

Teacher's Outline

Topic: The Sign of Jonah and the Prophetic Timeline

Teaching Aim

- To show that Jesus gave one measurable sign of His Messiahship.
 - To demonstrate that the resurrection timeline must be counted by Scripture.
 - To confirm that prophecy and fulfilment agree exactly.
-

Lesson Introduction

Many believers accept the resurrection account without examining the timing carefully. However, Jesus attached His identity to a specific and measurable period of time. If the time does not match His words, the claim must be tested.

Opening discussion prompt:

Why would Jesus connect His identity to a precise time statement instead of another miracle?

1. The One Sign Jesus Gave

Teaching Points

- Jesus was asked for proof of His authority.
- He refused to give multiple signs.
- He gave one clear and measurable sign.
- The sign required three days and three nights.
- His identity rests on the exact fulfilment of this period.

Matthew recorded, **Matthew 12:39–40**

“An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 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.”

Teacher emphasis notes:

Stress that Jesus included both days and nights.
Make clear that the sign is measurable, not symbolic.
Avoid debate language and keep focus on Scripture.

2. The Biblical Definition of a Day

Teaching Points

- Confusion begins when modern timekeeping is assumed.
- Scripture defines when a day begins.
- Evening comes before morning in the biblical order.
- A biblical day begins at sunset.
- The resurrection must be counted using this definition.

Moses wrote, **Genesis 1:5**

“And the evening and the morning were the first day.”

Teacher emphasis notes:

Explain that midnight to midnight is not biblical reckoning.
Remind students that Scripture must define its own terms.
Encourage careful reading of time references in the Gospels.

3. The Two Sabbaths of Crucifixion Week

Teaching Points

- The Sabbath after the crucifixion was called a High Day.
- Feast Sabbaths were separate from the weekly Sabbath.
- The women both bought and prepared spices.
- This requires a workday between two Sabbaths.
- Two Sabbaths resolve the apparent difficulty.

John wrote, **John 19:31**

“...for that sabbath day was an high day..”

Mark wrote, **Mark 16:1**

“And when the sabbath was past... had bought sweet spices...”

Luke wrote, **Luke 23:56**

“...and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.”

Teacher emphasis notes:

Guide students to see that both writers are correct.

Show that Scripture explains Scripture.

Avoid presenting this as a novelty and present it as careful reading.

4. Daniel’s Prophecy and the Death of Messiah

Teaching Points

- Daniel identified the starting point of the prophecy.
- The timeline leads to Messiah the Prince.
- The Messiah would be cut off.
- The death of Christ was foretold centuries earlier.
- Prophecy confirms the identity of Jesus.

Daniel wrote, **Daniel 9:25–26**

“...unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks... And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself...”

Teacher emphasis notes:

Explain that cut off means put to death.

Show that prophecy and history agree.

Keep focus on Christ, not on speculation.

5. The Resurrection and the Empty Tomb

Teaching Points

- The tomb was discovered empty while it was still dark.
- Discovery is not the same as the moment of resurrection.
- The third day ended at sunset.
- The sign required completion before another night began.
- The timeline fulfils the words of Jesus exactly.

John wrote, **John 20:1**

“The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark... and seeth the stone taken away..”

Teacher emphasis notes:

Clarify the difference between resurrection and discovery.

Emphasise that the sign stands or falls on exact fulfilment.

Keep the tone calm and instructional.

Conclusion

Jesus gave one measurable sign to prove He is the Messiah. When Scripture is allowed to define time and sequence, the three days and three nights are fulfilled exactly.

Prophecy and history agree because the Word of God is consistent.

Optional Review Questions

1. What was the one sign Jesus gave?
2. When does a biblical day begin?
3. Why were there two Sabbaths during crucifixion week?
4. What does “cut off” in Daniel mean?
5. Why is the difference between resurrection and discovery important?