

“He is Risen”! (But... When?)

It is really amazing how we as (supposedly), being the body and family of Christ, can argue and debate over things in the word of God that are none issues, but only just to prove our doctrinal and denominational positions. Now the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a none issue, it is a very important and serious issue, because if He had not risen, then we are preaching a lie and are false witnesses of God just as Paul the Apostle stated in 1Corinthians 15: 14-15;

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

But the disagreement over the fact of when or what day he was risen has become the issue, especially among those that are practicing the keeping of the Jewish Saturday Sabbath. And of course, those that are observers of Sunday Worship contend that the Resurrection occurred on that day, (Sunday) hence the reason for said Worship. But what answers do we get from the word of God? What does the Bible tell us concerning this issue? Let's find out!

In discussing this with some that conform to the Saturday Resurrection, I have found that their reasoning comes from the Old Testament practice and observance of the Feast days and Passover, as well as the scripture found in the book of Daniel the 9th chapter where it alludes to the Messiah being cut off in the midst of the week. This will be discussed later. Now the Scripture tells us because that day was the *preparation*, that is the day before the Sabbath; and the bodies could not be left on the cross, they brake the legs of the two thieves to hasten their deaths, but the legs of Jesus they did not because He was already dead (Mark 15:42/Luke 23:56/John 19:31-33).

Now, this is their understanding; the Passover is observed in the month Nisan/Abib or (March-April) our calendar, and for seven days after Passover, the feast of unleavened bread is observed. We find these instructions in the books of Leviticus 23:5-8, 38/Numbers 28:16, 25/Deuteronomy 16:1, 8. Now it has been said that everyday after Passover, God said that those days would be a Sabbath, however, that is not what the LORD said! He said that the first and the seventh day would be a holy convocation and called a Sabbath. Passover is the 14th of Abib, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread started on the 15th of Abib, so that *preparation day* would not have been Friday, but another day (Wednesday) according to that understanding or belief.

Now back to the Crucifixion and Resurrection; if you read any of the four Gospels concerning the Crucifixion, you will read something like this: “and that day was the preparation, the day before the Sabbath”, or “and the Sabbath drew on”. So the question is; are we talking about the normal weekly Sabbath or one of the Feast day Sabbaths?

We have already discovered that during the observance of Unleavened Bread that the first and the seventh days or called Sabbaths. So now we would have a problem, except, the Word of the LORD gives us some help!

In John 19:31 we read;

31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an **high day**),....

Why is it referred to as a **high day**? It was simply because the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, (Ordained a Sabbath by God) that year happened to fall on the weekly Sabbath! Now, if you go with the idea that everyday on Unleavened bread is a Sabbath, then you can basically make it any day you want to. And by the way, I have not found the scripture that confirms that everyday of the Feast of Unleavened bread is a Sabbath. If anyone finds it, please share it with me!

“But wait a minute Brother; it clearly states in Daniel the 9th chapter and verse 27 that he (Jesus) shall be cut off in the midst of the week”! Ok, let’s go there and read.

Daniel 9:27; And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Ok, that sounds pretty good, but we would have to read it in its context to understand what is truly being said and revealed. Go up a verse or two, and let’s get some understanding to what is actually being said.

Daniel 9 verse 25 and 26;

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

*26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: **and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.***

Now let’s read it all in its context:

*25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah the Prince** shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

*26 And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah be cut off**, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

*27 And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.***

It makes much better sense, and you get greater understanding when you read the word in its context, but just in case anyone is still having difficulty understanding, I will break down some key words and phrases that have been overlooked, and hopefully you will then understand.

The LORD sent the Angel Gabriel to Daniel to give him understanding of what he saw in a vision. Verse 25 is foretelling future events, the weeks mentioned are literal years. There are a total of 70 weeks mentioned, but 69 weeks were allotted by God for the Jewish Nation to remove their sin and transgressions that they had transgressed against the LORD God Almighty. As stated; *“from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah the Prince** shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times”*.

The beginning of these events started when the command was given to Nehemiah by King Artaxerxes Longimanus in 445 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8). So Nehemiah and others set out to begin the rebuilding of the wall and Jerusalem. This also included the prophecy of the birth of Jesus the Messiah. The 69 weeks included also through the time of Jesus' death.

Verse 26; *And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah** be cut off, but not for himself: (This speaks of the Crucifixion of Jesus the Messiah), and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

Jesus would be crucified, but not for Himself, but for all of mankind. Now this is where you must have understanding or you will miss it! **“And the people of the prince that shall come...”** Not Jesus here, but the Antichrist. Notice the capital “P” in prince when it refers to Jesus as Messiah, but the small “p” when referring to this other leader. Notice also that it says; “and the “people” of the prince... Israel was under Roman rule during the time of Christ, and in 70 A.D. the temple and Jerusalem was once again destroyed. Jesus also spoke of these things in Matthew the 24:1-2.

And the **people** of the prince, is simply the Roman Government at that time!

Verse 27; *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

“And he”; not speaking of Jesus, but Antichrist! Verse 27 is a continuation from the same thought in verse 26, and is also prophecy speaking of future events. The confirming of the covenant is future reference to an agreement that the Antichrist will make between Israel and her enemy nations. And to further help understand who we are referring to, it continues; “and for the **overspreading of abominations** he shall make it desolate...” The **“overspreading of abominations”** is referring to when the Antichrist will enter the temple and proclaim himself to be god, Jesus spoke of this event in Matthew 24:15-21, calling it the **“Abomination of Desolation”**.

And He went on to say; “spoken of by Daniel the Prophet *stand in the holy place*”; a reference to an actual person standing in the holy place or temple.

The temple that Jesus is referring to is the same one now where the Muslims worship, and where the Antichrist will allow sacrifices and the worship of the Jews to resume for three and a half years. Once before in history, the temple of Solomon was desecrated by offering the flesh of a swine on the alter of God, and having pigs blood poured over all of the holy things of God, by Antiochus Epiphanes. That is a very offensive thing for a Jew. Now I pray that this has given more understanding to what is meant in verse 27 of Daniel 9. It is not confirming nor relating to the Crucifixion of Christ, but rather to the future reign of Antichrist. Verse 26 is a reference to the LORD’s crucifixion.

If one would read in the four Gospels, there is enough there to give affirmation to a first day Resurrection. But before we go there let’s understand how God sees time. In the book of Genesis the first chapter and various verses we see where it states; “the evening and the morning were the first day” and so on. So remember that when the Sun sets at evening, it begins another day! Jesus also said in John chapter 11 verse 9; *Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.*

He said that there are 12 hours in the day! Not a day! Not meaning that 12 hours make a full day, or, if it is any less than 12 hours, it does not count as part of the day or a day! Our understanding has to be inline with what the LORD means. For instance we have 8/10 hour work days, does it mean that we have not worked the day just because we did not work the full 12? What do you mean brother? Let me show you...Go to Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-12.

*1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out **early in the morning** to hire labourers into his vineyard.*

*2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for **a penny a day**, he sent them into his vineyard.*

*3 And he went out about the **third hour**, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,*

*4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is **right** I will give you. And they went their way.*

*5 Again he went out about the **sixth and ninth hour**, and did likewise.*

*6 And about the **eleventh hour** he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?*

7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

*8 So when **even** was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.*

*9 And when they came that were hired **about the eleventh hour**, they received every man a penny.*

10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

*11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,
12 Saying, These last have wrought but **one hour**, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.*

So if we went verse by verse, we will see that the LORD recognizes even as much as an hour to be considered as equal to a day! He says that the householder went out early in the morning, perhaps at or before the sun rising. And then we see that at certain times of the day he went out again and again until finally, he went out just before the last hour of the day. And to show that he sees the last hour as equal to a day, he gave everyman a penny!

Now let's go to the four Gospel accounts of the Crucifixion and Resurrection. As is true to life, when you receive witness from two or more people concerning the same incident, you are very likely to get a difference of opinion or point of view. And this is the way it is with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. All of the writers were eyewitnesses to the life of Christ except for Luke, but all that he (Luke) came to know was searched out and proven true.

As we read the accounts of the Resurrection, we see that there are some differences as well as similarities. For instance all of the gospels mention that it was the first day of the week that they came. John only mentions at first that Mary Magdalene came to the grave. The other gospels mention other women besides Mary the mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene came to the grave. Some give more details than others.

But what I find interesting is what we discover in Mark 16:1-9 and Luke 24:1-21 verse 21 in particular. Also in John chapter 20, verses 17 and 19. We will discuss each of these and hopefully tie it all together so that we will have a good understanding.

Mark 16:1-9 we read; *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.*

*2 And **very early in the morning the first day of the week**, they came unto the sepulchre at the **rising of the sun**.*

3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

*7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that **he goeth before you into Galilee**: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.*

8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

*9 Now when Jesus was **risen early the first day of the week**, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.*

That should be enough to settle this matter already...but we want stop here! Just to point out some things of interest; we notice in that the Sabbath was past, which would be Saturday at sunset. And we know that it was the weekly Sabbath, because the first day of the week is mentioned in the next verse. Verse 2 says that very early on the first day of the week at the rising of the sun...so they waited until there was daylight. * Now verse 7 says; "he goeth before you into Galilee" spoken by the angel, we will come back to this point shortly. And then we come to verse 9 which is unquestionable and very clear. It says; "Now when Jesus was **risen early the first day of the week** (Comma)! He appeared first"...This is a continual statement having one thought. There is no comma between the words "early" and "the" which would have suggested that he rose early another day and just happened to appear to Mary on the first day of the week!

Let's go to the next scripture; Luke 24: 1-21. *1 Now upon the **first day of the week, very early in the morning**, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.*

2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

*7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, **and the third day rise again.***

8 And they remembered his words,

9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

*13 And, behold, two of them went **that same day** to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.*

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:
20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, **to day is the third day since these things were done.**

Can we end this discussion now! Or should we continue? This is very plain, let's examine the word closely. Verse 1 starts out much like Mark, stating that it was the first day of the week, early in the morning. Notice what the Angel said, the Angel sent by God; verse 7, "*and the third day rise again*". Keep in mind what we have discovered in Matthew the 20th chapter how that even one hour of a day is counted as if it were the whole day. We have to see and understand as the LORD sees! Now let's see the next verse for more understanding and revelation, verse 13. It says; "that same day" meaning the first day of the week or Sunday! Two of the disciples were traveling back to their hometown when they were joined by Jesus himself.

Let's continue on to verse 21 where we see that one of them said to Jesus out of despair and sadness; "today **is** the **third day**". Now that is crystal clear! The first day of the week was the third day! So if we count back from Sunday, we will end on...! Either Saturday was the third day, or Sunday was the third day. Saturday cannot be both the third day and the first day of the week! The disciples were there, we were not, we only have their report and the report of others to go by, and we also have the help of the Holy Spirit of God, who Jesus said would lead and guide us into all truth, if we would allow Him to.

Now for the final scripture; John chapter 20 verses 17 and 19.

Verse 17: *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; **for I am not yet ascended to my Father:** but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

If the LORD Jesus did rise on Saturday just before sunset, where was he? The reason that I have included this verse is when you put together the events in Matthew the 28th chapter verse 11, it alludes to the fact the Jesus had rose just before the women got to the grave. At the beginning of Matthew 28 we are given an account of an earthquake, and the guards seeing the Angel come down and rolled away the stone, and hearing their story in verse 11. For all they knew, the body of Jesus was still laying there, if so they would have surely recovered it. But could it be that they perhaps saw the risen LORD as well. Remember verse 11 says; "and they showed the Chief Priests all that happened... not Pilate!

So Jesus said; "Touch me not; for I am **not yet ascended** to my Father". When you put all of the accounts together you get a very precise time line. So I say again, so what was Jesus doing for 12 hours if he arose on Saturday before sunset. He was not just waiting for the first day of the week to roll around; His first mission was to appear before the Father in a pure and undefiled state, hence the reason for saying to Mary; "Touch me not" But there are some that say that phrase means "Don't hold on to me long", that's another topic for another time, but my point is to show a timeline.

Verse 19; *Then **the same day at evening, being the first day of the week**, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

Here we are again showing that these events all happened on the same day! After Jesus had talked with the two going to Emmaus, and their eyes were opened then they ran back to tell the others what had happened, Jesus appeared to them all that same evening.

Well I pray that this helps to give some more understanding to this issue. I mean whether He rose on Sunday or Saturday, or whether He was crucified on Wednesday or Friday, it is not a salvation issue. My eternal destination is not based on that, but on whether or not I believe that He died for my sin, and was resurrected so that I can have eternal life with Him.

I invite your input to all that I have said here, I do not claim to know it all or to be without fault. So if there is something that I have missed or misinterpreted, please let me know. Email me at brokenvessel51@live.com

B-blessed;
Brother Williams