

“On the Third Day...”

Esther 5:1; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Hosea 6:1-3

May 14, 2023

I. The Phrase “on the third day” in Esther 5:1

- A. Its immediate reference is to the third day of Esther’s fast (Est. 4:17).
- B. But the language calls our attention to Christ’s resurrection on the third day.

II. “On the third day” According to the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 - ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

- A. The Old Testament scriptures foretold Christ’s death and resurrection (Is. 53; Ps. 16; etc).
- B. The Old Testament scriptures also foretold Christ’s resurrection *on the third day* – by typology, i.e., prophetic *preview*. – Luke 24:27

1. The Sign of Jonah – Jesus the Greater Prophet

Matthew 12:38–40 - ³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just 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.

2. Raised after Judgment – Jesus the sinless representative struck down

Hosea 6:1–2 - ¹ “Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. ² After two days he will revive us; *on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.*

III. “On the third day” in Esther

- A. The prophetic similarities...
 - 1. Esther rose from her fast on the third day to rescue her people from death by interceding for them.
 - 2. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day to rescue His people from death by eternally interceding for them.
- B. The prophetic dissimilarities...

1. While Israel did not deserve Xerxes' judgment, we deserved God the Father's wrath.
2. While Esther risked death to save her people, Jesus endured it.
3. While Esther interceded on this limited occasion, Jesus rose on the third day to intercede for us forever.
4. Unlike Xerxes, God the Father was already willing to hear Christ's intercessions.
5. Jesus was able to secure all of our eternal *access* into God's royal throne room, something Esther could have never done for her people.
6. We enter our Father's presence every Sunday in public worship.
 - a. Not dressed in royal robes...
 - b. But clothed in Christ's righteousness...
 - c. And welcomed by His once shed blood...

Hebrews 12:22–24 - ²² *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*