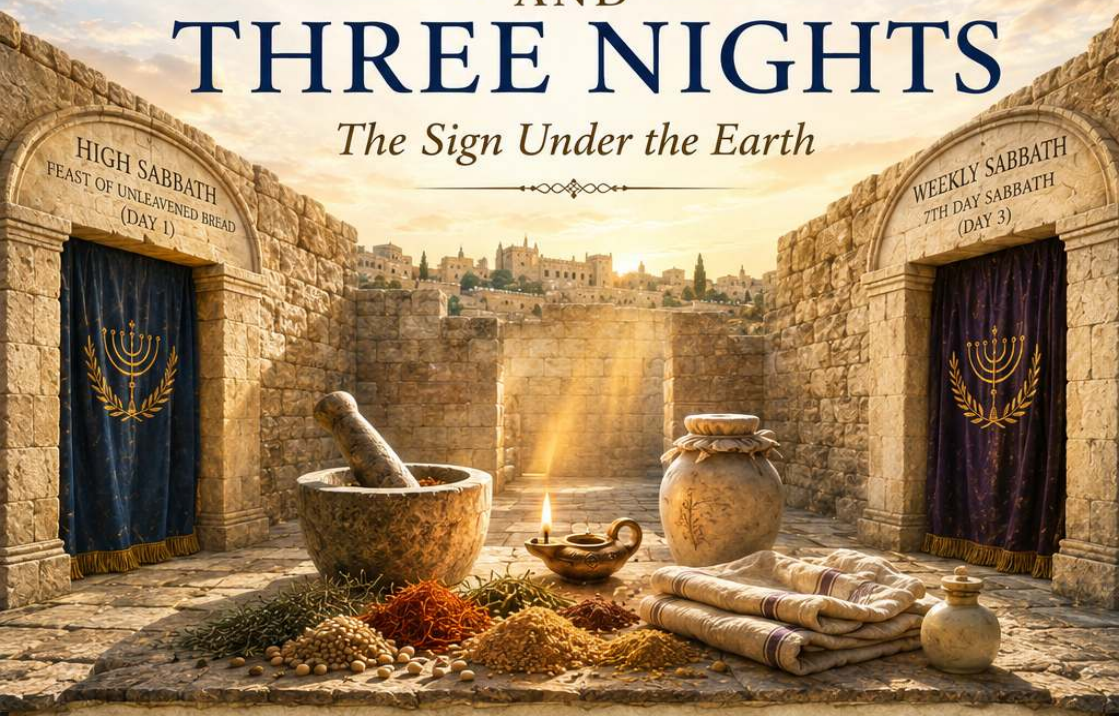
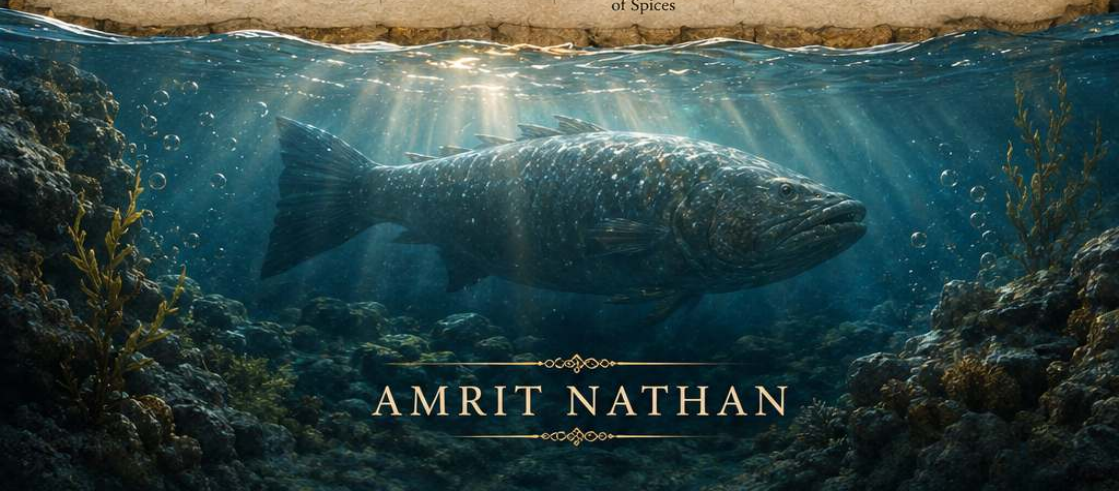
# THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS

## *The Sign Under the Earth*




| NIGHT 1 | DAY 1 | NIGHT 2 | DAY 2 | NIGHT 3 | DAY 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WED NIGHT | THU DAY | THU NIGHT | FRI DAY | FRI NIGHT | SAT DAY |
| High Sabbath begins | Feast of Unleavened Bread | High Sabbath ends | Purchase and Preparation of Spices | Weekly Sabbath begins | Weekly Sabbath |



AMRIT NATHAN

# Three Days and Three Nights

*A Scriptural Examination of the Timeline of the Messiah*

Based on the original manuscript:

***The (only) Sign***

Written by

Amrit Nathan

# The Apparent Contradiction

*Two accounts. One true story.*
*The key is understanding the two Sabbaths.*

## HIGH SABBATH

(Feast of Unleavened Bread)
15th of Nisan

A special Sabbath during the Feast. No work could be done.

## WEEKLY SABBATH

7th day of the week

The regular Sabbath commanded in the Law.

### MARK 16:1 (NKJV)

*Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.*

### LUKE 23:56 (NKJV)

*Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.*

At first glance, these two accounts appear to present a contradiction. Mark records that the women bought the spices **AFTER** the Sabbath had ended. Yet Luke tells us that they prepared the spices and then rested **ON** the Sabbath.

***How can both statements be true?***

Did the women purchase and prepare the spices **BEFORE** the Sabbath, or **AFTER** the Sabbath?

The answer lies in recognizing that the week of the crucifixion contained **TWO DIFFERENT SABBATHS**— a **HIGH SABBATH** associated with the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the regular **WEEKLY SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH**.

*Once these two Sabbaths are distinguished, the Gospel accounts fit together perfectly and the chronology of the Messiah's burial begins to unfold.*

*Time and the commandments are the framework that reveal the truth of the Sign.*

# The Passover Week

*Understanding the two Sabbaths is the key to the timeline.*

The events surrounding Yahshua's crucifixion took place during Passover week, one of the most important appointed times in the Hebrew calendar.

Yahshua was crucified on Passover Day, the fourteenth day of the first month (Nisan). Before sunset, His body was taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb because the following day was a Sabbath.

***However, this was not the ordinary weekly Sabbath.***

**John 19:31 (NKJV)**

*"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."*

John specifically calls it "a high day." This refers to the **first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread**, observed on the **fourteenth day of Nisan.** Unlike the weekly Sabbath, this High Sabbath could occur on any day of the week, depending on the calendar.

## THE FIRST MONTH (NISAN)

| 12 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 16 | 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY (NISAN 14) | WEDNESDAY EVENING → | THURSDAY (NISAN 15) | FRIDAY (NISAN 16) | FRIDAY EVENING → | SATURDAY (NISAN 17) |
| The week begins | | PASSOVER DAY<br>Yahshua is crucified. | HIGH SABBATH<br>(Feast of Unleavened Bread)<br>Begins on the evening of the 14th day and ends on the evening of the 15th day. | | Preparation for the weekly Sabbath. | WEEKLY SABBATH<br>Begins on the evening of the 16th day and ends on the evening of the 17th day. | |

Two days before Passover

Yahshua crucified in the afternoon (approx. 3 p.m.)

A High Sabbath (Feast Sabbath) Not the weekly Sabbath. A special Sabbath of the Feast.

First day of the Feast continues until evening.

Seventh-day Sabbath (Weekly Sabbath) A regular Sabbath commanded in the Law.

### TWO DISTINCT SABBATHS

**1. THE HIGH SABBATH (Feast of Unleavened Bread)**

- Begins on the evening of the 14th (Passover Day).
- Ends on the evening of the 15th (after the first day of the Feast).
- Could fall on any day of the week.

**2. THE WEEKLY SABBATH**

- Begins on the evening of Friday, the 16th.
- Ends on the evening of Saturday, the 17th.
- The regular seventh-day Sabbath commanded in the Law.

Recognizing these ***two distinct Sabbaths*** provides the **key** to harmonizing the Gospel accounts and understanding the chronology of the Messiah's burial.

# The Mid-Week Crucifixion

*The chronology now begins to fall into place.*

Yahshua died on Passover Day, the fourteenth day of the first month (Nisan). At about the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.), He gave up His spirit.

**Matthew 27:46, 50 (NKJV)**

*"And about the ninth hour Yahshua cried out with a loud voice..."*

*"And Yahshua cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit."*

Because the Feast of Unleavened Bread was about to begin at sunset, there was only a short time remaining to remove His body from the cross and place it in the tomb. Joseph of Arimathea obtained permission from Pilate, wrapped the body in clean linen, and laid Yahshua in a new tomb before the High Sabbath began.

## THE SEQUENCE

### WEDNESDAY (NISAN 14 – PREPARATION DAY)

- Yahshua is crucified.
- He dies about 3:00 p.m.
- His body is buried before sunset.
- At sunset, the High Sabbath begins, marking the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

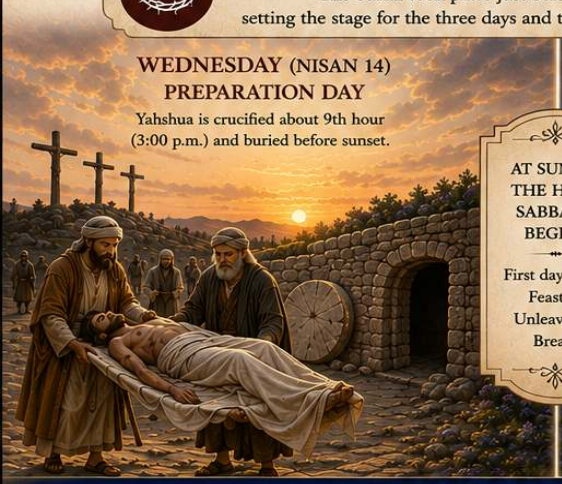
3:00 p.m.

### THURSDAY (NISAN 15 – HIGH SABBATH)

- The women rest according to the commandment.
- No buying or preparing of spices takes place.
- The first day and first night of the Sign of Jonah are now underway.

*The Gospel writers are carefully recording the order of events.*

The burial took place just before the High Sabbath began, setting the stage for the three days and three nights that Yahshua had foretold.



**WEDNESDAY (NISAN 14)**
**PREPARATION DAY**

Yahshua is crucified about 9th hour (3:00 p.m.) and buried before sunset.

**AT SUNSET THE HIGH SABBATH BEGINS**

First day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

**THURSDAY (NISAN 15)**
**HIGH SABBATH**

The women rest according to the commandment.
No work is done.

## THE SIGN OF JONAH BEGINS

| WEDNESDAY (NISAN 14) PREPARATION DAY | THURSDAY (NISAN 15) HIGH SABBATH | FRIDAY (NISAN 16) PREPARATION DAY | SATURDAY (NISAN 17) WEEKLY SABBATH | SUNDAY (NISAN 18) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Preparation and burial before sunset. | First day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. | Preparation day. No work after sunset. | Seventh-day Sabbath. No work. | The women come to the tomb early. |
| WEDNESDAY NIGHT (to Thursday Night) | THURSDAY NIGHT (to Friday Night) | FRIDAY NIGHT (to Saturday Night) | SATURDAY NIGHT (to Sunday Night) | |
| Night 1 (The count begins) | Day 1 Night 2 | Day 2 Night 3 | Day 3 | |

THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS – FROM WEDNESDAY NIGHT TO SATURDAY NIGHT

# The Preparation and the Rest

*With the High Sabbatth now completed, the sequence recorded by the Gospel writers becomes clear.*

**Mark 16:1 (NKJV)** records:

> *"Now when the Sabbath was past,*
> *Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James,*
> *and Salome bought spices,*
> *that they might come and anoint Him."*

This Sabbath was the High Sabbath that had just ended. The women were now free to go into the marketplace and purchase the spices they would need to anoint Yahshua's body.

After returning home, they prepared the spices by grinding and mixing the fragrant oils.

**Luke 23:56 (NKJV)**

> *"Then they returned and prepared*
> *spices and fragrant oils. And they rested*
> *on the Sabbath according to the commandment."*

This second Sabbath can only be the regular weekly seventh-day Sabbath, because the women had already purchased and prepared the spices beforehand.

**The apparent contradiction disappears once the two Sabbaths are recognized.**

## FRIDAY (NISAN 16 – PREPARATION DAY)

- The High Sabbath has ended.
- The women purchase the spices.
- They prepare the fragrant oils.
- Before they can visit the tomb, sunset arrives.
- The weekly Sabbath begins.

The women bought myrrh, aloes, and other fragrant spices.

They returned home and prepared the spices and fragrant oils.

## SATURDAY (NISAN 17 – WEEKLY SABBATH)

- The women rest according to the commandment.
- No work is performed.
- The spices remain ready but unused.
- The third day of the Sign of Jonah is completed.

The weekly Sabbath was a day of sacred rest. The tomb remained undisturbed.

The Gospel writers are not contradicting one another—they are recording different events separated by two different Sabbaths.

## THE SEQUENCE IN HARMONY

**FRIDAY (NISAN 16)**
**PREPARATION DAY**

High Sabbath has ended.
Spices purchased and prepared.
Before they can visit the tomb, sunset arrives.

The weekly Sabbath begins at sunset.

**SATURDAY (NISAN 17)**
**WEEKLY SABBATH**

The women rest according to the commandment.
No work is done.
Spices remain ready.

The third day of the Sign of Jonah is completed.

**SUNDAY (NISAN 18)**
**FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK**

After the weekly Sabbath ends at sunset, the women go early in the morning to the tomb.

The tomb is found empty.

*Understanding the two Sabbaths harmonizes all four Gospel accounts.*

# The Chronological Timeline

*The sequence of events is now complete.*

When the two Sabbaths are distinguished, every event recorded by the Gospel writers fits naturally into its proper place.

*The timeline below follows the chronology from the burial of Yahshua until the women arrive at the tomb on the first day of the week.*

| Period | Day | Event | Illustration |
|---|---|---|---|
| Preparation | Wednesday (Nisan 14) | Yahshua dies about 3:00 p.m. and is buried before sunset. (John 19:31) | |
| Night 1 | Wednesday Night | The High Sabbath begins. The count of the three nights begins. | |
| Day 1 | Thursday (Nisan 15) | High Sabbath. First day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (Ex. 12:18) | A high Sabbath observed on the fourteenth day (John 19:31) |
| Night 2 | Thursday Night | The second night passes. | |
| Day 2 | Friday (Nisan 16) | The women purchase and prepare the spices. (Mark 16:1) | |
| Night 3 | Friday Night | The Weekly Sabbath begins. (Luke 23:56) | They prepared the spices before the Sabbath. |
| Day 3 | Saturday (Nisan 17) | Weekly Sabbath. The women rest according to the commandment. The third day is completed before sunset. | |
| Sunday Morning | (Nisan 18) First Day of the Week | The women arrive at the tomb early in the morning and find it already empty. (John 20:1) | |

## THE HARMONY OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

**Mark 16:1**
The women purchased the spices after the High Sabbath.
*"Now when the Sabbath was past..."*

**Luke 23:56**
They prepared the spices before the Weekly Sabbath.
*"Then they returned and prepared spices..."*

**John 20:1**
They arrived at the tomb early on the first day of the week and found it already empty.

**Matthew 12:40**
The Sign of Jonah had been fulfilled.
*Three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

Burial before sunset (Wed. Day) → Night 1 begins (High Sabbath) → Day 1 (High Sabbath) → Night 2 → Day 2 (Spices prepared) → Night 3 (Weekly Sabbath begins) → Day 3 (Weekly Sabbath) → Sunday Morning (Tomb found empty)

### THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION.

The apparent difficulty disappears once the High Sabbath and the Weekly Sabbath are recognized as two distinct days of rest.

*The chronology reveals a remarkable harmony between the four Gospel accounts and the prophetic sign Yahshua Himself declared would authenticate His mission.*

**THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS – FROM WEDNESDAY NIGHT TO SATURDAY NIGHT (MATT. 12:40)**

# The Sign of Jonah

*When the religious leaders demanded a miraculous sign,*
*Yahshua refused to satisfy their curiosity.*
*Instead, He pointed them to a single future event.*

This was not merely another prophecy. It was the only sign Yahshua said would authenticate His identity as the promised Messiah.

The Gospel accounts show that when the women arrived at the tomb early on the first day of the week, Yahshua had already risen.

**If the sign was to be fulfilled exactly as He declared, then the three days and three nights must have been completed before the women reached the tomb.**

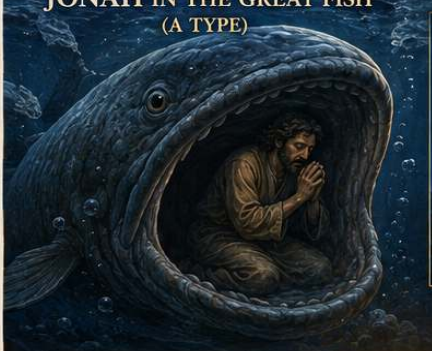
The focus of the prophecy is therefore not when the women discovered the empty tomb, but whether the Sign of Jonah was fulfilled exactly as Yahshua foretold.

### MATTHEW 12:39–40 (NKJV)

*"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."*

*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

## JONAH IN THE GREAT FISH (A TYPE)



THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS

*Jonah was in the belly of the great fish three days and three nights.*

## THE SIGN OF JONAH

## YAHSHUA IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH (THE REALITY)

THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS

*Yahshua was in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.*

**SUNDAY MORNING**
First Day of the Week

The tomb is already empty when the women arrive.

## A REMARKABLE FULFILLMENT

The chronology developed in the previous pages demonstrates how the events of Passover week fit together:

- Three nights: *Wednesday night, Thursday night, Friday night.*
- Three days: *Thursday, Friday, Saturday.*
- Sunday morning: *The tomb is already empty.*

**The sign was complete before dawn on the first day of the week.**

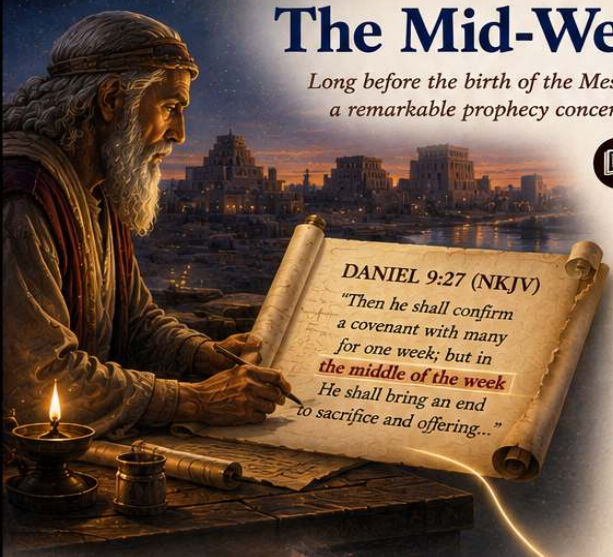
## THE HARMONY OF THE PROPHECY

- **Matthew 12:39–40** Yahshua Himself declared the sign. The three days and three nights would authenticate His mission.
- **Mark 16:1** After the Sabbath was past (the High Sabbath), the women bought spices.
- **Luke 23:56** They prepared the spices and rested on the Sabbath (the Weekly Sabbath) according to the commandment.
- **John 20:1** On the first day of the week, they came early to the tomb and found it already empty.

*Yahshua's own prophecy became the evidence He offered for His Messiahship.*

# The Mid-Week Prophecy

*Long before the birth of the Messiah, the prophet Daniel recorded a remarkable prophecy concerning the coming Anointed One.*




One statement in particular has been understood by many as pointing to the timing of the Messiah's sacrificial death.

If this passage refers to the Messiah, then the phrase ***"in the middle of the week"*** harmonizes remarkably with a mid-week crucifixion.

Yahshua's death brought the sacrificial system to its intended fulfillment. The true Passover Lamb had been offered, accomplishing what the sacrifices of the Temple could only foreshadow.

This prophetic perspective complements the chronology already established from the Gospel accounts.

**The Gospels provide the historical sequence. Daniel provides a prophetic framework.**

Together they point toward a crucifixion in the middle of the week and a fulfillment of the Sign of Jonah exactly as Yahshua declared.

## PROPHECY AND FULFILLMENT

### DANIEL

- ***"In the middle of the week..."***
- Sacrifice and offering brought to their fulfillment.
- A prophecy given centuries before the Messiah came.

### YAHSHUA

THE PASSOVER LAMB

Once for all He was offered. Hebrews 10:10

## THE GOSPELS

- Yahshua dies on Wednesday afternoon.
- Buried before sunset.
- Three days and three nights follow.
- The tomb is already empty when the women arrive on the first day of the week.

**Whether one begins with prophecy or with history, the same chronology emerges.**

| WEDNESDAY (NISAN 14) | WEDNESDAY NIGHT | THURSDAY (NISAN 15) | THURSDAY NIGHT | FRIDAY (NISAN 16) | FRIDAY NIGHT | SATURDAY (NISAN 17) | SUNDAY MORNING (NISAN 18) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yahshua dies about 3:00 p.m. and is buried before sunset. | Night 1 | Day 1 High Sabbath | Night 2 | Day 2 Spices purchased and prepared | Night 3 Weekly Sabbath begins | Day 3 Weekly Sabbath | First Day of the Week Tomb already empty |

Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." John 2:19 (NKJV)

# THE TRUE PROPHET TEST

*Was the Sign of Jonah fulfilled exactly as Yahshua declared?*

Yahshua gave only one sign to this generation. He said,

> *For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*
>
> Matthew 12:39–40 (NKJV)

The record of the Gospels, when read in the light of the Two Sabbaths, shows that this sign was **fulfilled** exactly.

The sign was not about the women finding the tomb empty. The sign was about Yahshua being in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights and then rising.

## THE SIGN OF JONAH – FULFILLED EXACTLY

### THREE NIGHTS

Wednesday Night
Thursday Night
Friday Night

Three complete nights passed in the tomb. **3**

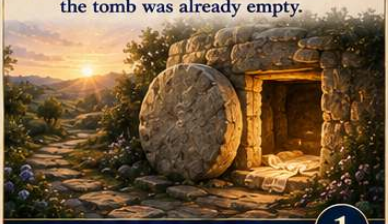
### THREE DAYS

Thursday (High Sabbath)
Friday (Preparation Day)
Saturday (Weekly Sabbath)

Three complete days were fulfilled. **3**

### THE THIRD DAY

Saturday completed before sunset.
Early on the first day of the week, the tomb was already empty.



The women arrived after the sign had already been fulfilled. **1**

## THE BIBLICAL TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

**Deuteronomy 18:21–22 (NKJV)**

*"You may say in your heart, 'How can we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."*

- ✓ Yahshua spoke this prophecy before His death.
- ✓ He identified it as the only sign for this generation.
- ✓ He declared the duration: three days and three nights.
- ✓ The events recorded in the Gospels fulfill it exactly.

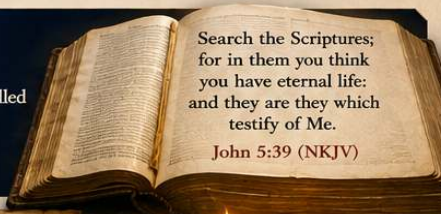
**Every element of the sign is fulfilled. Therefore, Yahshua passes the test of a true prophet.**

This is more than history.
It is divine authenticity.
*The Sign of Jonah is God's evidence for Yahshua's mission.*

## THE VERDICT

The only sign Yahshua gave was fulfilled exactly as He declared.

He is the promised Messiah.



Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

John 5:39 (NKJV)

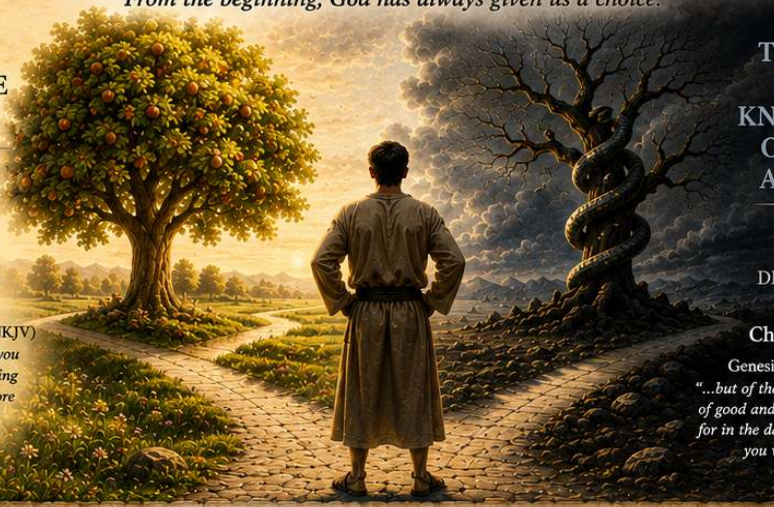
**Now the invitation remains…**

***Open your Bible and see for yourself.***

The truth speaks for itself in the pages of Scripture.

# THE CHOICE IS YOURS

*From the beginning, God has always given us a choice.*



## THE TREE OF LIFE

TRUTH
LIGHT
OBEDIENCE
LIFE

**Choose Life.**

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NKJV)
*"...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life..."*

## THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

DOUBT
DARKNESS
DISOBEDIENCE
DEATH

**Choose Wisely.**

Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV)
*"...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."*

## DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS SIGN OR SOME OTHER SIGN?

Matthew 12:39–40 (NKJV)
***"...no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."***

## THE WISE VIRGINS

Trusted in the Sign of Yahshua
Matthew 25:6–10 (NKJV)

- ✓ Believed the only sign Yahshua declared.
- ✓ Prepared during the time of waiting.
- ✓ Their lamps had oil.
- ✓ They were ready.
- ✓ The door was opened.

**"Come in... to the marriage supper."**
Matthew 25:10 (NKJV)

## THE FOOLISH VIRGINS

Trusted in Another Sign
Matthew 25:1–5 (NKJV)

- ✗ Did not recognize the only sign Yahshua gave.
- ✗ Did not prepare for the time of waiting.
- ✗ Their lamps went out.
- ✗ They were not ready.
- ✗ The door was closed.

**"I do not know you."**
Matthew 25:12 (NKJV)

## THE DECISION IS YOURS.

Believe the Sign Yahshua Himself gave,
or look for another sign and risk being left behind.

### SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES AND SEE.

**John 5:39 (NKJV)** "Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me."

26 “I will give you a new heart and
put a new spirit within you;
I will take the heart of stone out
of your flesh and give you
a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put My Spirit within you
and cause you to walk in My statutes,
and you will keep My judgments
and do them. And I will put My laws
within you and write them on
your heart.”

Ezekiel 36:26, 27 (NKJV)