

“Three Days and Three Nights in New Testament”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of April 8, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—As a Bible student, you are aware of the term “three days and three nights” as mentioned in regard to the resurrection of the Son of God.

Many theologians like to describe the time period of three days and three nights as “parts” of days. However, most of the people in my circle of life view that expression as literal days. Notice the scriptures why my friends and I form our conclusion.

Christ’s early comments

John 2:18-22—“So the Jews answered and said to Him, ‘What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.”

Later in His life, people taunted Him for saying those words.

- Matthew 26:61
- Mark 14:58
- Matthew 27:40
- Mark 15:29

Sign of Jonah

Matthew 12:39-40—“But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.’”

Began to tell disciples

As the Son of God grew closer to the time of His death, He started warning His disciples about future events—including being

raised on the third day following His death.

- Matthew 16:21
- Matthew 17:23
- Matthew 20:19
- Mark 8:31
- Mark 9:31
- Mark 10:34
- Luke 9:22
- Luke 18:33

They guarded the tomb

Matthew 27:63-64—“Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.”

Comments after the tomb

Luke 24:7—“The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

Luke 24:21—“But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.”

Luke 24:46—“Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.’”

Peter mentioned it

Acts 10:39-40—“And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly.”

Paul mentioned it

1 Corinthians 15:3-4—“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

April 23, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:54

Welcome to our guests

Members of the Church of God Big Sandy welcome all guests as we worship on the first day of Unleavened Bread. Here is the schedule today.

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir
(Also transmitted live)

Church service—3:00 Reg Killingley

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Offertory Piano solo

Scripture reading 1 Corinthians 5:7–8
1 Corinthians 13:1–13

Sermon Reg Killingley

Quick takes

1. Thank you—Thank you to all the individuals who helped serve in the building at the Memorial of the Suffering and Death of the Son of God on Sunday night.

- Those who set up the hall and the foot-washing area
- Michael Bald in the sound booth
- Dixon for playing three hymns and accompanying two singers
- Paula Hughes, Bernice Burson and Amy Case, who used their vocal gifts to glorify the Father and the Son and to serve the congregation
- Helping each other in the foot-washing area
- The ushers distributing the bread and wine
- Various people reading the Word of God
- Those who restored the hall to its normal status

2. Thank you—Thank you to the families who served at the traditional meal in the building on Monday night. (Thank you to Linda Avey for coordinating the event.)

3. Wednesday, April 24 — Bible study at 7:00 p.m.

4. Throughout the week—Remember the resurrection—three days and three nights after His death and burial.

5. Saturday, April 27—Regular church schedule. The speakers are Daniel Hammons and Neil McIver.

6. Monday, April 29 (seventh day of Unleavened Bread)

■ 1:00—Interactive study, Dave Havir

■ 2:00—Presentation study, Dave Havir

■ 3:00—Church service, sermon by Wynn Skelton

Scriptures to consider

"Then they understood that He [the Son of God] did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees;"—*Matthew 16:12*

"Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth;"—*1 Corinthians 5:7-8*

Scriptures about Christ's resurrection

Peter (left column) and Paul (right column) discussed the resurrection of Christ.

■ Acts 2:22-36
 ■ Acts 3:12-18
 ■ Acts 3:26
 ■ Acts 4:2
 ■ Acts 4:10
 ■ Acts 4:33
 ■ Acts 5:30-31
 ■ Acts 10:34-43
 ■ 1 Peter 1:3-5
 ■ 1 Peter 1:18-21
 ■ 1 Peter 3:21-22

■ Acts 13:16-41
 ■ Acts 17:2-3
 ■ Acts 17:18
 ■ Acts 28:23-31
 ■ Romans 4:24-25
 ■ Romans 6:3-6
 ■ Romans 8:11
 ■ Romans 8:34
 ■ 1 Corinthians 6:14
 ■ 1 Corinthians 15:12-23
 ■ 1 Corinthians 15:35-58
 ■ 2 Corinthians 4:14
 ■ Ephesians 1:20-23
 ■ Philippians 3:10
 ■ Colossians 2:12
 ■ Colossians 3:1-10

Saved by grace

Before the Memorial of the Suffering and Death of Christ, we focused upon God's grace.

■ Ephesians 2:8-9—saved by grace
 ■ Titus 3:4-7—justified by His grace

Reaction to grace

After the Memorial of the Suffering and Death of Christ (as we observe the Days of Unleavened Bread), we focus upon our Father's expectations of us.

■ Ephesians 2:10—since saved, good works
 ■ Titus 3:8—since justified, good works
 ■ Exodus 20:1-17—since delivered, Ten Commandments
 ■ Matthew 19:17-19—keep the Commandments
 ■ Matthew 19:20-21—give to the poor
 ■ Matthew 22:36-40—two great Commandments

■ Romans 6:1-2—since saved by grace, should we sin?
 ■ Romans 6:3—baptized into Christ's death
 ■ Romans 6:4-5—likeness of His death and of His resurrection
 ■ Romans 12:1—become a living sacrifice
 ■ Romans 12:2—transformed by the renewing of the mind
 ■ Romans 12:9-21—many positive characteristics

■ 1 Corinthians 10:5-11—five sins in the wilderness
 ■ Galatians 5:19-21—avoid works of the flesh
 ■ Galatians 5:22-23—reflect fruit of the Spirit
 ■ Colossians 3:1-2—seek those things that are above
 ■ James 1:26—bridle the tongue
 ■ James 1:27—visit the fatherless and widow
 ■ Matthew 5:14-16—good works to glorify the Father
 ■ 1 Peter 2:11-12—good works to glorify God

Three biblical definitions of sin

■ 1 John 3:4—based on the law
 ■ James 4:17—based on what we know
 ■ Romans 14:23—based on faith

Three reasons why we obey

■ To avoid consequences Ezekiel 33:10-11
 ■ To receive recompense later Luke 14:12-14
 ■ To glorify our Father Matthew 5:14-16