

THE MIRACULOUS SIGN OF EASTER

A Personal Note: Every Easter I hear the media and religious leaders deliver a false narrative of the **crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus**. I'm told what "does it matter?" It matters to me because it is **the gospel of Jesus Christ** (1 Cor.15:1-4). It matters to me because it should be based on Scriptural truth. But most of all, it matters to me because it mattered to Jesus!

People often quote Matt.16:21; 17:23; 20:20:19 - "He will be raised up on the third day." They use these verses to say Jesus died on Good Friday, buried on Saturday and raised on Sunday. I'm ok with idea of "the third day", but not with the three days: Good Friday, Saturday, and Sunday!

What they miss is the **exact teaching of Jesus** of "the third day" in our lesson text. Matt.12:38-41 was given first before the other Matthew references. Therefore Matt.12:38-41 must be applied as the Scriptural proof text.

Jesus used (Jonah 1:17) as His Scriptural proof text to be exact regarding His death, burial and resurrection

(Matt.12:40) Jesus interpreted (Jonah 1:17) "And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights" as a messianic prophetic type of His **three days and three nights of burial** "in the heart of the earth" (Ps.16:10; Rom.10:7; Eph.4:9; Phil.2:10).

This lesson will study three aspects of Miraculous Sign of Easter which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. We will examine our lesson text by three homiletic points (Matt.12:38-41).

(Matt.12:38-39)	Miraculous sign	Sign of Jonah's prophecy
(Matt.12:40)	Messianic sign	Son of Man's burial and resurrection
(Matt.12:41)	Men of Nineveh sign	Salvation gospel message (Jonah 3:5; 4:11; John 1:11-13)

(John 1:14) "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:18)

(Matt.12:41) "Behold, a greater than Jonah is here."

2. Three days and three nights is a way to express three complete days, not part days.

For example, if Christ died on Friday, it wasn't counted as burial - but death.

After Jesus was officially declared dead at the end of the day, then He was buried. (John 19:31-42) Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. So, the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN." And again, another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED." After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret *one* for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So, he came and took away His body. Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*. So, they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 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. Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

(John 19:31) “Then the Jews, because it was the **day of preparation**, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and they might be taken away.”

(John 19:41) “Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.” [15th of Nisan/] (First day of unleavened bread) (Lev.23:6-7) [High Sabbath]

Four of seven national Shadow Christology, Jewish Age holidays are connected to Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. (Lev.23:4-22)

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First fruits
- Pentecost

3. The gospel of Jesus Christ consists of three things that every person must believe to receive grace salvation: (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

PASSOVER: the 14th – 21st of Nisan

- **HIS DEATH - The Day of Preparation – Sometimes referred to as Passover itself**
 - **14th of Nisan** (Wednesday)
 - A Fixed Date, like our 25th of December (Christmas)
 - **On the cross, Jesus died as the Passover Lamb of God**
 - (John 1:29; 1 Cor.5:7; 1 Pet.1:18-19; Ex.12)
- **HIS BURIAL – The body of Jesus had to be in the ground prior to 6PM on the 14th**
 - **The feast of Unleavened Bread (15th – 21st)**
 - **15th of Nisan** (Thursday)
 - **1st High Sabbath** during Passover
 - **16th of Nisan** (Friday)
 - **17th of Nisan** (Saturday)
 - **Weekly Sabbath**
 - **Three days in Sheol** (Isa.14:9) (Ex.12, Matt.12:40; Jonah 1:17; John 2:19-21; Rom.6:4-5).
- **HIS RESURRECTION – The Resurrection of Jesus**
 - **The feast of First Fruits (Lev.23:9-14; Luke 24:1; 1 Cor.15:20-23)**
 - **Occurred on the day following the Weekly Sabbath**
 - **18th of Nisan** (Sunday)
 - Jesus had to be out of the grave prior to 6AM Sunday morning

21st of Nisan - End of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

- **2nd High Sabbath** (Rom.10:4; Heb.10:9)

PENTECOST [7 weekly Sabbaths] 50 days after First fruits holiday (Lev.23:15-22)

- **3rd High Sabbath** (Lev.23:21)

NOTE: Those who study the Jewish lunar calendar say that the time frame was around 30 AD.

Passover never occurred on a Friday within a five year date range, before or after!