

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

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Issue 45

Jesus' Time in the Tomb

By: James Cammock

One of the alleged discrepancies that critics of the Bible point to are concerns of the duration of Jesus' time in the tomb. According to the Gospel accounts, our Lord was crucified on Friday afternoon and rose triumphantly from the grave on the following Sunday morning (Mark 15:42; 16:9). Jesus predicted, however, that He would be raised *on* the third day (Matthew 16:21). Elsewhere, He taught that He would rise again *after* three days (Mark 8:31). Furthermore, when likening His time in the tomb with Jonah's time in the belly of the great fish, Jesus said that He would be in the heart of the earth *for three days and three nights* (Matthew 12:40). So which is it? Did our Lord rise from the dead *on* the third day, *after* three days, or *after a period of three days and three nights*? Also, how does 72 hours (three days and three nights) fit within a Friday afternoon crucifixion and a Sunday morning resurrection?

When one understands how the Jews measured time, the alleged discrepancy quickly disappears. According to the Jewish method of reckoning time, a part of a 24-hour day was to be counted as the whole day. Commentator Albert Barnes explains, "This computation is...strictly in accordance with the Jewish mode of reckoning...It was a maxim...among the Jews, in computing time, that a part of a day was to be received as the whole. Many instances of this kind occur in both sacred and profane history" (*Barnes' Notes on the Whole Bible*). Commentator James E. Smith agrees, "...ancient people

counted parts of days as complete days" (*Jesus: Heaven's King*). Several examples of such usage of time are found in both the Old and New Testament.

An Old Testament example is found in 1 Kings 12. When Israel asked Rehoboam to lighten their service, the king responded by instructing them to come back to him *after* three days (v. 5). The penman records, however, that Israel came back *on* the third day (v. 12). The penman even explains that such was "as the king had appointed" (v. 12). Clearly, both Israel and Rehoboam understood *after* three days and *on* the third day as referring to the same period of time. (Other examples include Genesis 7:12, 17; 42:17-18; 1 Samuel 30:12-13; 2 Chronicles 10:5, 12; and Esther 4:16; 5:1).

A New Testament example of such usage is found in Acts 10. Luke records that, by means of a vision, an angel of God appeared to Cornelius at about "the ninth hour of the day" (approx. 3 P.M., v. 3). *The next day* Peter had a vision of an object like a great sheet and welcomed the men sent by Cornelius (v. 9). *The next day* Peter departed for Caesarea with Cornelius's men (v. 23b), *and the next day* Peter arrived at Cornelius's house (vv. 24-25). After Peter explained the reason for his visit, Cornelius relayed his experience to Peter (vv. 24-33). Notice carefully how Cornelius measured time. He said, "... *Four days ago* I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright

clothing,” (v. 30). From Cornelius’ vision at 3 P.M. in verse 3 to his relaying of it to Peter at 3 P.M. in verse 30 was only 72 hours (or three days). Yet, Cornelius spoke of his vision as occurring four days ago (v. 30). Why? Because Cornelius measured time according to first century usage. A part of the first day, all of the second and third days, and a part of the fourth day, were understood by Cornelius as being four days. (Another example is Matthew 27:63-64).

Our Lord was not in the tomb for 72 hours. Rather, He was crucified on Friday afternoon (Day 1), lay in the tomb on Saturday (Day 2), and rose from the grave on Sunday morning (Day 3). A part of Friday, the whole of Saturday, and a part of Sunday was correctly spoken of by Jesus as three days, in perfect harmony with the Jewish method of reckoning time. Our Lord rose *on* the third day, *after* three days, and *after a period of three days and three nights*, all of which refer to the same period of time. Rather than a discrepancy, Jesus’ measuring of time regarding His entombment is a strong attestation to the historical credibility of the Bible.

TODAY: Starts our gospel meeting with Jason Rollo. Please stay for a potluck luncheon after the 10am morning service and we will have a 1pm service in lieu of the 5pm service today.

BAPTISM

We rejoice in the Lord for the obedience to the gospel of Corinne Flonnory. May her walk with Christ bear much fruit.

GROWING TOWARD HEAVEN

Nov. 10-13 with Jason Rollo

Sunday

9 a.m. Great And Precious Promises

10 a.m. Giving All Diligence—A Faith Worth Having

1 p.m. Knowing & Standing For The Truth (Virtue/Knowledge)

Monday

7 p.m. Self-Control & Finishing The Race (Temperance/Patience)

Tuesday

7 p.m. Purged From Your Old Sins (Godliness)

Wednesday

7 p.m. Always In Remembrance (Brotherly Kindness/Charity)

Jason Rollo is a 44 year old native Texan and has been married to his wife Bobbi Jan for 24 years. He has two sons and two daughters. Jason is a graduate of Houston College of Bible and Sam Houston State University. Currently Jason serves as one of the elders at the BCS congregation in College Station, TX. He is actively involved in the local college student Bible work. Jason supports himself in secular employment as an Insurance Agency owner. He has been on mission trips to Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, and Mexico and Biblical education trips to Turkey and Israel. Jason has preached in numerous lectureships and Gospel Meetings. He is the author of the Bible Study Program (www.biblestudyprogram.org).



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of November 10, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Curtis Scherffius, Pat Gooch, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P.M. Closing: Ronnie Scherffius

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Anthony Scherffius
Sun. P.M.: Larry Nuckels
Wednesday: Kevin Sheeran

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Gospel meeting

Open/Close Building: Scherffius

Sound System: Will Burleson

Greeters: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jamison

Congratulations!

James and Emily Cammock welcomed baby Mathias on Saturday, Nov. 2nd weighing in at 7 pounds, 9 ounces.

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Laura Purswell's mother, Marilyn Crober, who is in ICU in Houston. Paul Purswell, who had foot surgery last week. Sandra and Kin Marie, who are both having health issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 12, 19: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10am
Nov. 10-13: MidTown's Fall Gospel Meeting with Jason Rollo.
Nov. 16: GEMS hosting Ladies Tea for widows @ 11am at the building
Nov. 16: Jr/Sr High Devo. More details to come.
Nov. 23: 55+ group will meet at the Morales home @ 4pm for games. Please bring snacks.

AREA EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Amy Harris (11); Ashley Barton (15), Darryl Lynch (16)

Happy Anniversary: Dan & June Fielder (10); Ben & Millie Jamison (11)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of November 3, 2019

Bible Class.....	110
A.M. Worship.....	134
P.M. Worship.....	89
Wednesday Bible Study.....	70

Offering \$3,744

Reading for this week: Mark 1-3

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Mark 1:17



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

GO PAPERLESS!

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