

THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH

The following trials of Christ are regulated by Biblical time with the day beginning at sunset, not at midnight. So please keep this in mind as we progress with the truth on this so vital subject. The record in Luke gives us the foundation for this subject. “And He said unto them, with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” Luke 22:15. He not only ate the Passover but He also instituted the Lord’s Supper from the same table, that same night. For Luke 22:1, 7, 8 shows that all this took place at the end of the 14th day (sunset) and the beginning of the 15th day of the first month, according to the statute of Leviticus 23:5, 6. As far as we can determine, these events ended about ten o’clock that night. “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives.” Matt. 26:30. I believe you will agree that the next hour was spent getting to the Mount of Olives. “Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, sit ye here while I go and pray yonder. And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with Me one hour.” Matt. 26:36, 40. “. . . Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.” Matt. 26:45. This brings us to the midnight seizure. Then they “Led Him away to Annas first; ...” John 11:13. “And they that had laid hold on Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.” Matt 26:57. “And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led Him into their council, ...” Luke 22:66. “When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took council against Jesus to put Him to death: And when they had bound Him, they led him away, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.” Matt. 27: 1, 2. Since Christ was a Galilean, Pilate sent Him to Herod, who was at Jerusalem at that time. Herod had Christ mocked and arrayed in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him again to Pilate (Luke 23:6-11). “... he (Pilate) brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat... And it was the preparation of the (Jewish) Passover, and about the sixth hour (midnight Thursday): ..” John 19:13, 14. From this we can see that Christ ate the passover and instituted the Lord’s Supper on Wednesday night, two days before the Jews ate their passover on Friday night. “And it was the third hour (nine o’clock Friday morning), and they crucified Him. And when the sixth hour (noon Friday) was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour (three o’clock Friday afternoon). And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, . . . and gave up the ghost. And the vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is the day before the Sabbath,”. Mark 15:25, 33, 34, 37, 38, 42. “And he (Joseph) bought fine linen and took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen, and laid Him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.” Mark 15:46. “And they returned and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment (Ex. 20:10).” Luke 23:56. “The first day (Sunday) of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.” John 20: 1. These events were foretold by Jesus in Matthew 20:18, 19. “... the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death, And shall deliver Him to the gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify Him: and the third day He shall rise again.” (See also Luke 24:20, 21) “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,” Matt. 12:40. Beginning with the resurrection of Christ at midnight Saturday night, let us count backwards. From midnight Saturday to midnight Wednesday, at which time He was arrested, equals three full days and nights. Therefore, the ‘heart of the earth’ represents the period of time in which Christ was in the hands of wicked men and in the tomb.