

If you believe that Jesus' word is the truth, why then are you unwilling to accept His own words and push them aside as not applicable. Do you really prefer to worship and accept traditional interpretations instead of Christ's word? Are traditional interpretations more important to you than Jesus' only given sign? Read Matthew 12:39-40. – If we do not accept Jesus' own words than we in fact stamp Him as an imposter and liar.

God says: these people draw nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honour Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. In vain do they worship Me! (Mt: 15:8-9).

“Not every one that says unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven.” (Mt: 7:21)

Where do you stand?

Let us not follow religious traditions and ideas that are not supported by Scripture. The teaching of a “Good Friday” crucifixion and “Easter Sunday” resurrection is a traditional idea of man that contradicts scriptural teaching. Therefore make sure that your own belief and practice is firmly rooted and based on biblical revelations and **not** on man's interpretations.

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Brotherhood in Jesus Christ

Bible Studies

The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Lesson # 11

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Again to get a correct picture of the events, we let the Jesus' apostles tell you what has happened. Both Apostles, Matthew and John, explain the same story with the only difference that one or the other gives us more detailed information. Therefore please study patiently following scriptures the way they are listed below, and you get the complete story: Let us begin with Matthew 26:1-15: Where we see Jesus telling his disciples two days before the Passover that betrayal will happen to Him through one of them. Being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, precious ointment was poured on His head by a woman, from which Jesus said:
"For in that she hath poured this ointment on My body, she did it FOR MY BURIAL," [verse 12]

When Judas was gone out, what happened then? Read John 13: 31-38. Jesus gave His disciples the commandment to love one another, and told Simon Peter that even he - in spite of all his love to Jesus - would deny Him thrice, because of his human weakness.

In John 14:1-3 and 12-31 Jesus promised His followers that "He will prepare a place for them, . . . that where I am, there ye may be also." Further on He tells them that - when He is gone He will ask the FATHER to ".,,give you another Comforter.,," on His stead, He also promises that "He that hath My commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves ME: and he that loves Me shall be loved of my father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him." He warns them, not to be afraid about all what He has foretold them, but to stay with the father's and His commandments.

Now we continue to read in John 16:16-33. Here Jesus comforts His disciples, although His own heart is heavy. Note especially verses 27-28 and 32-33.

earthquake for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it.

We have to differentiate

Anything that happened in the end of something can never be in the beginning of something else. The statement is made that it was *in the end of the Sabbath*, as it began to dawn [draw on] towards the first day of the week. Dawn is to "draw on" as the Greek word from which it is taken clearly indicates. Now the word is usually understood to mean the first ray of morning light, it was not so used then. The days, according to the Bible, commence in the evening, but man has changed the commencement of the day and placed it at midnight, thus causing a change in the significance of the word "dawn" [to draw on or come close].

In Conclusion:

Most people assume the traditional belief that Jesus was crucified and died on "Good Friday." What they fail to understand is that the Bible mentions two Sabbath days, the first day of unleavened bread, the high day Sabbath, as listed in Leviticus 23 and mentioned in various passages throughout the Bible and the weekly Sabbath, that falls on the seventh day of the week.

Traditional Christianity had long ago abandoned the biblical annual Sabbath days. For many centuries people have failed to recognize and understand what the Gospels plainly tell us about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus' own statements are pushed aside and not accepted as the truth. "Good Friday and Easter Sunday" is the traditional teaching of Christ's burial and resurrection without any scriptural foundation.

So Jesus asks

Is it because I tell you the truth that ye believe Me not?

John: 8:45-46 and Gal. 4:16.

Why are people unwilling to believe Jesus?

Jesus was placed in the tomb sometime between 3 PM and sunset, as John 19: 31-42 plainly states. This was done before the beginning of the *High day Sabbath*, the first day of week of unleavened bread, [see John 19: 14 and 31], and *not* the weekly Sabbath.

In Leviticus 23, where God lists all of His holy Sabbaths and festivals, He makes it clear that they are to be observed “from evening to evening” (verse 32) - in other words, from sunset to sunset, when the sun went down and evening began.

It follows then, as a natural and logical conclusion, that Christ would have to come from the tomb at the very same time of day that He was placed there, or else the sign of His being the Messiah fails. He was placed in the tomb late in the afternoon. He likewise must have also risen from the tomb late in the afternoon. He consequently could not have been resurrected in the morning of any day, but the time of His resurrection must have occurred late in the afternoon near sunset in order for Him to be the Christ.

In accounts given of visits made to the tomb on the first day of the week [Mark 16th, Luke 24th, and John 20th chapters], *we must note* that the stone was already rolled away from the sepulchre and Christ was gone when the people arrived. From this extremely indefinite testimony no one could tell when He was resurrected. We only know that He was gone early in the morning of the first day of the week, which forever shuts out even the least possibility of the resurrection occurring on that day! He was already risen. He was placed in the tomb at the end of the day, therefore He must have also risen near the end of the day to fulfill His only given sign as the Son of man.

In Matthew 28:1 we read:

“In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the, first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And behold there was a great

Going back to Matthew 26:31-44 we see Jesus went to Gethsemane with His disciples, to say His last prayer. What did Jesus pray? Answer to this question is found in John 17:1-26, showing the great godly love, which Jesus had in His heart. After this prayer Jesus returned to His disciples, being there betrayed by Judas with a kiss. Matthew 26:45-49 and John 18:1-40 portray how Jesus was captured and brought before Pilate.

John 18:10-11 and Matthew 26:51-54 say both, how Peter tried to defend Jesus, and how Jesus did respond to that. When brought forth to Pilate, Pilate found no fault in Jesus, so he wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was:

“Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews”

This title was written in three languages, in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. The Jews objected hereto, but Pilate said: “What I have written I have written.” With these words he defended his stand that JESUS was without fault.

Let us now carefully study Matthew 27:44-47, John 19:28-29 and Matthew 27:48-50. In connection with John 19:30 we also read in Daniel 9:27 wherein it was prophesied that “He (Jesus) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: *and in the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease.*” This prophecy was fulfilled. Jesus’ Crucifixion happened in the midst of the week, on Wednesday, when Jesus cried with a loud voice and yielded up the ghost. The Vail of the temple was torn from top to bottom signifying the end of temple worship. In this connection we also take further notice of the miracles which happened immediately after Jesus died, as they are told in Matthew 27:50-54. His time of death was foretold within this prophetic week and literally fulfilled when He died on the cross.

Matthew 27:57 tells us that Joseph, a rich man of Arimathea went to Pilate to beg him for the body of Jesus.

In John 19:38-42 we learn that Joseph and Nicodemus both buried Jesus, while Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were watching. (See Mat. 27:60-6).

Why can the people not believe Jesus' own statement as the scripture reveals? Mark 10:34 also gives us a clear statement after which Jesus will be resurrected.

Jesus rose from the grave at the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week" (Mt: 28:1). He rose near the end of the Sabbath, **not** on Sun-day, which in traditional Christianity is called the first day of the week.

The moment Jesus gave up the Ghost at the cross the Vail of the temple was torn from top to bottom, signifying the end of temple worship with it's animal sacrifices and oblations. Daniel had prophesied of this exact happening, and which is also referred to in Matthew 27:50-51. From this time on any person can worship God personally without the need of a temple or any other human made building. This fully corresponds with Matthew 18:20 and John 4:21-24. Let us read these scriptures:

"For where two or three are gathered together *in My name*, there am I in the midst of them." "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, *believe Me*, the hour comes, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father, - Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour comes and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him - god is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth," [Jn: 4:21-24]

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The question of the time of Christ's resurrection so long neglected by the Christian world is now under investigation, and we are happy to state that many, who for years taught

that Good Friday is the crucifixion day of Christ, are recognizing their error and accepting Jesus' statement as the only sign.

The key to understanding the timing of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection lies in understanding God's timetable for counting when days begin and end, as well as the timing of His biblical festivals during the spring of the year when these events took place.

The timing of Christ's crucifixion

We first need to realize that God does not begin and end days at midnight as we do - that is a humanly devised method of counting time. Genesis 1:5 tells us quite plainly that God counts a day as beginning with the evening (the night portion) and ending at day's sunset. "So the evening [nighttime] and the morning [daylight] were the first day." God repeats this formula for the entire six days of creation.

From the scriptures we learn in the three Gospels [Matt. 27: 45, 46, 50; Mark 15: 33, 37; Luke 23: 44], that from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over the earth, and it was about the ninth hour when Jesus died.

The ninth hour

Look up the word "day" in Cruden's Concordance, in your Bible dictionary, or in any other encyclopedia, and you will learn that the civil day in Bible times began at the going down of the sun, and ended with sunset, from evening until evening. The dark part was divided into watches, and the light part into hours:

Night	and	Day
1st watch 6-9 pm		3rd hour 6-9 am
2nd watch 9-12 pm		6th hour 9-12 am
3rd watch 12-5 am		9th hour 12-3 pm
4th watch 3-6 am		12 hour 3-6 pm