off as much ado about nothing, let me explain why I think it is important. Prophecy and its fulfillment validate Jesus as who He said He was - namely, God in the flesh. Prophecy and its fulfillment also validate the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Prophecy must be fulfilled precisely, not approximately.

The precise fulfillment of prophecy regarding the First Coming of Jesus is our assurance that all the prophecies regarding His Second Coming will also be fulfilled completely to the last detail. God will not forget or overlook anything. He is true to His Word. God keeps His promises. Hallelujah!

Grace to all in Christ!

James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!

TUESDAYS: Come and sing with us every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Any questions contact Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

***** WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! NOTE:** Jody Allen is ministering to young Children, up to about age 10 during Prayer Service. Older children, but not old enough for the Youth Group... will be with their parents in the Prayer Service.

YOUTH GROUP: Wednesdays 6-8pm... led by Byron Smith_

➔ NEXT LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Thursday, April 17, 11:00AM, led by Cindy Bell

***** SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! *****

****** APRIL 20 IS RESURRECTION SUNDAY! ******

1. 9:30AM Sunday School hour, we will have a BRUNCH. [BRING food between 9:00-9:20am]

2. DURING THE 10:45AM WORSHIP HOUR we will sing praise to God for the life, the death, and the resurrection of our LORD; Dr. Bobby Gupta, President of Hindustan Bible Institute, Chennai, India, will be preaching; We will conclude at the LORD'S TABLE.

[NO noon meal or afternoon service]

******* SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR April 27**

1. 9:30am- Sunday School → Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship

2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church

3. Noon: Fellowship 'covered-dish' Meal together!

4. 1:00pm- Early afternoon Service, in the AUDITORIUM: WE NEED THE ENTIRE CHURCH FAMILY PRESENT.

WE WILL BE DISCUSSING/MAKING SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

Examples:

a. HomeGroups on 3rd Sunday Evenings INSTEAD OF the early afternoon service.

b. CARE of widows/shut-ins.

c. This summer: VBS or CAMP?

d. Transportation for those needing it.

e. A CHAIR/LIFT directly from the auditorium straight down to the Fellowship Hall.

f. Updates on Elders and Deacons.

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL!

Children are like young plants in a garden— while young and tender they must be protected. Southside Christian School works in harmony with the local Church and empowers parents!

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>