

Only **ONE SIGN** Will Be Given

“A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except **the sign of Jonah**” (Matthew 16:4).



<http://www.sawyoo.com/postpic/2011/03/jonah-and-the-whale-bible->

“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:40).

A day is defined by God beginning at sunset and ending at sunset. “God called the light ‘day,’ and the darkness he called ‘night.’ And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day” (Genesis 1:5).

Night	Night 1	Night 2	Night 3	Night 4	Night 5	Night 6	Night 7	
Sunset								
Day		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

If Jesus was in the grave for three days and three nights, then his claim to the Scribes and Pharisees to be the Son of Man given authority from God to teach is valid. It also confirms that he is the Messiah.

Through patterns in the Bible, the number three has been noted as having symbolic meaning for **divine completion**. Jesus’ death—the perfect sacrifice **fulfills/completes God’s legal requirement**, the payment for our sins. Christ’s death is a significant marker in God’s divine plan for mankind. Upon Christ’s resurrection, he was **restored to his former glory**.

An interesting prophetic parallel recorded nearly 2,000 years before Christ's crucifixion, is the story of God instructing Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac.

"Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about'" (Genesis 22:1).

Abraham a great man of faith obeyed. But, before he took his son's life an angel intervened.

"But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, 'Abraham! Abraham!' 'Here I am,' he replied. 'Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son'" (Genesis 22:11-12).

Woven into this incredible story is the prophecy of the redemption of mankind. For **three days**, Abraham traveled before arriving at Mt. Moriah. **Three days Christ lay in the grave** and after the third day, he was raised up and restored to his Father. So, Isaac's life representative of mankind who were as good as dead until Christ's sacrifice was accepted by the Father, was restored to his father after the third day.

<http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/documents/The%20Symbolic%20Significance%20of%20the%20third%20day.htm>

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient" (Ephesians 2:1).

Peppered in the Old Testament is the promise of a Savior and redemption for mankind, but it was woven tightly in symbols and parallels to keep it secret from the dark powers and authorities in heavenly places because if they knew, they would not have allowed the crucifixion of Christ. These dark powers in heavenly places do NOT want mankind redeemed. They do NOT care for us.

"None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY" (I Corinthians 2:8).

Those rogue dark powers have now been imprisoned. The evidence of their presence has been silenced. Still, our fight remains not against flesh and blood, but powers and principalities in the heavens.

"He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the **written code**, with **its regulations, that war against us** and that **stood opposed to us**; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having **DISARMED THE POWERS AND AUTHORITIES**, he made a **PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF THEM, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM BY THE CROSS"** (Colossians 2:13-15).

The sign of our Savior in the grave for three days and three nights is critical to the redemption of mankind. Was that Savior, Jesus?

THREE FULL DAYS AND THREE FULL NIGHTS:

Day 4	Sunday: On the first day of the week while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found that it was empty. Christ had already risen. (John 20:1)
Night 4	Christ was resurrected after the Sabbath.
Day 3	Saturday – the day of the weekly Sabbath.
Night 3	Friday night – the night of the weekly Sabbath
Day 2	Friday – Women prepared spices and oil for Jesus’ body. (Mark 16:1)
Night 2	Thursday night
Day 1	Thursday – the day of the annual Sabbath (First Day of Unleavened Bread) until sunset.
Night 1	Wednesday night – the night of the annual Sabbath (First Day of Unleavened Bread)
Day of the crucifixion	Wednesday afternoon Christ died prior to sunset of the first day of God’s annual Sabbaths, the first day of Unleavened Bread – a high day where no work is done from sunset to sunset of the next day. So, in haste Christ was buried before sunset, before that day of rest (Sabbath), that holy day began. (Mark 15:42)
Passover	Tuesday night (Luke 22:7)

Why is this sign important? Christians in general keep Good Friday and Easter Sunday. There isn’t three days and three nights between Friday and Sunday. Does it matter?

It matters if:

- You want to identify **who** is the Christ – was it Jesus of Nazareth or somebody else?
- You live by truth.

THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS EXPLAINED

TUESDAY NIGHT was the Passover, which Jesus kept with his disciples.

“Then came **the day of Unleavened Bread** on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed” (Luke 22:7).

“And He said to them, ‘I have earnestly desired to eat this **Passover with you before I suffer**. For I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God” (Luke 22:15).

“Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons... Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus” (John 18:3, 12-13).

WHILE IT WAS DARK TUESDAY EVENING, SOMETIME AFTER THE PASSOVER MEAL, JESUS WAS TAKEN BY ROMAN SOLDIERS AND DURING THE NEXT DAY ON WEDNESDAY, Jesus was mocked, sentenced, beaten, and crucified. Hastily before sunset on Wednesday, before the First Day of Unleavened Bread—a holy Sabbath day, Jesus was wrapped for burial. This was not a weekly Sabbath but an annual holy day—the First Day of Unleavened Bread. “And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath” (Mark 15:42).

“Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies [of those crucified] should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken [to hasten death], and that they might be taken away” (John 19:31).

ON FRIDAY, AFTER THAT ANNUAL SABBATH—THE ANNUAL HIGH DAY of UNLEAVENED BREAD, the women came with spices and oils to complete the burial preparation before sunset of the weekly Sabbath. “Now **when the Sabbath [First Day of Unleavened Bread] was past,** Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him” (Mark 16:1) and “And the women who had come with [Christ] from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And **they rested on the Sabbath [the weekly Sabbath] according to the commandment**” (Luke 23:55-56).

ON SATURDAY, they rested according to the commandment because it was the weekly Sabbath.

ON SUNDAY WHILE IT WAS STILL DARK, Mary Magdalene came and found that Jesus had already risen; the tomb was empty (John 20:1).

Christians who celebrate Good Friday do so in commemoration of the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. They are mistaken. God asks us to keep the Passover, which acknowledges the saving power of Christ’s blood and to keep the First and Last Day of Unleavened bread, which acknowledges the importance of removing sin out of our lives.

If Christians remembered God’s Feast Days in Leviticus 23, they would not have confused the weekly Sabbath with God’s Annual Sabbaths assuming that Christ died on the day before the weekly Sabbath. They would also understand why the Sabbaths were given.

God has mapped out his plan for mankind in His Annual Feast Days:

- **The weekly Sabbath** – The weekly Sabbath is a sign between God and those who obey Him.

FULFILLED:

- **Passover** – Christ is our Passover Lamb.
- **Days of Unleavened Bread** – the removal of yeast represents the removal of sin from our lives.

- **Feast of First-Fruits** – Celebrates Christ as the first of the first-fruits to rise from the dead.
- **Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)** – Celebrates the beginning of a called-out group of people referred to as “the church,” believers desiring to follow Christ.

UNFULFILLED:

- **Feast of Trumpets** – The 100 trumpets are blown over 10 days announcing the imminent return of Christ.
- **Day of Atonement** – Once and for all, the sins of God’s people will be forgiven through a sacrifice and those sins returned to the place of wickedness in the desert. A complete cleansing of sin of the nations of 21st century Israel will take place.
- **Feast of Tabernacles** – Christ’s 1,000-year rule with the resurrected saints begins.
- **Last Great Day** – Judgment and a second resurrection takes place. All of mankind is judged most given eternal life, while the unrepentant die. Finally, death is overthrown.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
(I Corinthians 15:55)

If Jesus was NOT in the grave for three days and three nights, then Jesus is not the Christ. As scriptures show, **Jesus did fulfill his only sign**. For three days and three nights, he lay in the tomb and then on the 4th day, he rose from the dead. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah—Yashuah Hamashiach.

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