



Do we care if Jesus was gone for ‘3 days & 3 nights’ or ‘3 nights & 3 days’? Maybe a conversation will just help us relive and revive ‘The Greatest Story Ever Told’. Else, the Easter Bunny culture prevails.

3 Nights & 3 Days: To defeat the power of darkness, in the earth.

Jonah 1:17. Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:40. For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Like the 6 literal days of Genesis 1, would it be illuminating and profitable to find 3 literal days? In my day, one literal day followed the next literal day.

There is a logical and practical explanation for 3 days and 3 nights: Friday is the 1st day, Saturday is the 2nd, and Sunday is the 3rd.

Others have tried to find 3 literal days, maybe ignored the historical record, and even hoped to change history.

But, just using the Scripture record can we find 3 literal days? Like, looking at the Bible in context to find ‘realism’ answers?

Jesus gave himself up on Thursday night for the mission to ‘defeat the power of darkness (Lu. 22:52 below)’ and it was completed by Sunday night. The day and night sequence is an issue, but was it “**And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.**” Or was it 2 fishes and 5 loaves?

But then again, Matthew the Gospel writer and a Jew, knew that the Jewish day began at sunset, and yet non Jews knew this as nighttime. I guess like Matthew 1 and those Missing Kings, Matthew, even under Inspiration, must have thought, is this right?

Anyway, all I may accomplish is that I can sleep in and sing the Hallelujah Chorus much later on Easter Sunday. At least, I have 3 whole days, as well as Maundy Thursday. And I can say ‘**The Lord is risen indeed**’ as the Apostles did, on Sunday Night, also. And I can rest assured that God’s Word is pretty reliable. At least the King James versions. And of course the originals are the ‘gold standard’.

Betrayal, arrest and trials....Crucifixion and burial.		Sabbath.					
Thursday		Friday		Saturday			
(Day)	Night 1		Day 1	Night 2		Day 2	Night 3

Thursday - Night 1 = Luke 22:52. Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves? **53.** When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness. **54.** Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house.

Friday - Day 1 = Luke 23:44. And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. **45.** And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. **46.** And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Friday - Night 2 = Luke 23:53. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. **54.** And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. **55.** And the women also,

which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. 56. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

Saturday - Day 2 = Matthew 27:62. Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, 63. Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. 64. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. 65. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

Night 2, Day 2? 1 Peter 3:18. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 3:19. By which also he went

and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20. Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

Sunday - Day 3 (morning) = Luke 24:1. 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?

Matthew 28: 8. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. 9. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail.

Sunday - Day 3 (interim?) = Matthew 27: 52. And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53. And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. (Acts 1:9. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. / MT 24: 30. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.)

(Spending Sunday with the Heroes of the Faith, that 'great cloud of witnesses'? What a Novel idea. And what did they do for 40 days? If I were Moses, Joshua and Caleb, I would have walked to Egypt and back. A trip that originally took 40 years, one way. Or Abraham revisiting his journeys on how he became the Father of the Faithful. Or Isaac and Jacob discussing how Jacob was jealously maligned for being a man of integrity. Could they have had a

Banquet? Remember Jesus cooking for the disciples in John 21? How about Adam and Eve discussing with the saved thief on the cross how he waited 3 days, while they waited like 3000 years. And poor Lazarus, who missed the first banquet by a couple of days. We can talk to him later...)

Sunday - Day 3 (evening) = Luke 24:13. 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.

28. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. 29. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. 30. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. 31. And their eyes were opened, and they

knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. 32. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? 33. And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, 34. Saying, **The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.** 35. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. 36. And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

(From Ussher's Annals of the World)

6504. (Sir Robert Anderson gave the dates for the passover from 22 AD to 37 AD. {*Anderson, The Coming Prince, 1:104} Note that the passover would start at sundown on the previous day and end at sundown for the date shown. The passover meal would be eaten the previous evening. These dates are:

Year	Passover	
AD	Day	Date
22	Sunday	April 22
23	Thursday	March 25
24	Wednesday	April 12
25	Sunday	April 1
26	Thursday	March 21
27	Wednesday	April 9
28	Monday	March 29
29	Sunday	April 17
30	Thursday	April 6
31	Tuesday	March 27
32	Monday	April 14
33	Friday	April 3
34	Tuesday	March 23
35	Monday	April 11
36	Friday	March 30
37	Thursday	April 18

6505. Anderson independently confirmed the date that Ussher computed for the passover for 33 AD.

3 Nights & 3 Days:

To defeat the power of darkness, in the earth.

Betrayal, arrest and trials...Crucifixion and burial.		Sabbath.		Resurrection & visitations.	
Thursday (Day)	Night 1	Friday Day 1	Night 2	Saturday Day 2	Sunday Day 3 (Night)

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Matthew 12:40. For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Like the 6 days of Genesis 1, would it be illuminating and profitable to find 3 literal days in the Resurrection Weekend? In my day, one literal day followed the next literal day.

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Four Old Photographs

Abraham Lincoln 1862?



Bethlehem 1862



Nazareth 1862



Jerusalem 1893



Somehow Lincoln's November 19, 1863 Gettysburg Address (a version) sounds appropriate:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation,

under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.