

## Easter (#25)

By Ron Banuk (4 April 2011)  
Ref: Fruchtenbaum #75, and # 39

### Proof of the Resurrection in the Old Testament

Job whose uncle was Peleg said the following about 200 years after the city-state at the Tower of Babel was confounded into 72 languages:

*23 "Oh, that my words were recorded,  
that they were written on a scroll,  
24 that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,  
or engraved in rock forever!  
25 I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.  
26 And after my skin has been destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I will see God;  
27 I myself will see him  
with my own eyes-I, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me! Job 19:23-27 NIV*

The following were taken from Job: 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys. Ultimately, he was restored twofold except for his children (7 sons and 3 daughters). Why? Because there is no Resurrection for animals, but for Job, there will be 20 souls that were formerly his children—ten before the tragedy and ten after. Job 42:12-13

After Moses first unsuccessful encounter with Pharaoh, God said the following to him:

*2 God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.  
4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens. Exodus 6:2-4 NIV*

Rabbi Simai and Manasseh ben Israel argued: "God promised: "to you will I give this land," not merely to your posterity. This can only be fulfilled by Abraham rising and, inheriting the antitypical land of Canaan".

Isaiah in 700 BC said that *the Earth will give birth to her dead.*

*9 But your dead will live;  
their bodies will rise.  
You who dwell in the dust,  
wake up and shout for joy.*

*Your dew is like the dew of the morning;  
the earth will give birth to her dead. Is 26:19 NIV*

Daniel while in captivity in Babylon in 537 BC spoke of two resurrections.

*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2).*

### **Resurrection in the New Testament**

While Jesus was proving that he was the spotless and unblemished Lamb of God , He had this confrontation with the Sadducees.

*23 That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. 24 "Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him. 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. 27 Finally, the woman died. 28 Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?" 29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. 31 But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." 33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching (Mt 22:23-33) NIV.*

## **The First and Second Resurrections**

### 1 First Resurrection

#### A) First Fruits

- 1) Jesus Christ---Mark 16:6
- 2) First Fruits---1 Corinthians 15:20-23

#### B) The Resurrected

- 1) New Testament Saints (Pre-Tribulation 1 Th 1:10, 5:9)
  - a) Prepare a Home---John 14:1-3
  - b) Rapture---1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
    - 1] Dead in Christ Shall Rise First
    - 2] Living Believers Caught Up in the Clouds
  - c) Bodily Change---1 Corinthians 15:50-58
- 2) Old Testament Saints (75-Day Interval Post-Trib Pre-Millennium Da 12:11-12)
  - a) Statement of Event---Isaiah 26:19
  - b) Some Awakened---Daniel 12:2
- 3) Tribulation Saints (75-Day Interval)
  - a) Souls Beheaded---Revelation 20:4

- b) First Resurrection---Revelation 20:5-6
- 4) Millennial Saints [No Resurrection Required]
- 2 Second Resurrection (Post-Millennial and Pre-Eternal Order)
  - A) First Fruits
    - 1) His Body Does Not See Burial---Isaiah 14:20
    - 2) Wounded---Habakkuk 3:13
    - 3) Anti-Christ Slain by Jesus Christ---2 Thessalonians 2:8
    - 4) Arrival in Hell---Isaiah 14:3-11
    - 5) Body not Buried---Isaiah 14:16-21
  - B) The Resurrected
    - 1) Death and Hell to the Lake of Fire---Revelation 20:13

### The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

#### The Seven Jewish Feasts—Timeline for Redemption History

**Passover:** Fulfilled by the death of Jesus Christ (14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan) *Pesach Lv 23:4; Ex 12:4*  
 Four Cups: Blessing (Thanksgiving), Plagues, Redemption, Praise

**Unleavened Bread** : Fulfilled by Jesus' deliverance from bondage (15<sup>th</sup>) *Hag Hamatzot Lv 23 Dt 16*

**First Fruits:** Fulfilled by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (17<sup>th</sup>) *Reshit Ketzivchem Lv 23*

**Weeks:** Pentecost. Birth of the Church. Jesus Ascension. (6<sup>th</sup>) *Shabuot Lv 23:15*

**Pause between feasts is to labor in the summertime for the Harvest.**

**Trumpets:** Shouting of Joy. Day of Remembrance. Day of Judgment. (1<sup>st</sup> Tishri) *Lv:23*  
*Rosh Hashanah.* Regathering of Israel *Is 27:13.* Rapture.

**Day of Atonement:** Fulfilled by Great Tribulation and Israel confessing (10<sup>th</sup>) *Yom Kippur*  
 its national sin: *Is 52:13—53:12; Hos 5:15 ff; Ze 13:8-9 Lv 23:26*

**Feast of Tabernacles:** Fulfilled by the establishment of the Messianic (15<sup>th</sup>) *Sukkot*  
 Kingdom. Attendance will be obligatory for Jews and  
 Gentiles through their representatives. *Feast of Booths. Lv 23:33*

#### Chronology of Holy Week

Friday, Day	<b>7 of Nisan</b>	Arrival at Bethany
Friday, Evening	8 of Nisan	Shabbat
Saturday, Day	8	Shabbat
Saturday, Evening	9	Arrival at Bethany
Sunday, Day	9	Palm Sunday
Sunday, Evening	<b>10</b>	Lamb of God is <b>Set Aside</b> to be tested
Monday, Day	10	Testing of the Unblemished and Spotless Lamb
Monday, Evening	11	Testing of the Unblemished and Spotless Lamb
Tuesday, Day	11	Testing (Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, Herodians)
Tuesday, Evening	12	Testing (Mt 21:23-27; 22:16-22; 23-33; 34-40; 41-46)
Wednesday, Day	12	Testing
Wednesday, Evening	13	Testing
Thursday, Day	13	Testing

Thursday, Evening	<b>14</b>	<b>Pascal Lamb</b> (Pesach, Last Supper)
Friday, Morning	14	Passover Lamb slain at 9 AM by priests
Friday, Afternoon	14	Jesus entombed at 4 PM on Good Friday
Friday, Evening	<b>15</b>	<b>Unleavened Bread</b> on High Shabbat
Saturday, Day	15	Unleavened Bread on High Shabbat
Saturday, Evening	16	Evening in tomb
		Jesus' 50-hour-entombment symbolizes deliverance
Sunday, Morning	<b>17</b>	Resurrection on <b>First Fruits</b> at 7 AM

Note: This was a High Sabbath because a Feast Day fell on the Sabbath.

On 1 April 33 AD Gregorian, the Passover, or Day of Preparation, was on Friday.

### **The Resurrection was in the Morning**

Jesus died on the Feast of the Passover on Friday at 3 PM. The date from Josephus and chronologist John P. Pratt is 1 April 33 AD Gregorian<sup>1</sup>. The resurrection occurred Sunday morning at 4 AM, 37 hours after entombment. The number 37 represents "The Living Word of God" according to Vallowe.

From Matthew we learn: *Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.* Matthew 28:1 NASU.

From Mark we learn: *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.* Mark 16:1 NASU.

The Sabbath was over about thirty minutes after the Sun had set at 6:59 PM or at about 7:30 PM on Saturday evening after three second-magnitude stars were in view<sup>2</sup>, but the women did not venture forth until the next morning.

### **Mary Magdalene Alone then Peter and John**

*1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and came to **Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved**, and said to them, " They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." 3 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. 4 The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; 5 and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. 6 And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but **rolled up in a place by itself**. 8 So **the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.** 9*

*For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes. John 20:1-10*

In the Cathedral of St. Stephen in Oviedo Spain lies the *Sudarium Christi* also called the *Volto Santo* in Latin which is said to be the Lord's face cloth. The shroud of Turin is also a single piece of cloth. To be compatible with John's account of Resurrection morning, the cloths must be more than one. If a 3-inch-wide edge band were also used to bind the shroud (as some have proposed), then this would be compatible with Scripture. Both apostles ran to verify Mary Magdalene's report of the risen Messiah. After entering the tomb, John believed, but Peter did not believe yet.

### **Mary Magdalene Returns to Tomb with the other Women and Sees an Angel**

*Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. 2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for **an angel** of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. 3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. 7 "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, **He is going ahead of you into Galilee**, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." Matthew 28:1-7*

The apostles neither believed in his resurrection nor went to Galilee.

### **Mary Magdalene becomes the First Eye-Witness to Jesus' Resurrection**

*11 But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 12 and she saw **two angels** in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. 13 And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "**Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father**; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her. John 20:11-18*

Mary Magdalene's eye-witness report is still not believed.

## **Women become the Second Eye-Witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection**

*8 And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and **take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.**" Mt 28:8-10*

The apostles still did not believe after the eye-witness reports of first Mary Magdalene, and now the women.

## **Jesus' Third Appearance to Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus**

*13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. 17 And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 One of them, named **Cleopas**, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. 21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. 22 "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. 24 "Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." 25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 " Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*

*28 And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. 29 But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. 30 When He had reclined at the table with them, **He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them.** 31 **Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him;** and He vanished from their sight. 32 They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:13-32*

The two disciples' eyes were opened at the critical time of the breaking of the bread.

### **Jesus' Fourth Appearance: Peter**

*33 And they [the two disciples on the way to Emmaus] got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, 34 saying, "The Lord has really risen and **has appeared to Simon.**" 35 They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread. Luke 24:33-35*

Apparently, Peter now believed since the disciples related that “the Lord has really risen”.

### **Jesus' Fifth Appearance: 10 Apostles**

*19 So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." [Shalom Aleichem.] 20 And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 "If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained." 24 **But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them** when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." John 20:19-25*

Now all apostles who have seen the risen Lord believed in him. Peter has now seen the risen Lord twice.

### **Jesus' Sixth Appearance: 11 Apostles**

*26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then He said to **Thomas**, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**" 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." John 20:26-29*

The climax of the Gospel according to John is 20:28—My Lord and my God! Thomas was no different than the other 10 apostles and refused to believe until he had seen the risen Lord. The reason why he mentioned the Lord's hands and side was because the

excited 10 apostles in their frenzied state initially mentioned seeing the Lord's hands and side, to which Thomas replied that he wanted to see the same.

The reason for the Gospel according to John is *but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.* John 20:31

He also wrote in First John: *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may **know** that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.* 1 John 5:13-15

### **Jesus' Seventh Appearance: 7 Fishermen Apostles**

*1 After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. 2 Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.* John 21:1-3

Finally all 11 apostles believed in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. They followed his command and traveled to Galilee. Seven of the eleven were fishermen and after being removed from fishing for over three years because of the ministry of Jesus Christ, are beginning to go back to their old profession. They still did not understand what it was they had to do.

*4 But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." 6 And He said to them, "**Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat** and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. 7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish. 9 So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." 11 Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, **a hundred and fifty-three**; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. 14 This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead." John 21:4-14*



Being told to cast the net on the other side of the boat was a reminder to an event three years earlier on Lake Gennesaret (Chinnereth) where he said: *When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."* Luke 5:4

What is the significance of the number 153? It is the product of 17 and 9 or victory of the fruit of the spirit. It is also the sum of the cubes or 1, 5, and 3, this showing the work of the Trinity. Also, the sum of all numbers from 1 to 17 showing that it will end victoriously. Also, the product of 17 and 9 is 153 indicating victory by the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Finally,  $153/7\pi = 7$  where 7 represents perfection on Earth. The fish represent future Christians, the catch, the Bride of Christ. So why did he eat the fish? Are we to be eaten after the Rapture? Is it a trap? Read the text. Jesus did not eat of the 153. He already had other fish cooking on the fire. Relieved?

### **Significance of the Resurrection**

The eleven apostles, who lived with Jesus for over three years, heard his seven prophecies that he would die and then be raised from the dead in three days (John 2:19, Mt 12:40, 16:4, 16:21, 17:22, 20:17-19, 26:31-32), saw the empty tomb, and heard two eye-witness reports from Mary Magdalene and the women of his resurrection, the two eye-witness reports of the disciples of his resurrection, and finally Peter's report still did not believe! Unlike the apostles, do we have enough faith to believe in the Resurrection without seeing? How strong is our faith? The apostles showed a progressive buildup of their faith by believing that 1) he was the Messiah (John 1:45), 2) his Messianic miracles (#7, 12, 27 of 35), 3) his miracles over death (#11, 16, 30 of 35), 4) his miracle over nature (#13), 5) the Great Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes #19, and 6) his Resurrection. How much faith do we have? A good measurand of our faith is the amount of fear (concerns) in our lives because more fear means less faith. Being full of faith and the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5) means having no fear. Remember that *perfect love casts out fear* (1 Jn 4:18).

### **After the Resurrection**

Ten years after the Resurrection during the Feast of Unleavened Bread in 43 AD, The Twelve were again huddled in fear within a house in Jerusalem. James, the brother of John had been executed by Herod Agrippa I, the grandson of Herod the Great, to the delight of the masses. Consequently, Herod had Peter imprisoned and planned to do the same to him. While the church was huddled within a house praying (Acts 12:5) for Peter's deliverance, Peter knocked on the door in the middle of the night. The woman answering the door, Rhoda, recognized Peter and ran to tell those gathered in prayer. The initial reaction was disbelief (Acts 12:15). Furthermore, they refused to believe that their prayers had been answered and were actually "amazed" (Acts 12:16) when they saw Peter. The Twelve were not yet *full of faith and the Holy Spirit* (Acts 6:5). Are you amazed when your prayers are answered? Even worse, do you forget that God's intervention was the result of your prayer and ascribe it to natural causes?

## Faith, Hope, and Charity

*Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love (1 Cor 13:13).*

What is the interrelation among Faith, Hope, and Love? Hope (1 Jn 3:1-3) begins the process. As an example, we hope for the resurrection in our immortal glorified bodies. Faith then gives us confidence in the things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1). Works of love then perfect our faith (Ja 2:22) and cast out fear (1 Jn 4:18). Faith without works of love is dead (Ja 2:17) and our hopes will be dashed. So in summary, if your hope is without confidence, or fear remains, then your faith is not yet complete. Your goal<sup>3</sup> is to be *full of faith and the Holy Spirit* (Acts 6:5) as was Stephen at the point of martyrdom.

Concerning Salvation, we are saved by our faith (Lk 7:50), but works of love are necessary for the assurance that must follow (Ja 2:22). If you do not have the Assurance of Salvation, then you should spend every waking moment until you have found it.<sup>4</sup> When your faith is perfected by your works of love, you will “**know**” that you have eternal life (1 Jn 5:13).

## Conclusion

Do we all realize that Jesus is only the First Fruits of the Resurrection and that we can follow him? The narrow door to Heaven is open to us as children of the Lord.

Do we like the apostles after the Resurrection want to return to a routine that we are comfortable in? In their case it was fishing. What is it in your life? Will you fulfill the Great Commission: **Make disciples of all nations** while going (preaching and evangelizing), baptizing, and teaching (equipping) spreading the *kerygma*! See Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; John 17:18.

## Notes

#7 Cleansing of the leper Mt 8:2-4; Mk 1:40-45; Lk 5:12-16.

#12 Healing a blind and dumb demoniac Mt 12:22; Lk 11:14.

#27 Healing a congenital blind man John 9:1-7

#11 Raising a widow's son Lk 7:11-15

#16 Raising Jairus' daughter Mt 9:18-26; Mk 5:22-43; Lk 8:41-56

#30 Raising Lazarus John 11:17-44

#13 Stilling a storm Mt 8:18-27; Mk 4:35-41; Lk 8:22-25

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<sup>1</sup> John P. Pratt chronology: <http://www.johnpratt.com/items/docs/lds/dates.html>. Josephus records the death of Jesus as 3 April 33 AD Julian (converts to 1 April Gregorian) in Book 18, Chapter 3, Paragraph 3, Line 64, Note 2.

<sup>2</sup> On the night of the death of Christ (1 April 33 AD Gregorian) the Sun had set in Jerusalem at 6:59 PM. Looking at the three twilights we have: Civil twilight from 6:59 to 7:23 PM, Nautical twilight from 7:23 to

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7:52 PM, and Astronautical twilight from 7:52 to 8:21 PM. Two normal stars would have been visible during the Nautical twilight beginning at about 7:30 PM.

<sup>3</sup> A striking point is this. You can set your sights on a false goal and have hopes buoyed by a faith that is augmented by works, not of brotherly love, but of selfish interest; and the process will still work. There are many stark examples of heroes for the wrong cause and greed temporarily overcoming prudence. You will reach your immediate goal as did many dictators in the course of history, but eventually, your house will fall:

*Unless the LORD <sup>a</sup>builds the house,  
They labor in vain who build it;  
Unless the LORD <sup>b</sup>guards the city,  
The watchman keeps awake in vain.  
<sup>2</sup> It is vain for you to rise up early,  
To <sup>1</sup>retire late,  
To <sup>a</sup>eat the bread of <sup>2</sup>painful labors;  
For He gives to His <sup>b</sup>beloved <sup>c</sup>even in his sleep  
(Psalm 127:1-2).*

<sup>4</sup> The analogy I like to give is this. Suppose you receive a call from your family saying your brother has taken sick and is under emergency care. Things look bad. Your sister asks that pray for him. Should you? Not if you are not sure of your salvation! Why should God listen to someone who does not know if he is saved. In any event, you have a more important matter to take care of in your life—one that requires your “every waking moment”. Once that problem is solved, then you can intercede in prayer for your brother.