

THE DURATION OF JESUS' ENTOMBMENT

The Church of God (Seventh Day) teaches that Jesus' entombment was a full three days and three nights, according to the scriptures.¹ Most other Christians teach that Christ was crucified on Friday and arose Sunday morning, according to traditions of men.²

"Feast of Unleavened Bread — called the Passover" (Luke 22:1; Exodus 12:6-21)

Jesus in the tomb (Matthew 12:40)
3 nights AND 3 days = 72 hours
(six 12-hour parts — John 11:9)

Note: In Bible times, a day begins and ends at evening (sundown), so the night part occurs before the daylight part of the day. This chart is based on that configuration.

FRIDAY (Nisan 9) 6th day of week Preparation day for the weekly Sabbath		SABBATH* (Nisan 10) 7th day of week weekly Sabbath*		SUNDAY (Nisan 11) 1st day of week		MONDAY (Nisan 12) 2nd day of week		TUESDAY (Nisan 13) 3rd day of week		WEDNESDAY (Nisan 14) 4th day of week Preparation day for the yearly high-day sabbath		THURSDAY (Nisan 15) 5th day of week Yearly high-day sabbath		FRIDAY (Nisan 16) 6th day of week Preparation day for the weekly Sabbath		SABBATH* (Nisan 17) 7th day of week weekly Sabbath*		SUNDAY (Nisan 18) 1st day of week		MONDAY (Nisan 19) 2nd day of week		TUESDAY (Nisan 20) 3rd day of week Preparation day for high-day sabbath		WEDNESDAY (Nisan 21) 4th day of week High-day sabbath			
Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day		
Jesus journeyed to Bethany John 12:1 ...		Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem John 12:12-15 ...		Fig tree cursed Mark 11:12-14 ...		Fig tree dried up Mark 11:19-20		Upper room reserved Luke 22:8-14		Lord's Supper instituted John 13:1-17 Luke 22:14-21 "this do in remembrance of me" ...		The trial Luke 22:66-67 Luke 23:1-21 ...		Jesus 1 one night and one day in the tomb ...		Jesus 2 two nights and two days in the tomb ...		Jesus 3 three nights and three days in the tomb ...		Multiple visits to the empty tomb before sunrise, and after ...		Fifth day of unleavened bread Exodus 13:6-7		Sixth day of unleavened bread Deuteronomy 16:8		Yearly high-day sabbath Deuteronomy 16:8 Exodus 12:15-18	
Martha prepared supper John 12:2 ...		Jesus wept over Jerusalem Luke 19:41 ...		Jesus returned to cast out money changers Mark 11:15 ...		Jesus leaves Jerusalem Mark 11:19		...		"this do in remembrance of me" ...		then three hours of darkness Matt. 27:34-50 Luke 23:33-46 ...		Yearly high-day sabbath John 19:31 ...		Women bought and prepared spices to anoint Jesus' body Mark 16:1		Women rested the Sabbath day "according to the commandment"* Luke 23:56 KJV ...		Jesus still not there! Mark 16:1-6 Luke 24:1-8 John 20:1-6		Jesus already resurrected before sundown; before the first day of the week Matt. 28:1-7 KJV		Third day since Romans sealed tomb and set a guard watch Luke 24:12-21	

* "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8) — "The sabbath was made for man..." (Mark 2:27) — See also Genesis 2:2-3, Exodus 16:26-30, 1 Corinthians 15:4¹, Mark 7:7-9²

The above chart shows events that took place each day of the last week of the life of Christ before His crucifixion, continuing a week later to the end of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The chart is based on three key Scriptures — Matthew 12:40, Matthew 28:1 (KJV), and Daniel 9:27. Of almost relative significance is the text in John 20:1 – "it was yet dark" – which dispels all assumption of a "sunrise resurrection".

John 12:1 tells us it was six days before the

Passover when Jesus went to Bethany. This means six days before the Passover sabbath. This same word meaning is found in John 19:14 which shows that the day that Jesus was killed was also called "the preparation of the passover."

The references shown on the chart tell of events which happened each day of the week. After sundown on Nisan 14 (Wednesday night), Jesus and the disciples ate the Passover meal, then He instituted the Lord's Supper. Later in the daylight

period of Wednesday afternoon, Jesus was crucified, it being the "preparation day" of the Passover sabbath. Jesus was placed in the tomb just before sunset as the Passover sabbath drew near, and was in the tomb for the next three nights and three days, from late Wednesday afternoon to late Saturday afternoon, and He was risen before sundown in the end of the seventh-day Sabbath.

Thus, Jesus was in the tomb for 72 hours — a full three nights AND three days. Therefore, He

fulfilled the prophecy which He gave as recorded in Matthew 12:40, "So shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

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