



# A Critical and Practical Elucidation of the Book of Common Prayer

*John Shepherd*

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## **A Critical and Practical Elucidation of the Book of Common Prayer** John Shepherd

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1801. Excerpt: ... stated seasons; and it is certain that the fast, which St. Luke speaks of in the Acts of the Apostles, as happening during St. Paul's voyage from Palestine to Rome f, was not the fast of Lent, as some would have it, but the great JeM'ifh fast, holden on the tenth day of their seventh month, that is about the end of September. Our Lord delivered no directions whatever, respecting seasons or days of fasting. Yet from the earliest ages of the Church, very particular and very extraordinary attention was paid to the an fwer, which he gave to the question put to him by the Disciples of John and the Pharisees. The question was, " Why do the Disciples of John and " of the Pharisees fast, but thy Disciples fast not? " And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the " bridechamber fast while the Bridegroom is with " them? As long as the Bridegroom is with xt them they cannot fast. But the days will come " when the Bridegroom mall be taken away from " them, and then mall they fast in those daysj.' The time of the Bridegroom's absence, or being taken away, was universally understood to mean i time that intervened between the, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord; and at the close at latest of the first century, the Friday and Saturday before Easter were, by the generality of Christians, observed as days of fasting and mourning; and observed for this reason, " In those days was the " Bridegroom taken away.". Yet it has been generally presumed, and with the appearance of probability, that the Apostles themselves instituted (and if so they would of course observe) the anniversary of the three days on which Christ died, rose again, and ascended into Heaven, together with that of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon themselves on the day of Pentecost; + Chap, xxvii....

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