

# Red Letter Edition

*What did Jesus Say?*

## On Truth (*Part Six*)



**Tradition had Jesus going to Jerusalem on Sunday (Palm Sunday) dying on Friday (Good Friday) and being raised on the following Sunday (Easter).**

**Jesus said, "...Three days and three nights."**

This should be easy right? It is obvious there is mathematical error here somewhere. I quickly decided that Good Friday was the culprit and decided that Jesus had to have died on a Wednesday to fulfill the prophecy and rise Sunday. Fixed, right?

Not so fast. If He died on Wednesday then how was the next day Sabbath?

*John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*

**But if we move the crucifixion to a Friday to make the next day Sabbath, then He will have to be in the grave until Tuesday to fulfill His prophecy. And the record is that when Mary came to the sepulcher Sunday at dawn, the angel said He is not here.**

*Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*

*Mark 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.*

*John 20:1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.*

I must find a way for three real 12-hour days and three real 12-hour nights to fit into this burial and resurrection.

When I proposed this problem to men better trained than I they told me that in Jerusalem they don't number days like we do. Over there any part of a day is considered a day, and any part of a night is considered a night. Therefore Jesus could have been in the grave three parts of three days and it would have been considered three days in total. Yet something was wrong here. Though they may be able to show you three parts of three days between Friday night and Sunday morning, three parts of three nights simply does not exist.

Jesus specifically said, "Three days AND three nights"....

However, I was out of answers. This feeble attempt was all that theology had to offer me. I was faced with the alternative that Jesus' sign was a failure. He was not in the earth three days and three nights and what is more no one seemed to care. Did they have more faith than I did? They would say to me, "Well, I may not know when He rose but I know that he did." That may sound good but He said the **only sign** in which you can be sure, was the length of time. "**JUST AS Jonas was . . . SO SHALL the son of man be.**"

If he exaggerated about one He could have exaggerated the other. I wondered could Jesus have died for fifteen minutes and have accomplished the same thing? Or maybe fifteen years? If the time in the grave was unimportant it should not be a factor at all. Or maybe the word "died" was an exaggeration too. As far as I was concerned a miss was as good as a mile. It was extremely discouraging to me that God couldn't make the deadline that He imposed

on Himself. He didn't HAVE to say anything about time, yet He did, and by doing so brought fault upon either Himself or the Scriptures. Believing he was faultless, I grabbed at the alternative. Though the theologian's idea was ridiculous I seized it out of desperation, but I took it hard that the Scriptures were not reliable.

The scriptures are so wonderful at giving you just what you need just when you need it. As I was considering this ludicrous idea, I read in John 11:9 where Jesus said, "**Are there not twelve hours in the day?**" Up and running again, I was more determined than ever to find the TRUTH.

I was determined to find this truth that was hidden for those that seek. But I will not have you think more highly of me than you ought to think. I once came to the conclusion that the Bible was just plain wrong.

Using our Truth detection formula outlined above, I may not know when Christ died but I did know when He didn't. He didn't die when the *church* said He did. Nice try guys. But it doesn't add up. I was determined that at LEAST the Bible should make mathematical sense. Sure, maybe I can't understand The Revelation, or the prophetic vision of Ezekiel, but I know arithmetic. I am not willing to throw dispersion on the Bible because I have no prophetic understanding; I consider myself a novice, but here we face a mathematical impossibility. This was the kind of cross-examination of testimony that would convict criminals caught in a lie.

Was I to believe that the God that created the days of the week; the God that says all of our hairs are numbered, (Matthew 10:30) was incapable of properly counting and recording the days of His Son's death in an accurate manner? **Should we all blindly go our way saying the Bible is a trustworthy book if God can't count to three?**

The following is an excerpt from the perpetual calendar that I received from the Internet. It shows all of the first [Jewish] month Nissan and part of our spring months that correspond in the year that Christ died. The evening of Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> is the time and date of crucifixion and the next three are His three days and subsequent nights in the grave.

Year of Creation: 3790								Civil year: 30 AD							
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
NIS					1	2	3					21	22	23	MAR
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	APR
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	25	26	27	28	29	30		14	15	16	17	18	19		

## Hope Deferred

*Proverbs 13:12, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life."*

With this question having been laid aside for several months, I was studying the Passover, Moses actions the night of the exodus, and the laws and customs that derived from this event (Exodus 12).

Yehovah said exactly how and when Pasach was to occur. He said that the day following the Pasach (Hebrew for Passover) was to be a Sabbath; a day of rest but this will not necessarily fall on the seventh day of the week.

*Exodus 12:16 And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.*

I remembered a previous problem where a Sabbath fell immediately after a Lamb was slain. Could this have been the Sabbath on which they were trying to avoid the labor of burying the Lord? If that was so then this Sabbath could easily have occurred on *any day* of the week. We only *assumed* it was a weekly Sabbath. I found that the Jewish people have kept calendars for centuries. These calendars record the dates and days of the week for centuries past. The information I needed was available; all I had to do was find it.

I have often wondered the time this study would have required if I had no Internet access. It has been an enormous help to me as it was on this occasion. The calendar for which I was searching had been turned into a program that could calculate and generate calendars for years from our past. This program was accessible from the Internet (see image above). If one input the year (Jewish or conventional) it would generate a calendar for that year with the days of the week intact. So that is exactly what I did. I needed the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan (fifteenth day of the first month of the Jewish year) to fall on a Thursday. The 15<sup>th</sup> Nissan is the day that the Passover was (and is still) to occur. I found just such an occurrence in AD 30. *I found the year Christ died!* Passover did not occur on a Thursday for years before AD 30, nor did occur in years recently past AD 30.

OK that is a lot of information, but this is the idea my research proposed:

1. Jesus died on 14<sup>th</sup> Nissan Wednesday (fourth day) [1] evening near the approaching High Sabbath 15<sup>th</sup> Nissan first day of unleavened bread. ~ Exodus 12
2. He had to be taken from the [2] cross because of the Sabbath (not the weekly, but the "High" day) that started at [3] sundown. ~ Deuteronomy 21; John 19
3. He was placed in the tomb of [4] Joseph of Arimathea just before Sabbath. ~ Mark 15



4. Mary could not finish [5]preparations because it was the Sabbath from that evening till the next evening. ~ Mark 16
5. Although it would be lawful to do so she could not return to finish Friday (sixth day) because the [6]soldiers had been posted for three days and three nights. ~ Matthew 27
6. She could not return to finish on the Sabbath Day (seventh day of the week) as work was forbidden and the Soldiers were still there.
7. She returned early [7]Sunday (First Day) to have the stone rolled away by the angels, and the soldiers fearing what happened returned and to find the was tomb empty. ~ Mark 16; Luke 24
8. Jesus was in the earth, just like He said He would be, for three days and three nights.

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[1] Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

[2] Deuteronomy 21:23, "His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

[3] Exodus 12:18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

[4] Mark 15:42-43 And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

[5] Mark 16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

[6] Matthew 27:62-66 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

[7] Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

Luke 24:1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

Luke 24:22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

More next time...

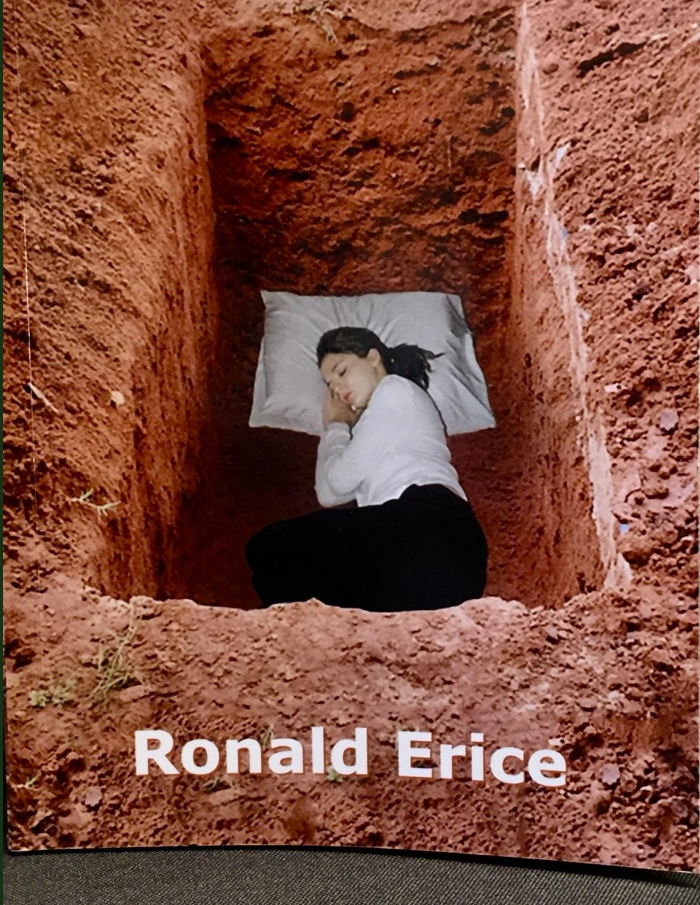
Friendly,

*Don C. Harris*

"I find that most people have been 'churched' into their belief system. Well-meaning clergy have preached from the pulpits, filling their congregations' minds with all sorts of myths about what happens when we die. It's a brilliant strategy by Satan. He is infiltrating (the church) from within by distorting the Bible truth and using deceived mankind to

# DEATH

## What Happens When We Die?



deliver the message. This book attempts to set the record straight with a thorough examination of what happens when we die as told from "the source of life".

~ Mr. Ronald Erice, Author

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ISBN:  
9798617857346

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Dear ThINKers,

Here is a kind but firm thesis with an inexorable yet hopeful, conclusion. Erice's thorough apology apologized for nothing (except perhaps by inference on behalf of a world-wide Christian conspiracy to neglect the truth in deference to Catholic doctrines). This book evinces Scriptures to be reckoned with by any who have the guts to attempt a defense of false doctrine. For reference or rhetoric, information or inspiration, this one should be on your desk. Click [HERE](#) or on the image to be directed to purchase a copy for yourself or others. Please, leave a review after your purchase.

Thank you.  
Don C. Harris

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Don, thank you so very much for your gift of the book, "Death, What Happens When We Die?" by Ronald Erice which was received last evening. The author skillfully, thoroughly, and meticulously clarifies and reveals the truth of the Scriptures regarding all aspects of this subject. So far I have read 80 pages. While I have not believed we go to heaven when we die for many years, this book answers other questions I have pondered over. Thank you again. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you.

~ ThINKer in TX

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Thanks for sending me a copy of Ronald Erice's book, "Death, What Happens When We Die". I'm about half-way through and find it as informative as it is enlightening. You've spoken about this subject many times in the past and now Ronald's book has completely dispelled any lingering doubts. How comforting it is to know "the truth"! Of course, the truth is what TRI is all about and always has been. Thank you again. And may you continue to illuminate all ThINKers in what



matters most in life ... and death.

~ ThINKer in FL

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Thank you so much for the book on "Death". I enjoyed it very much. Truth is much better than hearsay when it comes to what we believe. I will pass the book on to someone I know will read it. Don, I sincerely appreciate all you do for all of us!

~ ThINKer in NM

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*My view from the TRI television studio set.*  
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watching the "Words of Jesus Series."

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P.O. BOX 718 - PIE TOWN, NM 87827

[Don@ThinkRedInk.com](mailto:Don@ThinkRedInk.com)

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