

Math Problems

Confirmation for this message came this week in the essay we just read. Andrea and I were discussing yesterday afternoon of how some of the topics pop up for Sabbath study and the whole “three days and three nights” was one of them. She had another good one “I am Able” which we may visit at a later date.

As we have discussed the time line of Jesus’ death on the cross, His burial and resurrection, we know that He was crucified on Passover and was raised from the dead at the close of the Sabbath, three days after His death. Exactly. As the essay said, “not one second before or after 72 hours” which constitutes three days and three nights. Anything plus or minus would make Him a liar and negate the entire Bible. We know from God’s Word that He cannot lie. Period.

Numbers 23:19- “God *is* not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent. Has He said, and shall He not do it? Or has He spoken, and shall He not fulfill it?”

“In *the* hope of eternal life, which God Who cannot lie promised before the ages of time,”- **Titus 1:2**

Hebrews 6:17-18- “In this *way* God, desiring more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise the unchangeable nature of His own purpose, confirmed *it* by an oath; So that by two immutable things, in which *it was impossible for* God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope *that has been* set before us;”

There is an idiom that comes to mind when thinking about the whole Friday to Sunday speculation. “There is none so blind as those who will not see.” This proverb (non-biblical) essentially means that you will never be able to make someone understand or accept something if they are too stubborn or unwilling to learn or notice. In this case, they ignore the word of God and His perfect math for their form of arithmetic. You can try and present facts to them all you want, even until you are blue in the face, but their mind is made up.

We know that Jesus Christ died in the ninth hour (3 PM)

Matthew 27:46, 50- “And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” That is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” **50.-** “And after crying out again with a loud voice, Jesus yielded up *His* spirit.” This can also be read in **Mark 15:34, 37.**

He was risen exactly 72 hours later as the Sabbath was closing. Not Sunday morning.

My questioning this mathematical error first hit me when I was about nine years old going to a Presbyterian Sunday School. We celebrated Good Friday and also Easter Sunday.

If we look at the Protestant math, if Jesus was crucified on Friday and died Friday afternoon (giving them the benefit of using the 3 PM time of death, rising from His grave on Sunday morning (if you use 6 AM as the time of morning the women went to the tomb), that is only 39 hours. Now I am no rocket scientist (but I did work with them), this is a little more than half the time He said He would be in the “heart of the earth.”

Matthew 12:39-40- “And He answered *and* said to them, “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, in like manner the Son of man shall be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.”

Jonah 1:17- “And the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

Jesus gave further reference to His three-day time line in His speaking with the Pharisees. Not once did He ever say, “I will knock this out in 39 hours.”

Mark 14:58- “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’”

John 2:18-21- “As a result, the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” Then the Jews said, “This temple was forty-six years in building, and You will raise it up in three days?” But He spoke concerning the temple of His body.” Much like the misinformed of those days, “churchianity” has perverted the Word of God and His commandments in favor of warm and fuzzy traditions and “holidays.” Nothing new, remember?

Matthew 15:6-9- “And you have made void the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition. Hypocrites! Isaiah has prophesied well concerning you, saying, ‘These people have drawn near to Me with their mouths, and with their lips they honor Me; but their hearts are far away from Me. For they worship Me in vain, teaching *for* doctrine *the* commandments of men.’” And after calling the multitude to *Him*, He said to them, “Hear, and understand.”

Mark 7:7-14- “But in vain do they worship Me, teaching *for* doctrine the commandments of men.’ For leaving the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men, *such as* the washing of pots and cups; and you practice many other things like *this*.” Then He said to them, “Full well do you reject the commandment of God, so that you may observe your *own* tradition. For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘The one who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man shall say to *his* father or mother, “Whatever benefit you might receive from me *is* corban” (that is, *set aside as* a gift to God), he is not obligated to help his parents.’ And you excuse him from doing anything for his father or his mother, Nullifying the authority of the Word of God by your tradition which you have passed down; and you practice many *traditions* such as this.” And after calling all the multitude to *Him*, He said to them, “Hear Me, all of you, and understand.”

One would think that with all of the evidence in scripture and even those so blind in His day seeing and knowing of the miracles, they might have grasped at some of His truth. But if we turn the clock back to the Nation of Israel being led out of captivity by Moses, they witnessed some of the most awesome events ever recorded on Earth. So, is it just being blind, stubborn, or just plain stupid? We all

know from our study “You Can’t Fix Stupid” that those with brain cramps will get their shot in the Second Resurrection.

Jeremiah 13:9-10- “Thus says the LORD, ‘In this way I will spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who walk in the stubbornness of their heart and walk after other gods to serve them and to worship them, shall even be like this girdle, which is good for nothing.’”

But there may be a couple of other underlying causes for poor math skills relating to this grievous mistake in calculations.

Pride or fear? How many times have we spoke of these two traits? Let’s look at one of the many miracles our Savior performed in the Gospel of John.

John 9:14-16- “Now it was the Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Therefore, the Pharisees in turn also asked him how he had received sight.

And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed; and now I see.” Then some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because He does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such miracles?”

And there was a division among them.” Rather than rejoice in the blind man having his sight restored, they wanted to accuse Jesus of not keeping the Sabbath!

Their foolish pride kept their eyes shut. Even the boy's parents were afraid to stand up and say, "Yes! Jesus gave our son His eyesight!"

John 9:18-22- "However, the Jews did not believe this about him, that he was blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the one who had received sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed among themselves that if anyone confessed Him to be the Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue."

I cried when He healed my dog!

Fear of ridicule and being put out of the synagogue meant more to them than glorifying the One who healed their son's eyesight. It makes you wonder who is truly blind or lame...

We on the other hand, do not fear man's judgment. Persecution will come as no surprise when we take a stand in our faith.

Matthew 5:10-12- “Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they shall reproach you, and shall persecute you, and shall falsely say every wicked thing against you, for My sake. Rejoice and be filled with joy, for great *is* your reward in heaven; for in this same manner, they persecuted the prophets who *were* before you.”

John 15:18-21- “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have personally chosen you out of the world, the world hates you for this. Remember the word that I spoke to you: a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they kept My word, they will keep your word also. But they will do all these things to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him Who sent Me.”

1 Peter 3:17-18- “For *it is* better, if *it is* the will of God, *for you* to suffer while doing good than *to suffer for* doing evil Because Christ indeed once suffered for sins, *the* Just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God; on the one hand, He was put to death in *the* flesh; but on the other hand, He was made alive by the Spirit”

We've all been there. Remember the conflicts and judgments that came up when you first started keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days? Friends and relatives looked at us like we had two heads. "You don't celebrate Christmas or Easter?" I remember one close friend saying, "I don't care, I'm not giving up my traditions."

Titus 3:3-6- "For we also were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving all kinds of lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful *and* hating one another. But when the graciousness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we practiced, but according to His mercy He saved us, through *the* washing of regeneration and *the* renewing of *the* Holy Spirit, Which He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior;"

"Oh no, you're one of those Jehovah's Witnesses or Seventh Day Adventists." Even those two denominations may be keeping the Sabbath but they are not doing what His word says either. Some in our own families think we are in a cult. It is a tremendous leap of faith when you take the plunge into baptism and seek to know God and follow His Commandments. But the revelation of His truth and the PROOF in His word negate *any* and *all* criticism. *The rewards are also eternal.*

Colossians 2:16-22- “Therefore, do not allow anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking, or with regard to a festival, or new moon, or *the* Sabbaths, Which are a foreshadow of the things that are coming, but the body of Christ. Do not allow anyone to defraud you of the prize *by* doing *his* will in self-abasement and *the* worship of angels, intruding into things that he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his own carnal mind And not holding fast to the Head, from Whom all the body, being supplied and knit together by the joints and bands, is increasing *with* the increase of God. Therefore, if you have died together *with Christ* from the elements of the world, why are you subjecting yourselves to *the* decrees of *men* as if you were living in *the* world? *They say*, “You may not handle! You may not taste! You may not touch!” The use of all such things leads to corruption, according to the commandments and doctrines of men,”

God gives us instructions on how to respond to any such criticism. We know we are not to take offense to any of it (**Matthew 11:6, Luke 7:23**). As Ambassadors for Christ, we must reflect His character in all we do. We can’t pick and choose when we will “act like Him.” People had better be able to see Him in us *all the time*. This is another item that is easier said than done. Just drive in Naples’ traffic during season...

Titus 1:7-14- “For it is obligatory that as God’s steward an overseer be blameless, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not a bully, not greedy for material gain; But hospitable, a lover of good, sound minded, just, holy, self-controlled, Holding steadfastly to the faithful word, according to the teachings of *Jesus Christ*, so that he may be able both to encourage with sound doctrine and to convict those who are gainsayers. For there are many rebellious and vain talkers and deceivers, especially those from *the circumcision party*, Whose mouths must be stopped; who are subverting whole households, teaching things which *they* ought not, for the sake of selfish gain. One from among them, *even one* of their own prophets, said, “Cretans *are* always liars, *and* evil, wild beasts, *and* lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. For this reason you *must* rebuke them severely, that they may be sound in the faith; Not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men, which turn away from the truth.”

Biblical issues and the “bad math” will fade if we do not forget God and His Commandments.

Deuteronomy 8:11- “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command you today,”

Psalm 78:7- “So that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments;”

Forgetting God and His Commandments is the foundation of such implausible traditions that have come about over the centuries. Those who profess to believe in God and go to church every Sunday have been duped into believing the Easter and Christmas holidays are somehow worshipping God. Neither are found in God’s Word. Even more absurd is how these man-made delusions have themselves been perverted with Santa Claus celebrating the birth of Christ. Easter is probably a step below that with the Easter Bunny, marshmallow chicks, chocolate rabbits and colored eggs to celebrate Christ’s Resurrection. So many still follow what we too were taught as children growing up.

Amos 2:4- “Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions of Judah, yea for four, I will not turn away its punishment; because they have despised the laws of the LORD, and have not kept His commandments. And their lies caused them to err, those after which their fathers walked.”

For most, these two holidays represent the only two times a year they see the inside of a church anyway. But because of the grace of God, we have been given His truth. Jesus never, no not once, told anyone to celebrate His birthday or His death. We were commanded to remember His sacrifice! (**Luke 22:19, 1 Corinthians 11:24**)

The best way to improve your math skills in such simple matters is to obey God. Forgetting all He had done was a plague of itself upon ancient Israel. It continues to be the bane of modern man as well as we have forgotten God, His way, and His word. Constantly profaning His Sabbaths and Holy Days for our own man-made traditions. It will only get worse.

2 Timothy 3:1-7- “Know this also, that in *the* last days perilous times shall come; For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, braggarts, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, despisers of those who are good, Betrayers, reckless, egotistical, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; Having an outward appearance of godliness, but denying the power of *true* godliness. But *as for you*, turn away from *all* these. For from *men such as* these come those who are worming their way into houses, and are gaining control

over empty-headed *gullible* women given over to *various* sins, *being* driven by all kinds of lust. *They are* always learning but *are* never able to come to *the* knowledge of *the* truth.”

Because we know God’s truth, we choose to keep His Commandments, ***all*** of them. They are not multiple choice and it is not Burger King and we do not get it our way.

Psalm 1:1-2- “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law does he meditate day and night.”

Psalm 40:3-4- “And He has put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise to our God; many shall see and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust and does not respect the proud, nor those who turn aside to lies.”

We are more than just hearers of God’s word, we are doers.

Romans 2:11-15- “Because there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have

sinned within the law shall be judged by the law, (Because the hearers of the law are not just before God, ***but the doers of the law shall be justified***. For when the Gentiles, which do not have the law, practice by nature the things contained in the law, these who do not have the law are a law unto themselves; Who show the work of the law written in their own hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their reasonings also, as they accuse or defend one another;)"

1 John 5:2-3- “By this *standard* we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”

Keeping His Sabbaths and Holy Days has become a conviction and a way of life. Life truly abundant full of His peace and promises.

Revelation 22:13-14- “I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed *are* those who keep His commandments, that they may have the right to *eat of* the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.”

There is nothing man can do or add to God’s word that will make him or his religious beliefs any “holier” than what our God has already set forth. To think as such is why so many refuse to do the correct addition when counting “three days

and three nights.” 39 hours is not three days nor will ever be. Subtraction seems to be no issue for Sunday “churchers” either, as they constantly subtract from God’s word to fit their narratives and doctrines. This will not end well for them.

Revelation 22:18-19- “For I jointly testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book, *that* if anyone adds to these things, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of *the* book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from *the* book of life, and from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book.”

Calculators and reading lessons may be in order for those who favor chocolate bunnies and colored eggs, but we know that the stubborn human pride prefers to be dumb rather than see the blatant truth before their very eyes written in God’s word ***IF*** they would only *choose to read every word of it.*

The gift of salvation through the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus Christ, the giving of His Holy Spirit at baptism has opened our minds and our hearts to His wonderful truth and way of life. The math answers are in his Bible. We know how to add and subtract but it is never from the word of God.

