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DID JESUS DIE ON 'GOOD FRIDAY' ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?

There has been an ongoing discussion for years as to which day the Lord was crucified. Of course, the important thing is that Christ died for our sins; consequently, the actual day of His death would be irrelevant, except for the fact that it does affect a number of passages.

As we know, tradition teaches the Lord was crucified on Friday, hence, the commemoration of 'Good Friday'. Others would argue Christ's death took place on Thursday, commonly known as 'Maundy Thursday', which is observed in commemoration of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

From Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, Luke 24:1 and John 20:1 we know Christ was risen already on Sunday, the first day of the week.

This means according to Matthew 12:40 that He was crucified on Wednesday: *"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."

Unlike our day, which begins at midnight, the Jewish day began at 6 o'clock in the evening. According to Matthew 27:45, we know that the Savior was crucified between noon and 3 o'clock, which would have been the close of the Jewish day on Wednesday.

Because the Passover was drawing near, the body of our Lord was removed and quickly prepared by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Therefore, it was placed in the tomb before 6:00 p.m., which marked the beginning of the three nights and three days.

This was the commencement of three Sabbats in a row: Passover (Thursday - 1st day), Unleavened Bread (Friday - 2nd day), and the weekly Sabbath (Saturday -3rd day) (Leviticus 23:1-7).

This explains why the women were unable to come to the tomb before the first day of the week with their spices, which they had already prepared on the day that Jesus died (Luke 23:56). So then, Christ would have risen from the dead at the close of the third day before 6:00 p.m. (our Saturday), which also marked the beginning of the first day of the week.

Obviously there are not three days between the traditional view of Good Friday and Sunday; consequently, some claim there are examples in the Scriptures that any part of a day can be reckoned as a full 24-hour day. This is true! However, when parameters are set such as we have in Matthew 12:40 (3 days and 3 nights), it demands three literal 24-hour days.

Furthermore Jesus couldn't have died on Thursday as he travelled 6 days before the Passover (John 12:1) and He would not have travelled in principle on a weekly Sabbath (Exodus 16:29).

It is our conviction that the Savior was crucified Wednesday afternoon.

(Source: Berean Searchlight by Pastor Sadler)