**April 19, 2019 “Three Days?” Matthew 12:38-41**

**John 2:18-21**

The passages of Scripture that we have just read are quite clear regarding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Note… it is not just 3 days in the heart of the earth but also… 3 nights. This causes some difficulty in the understanding of how the Easter (I hate that word) is celebrated.

The traditional view of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is that He was crucified on a Friday, was buried, and raised from the dead on the first day of the week… namely on Sunday. Using that view, we have a hard time to get 3 days and 3 nights into the schedule of events. As I said before this is a traditional view and it is supported with what I would call a weak argument which is that the Jews considered part of a day to be a whole day??? (i.e. Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

There are others of which I am one, that view that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday and this is a view called the “reconstructive view”. This view is in my opinion a far more biblical view as I will point out to you via the Scriptures.

1. Mark 15:42
   1. Perhaps this is where the confusion lies?
      1. Day before the Sabbath
   2. What day is the Sabbath?
      1. Saturday
   3. 7 high Sabbaths annually
      1. First day of Unleavened Bread
      2. Last day of Unleavened Bread
      3. Day of Pentecost or Feast of Weeks
      4. Day of Trumpets
      5. Day of Atonement
      6. Feast of Tabernacles
      7. Last Great Day
2. Follow the events
   1. Passover was always on the same day
      1. Leviticus 23:4-5
         1. Starts at twilight
         2. 14th day of Nisan
   2. Next day… the 15th
      1. Leviticus 23:6-7
         1. Feast of Unleavened Bread
3. Chronological schedule of the week of the crucifixion
   1. Start in John 12:1… (Friday)
      1. Jesus came to Bethany six days before the Passover
         1. If Jesus was crucified on Friday… what day would that be?
         2. He came from where?
         3. John 11:54… near Jericho… a six hour walk
            1. Forbidden on the Sabbath to walk that far
   2. The next day He goes to Jerusalem (Saturday)
      1. Matthew 21:5, 12, 17
      2. Goes back to Bethany
   3. The next day (Monday)
      1. Matthew 21:18… fig tree is cursed
      2. Matthew 21:23; Matthew 26:1
         1. Jesus is teaching in the temple
         2. Matthew 26:1-2
            1. In two days, the Passover is to be observed
            2. What day is in two days?

Wednesday

* + - 1. Chief priest and elders conspire to kill Jesus
         1. Matthew 26:3-5
  1. The next day (Tuesday)
     1. The Last Supper
        1. Matthew 26:17-18
  2. The Crucifixion (Wednesday)
     1. John 19:14-18
        1. Sixth hour around noon
        2. Matthew 27:45-46… eclipse
        3. Jesus dies around twilight… like the Passover lamb
        4. Joseph of Arimathea takes the body to the tomb
           1. Matthew 27:57-60
  3. Feast of Unleavened Bread (Thursday) 15th of Nisan
     1. Leviticus 23:56
     2. John 19:31
  4. The next day (Friday)
     1. Luke 23:56-57, Matthew 28:1
  5. The next day (Saturday… the Sabbath)
     1. Luke 23:57… they rested according to the commandment
  6. The next day (Sunday)
     1. They are looking for living among the dead
        1. Matthew 28:1-6