

on a very tenuous foundation. Some even claim that only two Scriptures prove it. (But, in this, they neglect to tell you that those two witnesses are firm and sure: Deuteronomy 17:6, 19:15-20, and Matthew 18:16.) However, under close examination, those false assertions disintegrate.

### ***The Feasts of Yahweh***

It is our contention that one cannot understand the truth about the doctrine of three days and three nights (from the death of Yahshua the Messiah to His resurrection, the time He spent in the tomb), unless he knows something about the feast days of Leviticus 23. Not keeping the feast days causes people to formulate a flawed doctrine. Remember that the Holy Spirit of Yahweh is given to those who obey Him, Acts 5:32. Keeping the feast days of Yahweh is quite significant for many reasons, and here is yet another one. For a thorough explanation of how the feasts relate to Yahshua's Passion Week, write for the article, **Three Days and Three Nights**, published in the **Sacred Name Broadcaster**.

### ***Sun Worship Influence***

Celebrating the resurrection of Yahshua the Messiah at sunrise on Sunday morning is derived directly from paganism. With few exceptions, the ancient nations worshiped the sun. The average person, in his ignorance, was steeped in superstition. Therefore, the ancient religions took this direction of worshiping nature. See Romans 1. The ancient religion, simply stated, was "father sun lying on mother earth produced fruit." This the pagans believed wholeheartedly in a host of different variations.

Such sun worship practices, in which the Canaanites indulged, were enticement to ancient Israel. Many times the Israelites yielded. They even placed the horses and chariots of the sun in the Temple (2 Kings 23:11) during one assimilation of the idolatry of surrounding nations.

Yahweh announced to Ezekiel the prophet that any worship of the sun is an abomination (or most repulsive), to Him. Ezekiel was to take this message to Israel. ***"And he brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house; and behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs toward the***

***temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they were worshiping the sun toward the east."*** (Ezekiel 8:16).

When someone worshiped in the Temple of Yahweh, they worshiped toward the west. The priests who were serving between the porch and the altar had turned their backs to the Temple of Yahweh (His True worship), and they were now worshiping the rising sun toward the east. Yahweh's people must be careful not to do this.

### ***Roman Calendar Days Confuse***

In reading over various items of literature that contend for the Friday impalement and Sunday resurrection, one is almost immediately struck by the fact that the writers NEGLECT to understand the difference between the biblical day and the Roman day under which we are presently living. The biblical days begin and end with sunset. Genesis 1 proves this conclusively, and Mark 1:32 supports it.

The Roman day begins at midnight, or, generally speaking, at dawn when a person arises. He tends to think of the day being from sunrise to bedtime that night, or up to the following sunrise, rather than as Yahweh instituted—from evening to evening (Leviticus 23:32).

By not keeping Yahweh's holy days of Leviticus 23, the theologians, who should take into account the firm statements of the Bible, neglect to see their importance. They wrest the Scriptures to support the keeping of Sunday, rather than keeping the biblical seventh-day Sabbath which Almighty Yahweh has enjoined. They keep holidays which were once pagan observances, RATHER than keeping the feast days of Yahweh found in Leviticus 23, days which portray the plan of salvation and picture Yahshua the Messiah and His sacrifice for the sins of His people.

When Yahshua said that He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (the tomb), he meant three full days and three full nights. He did not say parts of three days. In no way can you count 72 hours from a Friday impalement to a Sunday morning resurrection. Nevertheless, when the passages are encountered which say "the third day," such a term does not alter the express, specific statement that Yahshua made—"three days and three nights"—which reflects the prophecy of Jonah.

### ***Examine the Issue More Closely***

We have published a more thorough article on the subject titled, **Three Days and Three Nights**. By harmonizing the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, we discover that Yahshua the Messiah was impaled on what is now called Wednesday, the day in the very middle of the week. Yahshua's ministry extended for three-and-a-half years, proving that He was the true Messiah.

When Yahshua died, at the end of the day called Wednesday at sundown, His body was placed in the tomb, and the stone rolled before the door. Very soon thereafter, the first holy day of Unleavened Bread occurred when no work could be done.

At the end of that high day, the priests went to Pilate, and requested a guard be posted at Yahshua's sepulchre, and the stone sealed. The guard would have been withdrawn after the three days and three nights during which Yahshua had specified He would be in the tomb.

During the day of labor between the annual high day and the weekly Sabbath, the women prepared their spices and ointments to anoint Yahshua. Unable to enter the tomb because of the Roman guard and seal, they had to wait until the guard would be withdrawn.

Therefore, they came at early dawn, but found the tomb empty. At that time, they saw a vision of angels telling them that Yahshua was alive, resurrected from the dead, and no longer there. None saw Yahshua until later.

You must decide. Will you study the strong, conclusive evidence? Will you change your ideas to conform to irrefutable evidence? This evidence disproves the keeping of Sunday as honoring Yahshua's resurrection. It clearly refutes the association of the sun with the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah. It separates between pagan worship and the True Worship of Almighty Yahweh. It proves Yahshua's Messiahship.

We hope you will study this subject carefully, and see what we have seen. Then, accept what the Bible plainly teaches so you may be obedient to the Most High. He will not bless you with salvation unless you withdraw from the false doctrines of this worldly religious system.

## ***Keys to Knowledge***

# ***The Sign of Yahshua's Messiahship***

## **Three Days and Three Nights in the Tomb**

by

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# The Sign of Yahshua's Messiahship

## Three Days and Three Nights in the Tomb

— by Elder Jacob O. Meyer —

In many crucial doctrines, forthright and plainly spoken biblical passages clearly CONTRADICT the doctrines taught in most churches. Why?

For example, our Savior Yahshua the Messiah said that His dead body would rest entombed three days and three nights. The term He used was, “in the heart of the earth.” *The heart of the earth* is an idiomatic expression meaning *in the tomb*. Shouldn't we accept that statement at face value? It represents a forthright statement. Other passages of Scripture harmonize with it. We must follow the truth of the sacred Scriptures—personal prejudices, ecclesiastical councils, and traditions notwithstanding.

### *The Reference to Jonah*

Did our Savior Yahshua the Messiah make His declaration in Matthew 12:40 for a specific reason? “...**For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**”

It is obvious that He referred his hearers back to the prophet Jonah for a reason, and that Yahshua's own death and burial corresponded closely to that of the prophet Jonah. Let us

turn to the book of Jonah (that Old Testament prophet), to answer our questions concerning the reason Yahshua the Messiah referred to him.

The quote Yahshua made came directly from Jonah 1:17. “**And Yahweh prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**” It should now be quite plain to us that this passage means Jonah would be in the belly of the great fish for a period of 72 hours.

It should also be quite evident to us that Jonah considered the belly of the whale to be his grave. The psalm of Jonah (chapter 2) makes this very clear. “**And he said, I called by reason of my affliction to Yahweh, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol cried I, and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the depth, in the heart of the seas, and the flood was all around me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. And I said, I am cast out from before your eyes; yet I will look again toward your holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul; the deep was all around me; the weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed upon me forever: Yet have you brought up my life from the pit, O Yahweh my Elohim.**” (Jonah 2:2-3, 5-6).

You will notice from verse 2 that Jonah indicates he cried out of the belly of *Sheol*. *Sheol* refers to the COMMON GRAVE. A parallel to this word appears in verse 6 with the word *pit* (Hebrew—*shachath*), meaning *the pit or grave*. (See the perfect parallel in Isaiah 38:17-18.)

It should then be very clear to us that Yahshua the Messiah wanted to have us understand a crucial meaning from His burial in the tomb after His death. He CLEARLY directed our attention to the Old Testament and the sign of Jonah, to be three days and three nights (72 hours) in the tomb.

### *Jonah's Sign Important*

Many times people minimize the importance of this understanding. They simply think it just doesn't matter how long Yahshua was in the tomb. Only the fact of His resurrection makes the difference, they protest. By viewing the impalement of Yahshua the Messiah and His resurrection in a much shorter period of time, they fail to see the

lessons Yahshua the Messiah wanted to convey. The sign of Jonah was to be Yahshua's ONE sure and certain sign of His Messiahship. The time element is of vital importance. He did not say one day and two nights! If the time in the tomb is shortened, Yahshua would not be the Messiah!

Even at the very beginning of His ministry, Yahshua already referred to this one sign that would prove He is the true Messiah. Turn to John 2:19-22. “**Yahshua answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. The Jews therefore said, Forty-six years was this temple in building, and will you raise it up in three days? But he spoke of the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he spoke this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Yahshua had said.**”

Yahshua obviously wanted the Jews to understand an important lesson. Yahshua the Messiah emphasized to the Jews that they could destroy His temple (meaning His human body), but they could not destroy His eternal life. Now, take into consideration what Yahshua said in Matthew 10:28. “**And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.**”

It is easy for someone to take the life of another. By inflicting a serious wound upon another person, life will ebb away. No human being can restore a dead body to life once that spark of vitality and life that cannot be duplicated has ceased to exist in that body.

### *Yahshua's Resurrection Power*

Almighty Yahweh holds the power of giving life within His realm of authority. There is no other being on the face of this earth, or in the universe, who can create life but the Father. In this, the sacred Name Yahweh comes very crucially into play. The Name of the Almighty is derived from the Hebrew verb of existence (the root is the third masculine singular imperfect *Hip'il*). The Name of the Father in heaven means “He who was, He who is, He who ever shall be.” (Revelation 1:8). Because He exists, He can give existence, human life, or, eventually, eternal life to those who please Him.

### *Only a Theory?*

Sometimes people come across articles written by leaders or members of nominal Christian denominations who strongly try to defend their untenable Friday impalement and Sunday resurrection doctrine. In the course of doing so, they attempt to minimize the question of three days and three nights in the tomb by calling it merely “a theory.” There is no way that anyone can harmonize a 72 hour—3 days and 3 nights in the tomb—with the faulty doctrine Christianity teaches—that Yahshua was only in the tomb approximately 36 hours. That allows only half the time that He Himself demanded.

### *Proving the Doctrine*

Can we truly prove the veracity of a full three day and three night stay in the tomb by Yahshua the Messiah? Upon the authority of the Word of Almighty Yahweh, we certainly can do so.

To believe in a shorter stay in the tomb demands a deliberate TWISTING of the biblical text of the Bible. The simple reason for doing so is that the most popular religion in ancient times was sun worship. The sun had its resurrection at the beginning of each day. When remnants of Apostolic Assembly apostatized and the Messianic worship was appropriated by the Babylonian priesthood to lend it credence, the doctrines of popular pagan religion were applied to the message of the Bible and proof-texted from the inspired Word.

Roman Catholicism has been known to enter an area and assimilate the local pagan doctrines. They apply those regional doctrines to the biblical message and assert that they are trying to teach truth by relating it to what the people already know. But, such an approach is TOTALLY contrary to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20, where the True ministers of the Most High and His Messiah teach, preach, and correct those who are sincere. The Messianic Faith must not tolerate false doctrine but must teach the Truth to the world.

### *How Much Evidence?*

Frequently, those who try to undermine Yahshua's sign of Messiahship in the three days and three nights doctrine will insist that it is built