

Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ

In dealing with the law, and questioning whether the Sabbath is for us today, most people always bring in the resurrection to try to prove that Sunday has been chosen as the Christian Sabbath because they believe that Christ rose from the dead on that day. Even if he had, would this be proof enough, without a direct command by God. If Christ had risen on Thursday, do you think people then would be keeping Thursday as the day of worship? This is something to think about. If another day is to be kept as the Sabbath, then there must be a direct command of God to change the day.

The following question might seem unusual to you, as most feel so sure it is true. Was Jesus resurrected on Sunday or the first day of the week? Without a doubt, you have been taught all your life this was true, but I would like to ask you to find one scripture that says Christ rose on the first day of the week. You can read and search, but you will not find it. Surprised!! Incredible as it may seem, this is true. Christ did *not* resurrect on Sunday. Is it possible that so many people could be deceived on this subject? Hard to believe, isn't it?

One might wonder why such a topic is important to study. What difference does it make what day Christ arose, as long as he did. The importance is that when people try to do away with the Sabbath because of the day of his resurrection, then it becomes important to know on which day he rose from the dead. If people keep a day because of his resurrection, then it becomes very important.

Let's take our Bibles and see what day Jesus did rise from the grave. Let's put away our preconceived ideas and see what the Bible really says.

1. **The sign of Jesus' true "son ship."** Matthew 12:38-40

Neither Jesus' Crucifixion, nor his death, was a sign of his true "son ship." Being in the grave three days and three nights was a sign, and Jesus said it would be the only sign. Please read this reference carefully, and you will see what sign Jesus gave.

Now are there three days and three nights from Friday evening and Sunday morning? There are not. But we have always been taught that was the way it happened. Jesus was crucified on Friday and arose Sunday morning. Yet it could not have been. Jesus had to have fulfilled this scripture or he would have been an impostor.

2. **When should one start counting, before or after his death?** Mark 9:31

We are to start counting the time after he was killed, not before.

3. **Is risen.** Mark 16:2-6; Luke 24:1-6

As you read these references, you will notice that when the visitors came to the tomb on the first day of the week, the tomb was empty. If the tomb was empty, then Jesus had to come out sometime before they got there. Right? The angels said, "*he is risen*." Now what does "is risen" mean? We all know it is past tense; something has already happened. So when they said "*he is risen*" they meant he had already risen and was gone. So Jesus had already risen when the visitors got there Sunday morning. There is no indication in these two verses that Jesus rose on Sunday.

4. **Mary came while it was yet dark.** John 20:1

Now Mary came Sunday morning while it was yet dark and the tomb was empty. If Mary came early while it was yet dark and the tomb was empty, how can you count the day-light part of Sunday in the three days and three nights? You can't!!

Now this is worse, for we have only Friday and Saturday and that makes only two days, then Friday night and Saturday night are only two nights. Yet Jesus himself said, he would be in the grave three days and three nights.

We have examined several texts that say visits were made on the first day of the week, but so far none of them tell us that Jesus was resurrected on that day. These verses only tell us the tomb was empty when they came. How then, can we say these verses tell us that Jesus arose on the first day of the week. We can not.

5. When was Jesus resurrected? Matthew 28:1-6

Here late on the Sabbath the two women came to the tomb for a visit. As they were nearing the tomb, there was an earthquake and an angel rolled back the stone from the door, so the ladies could look in.

Now when was this done? The Bible says, "*In the end of the sabbath...*" The Sabbath had not ended yet, but it was in the end or at the close of the Sabbath. Now when does God's day begin and end? Man says from midnight to midnight. But God says from sundown to sundown. See Gen. 1:8, 13, 19, 23, Lev. 23:32, Mark 1:32. God's day is from sundown to sundown, never anything else. The midnight-to-midnight reckoning is man's and not God's.

This reference says they women came in the end of the Sabbath, there was an earthquake and the women saw the tomb was empty. So Christ arose in the end of the Sabbath just before sunset. Unbelievable!! Yet this is what the scripture says. Why can't we believe what the Bible says?

But you might question the word *dawn* as found in the above reference. This is a good question, for it is this word that fools the people, for they read over it and do not realize what they read. It does not say; "as it began to be dawn." If it had said this, it would have referred to Sunday morning at the rising of the sun. It says that they came "in the end of" the Sabbath. The Sabbath had not ended yet, the sun had not yet set, but it was in the end of the day, and it says "*as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week...*"

The word "toward" makes the word dawn a verb and not a noun. If it had been a noun, then it would of referred to the rising of the sun, but its a verb, suggesting something was drawing on. What was drawing on; it was the first day of the week. The sun had almost set and the first day of the week was drawing on or close at hand.

This is the only verse in the whole Bible that tells us exactly when Jesus arose. It was in the end of the Sabbath.

6. When was Jesus put into the tomb?

This is very easily to calculate. Matthew 28:1 says he arose late on the Sabbath or Saturday. So you count back three days and three nights, and you will see He was put in the tomb late on Wednesday just before sunset. See the chart below:

W		T		F		S		S	
Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night
 Jesus put into the tomb						 Jesus arose Three days and three nights later			

7. Placed in the tomb the day before the Sabbath. Mark 15:42-47

Verse 42 very plainly says it was the day before the Sabbath. Yet I made the bold statement it was on Wednesday. Am I wrong?

Sometimes we are taught something all our lives, and we read into a scripture what we have been taught.

Now if you will notice the wording of the reference, you will notice it speaks of that day as being the preparation day. Preparation day for what?

Now refer to John 19:31 and you will see that Jesus died on the preparation day, the day before the high Sabbath. The high Sabbath here refers to an unusual or special Sabbath, a Sabbath

that did not come too often. Then if you check John 19:14 you will see it was the preparation of the Passover. This Sabbath then was in connection with the Feast of Unleaven Bread and not the weekly Sabbath. Jesus died on the 14th day of the Jewish month Nissan; the 15th day was a rest day or Sabbath. See Lev. 23:4-7.

The Sabbath in Mark 15:42, was not the weekly Sabbath but the yearly Sabbath. He died on the preparation day or the day on which they prepared for the Feast of Unleaven Bread, the feast which began the next day following Passover.

8. The two Sabbaths. Luke 23: 50-53, 54-56

Now there is a Sabbath mention in verse 54 and another Sabbath day in verse 56. Are they the same? If one reads carefully, you can see they are not.

The Sabbath in verse 54 is in reference to the passover and the feast, for again it speaks of the preparation day. The Sabbath in verse 56 is the Sabbath day according to the commandment or the 7th day Sabbath.

Jesus died on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday was a Sabbath. To prepare the spices and ointments for His burial from the time He was put in the tomb and sunset or the beginning of the Sabbath was not possible. But Friday they could and did, according to verse 56, then rested on Sabbath or Saturday.

9. The third day since these things were done. Luke 24:1, 13-21

Verse 1 speaks of the first day of the week, verse 13 says they went that same day (still being the first day of the week) and then verse 21 says, "...to day is the third day since these things were done."

Now the average person would think that since Christ was (they think) crucified on Friday, that Sunday would be the third since he was crucified. But this calculation could not be correct. If Christ was crucified on Friday, then Saturday would be the first day and Sunday would be the second day. This is not what Luke is talking about. Whatever it is, he says, "*today (Sunday) is the third day since these things were done.*" What are these two men (on the road) talking about? Notice verse 14 says, "...they talked together of all these things which had happened." Now what had happened concerning Christ? He had been taken prisoner, tried, crucified, put in the tomb, then guards were set at His tomb. This all had taken place in the last few days.

Now what was the last thing that was done. If you will check Matthew 27:62-66, you will see the last thing that was done was the setting of the watch or guard. This was done the day after Christ died or Thursday. Now Friday was the first day since, Saturday the second day since and Sunday the third day since these things were done. Complete harmony in all the scriptures.

SUMMARY

There is not one verse in all the new testament that says Christ rose on the first day of the week or Sunday. Christ was put in the tomb late on Wednesday, and arose three days and three nights later, in the end of the Sabbath (Saturday). So the Sabbath has not been replaced by Sunday as the day of worship.