The Sign of Jonah- 3 Days and 3 Nights, or Friday to Sunday?

Matthew 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. **39** But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: **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.

The only sign that would be given to an evil and adulterous generation that were seeking after a sign was that Jesus would be in the grave for 3 days and 3 nights.



3 days and 3 nights. 72 hours.

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and

be raised again the third day.
Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
Luke 9:22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Matthew 17:22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: **23** And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.
Mark 9:31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

Matthew 20:17 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, **18** Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, **19** And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.
Mark 10:32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, **33** Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: **34** And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.
Luke 18:31 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. **32** For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: **33** And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

Jesus told His disciples that He would be delivered to the hands of the religious leaders and they would deliver Him to the Gentiles and they would kill Him, but He would rise again on the third day.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. **20** Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? **21** But he spake of the temple of his body.

Jesus told the Jews that if His body was destroyed, it would be raised in three days.

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.

After Jesus was crucified, the Jews went to Pilate to have guards set over the sepulcher because they remembered Jesus saying that He would rise from the dead after three days.

Luke 24:5 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? **6** He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, **7** Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

John 2:22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

After Jesus rose from the dead, His disciples remembered Jesus prophesying that He would be in the grave for 3 days but that He would rise again.

Jesus tells us that He would be crucified and would be in the grave for 3 days and 3 nights.

Tradition tells us that Jesus was crucified on a Friday afternoon and that He rose from the grave very early on Sunday morning.

This does not add up to 3 nights.

Friday night and Saturday night only equal two nights.

Do we believe Jesus?

Or do we believe tradition?

How do we reconcile this?

We go to the Scriptures.

Let's take a look at the timeline of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Jesus' Death-
John 19:16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. **17** And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

Matthew 27:31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. **32** As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. **33** And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), **34** they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

Mark 15:20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. **21** And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross. **22** And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. **2**3 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

Matthew 27:35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. **36** Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. **37** And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." **38** Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. **39** And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads **40** and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." **41** So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, **42** "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. **43** He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" **44** And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Mark 15:24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. **25** And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. **26** And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS. **27** And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. **28** And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors. **29** And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, **30** Save thyself, and come down from the cross. **31** Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. **32** Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

Luke 23:32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. **33** And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. **34** Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. **35** And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. **36** And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, **37** And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. **38** And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

John 19:18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. 19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. **20** This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. **21** Then said the

chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. **22** Pilate answered, What I have written I have written. **23** Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. **24** They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. **40** But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? **41** And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. **42** And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. **43** And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. **44** And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

Matthew 27:45 Now from the *sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the *ninth hour.

Mark 15:33 And when the *sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the *ninth hour.

*sixth hour= about 12 Noon *ninth hour= about 3PM

John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! **27** Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” **47** And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” **48** And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. **49** But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? **35** And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. **36** And one ran and filled a spunge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. **29** Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Matthew 27:51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. **52** The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,

Matthew 27:54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” **55** There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, **56** among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. **38** And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. **39** And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God. **40** There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; **41** (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

Luke 23:45 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. **47** Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. **48** And all the people that came together to that sight,

beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned. **49** And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

Jesus died around 3PM.

Jesus' Burial; The First Night-
John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. **32** Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: **34** But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. **35** And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. **36** For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. **37** And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. **38** And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

Matthew 27:57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. **58** He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. **59** And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud **60** and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. **61** Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Mark 15:42 And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, **43** Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. **44** And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. **45** And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. **46** And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. **47** And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

Luke 23:50 And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: **51** (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. **52** This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. **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.

John 19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. **40** Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. **41** Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. **42** There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

Jesus was crucified on the Passover and at around 3 PM He died. At the end of the Passover the Feast of Unleavened Bread starts. The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a Sabbath. Jesus' body had to be removed from the cross before the High Sabbath started. His body was placed in the tomb just before the High Sabbath started.

The First Day in the Grave; The First Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a High Sabbath-

Matthew 27:62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate **63** and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' **64** Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." **65** Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." **66** So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

The tomb was made secure with guards on the High Sabbath, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This was the first day that Jesus was in the grave.

The Second Day in the Grave; the Day After the High Sabbath-
Mark 16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Luke 23:56a And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments;
The day after the High Sabbath the two Marys went and bought spices and then prepared them to go and anoint Jesus. This was the second day that Jesus was in the grave.

The Third Day in the Grave; the Weekly Sabbath-
Luke 23:56b and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

Then the ladies rested on the Sabbath day according to the commandment; the regular weekly Sabbath. This was the third day in the grave.

The Fourth Day in the Grave; Sunday, the Feast of Firstfruits-



Matthew 28: Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. **4** And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. **5** But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." **8** So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

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? **6** He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, **7** Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. **8** And they remembered his words,

Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. **3** And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? **4** And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. **5** And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. **6** And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. **7** But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. **8** And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

John 20:1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. **2** Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. **3** Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. **4** So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. **5** And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. **6** Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, **7** And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. **8** Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. **9** For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. **10** Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. **11** But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, **12** And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. **13** And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. **14** And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. **16** Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. **17** Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. **18** Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

They came to the grave early on the first day of the week and Jesus was already risen. He was no longer in the tomb.



Day 1 (Su)	Day 2 (M)	Day 3 (Tu)	Day 4 (W)	Day 5 (Th)	Day 6 (F)	Sabbath
			Jesus was crucified Buried just before the High Sabbath- night #1	High Sabbath- 1st day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread- day #1, night #2	The ladies bought and prepared spices- day #2, night #3	The Weekly Sabbath Jesus rose from the grave- day #3
The tomb was found empty Jesus presented as the firstfruits						

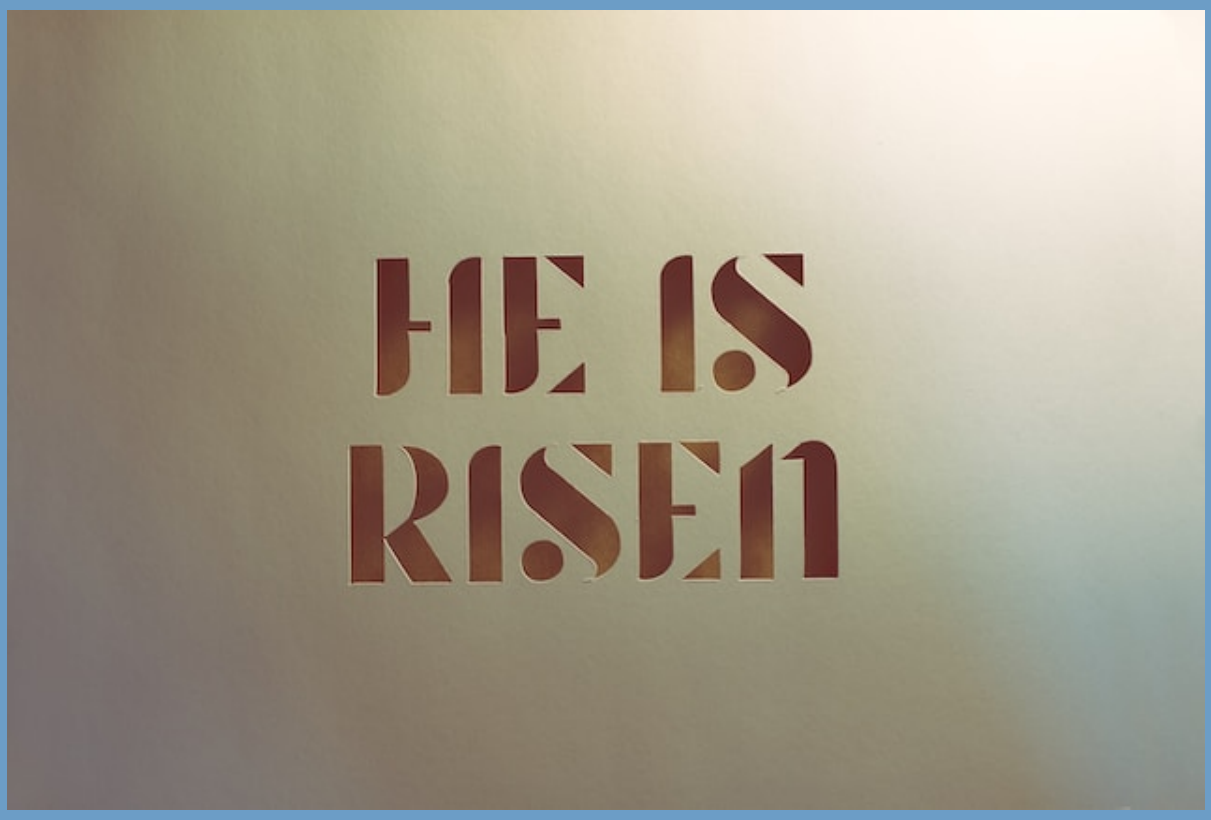
Jesus would have been crucified on the 4th day of the week, a Wednesday. That is the only way that He could be in the grave for a full 3 nights and 3 days. He died just after 3pm and was put into the grave just before or right at sundown. This was the first night in the tomb.

At sundown the Feast of Unleavened Bread started, a High Sabbath, the 5th day of the week; the first day and second night in the tomb.

After the High Sabbath, the 6th day of the week or Friday, the women went and bought spices and prepared them; this was the second day and the third night in the tomb.

Then we have the weekly Sabbath and the ladies rested; the third day in the tomb.

72 hours after being put into the grave, Jesus resurrected at the end of the Sabbath, just before or right at sundown.



Early on the first day of the week, Sunday, the ladies went to the grave and found that Jesus was no longer in the tomb, He had already resurrected.

We can see from the Scriptures that Jesus was in the grave for 3 days and 3 nights, just as He had prophesied. The traditional story that we have been taught of a Friday death and burial

with a Sunday resurrection just does not line up with what the Scriptures tell us.

