

The "New" Church of God Messenger  
A Newsletter for the People of God  
May 28, 2022 --- Issue No. 69  
Special Edition

**The Spices and  
the Visits to Christ's Tomb**  
by B. L. Cocherell (Nevada)

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**Articles**

**The Spices and the Visits to Christ's Tomb**  
by B. L. Cocherell (Nevada)

There has been much confusion about the sequence of events surrounding preparation of spices and the visits to Christ's tomb, because there seems to be no chronological order to the events as recorded in the gospel accounts. This study provides a plausible sequence of events by reviewing them in four segments: The time frame, Jesus' burial, the women's spice preparation, and the visits to the tomb.

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### **The Time Frame**

Long before the beginning of the Sabbath, Pilate gave his permission for Jesus to be crucified (Mk.15:13-20). Everyone knew that, unless there were divine intervention, Jesus would die a slow, agonizing death. The duration of a crucifixion would allow ample time to purchase and prepare the materials for Jesus' burial required by Jewish tradition.

Mark gives us the complete chronological time frame of the crucifixion process. He reveals that Jesus was crucified at the third hour—9 a.m. (Mk.15:25), that there was darkness from the sixth hour until the ninth hour—12 p.m. 3 p.m. (Mk.15:33-37) and that, after the 9th hour, Jesus died. This tells us that there were about nine hours from the beginning of the crucifixion process until sunset, which began the Sabbath. In 30 A.D., this Sabbath began the first day of Unleavened Bread.

### **The Burial**

All four gospel accounts record that Joseph of Arimathea requested Jesus' body from Pilate, but only John's account reveals that Jesus was prepared for burial in the traditional manner prior to being placed in the tomb: *"Afterwards Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jewish leaders, boldly asked Pilate for permission to take Jesus' body down; and Pilate told him to go ahead. So, he came and took it away. Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night, came too, bringing a hundred pounds of embalming ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Together they wrapped Jesus' body in a long linen cloth saturated with the spices, as is the Jewish custom of burial. The place of crucifixion was near a grove of trees, where there was a new tomb, never used before. And so, because of the need for haste before the Sabbath, and because the tomb was close at hand, they laid him there"* (Jn.19:38-42 TLB).

Although a paraphrase, The Living Bible clearly shows that there was enough time between Jesus' death and burial to prepare his body according to Jewish tradition.

Some sources say that there were only seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. Whether it was seventy-five or one hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes, Nicodemus brought enough of these expensive embalming materials for use in a hundred or more common Jewish burials. Historical records show that the more respected an individual was, the larger the quantity of these costly materials used in the burial perpetration. Josephus records that forty pounds of spices were used at the funeral of the highly respected elder R. Gamaliel (Antiquities of the Jews, Book 17c.8, s.3).

Aside from a high degree of respect for Jesus, another plausible reason for using such a large amount of costly embalming materials may concern the fulfillment of the following prophecy about the body of the Messiah: *"For you will not leave my spirit in the grave; neither will you allow your Holy One to see decay"* (Psa.16:10 Para.). See also Psa.49:9; Acts 2:27, 13:35.

Although it is unlikely that there were more than three hours between Jesus' death and sunset, because of Joseph's and Nicodemus' preparations for Jesus' burial, there was ample time to wash the body, apply the embalming materials, wrap the body in linen, and place it in the tomb before the Sabbath began.

### **Women Bring Additional Spices and Ointment**

Were more spices and ointment necessary to finalize the embalming process? The historical record is vague on this point. However, we know that the women who prepared the spices felt it was necessary to apply more spices and ointment to the body, either as an additional show of honor and respect or out of necessity in order to finalize the process. See Mk.16:1-2; Lk.24:1.

### **Purchase and Preparation Timeline**

*"And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came to the sepulcher at the rising of the sun"* (Mk.16:1-2 KJV).

The English words 'had bought' in Mark chapter 16, verse 1, are translated from the Greek verb 'agorazo' which can mean; properly, to go to market, i.e. (by implication) to purchase; especially, to redeem.

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Some biblical researchers assume that there was not enough time between the time of Jesus' death and sunset for the women to purchase and prepare spices for the anointing of Jesus' body on the day after the Sabbath. Others assume that the spices were purchased before or after Jesus' death and prepared after the Sabbath. The following shows a number of problems with both assumptions:

These women had purchased the spices in preparation to anoint Jesus' body; however, this account does not say when the spices were purchased. Any assumption that the scriptures show that the spices were purchased and prepared before or after the Sabbath is not supported by the Greek text. The Greek text does not reveal a specific time of purchase or any spice preparation; it merely states the fact that the spices had been purchased and that the women brought the spices with them.

A logical assumption is that the spices were not purchased on the weekly Sabbath which was also the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread that year. Therefore, it seems logical that the spices were purchased on the preparation day before the Sabbath or after sunset at the end of the Sabbath, which is the first day of the week. Many believe that it took a considerable amount of time and effort for the women to purchase and prepare the spices; however, nowhere in the biblical record are we told the quantity or type of spices purchased by the women. Therefore, any assumption as to the length of time and the effort required to prepare these materials has no basis in fact. Remember also that Jesus' body had already been prepared for burial using the extremely large quantity of embalming materials provided by Nicodemus; therefore, since his body had already been prepared, it would seem that any additional anointing of the body would have been minimal.

#### **Luke's Account**

Many people assume that the women of Mark 16:1-2 are the same ones referred to in Luke's account. However, this is an assumption without scriptural proof: *"And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment. (Lk.23:54-56 KJV). Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them" (Lk.24:1 KJV).*

Because Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome are mentioned in Mark's account, most people assume that these three are the only women referred to by Luke and the only ones that purchased and prepared spices to place on Jesus' body. However, this assumption could be in error because there were many women that followed Jesus and assisted him in his ministry: *"And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils; And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered to him of their substance" (Lk.8:2-3 KJV).*

Some of the other women that were associated with Jesus are the mother of Zebedee's children, Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, and Mary the wife of Cleophas. Just because no other women's names are mentioned in Luke 23:54-56 does not mean that they were not there. The fact that other women were there is recorded in Luke 24:10: *"It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things to the apostles" (Lk.24:10 KJV).*

Whether or not Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome are the women that Luke refers to as coming from Galilee and preparing spices and ointments before the Sabbath, the accounts of Mark and Luke concerning the preparation of the spices in no way contradict each other. Moreover, these accounts do not preclude any number of women purchasing and preparing spices for the anointing of Jesus' body.

Mark and Luke's accounts have also been used in an attempt to prove that there was a day in between the weekly Sabbath and the First day of unleavened Bread which is an annual High Day. However, accounts in Mark, Luke, and John prove that this day was both a Sabbath and an annual High Day. The weekly Sabbath is the only day with a preparation day and the word Sabbath in both Mark and Luke's accounts is the Greek word 'sabbaton' (the weekly Sabbath), which is followed by the first day of the week (Sunday). The apostle John records that this Sabbath was also a High Day (i.e., an annual festival day). See Jn.19:31.

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**THE WOMEN VISIT THE TOMB**

The following is a chronological sequence of the four gospel accounts of the women's visit to the tomb after the end of the Sabbath.

**After the Sabbath**

After the Sabbath and just before sunrise on the first day of the week, many women who were followers of Jesus came to the tomb to anoint his body with spices and ointments. See Matt.28:1; Mk.16:1-2; Lk.23:56, 24:1-2; Jn.28:1.

*"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" (Matt.28:1 KJV).*

*"And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came to the sepulcher at the rising of the sun" (Mk.16:1-2 KJV).*

*"Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them" (Lk.24:1 KJV).*

*"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, to the sepulcher . . ." (Jn.20:1 KJV).*

Standing before the tomb, the women asked, Who is going to open the tomb for us? See Mk.16:3. Remember that the tomb had been sealed and guards were sent to prevent someone from stealing Jesus' body. See Matt.27:62-66.

*"And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?" (Mk.16:3 KJV).*

*"Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together to Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that, that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say to the people, He is risen from the dead: so, the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said to them, You have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as you can. So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch" (Matt.27:62-66 KJV).*

As the women stood before the tomb wondering how they were going to get it open so that they could anoint the body, there was a great earthquake and an angel appeared in blazing light and rolled back the stone that covered the entrance to the tomb. See Matt.28:2-4; Mk.16:4; Lk.24:2; Jn.20:1.

*"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 on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake and became as dead men" (Matt.28:2-4 KJV).*

*"And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great" (Mk.16:4 KJV).*

*"And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher" (Lk.24:2 KJV).*

*" . . . and see the stone taken away from the sepulcher" (John 20:1 KJV).*

The angel tells the women that Jesus is not in the tomb and to come and see for themselves. See Matt.28:5-6.

*"And the angel answered and said to the women, Fear not you: for I know that you seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matt.28:5-6 KJV).* All the women enter the tomb and find that Jesus' body is indeed not there. See Mk.16:5-6; Lk.24:3.

*"And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were afraid. And he said to them, Be not afraid: you seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is*

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*not here: behold the place where they laid him" (Mk.16:5-6 KJV).*

*"And they entered in and found not the body of the Lord Jesus" (Lk.24:3 KJV).*

While the women are still in the tomb two angels appear to them and begin to explain to them what had happened in the context of prophecies concerning the Messiah. See Lk.24:4-7.

*"And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said to them, Why seek you the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen remember how he spake to you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words" (Lk. 24:4-8).*

The women are told to quickly go and tell Peter and the other disciples that Jesus is alive and will see them in Galilee. See Matt.28:7; Mk.16:7.

*"And go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there shall you see him: lo, I have told you" (Matt.28:7 KJV).*

*"But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goes before you into Galilee: there shall you see him, as he said to you" (Mk.16:7 KJV).*

All the women leave the tomb to tell Peter and the other disciples what happened: See Matt.28:8; Mk.16:8; Lk.24:8-9.

*"And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word" Matt.28:8 KJV*

*"And they went out quickly and fled from the sepulcher; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they anything to any man; for they were afraid" (Mk.16:8 KJV).*

*"And they remembered his words, And returned from the sepulcher, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest" (Lk.24:8-9 KJV).*

### **Mary Magdalene tells Peter and John**

At this point Mary Magdalene runs to tell Peter and the other women hurry to tell the other disciples what they have just experienced, and that Jesus is not in the tomb:

*"Then she [Mary Magdalene] runs, and comes to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved [John], and said to them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him" (Jn.20:2 KJV).*

Upon hearing what Mary told them Peter, John, and Mary run to the tomb.

*"Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulcher. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulcher. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulcher, and sees the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulcher, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own home" (Jn.20:3-18).*

*"Then arose Peter, and ran to the sepulcher; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass" (Lk.24:12 KJV).*

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After examining the tomb and wondering what had happened, Peter and John leave the tomb and go back from where they came.

### **Mary Magdalene Stays Behind**

After Peter and John leave the tomb, Mary Magdalene stays behind weeping and Jesus appears to her and tells her that he is going to ascend to appear before his heavenly Father.

*"Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?'" (Jn.20:11-13 NIV).*

*"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" "Thinking he was the gardener, she said," "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher)" (Jn.20:14-16 NIV).*

*"Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (Jn.20:17-18 NIV).*

Jesus' instruction to Mary not to touch him is important, because it shows that he is about to leave earth and appear before his Father to be accepted as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

### **Jesus Meets the Other Women**

While the other women are still on the way to tell the other disciples what the angels told them, Jesus meets them and tells them to tell the disciples he will meet them in Galilee: *"And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet and worshiped him. Then said Jesus to them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me" (Matt.28:9-10 KJV).*

Notice that the women touched Jesus. This tells us that, in between the time that Jesus spoke to Mary Magdalene and forbid her to touch him and his meeting this group of women on their way to the other disciples, he had ascended to his Heavenly Father, been accepted as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of humanity and had returned to earth.

While the women were still on their way to tell the other disciples what had happened, some of the men who were guarding the tomb informed the chief priests of the events that occurred at the tomb: *"Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and showed to the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money to the soldiers, Saying, Say you, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day" (Matt.28:11-15 KJV).*

As the first day of the week wears on and the apostles and other followers of Jesus gather in various groups to discuss the events of the past few days, Mary Magdalene and the other women tell of their experiences at the tomb and their meeting Jesus, but they are not believed.

*"Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things to her" (Jn.2:18 KJV).*

*"Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not" (Mk.16:9-11 KJV).*

*"It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not" (Lk.24:10-11*

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KJV).

During the first day of the week after the women told of their various experiences that morning, Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus, to Peter, and to the other disciples while they were eating. See Lk.24:13-51: Mk.16:14: 1 Cor.15:5.

The following is a plausible chronology of the events concerning the burial spices, their purchase and application, and the visits to the tomb by the men and women:

1. After Pilate had given his permission for the crucifixion of Jesus, Nicodemus purchased the required burial materials for Jesus' burial according to Jewish tradition.
2. Pilate grants Joseph of Arimathea permission to remove Jesus' body from the place of crucifixion.
3. Joseph and Nicodemus remove Jesus' body and together they prepare Jesus' body and place it in the tomb.
4. The women have either purchased spices and prepared them before or after the weekly Sabbath which was also the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread.
5. The women arrive at the Tomb before sunrise on the first day of the week, see the tomb sealed, and ask for someone to roll back the sealing stone.
6. While they are standing in front of the tomb, there is an earthquake as an angel descends from heaven and rolls back the stone from the tomb's entrance.
7. As the women stand there in fear, the angel comforts them and tells them that Jesus is not in the tomb, but he is alive, and they should go into the tomb and see for themselves.
8. The angel explains what has happened and tells the women to go tell the disciples.
9. Mary goes to tell Peter and the other women go to tell the rest of the disciples.
10. Peter and John run to the tomb, look in and go back to where they came from.
11. Mary Magdalene stays at the tomb where Jesus appears to her.
12. Jesus meets the other women on their way to inform the other disciples.
13. Mary Magdalene and the other women tell the disciples of their meeting Jesus and that he is alive, but no one believes them.

**Articles – More Parts**

**God's Non-Transmittable Attributes (Part Five): Independence**  
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The great and eternal God is a Being of glorious attributes, many of which are beyond our limited human capacity to comprehend fully (Job 42:3; Psalm 147:5). However, our understanding and appreciation of how His non-transmittable attributes contribute to His divine nature are crucial to establishing an appropriate relationship with Him (Jeremiah 29:12-

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13; 31:33-34; II Peter 3:18; John 17:3). In previous studies in this series, we have discussed His omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, and immutability. Each of these attributes, particularly when considered collectively, suggest another critical aspect of God’s character, power, and existence: His complete and total independence.

1. What does God’s independence entail? Exodus 3:14.

**Comment:** *Independence* is commonly defined as “the state or quality of being independent.” It implies total freedom from any external control or influence, especially the ability to act without interference by another or by circumstance. It also signifies self-existence, self-support, or self-government.

In Exodus 3:14, God revealed to Moses His eternal, self-existence by declaring “I AM WHO I AM.” The psalmist declares, “Our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” (Psalm 115:3), and “Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and all deep places” (Psalm 135:6).

God’s actions are always voluntary; He cannot be compelled to act by any other person or external force. Only His nature and will are determinative of His actions (Ephesians 1:11). God alone created everything (Psalm 102:25; Job 38:4; John 1:3), and gave life, which has always existed within Him, to human beings (John 1:4; 5:26; Colossians 1:16-17). He predated all creation (Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 1:10).

2. Does God have any needs? Acts 17:24-25.

**Comment:** Unlike man, God never experiences need. Therefore, serving Him should never be motivated by the thought that He needs whatever we may give or offer (Job 41:11; Romans 11:34-35). In fact, all things, animate and inanimate, depend solely on His power, which created and sustains them. The *Charles Buck Theological Dictionary* states:

If, therefore, all things depend on God, then it would be absurdity to say that God depends on anything, for this would be to suppose the cause and the effect to be mutually dependent on and derived from each other, which infers a contradiction.

Even though He is not dependent on His creatures or His creation for anything, both can and should bring Him glory (Psalm 8:3; 96:1-9; Isaiah 42:12; Romans 1:20; Revelation 4:11). He is the Creator of everything (Colossians 1:17), and the Provider of everything (Genesis 22:14).

3. Has God ever looked to any man for help? Job 22:2-3.

**Comment:** Ever since God created mankind, He has chosen to work many things through human beings. However, God never *needed* anyone—Abraham, Noah, or Moses (among many others)—to accomplish His works. Being independent, God is not obligated to any man in any way unless He chooses to initiate an obligation (Genesis 15; Deuteronomy 28:1-14). He does not have to do anything for us unless He wills to do so (Romans 9:18). Therefore, we cannot put Him in our debt for any reason (Job 41:11; Romans 11:34-35). In fact, man can place no restrictions whatsoever upon his Creator (Numbers 23:19-20; Isaiah 40:13-14, 17; Job 36:23; Romans 9:20).

God’s independence is such that He is free from limitations on either His goodness or His greatness. His divine nature ensures that His decisions are perfectly wise and consistent. He never acts illogically or absurdly, nor does He act arbitrarily or impulsively.

So, even though He is completely independent, His freedom is perfect freedom. He always acts for good and not evil (James 1:17) and in ways that reveal His glory and greatness (Exodus 34:5-7). Knowing this, all Christians should follow in Moses’ wise footsteps as demonstrated in Exodus 34:8: “So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.”

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## Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)  
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

### In regard to: The Spices and the Visits to Christ's Tomb

Article by B. L. Cocherell

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

In all reality, this is one of the worst articles we have ever looked at here and we have looked at a lot of articles through the years.

B. L. Cocherell uses the word "plausible" three times in this article meaning he has no idea if any of what he put into this article is even accurate. Not everyone has the ability to cover every subject in the Bible and do it accurately. We spent several days and hours researching this article just to conclude it is the doctrine of Good Friday/Easter Sunday digested, regurgitated, and then repackaged as a new and improved Church of God crucifixion doctrine. Do not bite into this apple as it is poison.

B. L. Cocherell writes that "The weekly Sabbath is the only day with a preparation day and the word Sabbath in both Mark and Luke's accounts is the Greek word 'sabbaton' (the weekly Sabbath), which is followed by the first day of the week (Sunday). The apostle John records that this Sabbath was also a High Day (i.e., an annual festival day). See Jn.19:31."

B. L. Cocherell is dead wrong in this assumption. All of the Sabbaths whether weekly or annual have a preparation day. Please look at all the arguments people want to raise in regard to the use of postponements in the Hebrew Calendar. We here follow the Hebrew Calendar including the postponements because all the other calendars in the Church of God movement are made up by people who believe Christ followed their calendar instead of the calendar used in the Sanhedrin at the time of Christ and they hate those nasty postponements because they feel the Jewish people put them there just to rearrange their preparation days to make life easy.

The reason that postponements are used in the Hebrew Calendar is because the entire calendar is set by Tishri one the Feast of Trumpets. There are two Holy Days that have-to-have Full Moons, one is Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread and the other one is The First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles. If your calendar does not have those it is definitely a fake calendar. Over the years people have tried to tell us that there are three full moons in a month. Why anyone falls for that kind of blarney I have no idea because there is only one full moon in any given month. Another reason for postponements is that the lunar year is shorter than a solar year so if you don't use postponements and a nineteen-year cycle, your calendar will soon have Passover falling on December 25 or some other pagan holiday.

There are two verses in the New Testament where it is said that the preparation day was for Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread, they are:

- [Joh 19:14](#) And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!
- [Joh 19:31](#) The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Because B. L. Cocherell believes there is no preparation day for an annual Sabbath he puts the Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread together with the weekly Sabbath as one day and you guessed it, he has them both falling on Saturday so he can have his preparation day only for a weekly Sabbath. When he does this his crucifixion day is Friday and his resurrection day is Sunday. Sound familiar yet?

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There is nothing in John 19:14 and John 19:31 that speaks of any other Sabbath except the High Sabbath which was Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread.

Wait it gets better. Christ said he would be in the grave for three days and three nights, so He can't possibly die on a Friday and be resurrected on a Sunday, or can He? According to B. L. Cocherell He can since three days and three nights are only parts of days and nights. Sound familiar yet?

- [Mat 12:39](#) 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:**
- [Mat 12:40](#) **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.**

Christ gave the sign of the three days and three nights to people who did not believe Him anyway and if it had failed then Christ is not our Savior because it would have been a lie and Christ does not lie. Christ knows exactly how many hours are in a day and how many are in a night because He said so.

- [Joh 11:9](#) Jesus answered, **Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.**
- [Joh 11:10](#) **But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.**

When I contacted B. L. Cocherell about his article I was told that “Three Days and Three Nights” is an idiom and only means parts of days and parts of nights. So thus, a Friday crucifixion and a Sunday resurrection can work because Christ was only in the grave for part of this time. When you play little games like this, you are making Christ a liar and teaching that His one and only sign failed and you are teaching it to other people. This is not a game, if you cause people to stumble with your false doctrines you are responsible to God for that.

Definition of an Idiom from Websters Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary 1966— “...having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements...”

What it means is that if you have “three days and three nights” each word is an element, and everyone knows what three means, what night means and what day means. We know exactly what is being said because it is clear. So, when Christ says he will be in the grave three days and three nights it is not an idiom because we understand what is being said.

Now on the other hand when we say, “he kicked the bucket” or “he is kicking the can down the road”, these elements are not clear because it would be strange to see a person actually kicking a bucket or kicking a can down the road. The meaning of these two sayings is masked in fog so you will only know what is being talked about if you know the meaning of the idiom. If you do not know the meaning of the idiom you will not understand what you are being told. When we say, “he kicked the bucket”, what it means is “he died”. When we say someone is “kicking the can down the road,” what it means is that they are “putting something off instead of doing it now.”

Bullinger's Companion Bible, Appendix 144, page 170, clarifies, “... when the number of ‘nights’ is stated as well as the number of ‘days,’ then the expression ceases to be an idiom and becomes a literal statement of fact. ...”

In other words, Christ did not lie, He was in the grave three days and three nights just like He said. Christ is not the one that made the mistake here, the one that made the mistake is B. L. Cocherell.

Here is the major problem, B. L. Cocherell has taken clear scripture and used it to confuse people into believing something else. The scripture in regard to being in the grave three days and three nights is very clear but if you believe that Christ was resurrected on Sunday morning, you have to get rid of this verse somehow. What better way than to make it an idiom and tell everyone it means parts of a day and parts of a night.

If on the other hand you take it literally for what it actually says and you know that other scriptures tell you that Christ was

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buried before sunset on the preparation day before the Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread and you know He was in the grave for three days and three nights, then you count from Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon is one day, Thursday afternoon to Friday afternoon is two days and Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon is three days. So, Christ rose from the grave late Saturday afternoon before sunset.

Apparently, most scholars believe that Christ died in 30 AD or in 33 AD. If I had to take an educated guess based on the Hebrew calendar calculators that are out there now days, my educated guess would be 30 AD. What I find amusing is that B. L. Cocherell also chose 30 AD but states that Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread were on a Saturday and all the calculators I tried that were based on the Hebrew Calendar as preserved by the Jews all had it falling on April 4, 30 AD on a Thursday. B. L. Cocherell claims it was on a Saturday. Most people trying to prove a Friday crucifixion and a Sunday resurrection choose 33 AD. And so, the debate goes on.

These are a few of the dates I checked on the below calculator. The more recent dates that I checked were right on with what is recorded in “The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar” by Arthur Spier.

Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3786 = March 21, 26 AD and was on a Saturday  
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3787 = April 8, 27 AD and was on a Thursday  
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3788 = March 28, 28 AD and was on a Tuesday  
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3789 = April 15, 29 AD and was on a Sunday  
**Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3790 = April 4, 30 AD and was on a Thursday**  
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3791 = March 25, 31 AD and was on a Tuesday  
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3792 = April 13, 32 AD and was on a Tuesday  
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3793 = April 2, 33 AD and was on a Saturday

Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 5781 = March 28, 2021, AD and was on a Sunday  
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 5782 = April 16, 2022, AD and is on a Saturday

See: <https://www.bsswebsite.me.uk/Daysanddates/hebrew-date.html> (Hebrew Calendar Calculator)

As I was doing this study, I found that many people also believe Christ was crucified and buried on Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread which they thought to be a Thursday. Why do they think that way? Because they believe the resurrection was on Sunday morning. And yet we have very clear scripture that tells us that Christ could not have been crucified on a Sabbath Day whether annual or weekly.

The bodies on the crosses had to be removed before the preparation day was over and before the High Sabbath started. If those who were being crucified were not yet dead on the preparation day, they broke their legs in order to hurry their death.

- **Joh 19:31** The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

**The below verses are talking about during the crucifixion of Christ.**

- **Mat 27:55** And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: **Mat 27:56** Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.
- **Mar 15:40** There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; **Mar 15:41** (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

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- **Joh 19:25** Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

The below verses are talking about as Christ was laid in the tomb and the rock was rolled in front of the entrance. Notice the women are only there to observe. They did not rush to the store to buy spices as the stores would probably all have been closed at this point because it was so close to the Sabbath of Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread.

- **Mat 27:60** And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed. **Mat 27:61** And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulcher.
- **Mar 15:46** And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulcher which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulcher. **Mar 15:47** And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses beheld where he was laid.

The year that Christ was crucified there was a day between Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread and the Weekly Sabbath so this would be the day the women bought and prepared the spices.

- **Mar 16:1** And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

The below scriptures take place any time after sunset on Saturday night to any time the sun is about to come out. Since it is very early on the first of the week there would be no stores open yet and all of these verses show past tense. In other words, the spices were bought and prepared before they came the first of the week and yet they were not purchased before the first Sabbath so the only time the spices could have been bought and prepared was the day between the two Sabbaths. If they already had these spices bought and prepared before the first Sabbath, they would have anointed Jesus at that time.

- **Mat 28:1** 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.
- **Mar 16:1** And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. **(In this verse notice that it says they had bought sweet spices. Some Bibles have it “bought”, “had bought” or “brought”. In the original Greek it is rendered “bought”. Whether your Bible says “bought” or “had bought” it does not matter as they are both past tense. The word “brought” is not in the original text.)** **Mar 16:2** And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.
- **Mar 16:9** Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. **(The earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have verses 9–20 of Mark, meaning that someone may have added them later. This is still a debate by scholars. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark\\_16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_16) Commas were added to scripture later and depending on where the commas are placed it can throw the entire intent of the verse off. In Mark: 16:9 there are two commas in the KJV, one after week and one after Magdalene. There should probably only be one comma and it should be after risen. Read it both ways to see how a comma changes everything. The reason a person can change this comma and put it after risen here is that the other gospels back up the same meaning when you do this. To be more clear, the other gospels say he was risen (past tense) meaning on Saturday, where this verse makes it sound like Christ rose on Sunday just because of where they placed the comma.)**

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- **Luk 24:1** Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them. **(They came very early in the morning with the spices they had prepared. Had prepared is past tense.)**
- **Joh 20:1** The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher.

**In context the story line goes:**

- **Luk 23:50** And, behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a counsellor; *and he was* a good man, and a just:
- **Luk 23:51** (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) *he was* of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.
- **Luk 23:52** This *man* went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.
- **Luk 23:53** And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.
- **Luk 23:54** And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. **(This was the preparation day for Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread which is a High Sabbath.)**
- **Luk 23:55** And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how his body was laid. **(The women were at the tomb and saw how Christ's body was laid in the tomb. If they already had bought and prepared the spices this would have been a perfect opportunity for them to anoint the body, but they did not.)**
- **Luk 23:56** And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. **(After the body was laid in the tomb, the women returned probably home where they bought and prepared spices. There would have been no place to buy spices until Friday morning and then they had all day Friday to prepare the spices. They apparently did not have time to take the spices they had prepared to the tomb because at sunset the Weekly Sabbath began.)**
- **Luk 24:1** Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.
- **Luk 24:2** And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher.
- **Luk 24:3** And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
- **Luk 24:4** And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:
- **Luk 24:5** And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?
- **Luk 24:6** He is not here, but is **risen**: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,
- **Luk 24:7** Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, **and the third day rise again. (By Sunday morning Christ was already risen for he had done that just before sunset on Saturday. And here again it says Christ would rise on the third day. These are not idioms; these are clear scriptures telling you when an event has or will take place.)**
- **Luk 24:8** And they remembered his words,

**One more verse that people use to change the fact that there were two Sabbaths that year with a day between is this scripture:**

- **Luk 24:21** But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done.

In context the above verse is about the conversation Christ had on the road to Emmaus. They use this verse to claim that Christ rose on Sunday because it says, “the third day since”. Because of this they invalidate all the verses in regard to the crucifixion where it says the third day just because this one seems out of line with the others. If you count back three days from Sunday, you end up on Thursday.

There was something that happened on Thursday which was a Sabbath, and they are counting it in this verse as part of

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all the events that happened surrounding the crucifixion.

- [Mat 27:62](#) Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, [Mat 27:63](#) Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. [Mat 27:64](#) Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. [Mat 27:65](#) Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can. [Mat 27:66](#) So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

So, what is the actual timeline of the crucifixion and the spices?

1. The women were there for the crucifixion.
2. Christ was crucified on a Wednesday and died about 3:00 PM that same day which was a preparation day for the annual Sabbath of Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread.
3. They had to bury Christ before sunset on Wednesday because it was a high day or annual Sabbath of Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread.
4. When Christ was prepared for burial and laid in the tomb, Joseph of Arimathea rolled a stone in front of the opening to the tomb.
5. Some of the women were outside the tomb and observed Christ in the tomb.
6. The Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread was on Thursday the year Christ was crucified.
7. The women went on Friday which was not a holy day and bought and prepared the spices but did not have enough time to go to the tomb and use them before the weekly Sabbath.
8. Christ rose from the grave just before sunset on Saturday which means He was in the grave for exactly three days and three nights, just like He said He would be.
9. The women came to the tomb with the spices the first of the week and the stone was already moved from the entrance to the tomb when they got there.
10. Christ's conversation on the Road to Emmaus.

It took us days to research this response because 99 percent of the world as well as a large percentage of people within the Church of God have bought into the doctrine of a Friday Crucifixion and a Sunday resurrection. We had enough notes for this response to write five or more 40-page booklets, however we had to cut it way down in order to fit it in this newsletter. So, if we have not mentioned a scripture, it is not that we didn't research it, it is just that we didn't have room to address all scriptures in this response. If you feel you have a scripture that does not fit what we have presented here in our response, please send the scripture and the question in regard to it and we will give an answer.

**In conclusion:**

When you study any given subject use the Bible as your authority and other sources as secondary or backups to make a particular point clearer. Never use a source outside the Bible and then try to fit scripture into it to prove your doctrine.

Most all people are out there saying three days and three nights is an idiom when it is not. Christ clearly states the time He will be in the grave. And Christ does not lie.

B. L. Cocherell has written many articles and some of those articles are right on with scripture. I don't know why he went where he did with this article except that he did not understand it.

Since we studied Passover and the day to keep it over 20 years ago, people are always sending us stuff in regard to Passover at various times. And every time someone sends us something or points something out to us, we take another look at it because if we are wrong, we want to change it, so we don't teach wrong doctrines to others.

A long time ago, someone sent us a copy of Maimonides and told us "Here this proves that they were doing moon observation at the time of Christ." In fact, if you read the entire document, it does not say that at all. They actually used calculations at the time of Christ and used moon sightings to make sure their calculations were right.

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The only calendar that is correct is the one they were using at the time of Christ, and it is important because if you make up your own calendar and then teach it to others, you are responsible for teaching God's people to keep times that are not His appointed times. This is not a game where you can just make stuff up and pass it off as true. God left His calendar complete with postponements with the Jewish people who I will remind you all are also your brethren. Even though the Jewish people sinned the other tribes which most of you are, sinned first and were scattered and lost their identity. The Jewish people were scattered later but never lost their identity.

In this study the proof for two Sabbath days with a day in between is found in:

- [Mat 12:40](#) 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.

We know that Christ was crucified on the preparation day for Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread, and we know the women went to the tomb on the first of the week after a Sabbath Day. So, the three-day count is perfect with Thursday being the Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread and Friday being the day between the two Sabbaths and Saturday being the Weekly Sabbath.

So, Christ died and was buried on a Wednesday before sunset. Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon is one day, Thursday afternoon to Friday afternoon is two days and Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon is three days. All scripture fits together perfectly.

**Remember a 24-hour Day and Night period of time is measured from Sunset to Sunset.**

Sunset on Wednesday	Thursday Night	Thursday Daylight
Christ was buried before sunset on the preparation day for the Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread.	<b>First Night</b>	<b>First Day</b>
Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread started at Sunset		Christ's tomb was sealed

Sunset on Thursday	Friday Night	Friday Daylight
At Sunset the High Holy Day was over	<b>Second Night</b>	<b>Second Day</b>
The preparation day for the weekly Sabbath begins		Plenty of time to buy and prepare spices

Sunset on Friday	Saturday Night	Saturday Daylight
The Weekly Sabbath started at Sunset	<b>Third Night</b>	<b>Third Day</b>

Sunset on Saturday	Sunday Night	Sunday Daylight
Christ rose just before sunset exactly 3 Days from when he was buried.		The women came to the tomb early while it was still dark to anoint Christ and found He was <u>risen</u> .
		Road to Emmaus – "...Three Days Since..." See Luke 24:21 and Mathew 27:62-66 (It was literally three days since all these things happened.) See Chart for Thursday Daylight above.

**Holy Days 2022**

**Pentecost – June 5, 2022**  
**Trumpets - September 26, 2022**  
**Atonement – October 5, 2022**  
**Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022**  
**Last Great Day – October 17, 2022**