

“The Power of the Resurrection—Part 1”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of April 27, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a series about the resurrection of the Son of God. (Because the decision to conduct this series came about rather quickly, my syllabus is not complete and I don’t know at this time how long the series may last.)

The study discussed aspects about the timing of the resurrection of the Son of God.

Three days and three nights

The phrase “three days and three nights” is a foundational idea in establishing the time difference between the death of the Son of God and His resurrection.

- For the record, much of the religious world interprets the description of three days and three nights as partial increments.
- However, most people among the Church of God view that phrase as complete days and nights.

Let’s read verses that talk about the three days and three nights.

Comment in early ministry

Notice how the Son of God used that phrase early in His ministry.

- John 2:18-19—When the Jews asked for a sign, the Son of God responded: “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- John 2:20—The Jews responded: “It has taken 46 years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?”
- John 2:21—But the Son of God was talking about His body being the temple.
- John 2:22—When the disciples remembered this comment later on, they understood what the Son of God meant.

Taunted later

Years later, some people threw those words back into the face of the Son of God.

- See Matthew 26:60-61 and Mark 14:57-58.
- See Matthew 27:39-40 and Mark 15:29-30.

Sign of Jonah

- Matthew 12:39—The Son of God acknowledged the sign of Jonah.
- Matthew 12:40—As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, the Son of God was to be three days and three nights in the “heart” of the earth.

Warned His disciples

Toward the end of His ministry, the Son of God foretold His disciples about four upcoming events—He would go to Jerusalem, He would suffer, He would die, and He would be raised on the third day.

- Matthew 16:21—“Be raised the third day”
- Matthew 17:23—“The third day He will be raised up.”
- Matthew 20:18-19—“The third day He will rise again.”
- Mark 8:31—“After three days rise again.”
- Mark 9:31—“He will rise the third day.”
- Mark 10:33-34—“And the third day He will rise again.”
- Luke 9:22—“Be raised the third day.”
- Luke 18:32-33—“And the third day He will rise again.”

Guarding the tomb

Pilate took the threat of the Son of God rising after three days so seriously that He guarded the tomb.

- Matthew 27:62-63—The chief priests and Pharisees warned Pilate about what the Son of God said when He was alive: “After three days, I will rise.”
- Matthew 27:64—The chief priests and Pharisees suggested that Pilate make the tomb secure until the third day—so that the disciples wouldn’t steal the body.
- Matthew 27:65-66—Pilate ordered that the tomb be secure.

Two preparation days?

Understanding the preparation day (before an annual Sabbath and a weekly Sabbath) is critical to understanding the historic scenario about the resurrection.