

II Timothy 3:16_(NKJV)

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”

Titus 1:2^(NKJV)

“in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,”

John 17:17_(NKJV)

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

I Corinthians 14:33_(NKJV)

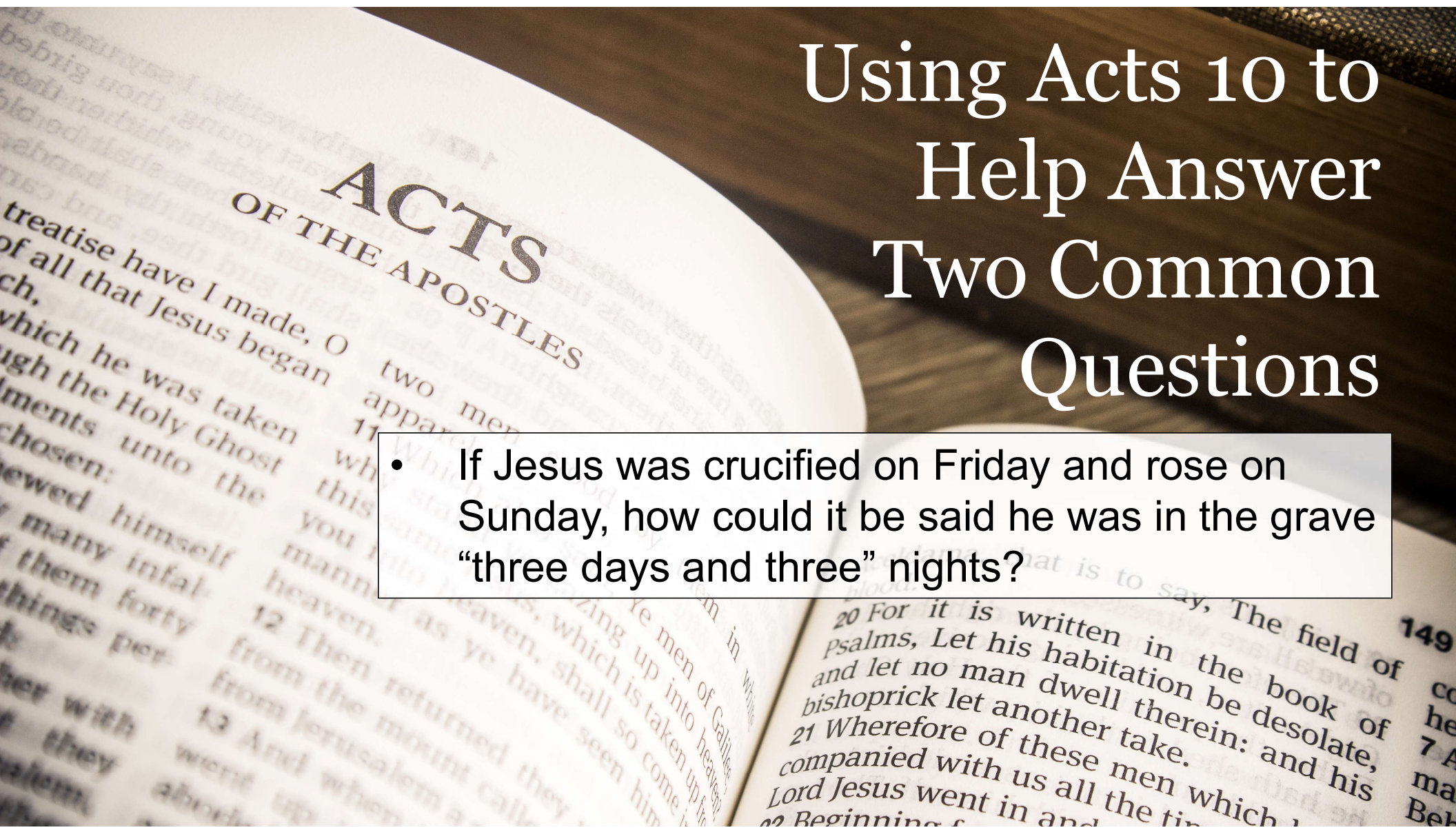
“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

Psalm 119:160_(ASV)

“The sum of thy word is truth; And every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth for ever.”

Using Acts 10 to Help Answer Two Common Questions

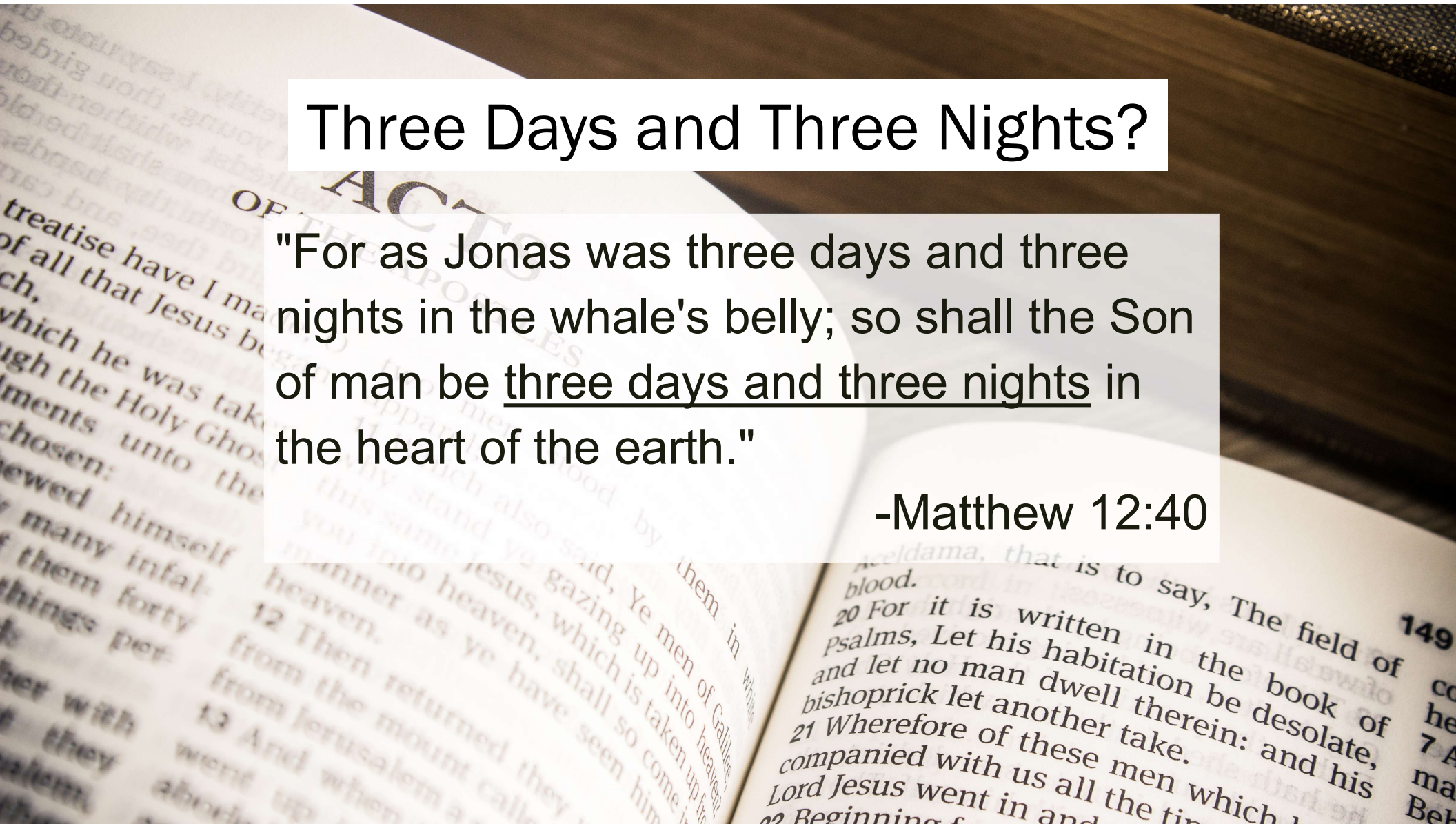
- If Jesus was crucified on Friday and rose on Sunday, how could it be said he was in the grave “three days and three” nights?



Three Days and Three Nights?

"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 12:40



Three Days and Three Nights?

Our problem:

- Jesus died on Friday

Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.
20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.
21 Wherefore of these men which accompanied with us all the time which Lord Jesus went in and out among them, beginning from Jerusalem and

Jesus died on Friday

John 19:30,31^(NKJV)

“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”

Three Days and Three Nights?

Our problem:

- Jesus died on Friday
- It was sometime after 3PM

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Jesus died after 3 PM on Friday

Matthew 27:45-50 (NKJV)

“Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. 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?" Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.”

Three Days and Three Nights?

Our problem:

- Jesus died on Friday
- It was sometime after 3PM
- Jesus arose early Sunday morning

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Jesus arose early Sunday morning

John 20:1_(NKJV)

“Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.”

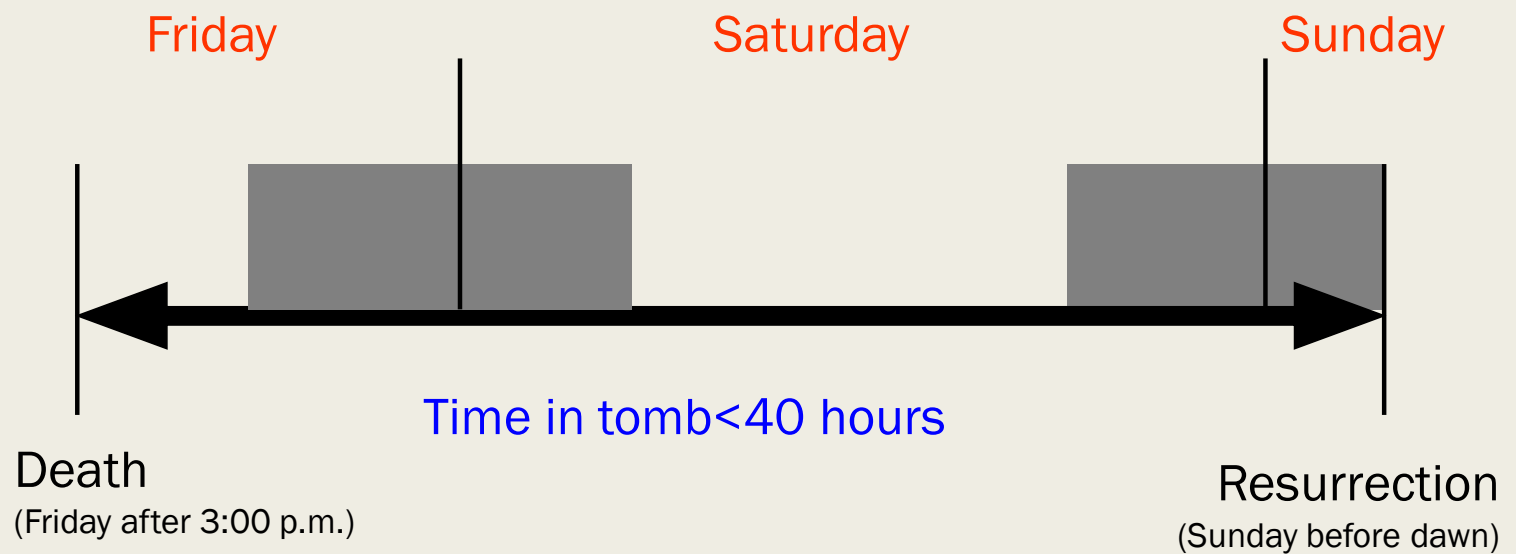
Three Days and Three Nights?

Our problem:

- Jesus died on Friday
- It was sometime after 3PM
- Jesus arose early Sunday morning

From Friday PM to Sunday AM

⇒ How can this be three days and three nights?



“...so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”-Matthew 12:40

“The Jews had no word corresponding to our natural day of twenty-four hours, or from midnight to midnight; their meaning was expressed by a word meaning ‘a night day’ and to this they added the custom of saying ‘night and day’ for what we mean by a natural day, or a revolution of the earth; hence to express the time of a part of three consecutive days, they were obliged to say three night days, or three days and nights.”

- H. Leo Boles,
[Commentary on Matthew](#)

“It will be seen, in the account of the resurrection of Christ, that he was in the grave but two nights and a part of three days. See Mt 28:6. This computation is, however, strictly in accordance with the Jewish mode of reckoning.”

- Albert Barnes' New Testament Commentary

“If it had not been, the Jews would have understood it, and would have charged our Saviour as being a false prophet; for it was well known to them that he had spoken this prophecy, Mt 27:63. Such a charge, Matthew 27:63 - “Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.”^s, received as the whole. Many instances of this kind occur in both sacred and profane history.”

- Albert Barnes' New Testament Commentary

1 Kings 15:1-2

"Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah. Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. . ."

vs. 8-9 "And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah."

$$20-18=2$$

1 Kings 12:3-5

"Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee. And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed."

vs. 12 "So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day."

Esther 4:16

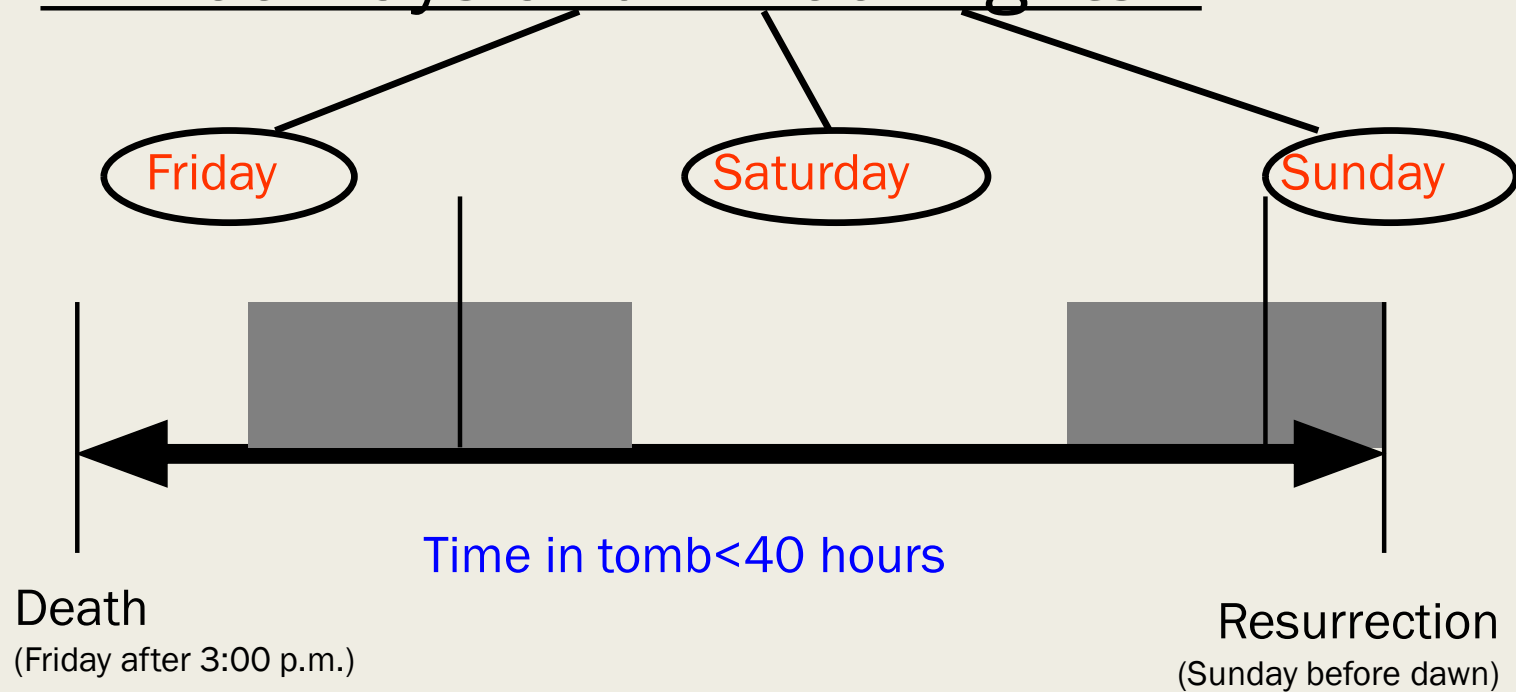
"Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."

5:1 "Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house . . ."

Cornelius - Acts 10

- **Vs. 3** "He saw in a vision suddenly about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him . . ."
'Monday' 3pm
- **Vs. 9** "On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour."
'Tuesday' 12 noon **3 days exactly**
- **Vs. 23** "Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them . . ."
'Wednesday' 72 hours
- **Vs. 24** "And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them . . ."
'Thursday' (vs. 30 - 3pm)
- **Vs. 30** "And Cornelius said, **Four days ago** I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,"

“Three Days and Three Nights”!



“...so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”-Matthew 12:40

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From Friday PM to Sunday AM

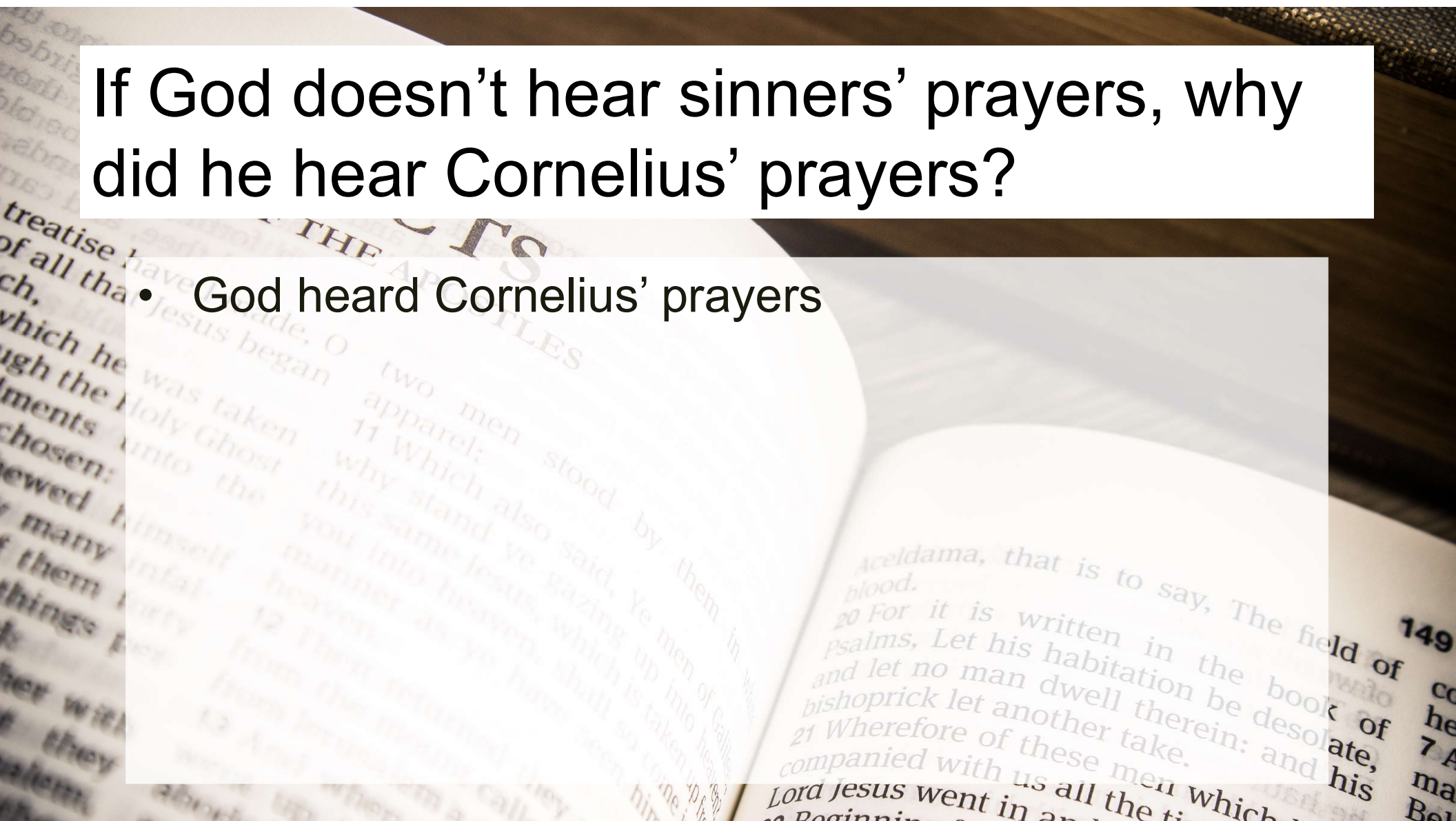
⇒ How can this be three days and three nights?

Using Acts 10 to Help Answer Two Common Questions

- If Jesus was crucified on Friday and rose on Sunday, how could it be said he was in the grave “three days and three” nights?
- If God doesn't hear sinners' prayers, why did he hear Cornelius' prayers?

If God doesn't hear sinners' prayers, why did he hear Cornelius' prayers?

- God heard Cornelius' prayers



God heard Cornelius' prayers

Acts 10:4_(NKJV)

“And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?"
So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a
memorial before God.”

God heard Cornelius' prayers

Acts 10:31_(NKJV)

“And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?"
So "and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.”

If God doesn't hear sinners' prayers, why did he hear Cornelius' prayers?

- God heard Cornelius' prayers
- God doesn't hear sinners' prayers

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God doesn't hear sinners' prayers

Proverbs 28:9_(NKJV)

“One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.”

God doesn't hear sinners' prayers

I Peter 3:12_(NKJV)

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

If God doesn't hear sinners' prayers, why did he hear Cornelius' prayers?

- God heard Cornelius' prayers
- God doesn't hear sinners' prayers
- Two possible explanations:
 - *God hears the prayers of those searching for the truth*

God hears the prayers of those searching for the truth?

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If God doesn't hear sinners' prayers, why did he hear Cornelius' prayers?

- God heard Cornelius' prayers
- God doesn't hear sinners' prayers
- Two possible explanations:
 - *God hears the prayers of those searching for the truth*
 - *Cornelius was a Gentile in good standing prior to the Gospel being made available to the Gentiles (Acts 10)*
 - God dealt with Gentiles in the Old Testament and had expectations for them

God dealt with Gentiles in the Old Testament

Amos 1:3_(NKJV)

“Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they have threshed Gilead with implements of iron.”

God dealt with Gentiles in the Old Testament

Amos 1:11_(NKJV)

“Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because he pursued his brother with the sword, And cast off all pity; His anger tore perpetually, And he kept his wrath forever.”

God dealt with Gentiles in the Old Testament

Jonah 3:1-10_(NKJV)

“Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.”

God dealt with Gentiles in the Old Testament

I John 3:4^(KJV)

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

God dealt with Gentiles in the Old Testament

Romans 4:15_(NKJV)

“because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.”

If God doesn't hear sinners' prayers, why did he hear Cornelius' prayers?

- God heard Cornelius' prayers
- God doesn't hear sinners' prayers
- Two possible explanations:
 - *God hears the prayers of those searching for the truth*
 - *Cornelius was a Gentile in good standing prior to the Gospel being made available to the Gentiles (Acts 10)*
 - God dealt with Gentiles in the Old Testament and had expectations for them
 - Cornelius was living faithfully to God when he prayed

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