

**2012 “Easter Special” (#01)**  
**“The Sign of Jonah”**

Let us begin by reading (Matt.16:21; 17:23; 20:19). Notice that Jesus refers to His resurrection “on the third day.”

- (Matt.16:21) “From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day”.
- (Matt.17:23) “and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day”.
- (Matt.20:19) “and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up.”

However, all three passages were based on His earlier teaching of the Sign of Jonah in (Matt.12:38-41). Here Jesus explained –

(Matt.12:40) “**As Jonah** was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, **so shall the Son of Man** be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

**NOTE:** Jesus just made a reference to (Jonah 1:17) as a proof text – “And Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.” He interpreted the text as a messianic prophetic type of His three days and three nights of burial “In the heart of the earth.”

<b>This lesson will study four aspects of the three days and three nights burial of Jesus Christ as the prophetic Sign of Jonah.</b>
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**1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.**

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|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| • (Matt.12:38-39) | Miraculous sign     | Sign of Jonah prophecy                      |
| • (Matt.12:40)    | Messianic sign      | Son of man’ burial                          |
| • (Matt.12:41)    | Men of Nineveh sign | Salvation (Jonah 3:5, 4:11); (John 1:11-13) |

**“Behold, a greater than Jonah is here.” (Matt.12:41b)**

**2. The three days and three nights of burial of Jesus became a well-established new covenant doctrinal teaching.**

Let me give six examples of this principle.

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Teaching of Jesus to disciples | (Matt.12:38-41).           |
| • Jewish trials of Jesus         | (Mark 14:55-59).           |
| • Crucifixion of Jesus           | (Mark 15:29-32).           |
| • Securing of tomb of Jesus      | (Matt.27:62-66).           |
| • Post-resurrection appearance   | (Luke 24:20-24; 24:44-46). |
| • Christian gospel               | (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16).  |

(Acts 2:27) “Because Thou wilt not abandon My soul to Hades, nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.”  
(Acts 2:31; Ps.16:10; Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59; Ps.31:5).

### 3. **Three days and three nights is a way to express three complete days and not parts of a day.**

This is important because some want to prescribe a one day burial to Jesus.

The calendar of the burial of Jesus is based on the eight day national holiday of **Passover-Unleavened Bread**.

However, there are four national holidays of shadow Christology associated with this eight day holiday (Passover, Unleavened, First Fruits, and Pentecost).

### 4. **The Gospel of Jesus Christ consists of the following three parts: crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

- **Crucifixion of Jesus** (Wednesday) (9am - 3pm) – **Passover**
  - The Jewish holiday of Passover always began on the 14th of Nisan, which accrued on a Wednesday in 30AD (date not day).
  - It is called day of preparation for the Unleavened Bread holiday (Lev.23:1-25).
  - Jesus is our Passover lamb (1 Cor.5:7).
  
- **Burial of Jesus** (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Nisan 15-16-17) – **Unleavened Bread (UB)**
  - (15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of Nisan) Two High Sabbaths (first day of UB / 15th and the last day / 21st)
    - (John 19:31) “The Jews therefore, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a **high day or holy convocation**), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.” ( Lev.23)
    - (John 19:33) “But coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was dead, they did not break His legs.”
  - The Greek word for preparation is paraskeue (nsf) [to make ready for Unleavened Bread].
  
- **Resurrection of Jesus** (first day of week) [our Sunday] – (18th of Nisan)
  - It always followed the weekly Sabbath of the 17th of Nisan.
    - (Matt.28:1) “Now after the Sabbath (Saturday or 18 of Nisan), as it began to dawn towards the first day of the week (our Sunday), Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.”
  - The day following the weekly Sabbath of UB, (our Sunday) is the Jewish holiday of **First fruit** (18th of Nisan). Jesus is the First fruit of the Resurrection (1 Cor.15:23).
  - 50 days after the First fruit holiday is **Pentecost** (Lev.23:15-21)
    - Pentecost is also a **High Sabbath**).