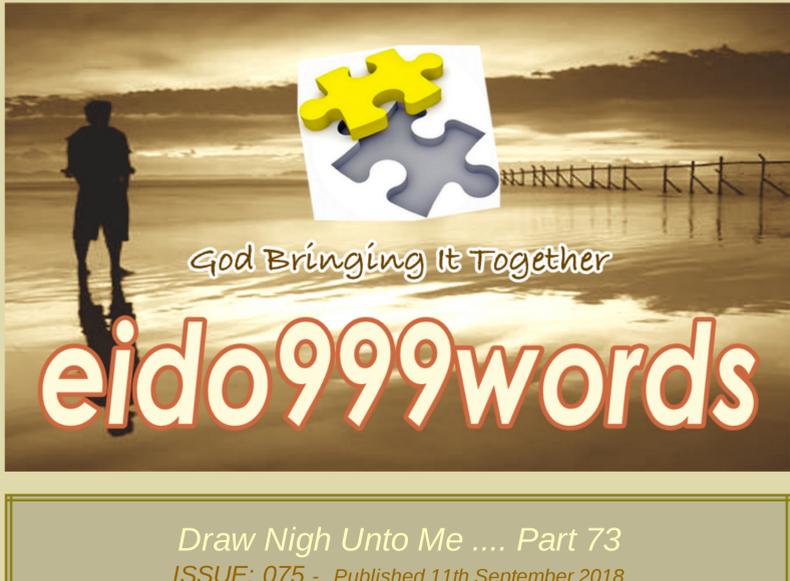


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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 73

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Defaced - Week 65

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 12

So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire? (continued)

The Sign of Jonah - Part 2 of 6

By Doug Batchelor [Emphases added]

Reference: <https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/book/e/75/t/the-sign-of-jonah>

Three Days and Three Nights

Before addressing the meaning behind the "sign of Jonah," I first want to explain the time interval of "three days and three nights."

That is a frequently asked question in connection with this familiar text.

Because of a simple misunderstanding, this particular passage in Matthew has managed to cause confusion, frustration and even division among laypersons, clergy and scholars alike.

By first dealing with the popular "three days and nights" conundrum regarding the story of Jonah, we'll be able to peacefully proceed through the rest of this wonderful study.

Jesus says that the Son of Man will "be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"—meaning in the tomb.

We'll assume, as commonly believed, that Jesus died Friday and rose Sunday.

Noting this, no matter how you cut it, Jesus was not in the tomb for three nights—even though Scripture distinctly states "three nights."

Many people I've met felt that the Bible just could not be trusted because of this supposed discrepancy.

And others attempt to accommodate the "three nights" verse by adopting the belief that Jesus died on Wednesday or Thursday—still others reason that Jesus did not really mean three literal nights.

Frankly, it's very sad to see Christians expend so much energy struggling to explain something that the Bible clearly explains itself!

The problem is not in "the three days and three nights" at all.

The problem springs from our misunderstanding of the phrase "in the heart of the earth."

I'll first address this issue, and then explain what "heart of the earth" means.

Right Time, Wrong Place.

This "right time, wrong place" misinterpretation is strikingly similar to a tragic experience the Millerites experienced more than 150 years ago.

As the result of his diligent Bible studies, William Miller, a godly Baptist preacher, believed and taught that Jesus would return in 1844.

He based this on a verse in Daniel:

Daniel 8:14

14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

William Miller then quickly located the starting point of this prophecy, which was 457 B.C. as predicted in Daniel:

Daniel 9:25

25 From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem.

By adding 2,300 prophetic days—a day in prophecy equals a year according to Ezekiel 4:6—he calculated that Jesus would come in 1844.

Ezekiel 4:6

6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.

They assumed that the sanctuary must be the earth, which is to be cleansed by fire.

Even though they had the right time—they had the wrong place and, in turn, the wrong event.

When the time came and went, and Jesus had not returned as thought, the devastated Millerites tried to find their error.

Many continued refiguring dates, even though the problem lay squarely on the place, not the time.

The Bible never calls the earth the sanctuary—therefore, the sanctuary in Daniel 8:14 does not mean the earth, which was the Millerites' blunder.

Indeed, Jesus was not coming to cleanse the earth with fire in 1844.

However, He did begin a special work as our High Priest to cleanse the sanctuary in heaven from the sins of His people:

Daniel 8:12-14 KJV

12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.

13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

Hebrews 8:1-6 KJV

1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:

5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Leviticus 16:1-17 KJV

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died;

2 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

3 Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering.

4 And Aaron shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.

5 And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

6 And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

11 And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:

12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail:

13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:

14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.

Christ also began to cleanse His sanctuary, or church, on earth from the false doctrines that had deeply taken root during the Dark Ages.

[Continues Next Week]

Love,
Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 66 follows next week]



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