



What part of “After the Third Day” don’t you understand?

Introduction:

It’s like a calf staring at a new gate. Have you ever heard that phrase?

You can be looking at something “out of place” that does not fit into your idea of what “should be there” so your mind and your eyes just don’t match up in the meaning of it all.

It’s like when you come home and your mom has rearranged the furniture.

It’s like sitting in a Calculus class and you didn’t get through Algebra 1 yet.

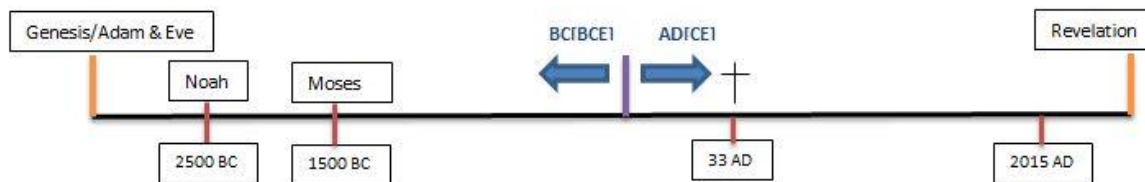
You are just trying to make sense of it all. This is what the people of Jesus’ earthly days faced when they heard Him speak. They were trying to make sense of it all.

Revelation 13:8b “...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Jesus, who is God the Son, along with God the Father had our salvation planned from the beginning of time.

[Draw a straight “timeline” on a white board and mark it in as you talk through the next paragraphs.]

[Mark the timeline on your far left end “Genesis” when you are facing the board so that the timeline will run left to right for the audience to view. On your far right while you are facing the whiteboard mark that with “Revelation”. About 2/3 from your left draw a cross. See illustration for further details. Refer to the timeline as you teach.]



Beginning with Adam and Eve in Genesis, the shedding of blood was used to signify that Jesus would come and shed His blood. Adam and Eve sinned. God killed an animal to make a covering for them. The blood that was shed from these animal sacrifices signified that His blood would cover our sin if we accepted His sacrifice. This was a picture of God’s plan.

Then Noah sacrificed. Abraham sacrificed; then Moses sacrificed. All through the Old Testament you see the blood sacrifices.

However the animal sacrifices were only a picture. They lacked two important ingredients:

1. The animals were not perfect.
2. The animals could not raise themselves from the dead.

These two points distinguish Christianity from other religions. Other religions and even idol worshippers would sometimes offer blood sacrifices, **but they never had a sacrifice get back up and instruct the worshipper what to do next. Jesus did!**

He told His Disciples!

Have you ever told your folks that you were headed over to a friend's house for the afternoon? Then in about an hour or two you get a message from your family asking where you are? It's like you told them where you were going, they said okay, and then promptly forgot! Communication is not a new problem.

Throughout Jesus' ministry on earth He prepared His followers and disciples for what was about to happen concerning His death and resurrection.

He repeatedly told them that He would die; and that after three days He would rise from the dead. Jesus was very careful concerning teaching about His resurrection.

Matthew 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.

Matthew 16:21 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.

Matthew 17:23 And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Matthew 20:19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Matthew 26:2 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

Matthew 26:26-32 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

So, what part of the upcoming crucifixion, burial, rising from the dead, and I will meet you in Galilee, did they not understand?

Could they not think beyond the boundary of this mortal life? What hindered them from understanding such clear teaching about His death and His resurrection?

He told the Crowds!

As Jesus taught in the temple and in open air meetings, he told the crowds that he would die and rise again.

Matthew 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Mark 14:58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

The crowds, also, had clearly heard him say what the disciples had heard. But notice that the crowds had understood his message from a different perspective. They thought he had been talking about the great temple building they had built in Jerusalem. All along they did not “get it” that Jesus was talking about himself.

People have the same problem today. They do not “hear” or “understand” the message clearly. They “make it what they THINK it should be” instead of what He says. There are so many different religions, and divisions in what people believe because they are not “listening” to the Holy Spirit of God while comparing scripture with scripture.

If you understand scripture in one place to say a certain thing, yet another scripture seems to disagree, then that means you are misunderstanding something. Don’t just ignore the one you don’t agree with. Try to get a proper understanding.

Many people today are not reading the Word of God and trying to see what He is saying; instead they are trying to justify some old tradition or superstition or cultural misunderstanding of God.

He told the Crowds, but they didn’t understand. He has left His Word for us today; along with the Holy Spirit to lead and guide, but the Crowds still don’t “get it.”

He told the Religious Pharisees!

Even the religious leaders, the Pharisees, knew about His teaching concerning His death and resurrection.

The Pharisees went to the Roman government leaders and told them of His resurrection! They wanted them to assign extra guards to make sure no one could come to steal His body. Their religious standing in the community depended on keeping Jesus from His appointed resurrection. How short sighted! They were trading eternal joy in the presence of God for a few years of praise of men.

If these Pharisees had studied their Bible as much as they did their Talmud (book of rules that they had created themselves); they would have seen how that everything prophesied in the Old Testament was coming to pass right before their eyes.

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Luke 13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

In Summation:

Even the most dedicated followers had trouble understanding and believing what Jesus taught.

They had seen Jesus, the miracle worker, heal the sick and even raise Lazarus from the dead. But if Jesus himself were dead, who would raise him up? How can a dead man do ANYTHING?

The key is that Jesus was more than “a man”. He was God in the flesh, and killing His fleshly body did not have the same effect as with other people. It is impossible to kill God!

That is why angels were sent to the tomb. They reminded the people that came to the tomb of what Jesus said. They were also sent **to roll the stone away so that the people could see for themselves that Jesus was not in the tomb.**

Just think about it. If Jesus could appear in a room with locked doors, did He need the stone rolled away? Of course not. The angels rolled the stone away for those that came to the tomb that morning.

Matthew 28:2-6 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 upon 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. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Luke 24:2-7 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 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 unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto 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.

He told You!

Jesus not only told his disciples, the crowd, and the Pharisees; He also told YOU that he is no longer in the tomb, but He is now seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for you right now.

Jesus’ ministry was not just for the three short years he taught and preached, but the resurrection, that is , his coming back to life, following the three days in the tomb lets us know that His ministry began before the world was formed and will continue for all eternity.

I believe in His bodily resurrection and have come to Him in repentance. Therefore, I know that I will spend eternity in Heaven with Him. If you are saved, you should also have this confidence. If you are not saved yet, then I have this one question for you.

What part of “after the third day” don’t you understand?