

April 19, 2015
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
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Text: Selected Scriptures

“The Sign of Jonah”

“Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him, saying, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.’ But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation craves a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but *the sign of Jonah* the prophet; for just as Jonah the prophet was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the sea monster, so shall *the Son of Man* be 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth.”
Matt. 12:38-40

“The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. But He replied to them, ... ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except *the sign of Jonah.*’ ”
Matt. 16:1-4

“And 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 3 days rise again.* And He was stating the matter plainly.”
Mk. 8:31-32a

“And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ... And He made a scourge of chords, and drove them all out of the Temple. ... The Jews ... said to Him, ‘What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘*Destroy this temple, and in 3 days I will raise it up.*’ ... But He was speaking of the temple of His body.”

John 2:13-21

“For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, ‘The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, *He will rise three days later.*’”

Mk. 9:31

“Now on the next day, which was the one after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, and said, ‘Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, “*After three days I am to rise again.*” Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day.’ “

Matt. 27:62-64

“And they said to Him, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth ... how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, *it is the third day since these things happened.*’ “

Lk. 24:19-21

- 1) “Since (as is well known) many have undertaken to put in order and draw up a (thorough) narrative of the surely established deeds which have been accomplished and fulfilled in and among us,
- 2) exactly as they were handed down to us by those who from the (official) beginning [of Jesus’ ministry] were eye-witnesses and ministers of the Word [that is, of the doctrine concerning the attainment through Christ of salvation in the kingdom of God],
- 3) it seeming good and desirable to me, [I have determined] also after having searched out diligently and followed all things closely and traced accurately the course from the highest to the minutest detail from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus.
- 4) [My purpose is] that you may know the full truth, and understand with certainty and security against error the accounts (histories) and doctrines of the faith of which you have been informed and in which you have been orally instructed.”

Luke 1:1-4 (Amplified Bible)

- 1) In the former [account which I prepared], O Theophilus, I made a continuous report dealing with all the things which Jesus began to do and to teach,
- 2) until the day when He ascended, after He through the Holy Spirit had instructed and commanded the apostles (special messengers) whom He had chosen.
- 3) To them also He showed Himself alive after His passion (His suffering in the garden and on the cross), by [a series of] many convincing demonstrations — unquestionable evidence and infallible proofs — appearing to them during forty days, and talking [to them] about the things of the kingdom of God.
- 4) And while being in their company and eating at the table with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, of which, He said, you have heard Me speak.
- 5) For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with — placed in, introduced to — the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:1-5 (Amplified Bible)

The Feast of Unleavened Bread encompassed a whole week (7 days) and followed immediately the day the Passover lamb was sacrificed. The Feast began on the 15th of Nisan and continued through the 21st of Nisan, and both of these 'book-end' days of the Feast are hallowed as High Sabbath days.

14 th of Nisan	15 th of Nisan	16 th of Nisan	17 th of Nisan	18 th of Nisan	19 th of Nisan	20 th of Nisan	21 st of Nisan
Passover Lamb Sacrificed	High Sabbath Day	Feast of Unleavened Bread (See Ex. 12:14-20)				High Sabbath Day	

2 "And behold, a man named Joseph ... a man from Arimathea ... took [the body of Jesus] down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain."
"And it was *the preparation day*, and **the Sabbath** was about to begin." Lk. 23:50-54

3 "And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were looking on to see where He was laid." Mk. 15:47
"Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed after, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. Lk. 23:55

1 "And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left." Lk. 23:33
"For Christ our Passover also has been crucified." I Cor. 5:7

"And when **the Sabbath** was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him." Mk. 16:1
Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes." Lk. 23:56

4 And on **the Sabbath** they rested according to the commandment." Lk. 23:56

And very early on the 1st day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen." Mk. 16:2
"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared." Lk. 24:1

Fulfillment of the Sign of Jonah				
14 th of Nisan	15 th of Nisan	16 th of Nisan	17 th of Nisan	18 th of Nisan
Passover Day (lamb slain)	High Sabbath (1 st of Unleavened Bread)	(business day)	Weekly Sabbath	1 st day of the week
Crucifixion of our Lord				Resurrection of our Lord
	Day #1 in tomb	Day #2 in tomb	Day #3 in tomb	Feast of First Fruits
Night #1 in tomb	Night #2 in tomb	Night #3 in tomb	Resurrection as 1 st day of week begins	
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

"They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. **God raised Him up on the third day** and granted that He might become visible, ... to us who ate and drank with Him after he arose from the dead." Acts 10:39b-41

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that **He was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures," I Cor. 15:3-4

Discussion Points / Self-Study Questions

With respect to a harmonizing of the Gospel accounts, seek to identify the number of distinct occasions during Jesus' earthly ministry that He made reference to the sign of Jonah? That is, on how many separate settings did Jesus speak prophetically of His being three days and three nights in the tomb before rising from the dead?

With respect to Luke's statement in Acts 1:3 that Jesus' resurrection was validated with "many convincing (infallible) proofs," what physical or circumstantial evidence might you assemble in support of a convincing, infallible, unassailable argument for (proof of) the bodily resurrection of Christ from the tomb?

What Old Testament texts do you think Jesus may have referred to during His walk with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus when (Lk. 24:25-27), "beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained (interpreted [ESV]) to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures"?

Speculate (only briefly) as to whether His unfolding of OT teaching referring to His death and resurrection might have included reference to Jonah, and Jonah's being three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster.

Discuss the place and weight of a literal fulfillment of the sign of Jonah with respect to the TBBF doctrinal statement, in which we find the following excerpt:

The Doctrine of the Holy Scriptures

1. We teach that the Bible is the written revelation of God and that both the Old and New Testament are given through plenary (whole) and verbal (down to its very choice of words) inspiration by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
2. We teach that the Bible is inerrant (without error or liable to be proven wrong or to have mistakes) in the original autographs as it was given by God who is not able to lie or deceive anyone (Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18).

Examine Ex. 12:1-20 & Lev. 23:1-8 to see the ordained chronology of Passover & the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and their close connection as essentially one feast.

- What is the elapsed time from selection of the Passover lamb until the end of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? If the first day (the first High Sabbath day) of the Feast of Unleavened Bread occurred on Thursday, on what day would the Passover lamb have been selected?
- With reference to Lev. 23:9-14, and considering the placing of the Feast of First Fruits within the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on what day did the Feast of First Fruits occur? In particular, what Sabbath is in view in Lev. 23:11? In this connection, also note that Christ is the "first fruits" of our hope of resurrection (I Cor. 15:20). If Christ arose as the first fruits of resurrected saints, and since the day of His resurrection was on a Sunday, is the weekly Sabbath or is the first High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread in view in Lev. 23:11? The matter is important to distinguish because some expositors have "assumed" that it is the first High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.