



THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Which day did it occur?

The question of the time of Christ's resurrection, which has been so long neglected by the Christian world, is now coming to the light of investigation; and we are happy to state that many, who for years have supposed Good Friday to be the crucifixion day of Christ, are seeing and accepting the light — that Good Friday and Easter Sunday applied to the crucifixion and resurrection days of Christ are doctrines of the Catholic Church, handed down to us from the dark ages.

When the scribes and pharisees came to Christ and demanded that He give them a sign that He was the Son of God (Matt. 12:38-40), He said: "There shall be no sign given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas; 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."

He said plainly that there would be no other sign given them. Then, if this sign failed, according to Jesus Himself, He is not the Christ. And for any who have been informed, to claim Christ to have been crucified on Friday and resurrected on Sunday morning, is to deny the divinity of Christ, and to brand themselves as Christ deniers; for they try to disapprove the only sign He gave of His Messiahship — that He would be in the earth three days and three nights. There cannot be three days and three nights between Friday and Sunday.

We learn by the three Gospels (Matt. 27:45, 46, 50; Mark 15:33, 37; Luke 23:44), that from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over the earth, and that about the ninth hour Jesus died.

THE NINTH HOUR

Look up the word "day" in the back of your Bible, in Cruden's Concordance, in your Bible dictionary, or in any encyclopedia, and you will learn that the civil day in Bible times began at the going down of the sun, and ended with sunset — from evening to evening — also that the dark part was divided into watches, and the light part into hours, namely: —

NIGHT

First Watch from 6 to 9 P.M.

Second Watch from 9 to 12 P.M.

Third Watch from 12 to 3 A.M.

Fourth Watch from 3 to 6 A.M.

DAY

Third Hour from 6 to 9 A.M.

Sixth Hour from 9 to 12-noon

Ninth Hour from 12 to 3 P.M.

Twelfth Hour from 3 to 6 P.M.

Jesus was placed in the tomb between 3 o'clock P.M. and sundown, as John 19:31-42 plainly states. This was done before the Passover Sabbath; see verses 14 and 31, and not the weekly Sabbath.

It follows then, as a natural and logical conclusion, that Christ would have to come from the tomb at the very same time of day that He was placed there, or else the sign of His being the Messiah fails — that is, He must be in the tomb three days and three nights. As He was placed in the tomb late in the afternoon, He likewise must come from the tomb late in the afternoon. He consequently could not have been resurrected in the morning of any day, but the time of His resurrection must be in the evening in order for Him to be the Christ.

In accounts given of visits made to the tomb on the first day of the week (Mark 16th, Luke 24th, and John 20th chap-

ters) the stone was already rolled away from the sepulchre and Christ was gone when the people arrived. From this extremely indefinite testimony no one could tell when He was resurrected. We only know that He was gone early in the morning of the first day of the week, which forever shuts out even the least possibility of the resurrection occurring on that day, as He was already gone in the morning. Also, He must come from the earth in the end of the day to be Christ, as He was placed in the tomb at the end of the day.

But we come to Matt. 28:1, which says: "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. 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." Here we learn of the first visit made to the sepulchre, which was in the end of the Sabbath, and that this was when the earthquake occurred, and when the stone was rolled from the tomb. Christ therefore was resurrected "in the end of the Sabbath" — around sundown on Saturday evening. This agrees exactly with the time of day that Christ must, according to His own words, come from the tomb.

As the statement is clearly made that this occurred in the end of the Sabbath, it could not have been on some other day, and still have been in the end of the day. Anything that is in the end of something is not in something else. The resurrection took place "as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week (Sunday)." While now the word "dawn" is usually understood to mean the first ray of morning light, it was not so used then. The day, according to the Bible, commences in the evening, at the setting of the sun, but man has changed the commencement of the day and placed it at midnight, thus causing a change in the significance of the word "dawn" which means "to draw on".

WEDNESDAY CRUCIFIXION

Since we have learned from the Holy Scriptures that the

resurrection actually occurred in the evening of the Sabbath (Saturday); also remembering the words of Jesus that He would be in the earth three days and three nights, we just count backwards three days and three nights, which brings us to Wednesday afternoon.

A letter from the superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory at Washington, D.C., dated Nov. 23, 1920, and signed by W. S. Eichelberger, Captain, U.S. Navy, states that in the year of Christ's crucifixion, the first full moon after the spring equinox came on Tuesday, March 27th, making the 14th of Nisan (Jewish month) fall on Wednesday. The Passover is on the 14th of Nisan, which was the Sabbath for which preparations were being made at the time of the crucifixion. Christ was therefore placed in the tomb near sundown on Wednesday and arose near sundown on Saturday, making exactly three days and three nights.

This evidence agrees with the Bible in every detail, and therefore both are confirmed as truth. Error, regardless of how long cherished, must fall.

We are now at the time when Protestants should truly be Protestants, and truly protest against the false doctrines handed down from the Catholic Church without Bible foundation.

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