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<sup>[31]</sup> *And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

[Mark 8:31]

Over the years of my teaching Scripture, I have been asked many times by those who have read Mark 8:31 how, if Jesus was crucified on Friday and raised on Sunday, how could He teach that He would be raised *after* three days? Would that not mean He would be raised on Monday?

Let me begin to answer that question by looking at how Eloheem God defined a day. Open your Bible to Genesis one and read verse 5. Listen carefully to the end of this verse which says,

*“... there was evening and there was morning, one day.”*

Did you see that unlike our modern western way of telling time, where our days begin at midnight, God defines days as beginning at “*evening*”.

As you read through Genesis, all six days of creation are described as “*there was evening and there was morning*” [Genesis 1:5,8,13,19,23,31]. Then in Genesis 2:2 you read,

*And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*

Did you see that it was at “*evening*”, the *beginning* of the “*seventh day*” that God rested from His work of creating?

Please take note, Friday before “*evening*” was the first day of what Jesus propheted in Mark 8:31. Listen closely. John teaches in John 19:30 that it was on Friday before “*evening*”, “*When Jesus... had received the sour wine*”, and “*said, ‘It is finished!’ And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit*”.

How can you know that for certain? The answer is in John 19:31. Here you can know that it was still Friday, because the “*Sabbath*” which would have begun Friday “*evening*” had not yet begun. You learn this when You read in John 19:31 that,

*The Jews, therefore, BECAUSE IT WAS the DAY OF PREPARATION [for the Sabbath], so that the bodies should not remain on the cross ON THE SABBATH (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that [the legs of Jesus and the thieves] might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*

Then in John 19:32 you read that,

<sup>[32]</sup> *The soldiers therefore came, and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other man who was crucified with [Jesus];* <sup>[33]</sup> *but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs;* <sup>[34]</sup> *but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.* <sup>[35]</sup> *And [John] who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.*

<sup>[36]</sup> *For these things came to pass, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “NOT A BONE OF HIM WILL BE BROKEN.”*<sup>1</sup> <sup>[37]</sup> *And again another Scripture says, “THEY WILL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED.”*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 34:20.

<sup>2</sup> Zechariah 12:10.

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Another witness to this is seen in Luke 23:51,52,54, when [Joseph] from Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. You are then told this happened on the *“preparation day, and the SABBATH WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN”*. These verses give witness that these things occurred on Friday, the first day.

Saturday, the second day then began as Friday *“evening”* turned into Saturday night and morning. Just as it was at *“evening”* when the seventh day began when God rested from His work of creation [Genesis 2:2]. It is here at *“evening”* that Saturday the second day began as Jesus' body lay in the tomb.

Now consider Mark 16:1 where you learn that,

*“when the Sabbath [Saturday] WAS OVER, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.*

You then learn in Mark 16:2 that it was,

*... VERY EARLY on the FIRST DAY of the WEEK [Sunday, the third day], they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.*

Listen to the *PROPHECY* Jesus *MADE* in Matthew 16:21<sup>3</sup> where you learn that,

*[21] From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up **ON** the third day.*

Did you take note that Jesus was buried on Friday the first day. He was then in the tomb on Saturday the second day. Then Jesus was *RAISED UP **ON*** Sunday the third day! Not after three days!

Therefore what Jesus *PROPHESED WAS FULFILLED!*

Will you now please pray with me?

Father God, I give You thanksgiving and praise that You are the God Whose Word never fails. I thank You for being the God Whose Word never changes! I thank You and give you praise that in the smallest of details You are always faithful to fulfill what You have prophesied. I am especially thankful that You have been faithful regarding the things Of Christ and our salvation. I sorrow when I think of all that Jesus suffered and rejoice when I realize He did this for me and everyone else who believe into His name. I thank You for giving us these blessings and ask You to accept this prayer of thanksgiving through the authority which is in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

*BECAUSE HE NEVER FAILS TO FULFILL HIS WORD! – tom!*

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<sup>3</sup> Also see Matthew 17:22-23; 20:19; Mark 9:31; 10:34; Luke 9:22; 18:33; 24:6-7,46, which say He was raised **ON** Sunday.