

INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE SURROUNDING THE CROSS

Jesus says that the Son of Man will be “three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” The “heart of the earth” may refer to the wickedness of men who conspire to kill Jesus and the fact that Jesus allowed this conspiracy to end in His death. The conspiracy officially began on Tuesday evening when Judas made plans with the High Priest to deliver Jesus to be executed. According to Matthew 26:2, it was two days before Passover and at Passover Jesus would be delivered to be crucified. Matthew 26:14 says that on this evening of Tuesday before Passover, Judas went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?” Being three days and three nights in the heart of the earth could begin on Tuesday evening and end on Friday afternoon. Psalm 16:10 says that You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption (also Acts 13:35). According to the Scripture it is fitting that Jesus went to Paradise in His resurrection body and appeared there to the thief on the cross who believed Jesus. A Friday afternoon resurrection of Jesus would satisfy His body not seeing corruption, as well as Him being in Paradise that same day to visit the thief. Jesus said to him, “Today you will be with Me in Paradise.” When the stone is rolled away on Sunday morning the angel proclaims, “Why look for the living among the dead.” Rolling the stone away just confirms that Jesus truly arose from the dead. Jesus returned from Paradise to the garden and spoke to Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-16) and other women who had been sent to the disciples (Matthew 28:8-10). The resurrection of Jesus is proclaimed on Sunday morning to the disciples yet the actual transformation of His body to glorification happened just hours after His crucifixion.

This interpretation of the Scriptures allow for a literal three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The nights are Tuesday night, Wednesday night, and Thursday night. The days are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. During these days and nights Jesus is literally turned over to the counsel of wicked men who plan His execution. Sin is allowed to condemn itself to the utmost by killing the sinless Son of God. Scripture says God condemned sin by sending Jesus as a sacrifice for sin so that sin is defeated along with Satan.

(Romans 8:3; Colossians 1:20; 2:15)

Jesus lived a sinless life and died a sinless death. This is the key to sin's condemnation and sin's being sentenced to extinction from all heaven and earth. This is the price Jesus paid for sin being removed from all heaven and earth. Jesus allowed sin to condemn itself by killing the sinless Son of God. Sin is sentenced to removal from all creation. Today sin is being removed from all who believe Christ, receive Christ and are being made new creations. This process of sin removal is completed at glorification of the believer. Removal of sin from all creation is to be accomplished through Judgments to come. Belief in the redemptive work of Christ at the cross and receiving the indwelling Holy Spirit is the condition by which believers are being changed into new creations. The result of the Cross is that repentant people are changed. The Cross was not an instrument that changed God in our favor. God already loved all people before the Cross and the Cross demonstrated God's love for all people. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. By His sinless death, Jesus became the victorious last Adam who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus is humanity's God-given Substitute for Adam and Jesus becomes their new Adam for all who believe in Him and receive Him as Lord and Savior (Romans 5:1-21).

Sin kills good fellowship and good relationships.

Sin kills people.

Sin killed Jesus by His design. Jesus gave His life.

God condemned sin for killing the sinless Son of God. Romans 8:3

Sin is condemned as guilty and sentenced to extinction for its atrocious act.

Jesus became the last Adam with power to reverse the effects of Adam's sin. Jesus succeeded in remaining sinless even unto death. Jesus arose with all power and authority over all creation. Jesus defeated sin, Satan, and death.