

# THE CHRONOLOGY OF CHRIST'S DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

Easter 2016

Sermon No. 414

27<sup>th</sup> March 2016

# PowerPoint

In the morning service we read how Mary Magdalene returned to the Tomb early on the first day of the week

- Sunday morning
- It was very early in the morning
- The Tomb was empty . . . meaning that Christ had rose from the dead earlier . . . and not on Sunday as traditionally known

## When did Jesus rise from the dead?

To answer that we need to be sure when He was crucified

Traditional view

Jesus was crucified on Friday – and rose from the dead on Sunday

Literal view

3 X 24 hours = 72 hours

That would place the Crucifixion for Wednesday 3pm . . . resurrection Saturday 3pm

# PowerPoint

# Traditional view is primarily based around:

## 1. Mark 14 . . . the Plot to Kill Jesus

<sup>1</sup> After two days it was the Passover (literally it was two days before the Passover) and *the Feast of Unleavened Bread*. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put *Him* to death. <sup>2</sup> But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people."

That implies that they would have to wait until the 'actual' Passover occurred which was Friday

## 2. The Passover fits that which Christ fulfilled

This is the logical day on which the LORD Jesus would become the literal Passover Lamb

There is a problem matching the THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS Jesus predicted He would be in the grave before He would be risen back to Life

## 3. The explanation . . . Jesus isn't talking about literal 24 hour days

'Days' are regarded as a figure of speech

For instance, the psalmist might say I have meditated on your Word day and night – is that literal or a figure of speech?

# The Literal view is based around:

Mark 8:31

<sup>31</sup> And He went on to teach them many things *about Himself*: how the Son of Man would suffer; how He would be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes; how He would be killed; and how, after three days, *God would raise Him from the dead*

## 1. This view interprets day and night as a literal 24-hour period

## 2. Passover is now known to not always be fixed to Friday (2016, 22<sup>nd</sup> April)

Passover begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nissan and it is linked with other historical and agricultural festivals and celebrations

## 3. During the week there is no Gospel account for what happened on Wednesday

Every other day is mentioned

4. The Pharisees demanded Pilate post a guard

Matthew 27:64-66

<sup>62</sup> On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, <sup>63</sup> saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' <sup>64</sup> Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

5. The reference to Jonah's three days and three nights

Matthew 12:40

<sup>40</sup> 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.

Before you fall out over whether it is Wednesday or Friday . . . stop and listen to what Jesus was trying to explain to the Pharisees

## Matthew 12:38-42

### Jesus is responding to requests from the scribes and Pharisees for a sign

<sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

<sup>39</sup> But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> 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.

- Obviously their motives were not pure . . . all along they wanted to prove that Jesus was an emissary of Satan (Matthew 12:24)

<sup>24</sup> Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, "This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

- a. If He *didn't* provide a sign, then He was no prophet at all
  - b. If He *did* provide a sign, they would find some way to speak against it
- But from GOD's perspective . . . hadn't Jesus shown them enough signs already?

That is why He condemns them for seeking sign

That is why He says, if you really want a sign look at JONAH

### The most important aspect of this statement is that Jonah is a picture of the work of Jesus

<sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation

and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here.

## The point of all this . . . it has nothing to do with how many days and three nights!

- Jonah's life is a prophecy of the death and resurrection of Jesus
  1. He gave his life to appease the wrath of God coming upon others
  2. Even death could hold him back from accomplishing GOD's will
  3. After three days and nights of imprisonment, he was alive and free
- This is a glorious picture of Jesus
- #1 . . . you are all asking Me for a sign . . . but you have missed every sign sent to you

I AM GOD's SON

I AM SENT TO REDEEM YOU

YOU HAVE (REPEATEDLY) FAILED TO RECOGNIZE ME FOR WHO I AM

- #2 . . . but strangely, the Ninevites (people not connected with the children of GOD), they recognized GOD's warning through Jonah

THEY REPENTED . . . AS YOU OUGHT TO DO

- Even the Queen of Sheba (again not one of children of GOD) recognized God's wisdom *in* Solomon

## Personal application

Again we come back to the resurrection . . . it isn't going to be life-changing whether Jesus was crucified on Wednesday or Friday

What is important is that we recognize again that like Jonah, death could not hold Him

Like Jonah He gave His life to appease the wrath of GOD (the difference being that He was obedient – Jonah needed some pushing!)

Like the Ninevites . . . we are given a new chance at life after death because of what Jesus accomplished on the Cross

## Well done Ninevites!