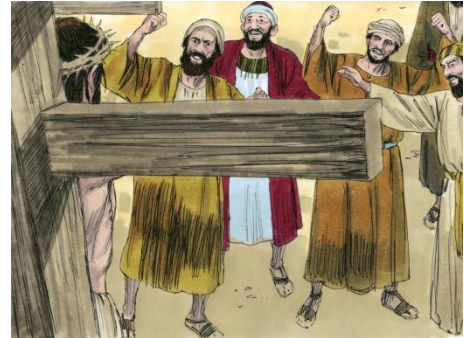
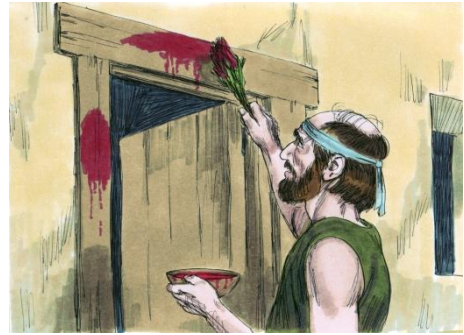




Creyentes Bíblicos de la Gracia
Grace Bible Believers

www.badnewsgoodnews.net
info@badnewsgoodnews.net

Atn.: Rob van der Zee
Apartado 143
29631 Arroyo de la Miel (Málaga)
ESPAÑA / SPAIN
Tel.: (+34) 636 993 444



WHAT DAY WAS JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED?

Have you ever understood how people can commemorate Jesus Christ His death on Good Friday and on Sunday morning they are celebrating His resurrection? Where is the biblical third day?

The Bible is clear that Jesus Christ rose again on Sunday morning. In John 20:1 we can read for example: “Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone *already* removed from the tomb.” And the first day of the week is the day after the Sabbath (which for the Jews ends at sunset on Saturday). Furthermore, we can read in Matthew 12:40: “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” If we connect these two verses, it’s clear that Good Friday is not an option for the day that Jesus Christ was being crucified.

It seems that Matthew 12:40 indicates that Jesus Christ was crucified on Wednesday in order to have been physically dead for 72 hours. However, we will see that in that case there will be too much time in between the Wednesday afternoon and the Sunday morning.

In Mark 15:34-37 we read: “At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “ELOI, ELOI, LEMA SABAKTANEI?” which is translated, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” ... But Jesus let out a loud cry, and died.” So we know that Jesus died at the ninth hour, which is around 3pm because Jewish daylight counting starts from sunrise. In order to have Christ resurrected on the third day starting from Wednesday afternoon, He had to rise on the Saturday before sunset when the Jewish fourth day started. And this contradicts with Luke 24:21, where Luke shows us through the Emmaus disciples that the Sunday was the third day and not the Saturday: “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all *this, it is the third day since* these things happened.”

The Wednesday option also contradicts with Matthew 27:64 where we read that the tomb had to be made secure until the third day. Roman guards had been placed and Matthew 28:1-4 teaches us that these guards were still there on Sunday morning: “Now after the Sabbath, as it

began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.”

Now, how about the three days and the three nights in Matthew 12:40? In Esther 4:16 we read: “Go, gather all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants also will fast in the same way. And then I will go in to the king, which is not in accordance with the law; and if I perish, I perish.” And in Esther 5:1, we read that Esther went to the king on the third day: “Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and....” So the “three days, night or day” in Esther 4:16 show us that this time period doesn’t need to be 72 hours long as long as part of the day or night are included.

So, we should consider the Thursday as the day of Jesus Christ’s death. A great study on <https://www.loriswebs.com/lorispoeetry/crucifix.html> might convince you of this. Keeping in mind that Nisan 15 was a holy day of rest (see Numbers 28:16-18), Lori Eldridge gives in her study one of the best reasons for having the Thursday as the day that Jesus Christ was crucified. With her permission, we herewith quote the following three paragraphs from her website:

“In Exodus 12:1-6 we notice that the selection of the Passover lamb occurred on the 10th day of Nisan, four days before they were slaughtered on Preparation day of Passover, which was on the 14th. The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 5:7 that “Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” Also, the day after being questioned about whether he was the Christ, John the Baptist said, when he saw Jesus approaching: “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (*John 1:29*)

God said that the lambs were to be selected on Nisan 10 in preparation of Passover. After the lamb was selected they were to take it into their home for four days and examine it each day for flaws. However, this was eventually changed to mean the Priest in the Temple had to inspect and approve of this lamb, not the individual.

Thus, the same day that the Jews were presenting their lambs to be inspected for the Passover [Nisan 10] we see our own Passover Lamb presenting Himself to the people of Jerusalem for inspection as their long awaited King on the day of the Triumphal Entry (Matt. 21:1-23; Mark 11:1-19; Luke 19:28-47; John 12:12-18). The people accepted Him, but their leaders did not. He was then examined for four days by the chief priests, teachers of the law, elders, Pharisees, Sadducees, and even the Herodians, but they could not find fault with Him and thus they had to rely on false witnesses in order to convict Him. The Triumphal Entry is one of the major keys to figuring out the day of the week for the crucifixion.”

Lori Eldridge mentions in her study also the following:

“Pharisees and Rabbinists considered about 3 PM (on Nisan 14) to be the proper time to sacrifice the Passover lamb. Yet back in Exodus 12:3-6, God said this is to occur on Nisan 14 at twilight and all other events were to occur on that same day also. This would be impossible to accomplish if they waited until the end of Nisan 14 to slaughter their lamb....”

So it appears that the Pharisees and Rabbinists had set a later time contrary to what God had instituted. However, Jesus Christ did celebrate the Passover meal at the right biblical time and we believe that He did so on Wednesday evening. On Thursday afternoon, Jesus Christ died at the same time as the Passover lambs of the Jews. The Friday and the Saturday were consecutive holy days of rest.

What is more important than knowing what day Jesus Christ was crucified, is to know why He died. **He died for you so that through personal faith in His death, His burial and His resurrection on the third day, you may have eternal life in heaven and won’t suffer the punishment of eternal destruction.** See www.badnewsgoodnews.net for more information.

Rob van der Zee (April 12th, 2022)

Source of the text: http://www.badnewsgoodnews.net/english/studies/What_day_was_Jesus_Christ_crucified.pdf
Source of the illustrations: <https://www.unfoldingword.org/sweet-publishing>