

(Matthew 26:57-67; Mark 14:53-65; John 18:12:18, 19-24)

Matthew 26

⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. ⁵⁸But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

⁵⁹The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward ⁶¹and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.' "

⁶²Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

⁶⁴"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered.

⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

Mark 14

⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.' " ⁵⁹Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶¹But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶²"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴"You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

John 18

¹²Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

¹⁹Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

²²When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

²³"If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Annas and Caiaphas were both high priests. Annas was appointed by the governor of Syria and Caiaphas was appointed by the governor of Judaea. Later Caiaphas was removed and Annas's son was made high priest.

Jesus was the Lamb of God who had to be sacrificed by a priest and it so happened, the main person behind motivating the people to get someone to be killed during the Passover feast was the high priest Caiaphas. They were looking out for anybody to be publicly put to death during the feast so that more crowds would come to the synagogue. It so happened that since the Jewish priests and the Pharisees wanted to settle their scores with Jesus, they made Jesus the scapegoat.

Even today in many Churches the priest or pastors organize various events to pull crowds so that more attendance would result in more revenue collection. The means and methods and the level of degrading from the Word to the world does not matter to them as far as the purpose (finance) is met. This indirectly puts them in Caiaphas the high priest's shoes, who was the prime person to get Jesus Christ put to death.

The governors were the power brokers and used the high priest post to control the Jews. Both the governors removed or put the high priest in place according to their discretion, mainly to control the Jews. Although the high priest's office was unto death, but that did not matter to them. They used this office and the people in this post to their wills and fancies. This is not news to us, since it still happens in many Churches where people of influence get the priest or pastor transferred because he causes discomfort to them. If a priest points a figure to them in his preaching or sets a rule to get them nearer to the Lord, he gets in the risk of getting transferred. So the best thing which many priest have learnt out of experience is walk the rope between God and man. Listen to God a little, but do not cause discomfort to man; let them continue what they are doing without bringing much change in them.

Jesus was called the Lamb of God, when he was bought before the high priest and when the crowd accused Him, He quietly heard it without saying much words. If you read the scriptures properly although many came with many accusations, but among themselves by their very own words they were proved false.

Matthew 26:59-62

⁵⁹The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward ⁶¹and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶²Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent.

Mark 14:55-56

⁵⁵The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

But it was not that Jesus did not reply to them at all, because the high priest says 'Are you not going to answer?' to the question of rebuilding the temple on the third day. Jesus could have answered this question too but He chose to keep quite because it was not as simple as what people understood then or still understand.

During that time they thought it was the temple structure and today people think it was to do only with the resurrection of Jesus on the third day. Seven times in the Gospels Jesus directly or indirectly refers to his resurrection on the third day

1st Time**John 2:19-21**

- ¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
²⁰ Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"
²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

2nd Time**Matthew 12:38-40**

- ³⁸ Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.
³⁹ But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:
⁴⁰ 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.

3rd Time**Matthew 16:1-4**

- ¹ Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.
² He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red*';
³ "and in the morning, '*It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.*' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times.
⁴ "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

4th Time**Matthew 16:13-17, 20-21**

- ¹³ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
¹⁴ And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
²⁰ Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.
²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Luke 9:18-22

- ¹⁸ And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?
¹⁹ They answering said, John the Baptist; but some *say*, Elias; and others *say*, that one of the old prophets is risen again.
²⁰ He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.
²¹ And he straitly charged them, and commanded *them* to tell no man that thing;
²² Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

5th Time**Matthew 17:22-23**

- ²² And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:
- ²³ And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Mark 9:30-31

- ³⁰ And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know *it*.
- ³¹ For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

Luke 11:29-30

- ²⁹ And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, "This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.
- ³⁰ "For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.

6th Time**Luke 13:31-32**

- ³¹ The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.
- ³² And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third *day* I shall be perfected.

7th Time**Matthew 20:17-19**

- ¹⁷ And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,
- ¹⁸ Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,
- ¹⁹ And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him*: and the third day he shall rise again.

Mark 10:33-34

- ³³ *Saying*, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:
- ³⁴ And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Luke 18:31-34

- ³¹ Then he took *unto him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.
- ³² For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on:
- ³³ And they shall scourge *him*, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.
- ³⁴ And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

Was Jesus the only one who knew about this? If you read Hosea it is clearly written of the Son of Man who represent mankind will die and be resurrected on the third day.

Hosea 6:1-2

- ¹ Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

² After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

The sign of Jonah wherein he when into the belly of the fish for three day and three nights.

Jonah 1:17

¹⁷ Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

If you see the two scriptures Hosea and Jonah both talk of going into the belly (Sheol), but they differ at one aspect – the time period. Jonah was three days and three nights while Hosea and what really happened with Jesus was on the third day He resurrected. The sign was going in the belly and coming out but the period was cut short for on the third day Jesus resurrected.

Why did Jesus resurrect on the third day? Why not fourth or fifth or even second day? What has time (day and night) to do in Sheol / Hell? For it is written that the Lord's time and our time do not match.

2 Peter 3:8

⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The resurrection of Jesus too was a sign. Like Jonah was a sign for Jesus; Jesus was a sign for mankind. It is to do with the period that mankind would exist after Jesus. This physical world is due the Judgment on the third day that is between two thousand and three thousand – the third day.

Daniel 12:6-7

⁶ And *one* said to the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders *be*?"

⁷ Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a time, times, and half *a time*; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these *things* shall be finished.

The Hebrew word in **Daniel 12:7** 'time' and 'times' is the same and it denotes a period of time a unit of time – which meant a thousand years. All the other scriptures including the sign of the beast '666' and others also point to this period. This human creation was due to finish the three thousand years after Christ but by grace of God it was delivered faster; why did I say grace of God?

To understand this you need to what Jesus spoke about.

Mark 13:14-20

¹⁴ But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

¹⁵ And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter *therein*, to take any thing out of his house:

¹⁶ And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.

¹⁷ But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

¹⁸ And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.

¹⁹ For *in* those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

²⁰ And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

This world is kept alive till those the elect of the Lord are there. That means every moment in time in this world there has to be one or more elect of the Lord alive. It is only for their sake the wrath of God does

not come down on this creation. This is projected in shadow in the book of Genesis in the conversation between Abraham and the Angel.

Genesis 18:20-33

- ²⁰ And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;
- ²¹ I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.
- ²² And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.
- ²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?
- ²⁴ Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that *are* therein?
- ²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?
- ²⁶ And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.
- ²⁷ And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which *am* but dust and ashes:
- ²⁸ Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for *lack of five*? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy *it*.
- ²⁹ And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do *it* for forty's sake.
- ³⁰ And he said *unto him*, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do *it*, if I find thirty there.
- ³¹ And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for twenty's sake.
- ³² And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for ten's sake.
- ³³ And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

When God created man in spirit, He made them all together and man was made to live three thousand years. Everything, even those yet to come have already been created and the story already written, what is happening is the manifestation of what is written.

Man due to sin entering him, the sin manifested in the flesh and his life got reduced from three thousand to less than thousand to finally less than one hundred and twenty, but his spirit life did not change.

Genesis 6:3

- ³ And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Even today no man lives more than 120years in the flesh but each of us in spirit lives for three thousand years. Those who had come before Jesus and were saved, during the Resurrection were given a new lease of life and they too got a renewal of three thousand years.

Revelation 6:9-11

- ⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
- ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?
- ¹¹ And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

It was the mercy of God that He shortened the days and saved all mankind from total destruction, for if He had waited for three thousand years those who died before Jesus would have been lost and so would all mankind be lost. This is because we all are connected to each other in spirit. We all, whose names are written in the Book of Life, are part of the Temple and each and everyone are to be saved.

This Temple which is the Body of the Lord was made impure by Satan and his doing but by Jesus Christ through his disciples (throughout mankind) gets it made pure again.

This Temple does not mean only the human spirits but also the Angels. In the beginning they were part of the Temple but when one third of them fell due to Satan, the Temple was damaged. After man gets redeemed his spirit becomes like the Angels and together with the Angels becomes the New Temple.

Matthew 22:29-30

²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Yesterday I was taking a section on who Jesus Christ is, and I ask them a question, ‘what proof is there that Jesus was their Savior, the Son of God and their Redeemer prophesied in the Old Testament?’ They gave many answers but all could be debated. Even when Jesus was asked this question He told them one sign will prove it and that was his death and resurrection.

We all know Jesus Christ is our Savior because of his death and resurrection. If it was not for this He would have been just an ordinary Prophet like others.