

# St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Penrith

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## ENCOURAGEMENT LETTER 16/4/2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How are you today? I am thankful for the Day PWA and the opportunity to enjoy lunch with them today. I am thankful for afternoon tea with William and Leonie Morrow and enjoying Christian encouragement with them (William was the minister at Penrith before me).

Today, Hugh encourages us by looking at “Why Must Jesus Be Raised On The Third Day?” before we look at church matters including responding to the Conversion and Suppression Legislation.

### **ENCOURAGEMENT: Why Must Jesus Be Raised on the Third Day? By Hugh Prattis**

In Matthew 16, Jesus' disciples realise that their esteemed teacher, Jesus is actually *“the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* (Matt. 16:16). That represents a turning point in the gospel story, and *“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”* (Matt. 16:21). In 1 Corinthians 15:4, we read that Jesus “was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

The question we're going to ask today is: Which Scriptures predict Jesus' death and resurrection? In particular, why the resurrection on the third day? What's the significance? I'm going to suggest a number of scriptural backgrounds which work together to paint a rich expectation of this crucial event.

1. Genesis 1:11-12: On the third day of creation, God brought forth seed-bearing plants and trees. Similarly, on the third day of the new creation, God raises Jesus as the first fruits from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20).

2a. In Genesis 40, Joseph is in prison and meets Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. After three days, Pharaoh's favored cupbearer is restored, while the unfavored baker meets a grizzly end. The restoration/execution follows visionary dreams that include a lot of “threes”. Like the cupbearer, Jesus was restored to God's right hand after three days.

2b. This theme is paralleled in the next chapter of Genesis, when Joseph's brothers are imprisoned by him and released on the third day (barring Simeon). Joseph says this is particularly so they can take food back to Canaan and save their families (Gen 41:17-19). Jesus rose on the third day to guarantee our salvation.

3. In Exodus 10:21-22 a plague of darkness "that could be felt" covered Egypt for three days. This oppressive darkness must have felt like death to the Egyptians, as no doubt Jesus' death did to the disciples.

4. The Israelite spies of Joshua 2:15-16, 22-24 hid in the hills for three days after escaping from Jericho, before returning to Joshua. Jesus also spent three days hidden inside a hill before returning to God's people.

5. In 1 Samuel 20:5-13, 18-22, David hid from Saul for three days before Jonathan helped him escape. Jesus also escaped the hold of death by the power of God (Acts 2:24).

6. There's a story in 1 Samuel 30:11-16 of an Amalekite slave. He was abandoned by his master when he became sick. He was left in the wilderness for three days and nights before being found by David and revived with food and water. Jesus was also revived after three days in the tomb.

7. 2 Samuel 24 records the story of David's sinful census. As punishment, God devastates the land with a three-day plague. This is stopped when David purchases the temple site and makes a sacrifice. When Jesus rose on the third day, he marked a new beginning where he would intercede for us in place of a temple (Heb. 7:24-25).

8. God made a promise to the terminally ill Hezekiah (Israel's anointed king). He promised that he would be restored and worship God at the temple on the third day (2 Kin 20:1-6). In a sense, Jesus was also 'healed' from mortal wounds, to the praise of God (1 Pet. 1:3). Added to this, God gives him a sign to confirm his healing. The sun goes back ten steps (2 Ki 20:8-11). This makes us think of the sun going black at the crucifixion.

9. Esther knows that to come before the king uninvited merits death, but when she hears that her people are going to be slaughtered, she goes away to fast and pray. On the third day, she approaches the king who receives her favourably and spares her and her people (Est. 4:15-5:2). In the same way,

Jesus' resurrection on the third day results in favour and blessing for the new covenant people of God.

10. Corruption and Resurrection: Jews believed corruption set in after three days, which is why Psalm 16:10 (read in light of Acts 2:29-32, 13:34-37) speaks of a quick resurrection and Psalm 110:1 shows Jesus sitting at God's right hand now.

11. Hosea 6:1-2: This prophecy speaks of God restoring his people after three days (Jesus being the true people of God). Adding weight to this, rabbis of the 2nd century AD interpreted this passage as referring to the resurrection.

12. Jesus himself likens his resurrection to Jonah, who emerged from the belly of the whale after three days. Jonah was as good as dead, but saw the light once more, just as Jesus did (Matt 12:40, cf. Jon 1:17).

Last week we saw that Jesus' death wasn't an untimely end, but the culmination of his salvific ministry. In the same way, I hope today you're encouraged that the resurrection isn't an unexpected addition to the Bible's story, but a crucial (and consistent) part of it.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

He is Risen! (Feel free to reply appropriately) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdE8eH4lJS8>

As always, love and prayers, Steve.