

**Vicarious Sacrifice: The Burial: Nicodemus Defends the Lord at the Sanhedrin. John 7:45–52; 3 Days: Jesus Refers to Jonah to Prophecy Spending 72 Hours in the Tomb of Joseph, Matt 12:40; Informs Criminal at Calvary He Would Meet Him in Paradise, Luke 23:42–43; Jesus Goes to Tartarus to Address the Demons of Genesis 6 Documented in 1 Pet 3:18–20; 2 Pet 2:4**

1. An early indication that Nicodemus was responsive to Jesus in retrospect is demonstrated in John 7. In that passage, Jesus proclaims, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water’” (v. 38).
2. Among those who heard this, there were some that speculated Jesus was the Christ while some did not. Finally the issue was taken to the Sanhedrin where some of the scribes and Pharisees gave them a hearing:

**John 7:45** - Then the **officers [ temple police ]** returned to the chief priests and Pharisees who said to the police, “Why didn’t you bring **Him [ Jesus ]** back with you?”

**v. 46** - The police answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this Man did.”

3. The temple police had heard numerous debates among members of the Sanhedrin, but none of their comments contained the categorical content and wisdom as did those of Jesus.
4. This was an insult to the scribes and Pharisees. They then accused the police of having been influenced by Jesus:

**John 7:47** - The Pharisees then answered them, “You have not also been led astray, have you?”

**v. 48** - “Have any of the rulers or Pharisees believed on Him?”

**v. 49** - “But these people who do not know the Law is cursed.”

5. In other words, the theologians who are the guardians of the oral law and the Torah do not believe this so neither should they.
6. Unknown to those who spoke, there was one among them who was secretly numbered among those who believed Jesus is the Christ:

**John 7:50** - Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus before, being also a Pharisee) said to them,

**v. 51** - “Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?”

7. With this, the other members of the Sanhedrin denounced the idea with this remark:

**John 7:52** - They answered Nicodemus, “You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.”

8. Nicodemus did make his point, but he did not come out of the closet. He did do so following the Lord’s crucifixion when he assisted Joseph in preparing the Lord’s body for burial.

### 3 Days:

1. The Lord was placed in Joseph’s tomb just prior to sundown on the day He was crucified. The Jewish system of timekeeping started each day at sundown, not at midnight as we do today.

2. Jesus indicated to the scribes and Pharisees that the “Son of Man” would fulfill the “sign of Jonah”:

**Matthew 12:40** - “Just as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth [ ᾗδης (Háidēs): Hades: Paradise, Torments, Tartarus, & the Abyss; Hebrew: לִיאַוֹ (She’ol) ] for three days and three nights.” (NET)

3. Jesus also assured the criminal crucified alongside Him that he would join Him that day in Paradise:

**Luke 23:42** - He [ the believing criminal ] said, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom.”

**v. 43** - And Jesus said to him, “I am telling you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (NET)

4. Peter informs us that the Lord will also pay a call on another compartment of Hades in:

**1 Peter 3:18** - Because Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, to bring you to God, by being put to death in the flesh but by being made alive in the Spirit.

**v. 19** - In it [ the Holy Spirit ] He went and preached to the spirits [ demons ] in prison,

**v. 20** - after they were disobedient long ago when God patiently waited in the days of Noah as an ark was being constructed. In the ark a few, that is eight souls, were delivered through water.

5. Who these “spirits” are and the identification of their “prison” is answered by Peter in:

**2 Peter 2:4** - If God did not spare the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell [ ταρταρόω (tartarōō) Tartarus ] and locked them up in chains in utter darkness, to be kept until judgment.

6. By comparing Peter’s remarks in 1 Peter 3:20 with 2 Peter 2:4 we are able to conclude that the “angels who sinned” are the ones described in Genesis 6.
7. In this passage, the population of the earth had grown progressively and exceedingly negative toward the gospel of Jesus Christ.
8. As a result the usual things began to occur. We noted several in recent studies about the satanic process of mental conditioning that results in volitional assent to demonism.
9. Part of this process is involvement in sexual perversions and in this case a segment of fallen angels presented themselves as male prostitutes for human women.
10. It is apparent that during the building of the ark, it was Noah’s duty to explain to the people that a divinely initiated disaster of global proportions would eventually destroy all earthly life.
11. Noah’s ministry ran concurrently with his construction of the ark for a period of 120 years. All the while things grew more and more perverse.
12. The details of the angelic involvement with human women are the subject of verses 1 through 7.

**Genesis 6:1** - Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,

**v. 2** - that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.  
(NASB)