

DOES EASTER COMMEMORATE THE RESURRECTION?

by Luella Roberts

It is commonly supposed, today, Yahshua was impaled on FRIDAY, and that the resurrection occurred about sunrise on Easter Sunday morning.

It would seem that no one, until recently, ever thought to question or to PROVE this “Good-Friday-Easter” tradition. **Yet the Bible tells us to PROVE all things.** And you will be literally astounded by this proof.

For PROOF there is but one dependable authority; a sole historical record--**the Bible.**

TRADITION NO EVIDENCE

There were no eye-witnesses to the resurrection. Even so-called “apostolic fathers” had no source of information, save that record which is today available to us. Tradition, then, must be dismissed.

What are the recorded facts?

The doubting Pharisees were asking Yahshua for a **SIGN**--a supernatural evidence--in proof of His Messiah-ship.

Yahshua answered: ***“An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah, for as Jonah 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”*** (Matthew 12:38-40).

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SIGN

These Messiah-rejecting Pharisees demanded **PROOF**. Yahshua offered but one evidence. That evidence was not the fact of the resurrection itself--it was the **LENGTH OF TIME** He would repose in His grave, before being resurrected.

Think what this means! **Yahshua staked His claim to being your Saviour and mine upon remaining exactly THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS** in the tomb. **IF** He remained just three days and three nights inside the earth, He would **PROVE** Himself the Saviour--if He failed in this sign, He must be rejected as an impostor!

No wonder Satan has caused unbelievers to scoff at the story of Jonah and the "Whale"! No wonder the Devil has set up a tradition that DENIES Yahshua is the Messiah!

This one and only supernatural **PROOF** ever given, by Yahshua for His Messiah-ship, has greatly bothered the commentators and the higher critics. Their attempts to explain away this sole proof for Messiah's divinity are ludicrous in the extreme. For explain them away they must, or their "Good-Friday-Easter" tradition collapses!

One commentator says of course we know that Yahshua was actually in the tomb only half as long as He thought He would be! Some expositors impose upon our credulity to the extent of asking us to believe that "in the GREEK language, in which the New Testament was written, the expression 'three days and three nights' means three PERIODS, either of day or of night!" (The New Testament was actually written in Hebrew first.)

Yahshua they say, was placed in the tomb shortly before sunset **FRIDAY**, and rose at sunrise Sunday morning--two nights

and one day. (Grossly short of 72 hours.)

THE BIBLE DEFINITION

But the BIBLE definition of the duration of “nights and days” is simple.

Even these same higher critics admit that in the HEBREW language, in which the book of Jonah was written, the expression “three days and three nights” means a period of 72 hours--three twelve-hour days and three twelve-hour nights.

Notice Jonah 1:17; *“And Jonah was in the belly of the fish THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS.”* And Yahshua distinctly said that AS Jonah was three days and three nights in the great fish's belly, SO He would be the same length of time in His grave!

As Jonah was in the “GRAVE” (see marginal reference, Jonah 2:2) 72 hours, after which he was super-naturally resurrected by Elohim, by being vomited up, to become a saviour to the people of Nineveh. So should Yahshua be 72 hours in His grave, thereupon being resurrected by Elohim to become the saviour of the world!

Did Yahshua know how much time was in a “day” and in a “night”? Yahshua answered, *“Are there not twelve hours in a day--but if a man walk in the NIGHT, he stumbleth.”* (John 11:9-10).

Notice the BIBLE DEFINITION of the expression, “THE THIRD DAY.” Text after text tells us that Yahshua rose THE THIRD DAY. See how the BIBLE defines the time requested to fulfill “THE THIRD DAY”.

In Genesis 1:4 Elohim “*divided the LIGHT from the DARKNESS, and Elohim called the LIGHT day, and the DARKNESS He called Night. And the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were THE FIRST DAY...and the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were THE SECOND DAY...and the evening (now three periods of darkness called NIGHT--three nights) and the morning (now three periods of light called DAY--three days) were THE THIRD DAY.*” Genesis 1:4-13.

Here we have the ONLY BIBLE DEFINITION which explains and COUNTS UP the amount of time involved in the expression “THE THIRD DAY”. It includes three dark periods called NIGHT, and three light periods called DAY--three days and three nights, Yahshua said they contained TWELVE HOURS for each period--a total of 72 hours!

That ought to be conclusive! Any seven-year old, near the end of the second grade, could figure it easily. We praise Elohim that His plain truths are revealed UNTO BABES, and hidden from the wise and prudent!

WHAT IS WRONG?

What is wrong with these plain, simple words of Yahshua? How do these wise and prudent theologians KNOW Yahshua was impaled “Good Friday” and rose “Easter Sunday”? What difference does it make?

The simple answer is, THEY DO NOT KNOW IT--for IT IS NOT TRUE! It is merely TRADITION--a tradition we have been taught from childhood, and carelessly ASSUMED! Yahshua warned us against making “the word of Elohim of none effect through your TRADITION”. (Mark 7:13).

We have examined two scriptural witness, in Matthew and in Jonah, both setting the duration of the body of Yahshua in the tomb as three days and three nights. The Scripture plainly define as 72 hours of time. Now let us examine four other Scriptural witnesses that PROVE THE SAME THING.

Notice 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.”*

Any second grader can figure this. IF Yahshua had been killed on Friday, and then AFTER one day He had risen, the resurrection would have occurred on Saturday evening. IF AFTER TWO DAYS, it would have occurred Sunday evening, and if AFTER THREE DAYS, it would have occurred MONDAY EVENING!

Examine this text carefully. You cannot, by any process of arithmetic, figure any less than a full 72 hours--three days and three nights--in a resurrection which occurred three days AFTER the impalement! If Yahshua was in the grave only from Friday sunset to Sunday sunrise, then this text too, must be torn out of your Bible or else you must reject Yahshua as your Saviour! If He rose AFTER THREE DAYS, it might have been more than 72 hours, but it could not have been a second less!

Notice now Mark 9:31. *“...they shall kill him; and AFTER that he is killed he shall rise THE THIRD DAY.”* The duration expressed here must be between 48 and 72 hours. It could not be one second PAST 72 hours and Yahshua still rise THE THIRD DAY. And it could not be Friday sunset to Sunday sunset, because that is only 36 hours. This carries us into the middle of the second day, AFTER He was killed

In Matthew 27:63 Yahshua is quoted as saying, *“AFTER*

THREE DAYS I will rise again.” This cannot possibly be figured as less than 72 full hours.

And in John 2:18-22, *“Yahshua answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and IN three days I will raise it up...but He spake of the temple of His body.”* To be raised up IN three days after being destroyed, or impaled, could not possibly be in a day and a half--it could not be less than 72 hours. Do we believe our Bibles?

If we are to accept all the testimony of THE BIBLE, we must conclude that Yahshua was exactly three days and three nights--three full 24-hour days--72 hours in the grave or the only super-natural proof He gave must fail!

THE TIME OF DAY OF RESURRECTION

Now notice carefully this fact: In order to be three days and three nights--72 hours--in the tomb, our Saviour had to be resurrected at exactly THE SAME TIME OF DAY that His body was buried in the tomb!

Let us realize that very vital fact!

If we can find the TIME OF DAY of the burial, then we have found the TIME OF DAY of the resurrection! If the burial, for instance, was at sunrise, then in order to be left an even three days and three nights in the tomb the resurrection, likewise, had to occur at sunrise, three days later. If the burial was at noon, the resurrection was at noon. If the burial was at sunset, the resurrection was at sunset, three days later.

Yahshua died on the stake soon after “the ninth hour” or three o'clock in the afternoon. (Matthew 27:46-50; Mark 15:34-

37; Luke 23:44-46).

The impalement day was called “the preparation”, or day before “the Sabbath”. (Matthew 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:53; John 19:24). This day ended at sunset, according to Bible reckoning (Leviticus 23:52).

Yet Yahshua was buried before this same day ended--before sunset. (Matthew 27:57; Luke 23:52-54). John adds *“There laid, they Yahshua, therefore, because of the Jews' preparation day.”* According to the laws observed by the Jews, all dead bodies must be buried before the beginning of a Sabbath or feast day. Hence Yahshua was buried BEFORE SUNSET on the same day He died. He died shortly after 3 p.m. (About three hours before sunset.)

Therefore--notice carefully!--the BURIAL OF MESSIAH'S BODY WAS IN THE LATE AFTERNOON! It was between 3 p.m. and sunset as these Scriptures prove.

And since the RESURRECTION had to occur at the SAME TIME OF DAY, three days later, THE RESURRECTION OF MESSIAH OCCURRED, not at sunrise, but IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, near sunset! Startling as this fact may be, it is the PLAIN BIBLE TRUTH!

If Yahshua rose at any other time of day, He could not have been three days and three nights in His grave. If He rose at any other time of day, He failed to prove, by the only sign He gave, that He was the true Messiah, the Son of the Living Elohim! Either He rose near the END of a day near sunset, or else He is not the Messiah!!! He staked His claim on that one and only sign!

So a time-honored tradition must be shattered! Let us praise Elohim for His TRUTH which has been preserved through the dark ages, so that the true light may now shine forth. If our hearts and minds are still willing to receive it! Praise His name! Do you LOVE the TRUTH as it is revealed, or despise it and love the traditions you have heard? “Whosoever despiseth the Word shall be destroyed!” Let us say with David, *“How precious also are THY thoughts unto me, O Yahweh!”*

WHAT DAY WAS THE RESURRECTION?

Now which DAY OF THE WEEK was the resurrection day?

The first investigators, Mary Magdalene and her companions, came to the sepulcher on the first day of the week (Sunday) very early, while it was yet dark, as the sun was beginning to rise, at dawn. (Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).

Now here are the texts most people have SUPPOSED stated the resurrection was at sunrise, Sunday morning. But the scriptures do not say that!

When the women arrived, the tomb was already OPEN! At that time Sunday morning, while it was yet dark--YAHSHUA WAS NOT THERE! Notice how the angel says *“HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN!”* See Mark 16:6; Luke 24:3; John 20:2; Matthew 28:5-6.

Yahshua was ALREADY RISEN at sunrise Sunday morning! Of course He was. He rose from the grave IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, near SUNSET!

And since we know the resurrection was just shortly prior to that Sunday morning, and that it occurred in the late afternoon of

the day, we now may know THE RESURRECTION OF MESSIAH OCCURRED LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON! (He rested on the Sabbath.)

The Sabbath day ended at sunset Saturday. It was late on that day, before the beginning of the first day of the week. It was not, then, a Sunday resurrection at all--it was a Sabbath resurrection!

DID MESSIAH FULFILL HIS SIGN?

Now all this is based on the supposition that Yahshua did fulfill His only SIGN of being three days and three nights in the grave. All our evidence is based on the claims of Yahshua BEFORE His impalement. But some of the higher critics and doctors of divinity tell us that Yahshua made a mistake--that He was only in the tomb HALF AS LONG as He expected to be. Let us have PROOF as to whether He did spend the exact amount of time in the grave He said He would.

Notice that in Matthew 28:6, THE ANGEL OF YAHWEH gives this testimony, which we now present as EVIDENCE! *"He is not here: for His is risen, **AS HE SAID.**"* And He certainly did not rise AS HE SAID unless He rose at the precise TIME that He had said! So we have the proof of the ANGEL OF YAHWEH, recorded in the sacred WORD OF ELOHIM that Yahshua did fulfill His sign--He was three days and three nights in the earth--He did rise Sabbath afternoon, and not Sunday morning.

Now notice carefully one more text. Matthew 28:1-6. *"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 Sepulcher."* And at that time the angel told them, *"He is not here: for His is risen as He said."* If we accept this as a cor-

rect translation it places the time of resurrection directly IN THE END OF THE SABBATH, or LATE ON THE SABBATH as it is worded in the American Revised translation. In the end of anything is still IN it. Some modern translations render this text as "AFTER the Sabbath"--or at dawn the first day of the week. However, even if we accept that rendering, this text becomes a fourth witness to prove that at sunrise Sunday morning He was NOT THERE--HE HAD RISEN prior to that time. But if you accept this translation, as it is in your Bible, you have a direct statement that Yahshua's resurrection was before the ending of the Sabbath. (Saturday)

WHICH DAY WAS THE IMPALEMENT?

It is not difficult now to determine the day on which Yahshua was impaled. Counting back three days from the Sabbath, when He rose, we come to Wednesday, the fourth day, or very middle day of the week.

Yahshua was impaled on WEDNESDAY, the middle of the week, He died on the stake shortly after 3 p.m. that afternoon, was buried before sunset Wednesday evening. Now COUNT the THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS His body was, in the grave Wednesday, Thursday and Friday NIGHTS, THREE NIGHTS. It also was there through the daylight parts of Thursday, Friday and Saturday--THREE DAYS. He rose Saturday, the Sabbath, late afternoon, shortly before sunset. This was the same TIME OF DAY that He was buried! And Sunday morning at sunrise, He was NOT THERE--HE WAS ALREADY RISEN!

It is significant that in Daniel's prophecy of the "Seventy Weeks" (Daniel 9:24-27), Yahshua was to be cut off "*in the midst of the week.*" While this prophecy has the application of a day for a year, so that this 70th week became a literal seven year.

Messiah was “cut off” after three and a half years’, of His ministry. Yet it is significant that He was also “cut off” in the middle DAY OF THE LITERAL WEEK.

WHAT SABBATH FOLLOWED THE IMPALEMENT?

Now we come to an objection some may raise, yet this very point PROVES the truth! Perhaps you have noticed that the Scriptures say the day AFTER the impalement was a SABBATH! Hence, for centuries, people have blindly assumed the impalement was on Friday! This is what leaders have told nominal Christianity.

Now we have shown by all four Evangelists that the impalement day, Wednesday, was called “the preparation”. The preparation day for THE SABBATH. But for WHAT Sabbath?

John's Evangelist gives the definite answer: *“It was the preparation OF the PASSOVER.”*

“For that Sabbath day was an HIGH DAY.” (John 19:14, 31). (Annual Sabbath.)

Just what is a “HIGH DAY”? Ask any Bible student! He will tell you it is one of the annual feast days. The Israelites observed seven of these every year, every one called SABBATHS! Annual Sabbaths, falling on certain annual calendar dates, and on different days of the week in different years, just like the Roman pagan holidays now observed fall on different days. These Sabbaths might fall on Monday, on Thursday, or on Sunday.

If you will notice the following texts, you will see these annual feast days were called Sabbath days: Leviticus 23:24; Leviticus 16:31; Leviticus 23:39; Leviticus 23:15; Leviticus 23:26-

32. (The Old Testament is not done away with.)

Notice Matthew 26:2; *“Ye know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be impaled.”* And if you will follow through this chapter you will see that Yahshua was impaled ON THE PASSOVER!

And what was THE PASSOVER? It was the ancient day of the twelve tribes of Israel commemorating their deliverance from Egypt, and picturing to them the impalement of Messiah and their deliverance from sin. In the twelfth chapter of Exodus you will find the story of the original Passover. The children of Israel killed the lambs, and struck the blood over the door-posts and on the side-posts of their houses. Then wherever the blood had thus been applied the death-angel PASSED OVER that house, sparing it from death. Following the Passover, was a kodesh (Holy) convocation (meeting) or annual Sabbath.

Observe the dates: *“And in the fourteenth day of the first month is THE PASSOVER of Yahweh. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the “FEAST”.* (Numbers 28:16-17).

The Passover lamb, killed every year on the 14th of the first month called “Abib”, was a type of Messiah, the Lamb of Elohim that taketh away the sin of the world. Messiah is OUR PASS-OVER, sacrificed for us (I Corinthians 5:7-8). (We now take the memorial on the same day once a year.)

YAHSHUA WAS SLAIN ON THE VERY SAME DAY THE PASSOVER HAD BEEN SLAIN EVERY YEAR! He was impaled the 14th of Abib, the first Hebrew month of the year! And this day, the PASSOVER was the day before, and the preparation, for THE FEAST day. The annual high-day Sabbath, which occurred on the 15th of Abib. THIS Sabbath might occur on ANY

day of the week. Frequently, even today, it occurs on Thursday. The Bible-Sabbath keeping believers observed this “high-day” Sabbath on Thursday, 1942, 1996. This parallel occurs about every twelve years. This is not a Jewish teaching.

And the Hebrew calendar shows that in the year Yahshua was impaled, the 14th of Abib, Passover day, was WEDNESDAY. And the annual Sabbath was THURSDAY. This was the Sabbath that drew on as Joseph of Arimathea hastened to bury the body of Yahshua late that Wednesday afternoon.

HONEST OBJECTIONS EXAMINED

Someone is sure to notice Mark 16:9, thinking this text says the resurrection was upon Sunday. But if you read the whole sentence, it does not say that at all. The expression “was risen” is in the perfect tense. What was Yahshua’s condition early the first day of the week? Does it say He “was rising” or that He “did rise” from the grave? No, early the first day of the week, at the time He appeared to Mary Magdalene, He WAS RISEN. Of course He was! He had risen the later afternoon before, so naturally He WAS ALREADY RISEN Sunday morning. The text does not in any way refute the scores of other texts we have given.

Another passage that might confuse is Luke 24:21; “*..and besides all this, today is the third day SINCE THESE THINGS WERE DONE.*” “These things” included all the events pertaining to the resurrection--the seizing of Yahshua, delivering Him to be tried, the actual impalement, and finally the setting of the seal and the watch over the tomb the following day. (Thursday) Study verse 18-20, telling of “these things” and also Matthew 27:62-66. “These things” were not completed until the watch was set, Thursday. And the text says Sunday was the third day SINCE THESE THINGS were done. These things were not done until Thursday, and Sunday truly was the third day since Thurs-

day. But it was not the third day since FRIDAY, therefore this text could not prove a Friday impalement.

THE FINAL PROOF

There is yet one final clinching PROOF of this amazing truth.

According to Mark 16:1, Mary Magdalene and her companions did not buy their spices to anoint the body of Yahshua until AFTER THE SABBATH WAS PAST. They could not prepare them until AFTER the Sabbath. Yet after preparing the spices, THEY RESTED THE SABBATH DAY ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT! (Luke 23:56).

Study these two texts carefully.

There is only one possible explanation: After the annual high-day Sabbath, the feast day of the days of unleavened bread, which was Thursday, these women purchased and prepared their spices on FRIDAY. Then they rested on the weekly Sabbath, Saturday, according the Commandment (Exodus 20:8-11)!

A comparison of these two texts PROVES there were TWO Sabbaths that week, with a DAY IN BETWEEN. Otherwise, these texts contradict themselves. And in 1996, this was true again. We are still commanded today to not only keep the weekly Sabbath, but also keep the Annual Feast Days. These things are not Jewish, but belong to all who are called Believers.

The PLAIN TRUTH concerning the impalement and the resurrection of Messiah is fast sweeping the world. Thousands are coming to see it. This truth has been published in the Sunday School Times, The Oxford University Press, in their "Companion"

Bible. They publish a table proving this newly-revealed truth of the Bible.

We praise Elohim that though the truths of His Word became trampled upon and LOST through the dark ages of superstition, apostasy, and counterfeit doctrines, that the ORIGINAL TRUTH has been carefully preserved in THE BIBLE ITSELF. We can STUDY to show ourselves approved unto Yahweh, and seek out and FIND these long-hidden truths IN THE BIBLE.

What a wonderful study it is! How precious is HIS WORD! All the Truth has not YET been brought to light. Let us press on, and seek and find more and more! Let us feed upon the pure WORD OF ELOHIM! Let us not reject the true light, or Elohim will certainly reject us! Let us rejoice in it, with praise and thanksgiving!

SUMMARY FOR EASTER

We know that one of the finger prints of the Adversary's work is confusion. When we study the scriptures to discern the proper day of resurrection, there is much confusion when we try to make Yahshua rise on the first day of the week. (Sunday) The arguments do not fit. The facts create confusion when we try to use them erroneously. The word says that we must have at least two witnesses to establish any fact. In this case, we have five hard facts to prove that the Savior died on Wednesday and rose on Sabbath. (Saturday) First, Yahshua fulfilled the sign of Jonah by being interned three complete days and three complete nights. Second, the Savior was in the ground for seventy two hours, not partial days or nights. Third, there were two Sabbaths involved during the time He was in the grave, not just the weekly Sabbath alone. Forth, many people think the scriptures say that He arose on the first day, but at that early hour, He was already

gone. Fifth, in the year 31 A.D., the year the Savior died, Pass-over was on a Wednesday. We are grateful and praise Yahweh for not only giving us truth and Him, He will show us the truth that sets us free, and we will walk in them.

A SUMMARY OF POINTS

1. Does not fit Prophecy--Jonah.
2. Can not be Friday--Sunday 72 hours.
3. Two Sabbaths involved--the women.
4. He was not there Sunday early.
5. Cut off in middle of week-Daniel