

MESSAGE

Occasion : Evening Worship
Date : April 16, 2017

**TITLE : IN COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THAT THE LORD JESUS DIED AND
WAS BURIED ON A FRIDAY**

Text/s :

1 Cor 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

KJV

Bible reading:

Matt 28:1-6

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.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

KJV

Song/s :

INTRODUCTION

Some things that we need to settle ourselves into:

- **Christ came to please the Father and fulfill His will**

John 8:28-29

28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

KJV

Matt 3:17

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

KJV

Matt 17:5

5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

KJV

John 4:34

34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

KJV

John 5:30

30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

KJV

John 17:4

4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

KJV

Rom 15:3

3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

KJV

- **Christ's came to fulfill all writings regarding him. There is not one tittle that will pass that was not fulfilled.**

Matt 5:17-18

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

KJV

Matt 3:15-17

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

KJV

Ps 40:6-8

6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

KJV

- **When therefore the Lord Jesus referred to His death and burial, He cited one reference which could not be broken and that must needs be fulfilled to the letter.**

Matt 12:40

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.

KJV

Matt 16:4

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

KJV

Jonah 1:17

17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

KJV

Below is a list of all the Prophecies fulfilled concerning Christ's Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension

O.T. REFERENCE	DETAILS	N.T. REFERENCE
Dan 9:25-26	1) Timing of death. The prophecy states that the Messiah will die 69 weeks of years (483 yrs) after the edict is issued to rebuild Jerusalem. The edict was issued by Artaxerxes in 445BC and 483 lunar years later, Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem.	
Ze 9:9	2) Triamphal entry into Jerusalem	John 12:12-15
Isa 53:3.11	3) Experience profound grief and agony	Matt 26:37-38
Ps 41:9	4) Betrayal by a friend who would eat with him	Matt 26:20-21
Ze 11:12	5) Betrayal for 30 pcs of silver	Matt 26:14-15
Ze 11:13	6) Disposition of the betrayal money	Matt 27:3,5-7
Ze 13:7	7) Forsaken by His disciples	Matt 26:55-56
Ps 35:11-12	8) Accused by false witnesses	Matt 26:59
Is 53:7	9) Silent before His accusers	Matt 27:14
Is 50:6	10) Spat upon	Matt 26:67
Mi 5:1	11) Stricken	Matt 26:67
Is 50:6	12) Scourged	Matt 27:26
Is 52:14	13) Face beaten to a pulp	Matt 27:30
Is 50:6	14) Beard plucked. There is no specific recroded fulfillment of this prophesy, but it was likely one of the tortures inflicted upon Jesus by the soldiers	
Is 50:6	15) Humiliated	Mark 15:17-19

Ps 22:15	16) Physical exhaustion	Luke 23:26
Ps 22:16	17) Crucified	Luke 23:33
Is 53:12	18) Identified with sinners	Mark 15:27
Ps 22:6-8	19) Object of scorn and ridicule	Luke 23:35-39
Ps 22:15	20) Experienced thirst	John 19:28
Ps 69:21	21) Given vinegar to drink	Matt 27:48
Ps 38:11	22) Friends stand afar	Luke 23:49
Ps 22:17	23) Stared at	Luke 23:35
Ps 22:18	24) Clothing divided among persecutors	John 19:23
Ps 22:18	25) Lots cast for robe	John 19:23-24
Amos 8:9	26) Darkness at noon	Matt 27:45
Ps 22:1	27) A cry of disorientation due to separation from God	Matt 27:46
Ps 109:4	28) Pray for persecutors	Luke 23:34
Ps 22:31	29) Cry of victory	John 19:30
Ps 31:5	30) Voluntary release of spirit	Luke 23:46
Ps 34:20	31) No bones broken	John 19:32-33
Ze 12:10	32) Pierced in the side	John 19:34
Ps 22:14	33) Death by a broken heart	John 19:34
Is 53:9	34) Buried in a rich man's grave	Matt 27:57-60
Ps 16:10	35) Resurrection	Mark 16:6
Ps 68:18	36) Ascension	Acts 1:9
Ps 110:1	37) Exaltation at the right hand of God	Mark 16:19
Ps 110:4	38) Serve as a High Priest	Heb 6:20
Ps 2:1-2	39) Continue to be despised by the nations	1 John 5:19

If all these things were specific fulfillment of prophecies, how can His own declaration in reference to Jonah's 3 days and 3 nights NOT BE FULFILLED? It was He Himself Who declared such.. The very Word of God!

In both passages, the term "three days and three nights" comes very specific, and that means three daytimes of 12 hours and three nighttimes of 12 hours, for a complete 3 x 24, totaling 72 hours or completely, three whole days.

We must remember that the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ, including that of the sequence thereof, is not according to anything like tradition or customs of men, but according to the Scriptures. The Apostle Paul, writing to the Ekklesia in Corinth says,

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor 15:1-4).

The reference to Jonah is also given importance in Matt 16:4, “A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.”

Moreover, other passages that refer to complete three days include, Mark 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.**”

Still, the priests and Pharisees who came to Pilate cited such a claim by Christ, Matt 27:62-63, “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.**”

THE COMMON GROUND

There is one common ground that all Bible-believing Christians take: That the Lord Jesus rose from the grave “before dawn toward the first day of the week” and everybody would refer that the first day of the week as Sunday.

This, of course, is based on Matt 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.”

John also describes the account in 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.”

The 12 hours of the night in the New Testament is divided into 4 quarters (watches). So, obviously, it follows that the 1st watch is 6 to 9pm; 2nd watch is 9pm-12mn; 3rd watch is 12mn-3am; and 4th watch is 3am-6am.

These quarters (or watches) are given light in the following passages:

Luke 12:37-38

37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Matt 14:24-25

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

AN ASSUMPTION

Dawn happens within the fourth watch. And that was exactly the time when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb, only to find out that the same was already open. Apparently, something significant happened during the hours before!

Let's take it that this significant happening occurred in the third watch, and assume that the Resurrection happened somewhere between 12mn to 3am of that Sunday (reckoning the day in our time today).

WORKING BACK

Working back and counting 72 hours from the assumption above would put us back to an entombment (burial) that happened between 12mn to 3am of Thursday (reckoning the day in our time today).

THE ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HIS ENTOMBMENT

Let us now look into a more detailed account of what happened after the Lord Jesus died on the cross, and all related happenings until the entombment of the Lord Jesus:

- 3pm (ninth hour) - Jesus Christ gave up the Ghost (Matt 27:46, Mark 15:34).
- 6pm (even) - Joseph of Arimathea came to Pilate and "begged the body of Jesus" (Matt 27:57-58). Mark uses the term "craved the body of Jesus" (Mark 15:42).

The description given by Mark to bring to us the account before Pilate will make us to understand that there could have been significant passage of time before he (Pilate) gave approval for Joseph to get the body of Jesus.

Mark 15:44-45

44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

Let us see the more detail of what happened during that night...

- Undetermined time - Joseph before Pilate begs and craves for the body of Jesus. Pilate dillydallies, wonders, and calls for the Centurion to confirm from him that indeed Jesus was dead. Note that the Centurion was at Calvary that time. How long then did it take for him to be called to appear before Pilate to confirm? How much time in total did this process take?

Mark 15:43-45

43 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.

44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

Matt 27:57-58

57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

John 19:38

38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

Luke 23:50-52

50 And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just:

51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

52 This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

- Undetermined time - After getting from Pilate the go signal to get the body of Jesus, Joseph buys fine linen. Nicodemus also comes and brings spices.

Mark 15:46

46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

John 19:39

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

- Undetermined time - After securing fine linen and spices, they bring the body of Jesus down from the Cross, cleans the Body with spices and wraps the same with fine linen. How much hours would it take to do this?

Mark 15:46

46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

Matt 27:59

59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

Luke 23:53

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.

John 19:40

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

- Undetermined time - After cleaning and wrapping the Body, it is then carefully brought to the nearby sepulcher. Again, how much time would this have taken?

Matt 27:59-60

59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Mark 15:46

46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

Luke 23:53

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.

John 19:40-20:1

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

How many hours would have passed to do all these things, from the time (6pm, even) when Joseph of Arimathea came to Pilate? How much time was spent negotiating with Pilate, confirming the report from the Centurion, finally getting the approval, buying the linen, Nicodemus coming and contributing with the spices...

Then, too, going to Calvary and securing the body of the Lord Jesus. Would you think they would have dared to just drop down the body of the Lord from the cross? No, I don't think so. Instead, they brought His Body down slowly, carefully, even shedding tears each time they see His wounds, seeing how He suffered, bled and died for their sins...

When they have finally brought down the body, they would have carefully and slowly washed clean with spices each of the many, many wounds, even tenderly touching that sacred Body and then eventually wrapping with fine linen...

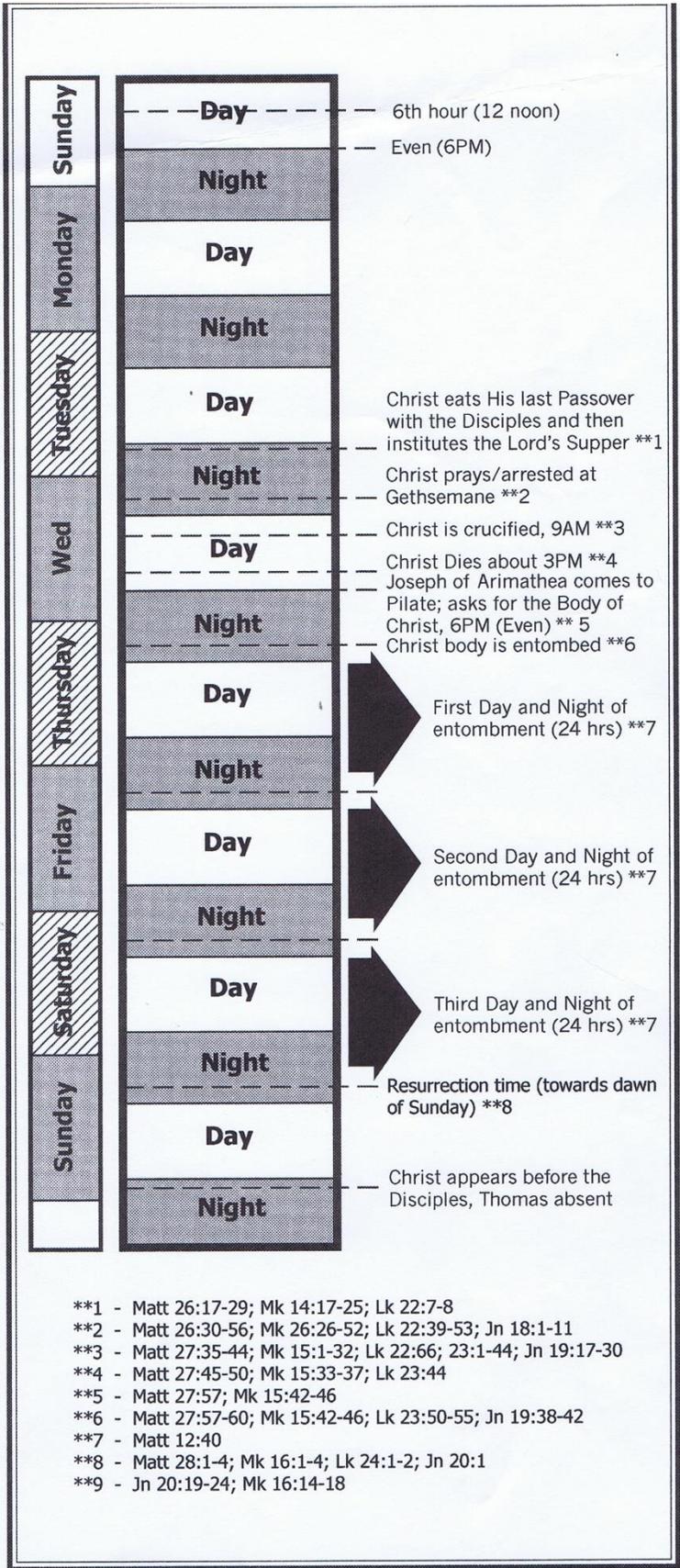
After they have cleansed and wrapped His Body, they then carefully lifted and brought the same to the nearby sepulcher, there to finally lay in Joseph's brand new tomb.

From even (6pm) that day, Wednesday in our time, it would be right to think that they finally laid the beautiful Body of the Lord Jesus about the 3rd watch of that night, which would in our time and day be between 12mn to 3am of Thursday morning. To spend 7 hours at least to do all these would be logical.

The entombment therefore or the time the Lord's Body was buried at the sepulcher (heart of the heart) was exactly **72 hours (3 full days)** until the resurrection which happened on the 3rd watch of that Sunday, before dawn described in Matt 28:1, thus, bring to light that what the Lord refers to in His declaration in Matt 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" was his entombment or burial.

Whatever then people might say, in reference to tradition, custom or anything, the Scriptures stand true... "...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures..."(1 Cor 15:3-4).

See the illustration below.



**1 - Matt 26:17-29; Mk 14:17-25; Lk 22:7-8
 **2 - Matt 26:30-56; Mk 26:26-52; Lk 22:39-53; Jn 18:1-11
 **3 - Matt 27:35-44; Mk 15:1-32; Lk 22:66; 23:1-44; Jn 19:17-30
 **4 - Matt 27:45-50; Mk 15:33-37; Lk 23:44
 **5 - Matt 27:57; Mk 15:42-46
 **6 - Matt 27:57-60; Mk 15:42-46; Lk 23:50-55; Jn 19:38-42
 **7 - Matt 12:40
 **8 - Matt 28:1-4; Mk 16:1-4; Lk 24:1-2; Jn 20:1
 **9 - Jn 20:19-24; Mk 16:14-18

Show the following links

<https://bible.org/question/were-three-days-and-three-nights-jesus-was-grave-full-72-hours>

<http://www.centuryone.com/crucifixion.html>

COMMENT FROM A FELLOW PASTOR

This is an explanation of the Wednesday crucifixion theory. However, I still believe that Jesus died on a Friday. At any rate, WHEN Christ died is not as important as WHY Christ died.

NOTE:

It could NOT possibly have been a Wednesday based on Luke 24:21 which says that, "to day is the THIRD day since these things were done." (emphasis mine)

This is the incident when Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus on the day of Resurrection (Sunday). If Jesus died on a Wednesday, the third day would not be a Sunday.

Jesus used the example of Jonah as a similitude and it does not necessarily mean that Jesus would be in the grave for 72 hours.

Furthermore, Mark 15:42 says that it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath.

It may have been a Thursday or a Friday but definitely NOT a Wednesday.

But then again, WHY Christ died is more important than WHEN Christ died.

We cannot take away the significance of the death and burial (even the timing) of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Not to accept that there could have been actual 3 days and 3 nights would render the very words of the Lord Jesus Christ and the reference to Jonah as a big lie!**

Matt 12:40

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.

KJV

Matt 16:4

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

KJV

Jonah 1:17

17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

KJV

- Not to accept that 3 days and 3 nights as true to the letter would render His being buried by merely 2 days, at the most! It cannot even be said to be consistent with the claim, This is now the 3rd day!
- Not to accept that the 3 days and 3 nights as being true would render the claim of the majority of the religious (especially the Catholics) to be correct and would thus mean that they are the authority on the issue.
- Not to accept the 3 days and 3 nights would render correct the approach of the liberal theologians to include tradition and customs in the acceptance of major doctrines. Along with this, there would be no more significance to what the Apostle Paul said:

1 Cor 15:3-4

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

KJV

- Not to accept the 3 days and 3 nights render the whole world correct in their kind of celebration!

Just how significant is Christ's burial to Himself and in the Word?

- The dead in the grave is when sin claims its ultimate victory!

1 Cor 15:54-57

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

- The decomposition of the body begins after the 3 days and 3 nights in the grave

How Long Does It Take for Body to Decompose?	
Timeline	What Happens
24-72 hours after death	Internal organs begin to decompose.
3-5 days after death	Body starts bloating. Blood-containing foam begins leaking from mouth and nose.

<https://www.enkivillage.org/how-long-does-it-take-for-a-body-to-decompose.html>

Ps 16:10

10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

KJV

Ps 49:9

9 That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.

KJV

Acts 2:25-27

25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

KJV

Acts 13:32-37

32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

KJV

- Christ wept at the sight of Lazarus being in the grave

John 11:33-36

33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

KJV

- Christ cited Mary for giving importance to His burial

Matt 26:10-13

10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.

13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

KJV

The most logical happening:

Matt 27:62-66

62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

64 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.

65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

KJV

