

# But What Does the Bible Say?

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## I. What if Jesus was crucified on Wednesday or Thursday—Instead of Friday?

### A. Traditional thinking

- Thursday: Jesus ate Passover at sundown (6:00 PM, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan)
- Friday: Crucified from the 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and buried by sundown
- Saturday: The Jewish Sabbath (from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday)
- Sunday: Jesus resurrected from the tomb

### 1. Verses about the sabbath seem to indicate a Friday crucifixion

[Mar 15:42](#) And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

[Mar 15:43](#) Joseph of Arimathaea...

### 2. Verses about the first day of the week seem to indicate a Sunday resurrection

[Luk 24:1](#) Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre...

## B. But what does the Bible say?

### 1. Jesus said three days and three nights in the heart of the earth

[Mat 12:40](#) 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.**

### 2. Mary found an empty tomb before Sunday (day)

[Joh 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.

### 3. Jesus said ‘after three days’ —Or ‘the third day’

**Mar 8:31** And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and *of* the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

**Mat 16:21** From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

### **C. Further important Bible information**

#### **1. God's day and the Jewish day begins with the evening**

**Gen 1:5** And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

#### **2. The passover was the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan**

**Lev 23:5** In the fourteenth *day* of the first month at even *is* the LORD'S passover.

#### **3. Through Moses, God declared that the day after Passover was an annual sabbath**

**Lev 23:6** And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

**Lev 23:7** In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

#### **4. Nissan 15—First day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—A yearly 'high sabbath'**

**Joh 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.

#### **5. I believe there two sabbaths that week —One on the 15<sup>th</sup> —One on Saturday**

### **D. What about a Wednesday crucifixion?**

#### **1. Our Tuesday evening (the Jewish 4<sup>th</sup> weekday began at 6:00 PM)**

—**Jesus ate the Passover at 6:00 PM (the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month Nissan)**

**Mat 26:20** Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

—**Jesus spent a long night (Recorded in many chapters)**

#### **2. Our Wednesday morning and afternoon (still Nissan 14 to the Jews)**

—**Trials before Jewish Sanhedrin, Pilate and Herod**

**Mat 27:1** When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

**Mat 27:2** And when they had bound him, they led *him* away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

—Jesus was crucified from 9:00am-3:00pm

—Jesus was in the tomb before 6:00 PM (the beginning of the Jewish 5<sup>th</sup> weekday)

Luk 23:52 This *man* went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

Luk 23:53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

Luk 23:54 And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.

Luk 23:55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

### 3. Our Thursday (from 6:00 PM Wed to 6:00 PM Thur was Jewish Nissan 15)

—The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—A “high sabbath”

### 4. Our Friday

—The women bought spices (that could not have been bought on the sabbath)

Mar 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.

—After buying the spices, the women prepared them

Luk 23:56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments

### 5. Our Saturday (Jewish weekly sabbath from 6:00 PM Fri to 6:00 PM Sat our time)

—The women rested

Luk 23:56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

### 6. Our Sunday—First day of week (from 6:00 PM Sat to 6:00 PM Sun Jewish time)

—The women brought the previously bought and prepared spices

Luk 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.

—Yet, Jesus was resurrected before they got there—Before day

Joh 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.

## E. A Wednesday crucifixion fits perfectly with exactly three days and three nights

1. From a little before 6:00 PM on Wednesday to a little before 6:00 PM on Saturday

—Wed-night—Thurs-day—Thurs-night—Fri-day—Fri-night—Sat-day

2. Most might say: “But Jesus arose on Sunday!”  
—The Bible says the tomb was found empty while it was still dark on Sunday morning  
—But the Bible does not say when Jesus was resurrected and left it empty

## **II. Other (more important) times where we should say: “What Does the Bible Say?”**

### **A. What if God’s people held to the Bible more than to traditional thinking?**

- Maybe Wednesday or Friday doesn’t matter—But what about many other things  
—Nobody thinks anymore—Everybody just goes along with the crowd

### **B. What if churches had never left the gospel of the grace of Christ?**

- What if grace is the greatest motivation to goodness—And the church missed it?  
—What if grace defines God—And the church doesn’t know who He is?

### **C. What if God’s people still held to the Bible’s standards?**

- Our country defines good as evil, and evil as good  
—Truth is said to be relative—Every man decides his own truth  
—God’s judgment comes when every man does that which seems right in his own eyes

### **D. What if our education system had not fallen for evolution?**

- The beginning of understanding God is ‘God as Creator’  
—The beginning of glorifying God is ‘God as Creator’  
—The beginning of religious responsibility is to a Creator God

### **E. What if our psychology was focused on God-esteem instead of self-esteem?**

- Our children grow up learning the opposite of what Jesus taught as the greatest laws  
—Our ‘me-centered’ selfishness pervades our very beings  
—The sense of compromise, fellowship, togetherness, getting along has ceased  
—The basic ideas of politeness and being courteous don’t exist

### **F. What if Moms still raised their own babies?**

- From Rosie the Riveter to two income keeping up with the Joneses  
—Nobody (but God) loves you like Momma loves you

### **G. What if Dads were real fathers and family still mattered?**

- Fathers, bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord  
—From “Papa Was a Rolling Stone” to “Cats in the Cradle”

### **H. What if devout Christians who followed God, and not democracy, was the answer?**

- When the masses rule: If the people are good—The government is good  
—A monarchy with a good and godly king is better than a democracy with bad people

### **I. What if capitalism is truly an ungodly system?**

- Ingrained greed in the ‘haves’—Ingrained slothfulness in the ‘have nots’  
—Real Christianity is not socialism—It is a love of Jesus that produces willing charity

**J. What if winning is not everything?**

- Competition in sports—T-ball parents fight—Challenged kids cut
- The intrigue of “Survival”—Are we one step from the gladiators in the Coliseum?
- Whatever happened to: ‘It’s how you play the game’—Even in all the game of life

**K. What if God’s people cared about what the Bible says?**

**Lam 3:40** Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

**Mat 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Mat 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**2Ch 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

