

The Passover Week



A Look at the Week Christ died

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	The Passover Week
	Messianic Library @ www.innercirclestudies.com
	Last Edited 2/24/2021

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The Passover Week

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Printed in the United States of America

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Part of the

Doctrines of the Bible Series



A series of Bible studies to help guide the believer in lessons of his faith. Answering the question “Why” he believes what he believes.

Ephesians 4:14, “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

Hebrews 6:1-3, “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.³ And this we will do if God permits.”



A Teacher

For over twenty years now I have spent a lot of time going over the Bible, other books and studies, following leads on the internet and listening to the Holy Spirit, all in an effort to do as the scriptures tells us to do.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV), "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

I'm not the most interesting speaker, but I tell you that I am committed to 1 Peter 4:11

1 Peter 4:11, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God gives: ..."

This is ingrained into the core of my calling in Christ and therefore a part of who I am and who I have become. What I care about is that the word of God is accurate and true and rightly divided. I work hard to do that, because that's what a teacher is.

Proverbs 25:2, "It is the glory of God to CONCEAL a thing: but the honor of kings is to SEARCH OUT a MATTER."



Now let us go and open our Bibles and search out the matter and

“Look a little closer.”



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The Week of Passover



When the Lamb of God died for the sins of the World

John 18:37, "Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause I came into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Every one that is of the truth hears my voice."

The Passover Week

April 25 - May 2nd 28 A.D.



Acts 1:4-5, 7 And being assembled together with them. He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me. 5 "For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."



Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.



Matthew 26:2 Two days before Passover

Day	Month	Time	Event	Scripture
Sunday	Nisan 11	6pm	Palm Sunday (1st day of week)	Mt 21:1-11
Monday	Nisan 12	6pm	Teaches in the Temple	Mt 26:14-15, Mk 14:10, Jn 18:3-12
Tuesday	Nisan 13	6pm	Upper Room "Covenant Meal"	Mt 26:19, Mk 14:21:37-38
Wednesday	Nisan 14	6pm	Passover (Sabbath) 1st day of Unleavened Bread	Mt 27:33-46, Mk 14:32-50, Lu 22:39-54, Jn 18:3-12
Thursday	Nisan 15	6pm	Feast of Unleavened Bread	Mt 27:57-60, Mk 16:6-8
Friday	Nisan 16	6pm	(Day of Preparation)	
Saturday	Nisan 17	6pm	Sabbath Day	
Sunday	Nisan 18	6pm	Women at the Tomb	Mt 28:1-10
			Ascension	Acts 1:3
			50 Days	
			Pentecost	Acts 2

Day	Month	Time	Event	Scripture
Sunday	April 25	6pm	Triumphal entry into Jerusalem	
Monday	April 26		Teaches in the Temple	
Tuesday	April 27		Upper Room "Covenant Meal"	
Wednesday	April 28		Jesus on trial	
Thursday	April 29		Disciples in hiding	
Friday	April 30		Soldiers Guard the Tomb	
Saturday	May 1		Weekly Sabbath	
Sunday	May 2		Women come early to the tomb, an Angel meets them and announces Jesus has risen	

Daniels Prophecy (Dan. 9:25)
End of the 69th Week - 483 yrs from the decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild the city of Jerusalem in 457 B.C. (Neh.2:1-9)

Three days and three nights in the heart of the earth
(72 hours Jonah 1:17; Mt. 12:39-40)
Ephesians 4:8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."
Revelation 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."



Spring Holidays historically fulfilled during Jesus' first coming

<p>Passover (Jesus' Death)</p> <p>Nisan 14 Wednesday April 28th</p>	<p>Unleavened Bread (Jesus' Burial)</p> <p>Nisan 15 Thursday April 28th</p>	<p>First Fruits (Resurrection)</p> <p>Lev.23:10, LU.24:7</p>	<p>Pentecost (Weeks) (Holy Spirit)</p> <p>Ex.34:33 Lev.23:15-16 Deut.16:10,16 IICrom.8:13</p>
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The Passover Week

Suggested scriptural reading Matthew chapters 21-27; Mark chapters 11-15; Luke chapters 19-23; and John chapters 12-19

Introduction



"Never in the universe of God did there take place such things as took place that week on this earth." John Duncan

Never in the history of the earth has there been such a time and such events as what happened during this one single week. God's ultimate involvement in the affairs of man came to its peak in this one moment.

Approximately six-thousand years have passed since that time back in the Garden of Eden when the first man and woman sinned and the human race suddenly became in need of a Savior. Who would come to their rescue? Who would step forward on their behalf? If no one came, then they would pay the ultimate penalty for their own sins. But one did come forward someone did come to their rescue. Someone did offer himself as a substitute not only for them, but for all mankind that would follow.

Before the foundations of the world The Father went into the future and saw the sin of those He had yet to create. Yet His love was greater than the sin He found and so the plan was set. Knowing His Fathers great love for His creation it was the Son who stepped forward and presented Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the Human race not yet breathed into existence. A sin bond was agreed to, a debt of great sacrifice that would wait some four thousand years to be paid at a time of His Fathers choosing.

The "**Passover Week**" was more than just the fulfillment of what was agreed upon before the foundations of the world, it was the sealing of a "**New Covenant.**" The New Covenant was prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah and the fulfillment of countless other prophecies about this one single week in history.

The Passover Week

Jeremiah 31:31, “³¹ Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:”

The culmination of these events came fifty days after Christ’s resurrection as the Apostles were gathered together. The prophecy of the prophet Joel was about to be fulfilled.

Joel 2:28-29, "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

The day of Pentecost had arrived and the comforter had come as Yeshua had promised and with it the beginning of the “Church Age.”¹

¹ Approx. beginning in 53A.D. until Jesus returns

When Does a Biblical (*Jewish*) Day Begin?



To have a better understanding of the Passover Week we need to remember that this was a Jewish event and the story is retold by Jews to Jews. With this in mind we must remember that not all aspects of the story needed to be explained fully because all Jews understood the meaning and implication by just the mention of the subject. Let's look at the single biggest stumbling block in properly interpreting when the events of the Passover Week actually took place.

If you were to ask a Jew "When does a day begin" he would tell you at dusk or twilight (about 6pm). Sunset marks the start of the 12 night hours, whereas sunrise marks the start of the 12 day hours. This means that night hours may be longer or shorter than day hours, depending on the season. The reason for this can be found in scripture.

Genesis 1:5 "God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day."

Leviticus 23:32 "... on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your Sabbath."

As the scriptures tell us, it was the evening, then the morning that made up the first day. In the book of Leviticus we are told to celebrate the Sabbath from evening to evening. In other words, God confirms for us what was said in Genesis. For the Jews, especially first century Jews, their day began at 6pm. This idea would explain many events related to the Passover Week and will be covered later in this study.

²The Feast of Unleavened Bread



This is a spring feast which is celebrated on the 15th day the Hebrew month of Nisan (March/April), its origins can be found in Lev.23:6-15 and Deut. 16:8-16. This feast was to last seven days and on the first night, and again on the seventh, there was to be a time of convocation (*meeting*) between God and man.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is often called Passover because only unleavened bread was eaten during the seven days immediately following Passover.³ Unleavened bread reflected the fact that the Israelites had no time to put leaven in their bread before their hasty departure from Egypt.

A common Jewish tradition in preparing for the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to sprinkle leavened (*yeast*) bread crumbs throughout the house and then subsequently sweep them all up and collectively burn them outside. You might be asking yourself, why would they do this? Well, in the Bible, leaven symbolizes error or evil. It is the substance that causes fermentation. The Lord said to His disciples "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (*false doctrine*)."⁴ In addition, the apostle Paul warned the Church at Corinth that "A little leaven leavens (*or ferments*) the whole lump."⁵ Paul was simply saying that if sin goes unchecked, it will permeate and infect everything and everyone around it.

Jesus was crucified on the cross at Golgotha on the day of Passover. He was then buried in a newly hewn tomb donated by Joseph of Arimathea. However, unlike all other corpses, the body of Jesus (*Yeshua*) would not decay in the grave. There would be no decomposition of His body. God the Father would not "Allow His Holy One (*Jesus*) to see corruption."⁶ The Feast of Unleavened Bread proclaims that Christ's physical body would not experience the ravages of death while in the grave; for He was sanctified (*set apart*) by God the Father.

² <http://www.christcenteredmall.com/teachings/feasts/unleavened-bread.htm>

³ Exodus 12:15-20; 13:6-8; Deuteronomy 16:3-8

⁴ Matthew 16:6; Mark 8:15

⁵ I Corinthians 5:6

⁶ Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:27

The Passover Week



⁷P⁸assover

Nisan 14⁸

April 28, 28 A.D.

Passover is the first of the seven annual festivals celebrated by the Jewish people and is considered to be Israel's foundational feast upon which the other six feasts that follow simply build upon. Passover, a feast which commences Israel's religious year, is often referred to as the Feast of Unleavened Bread because only unleavened bread was eaten during the seven days immediately following Passover.

While the Jewish people have celebrated Passover annually since the time of Moses, in reality, there was only one Passover. It occurred almost 3500 years ago in Egypt. It was there, at that time, that a lamb was sacrificed, and the blood was applied to each doorpost and lintel. When done in faith and in obedience to God's command, that home was "**Passed over**" by the death angel and the firstborn was spared. All subsequent observances over the centuries were memorials of that one and only first Passover.

Historical Meaning

For more than 400 years, the Jewish people lived in Egypt.⁹ However, the time had come for God to fulfill His covenant with Abraham and bring them back to their homeland as He had promised.¹⁰ Therefore, God raised up one man to deliver His people, this man's name was Moses. One day God spoke to Moses in a desert through a bush that burned with fire but was not consumed.¹¹ It was there that God revealed to Moses that He had seen the affliction of His people in Egypt, had heard their cry for help, and had known their sorrows. Now, He was coming to deliver them out of Egyptian bondage and bring them to the Promised Land.¹²

⁷ <http://www.christcenteredmall.com/teachings/feasts/passover.htm>

⁸ Exodus 12:18

⁹ Exodus 12:40

¹⁰ Gen. 46:3-4, 50:24

¹¹ Exodus 3:2

¹² Exodus 3:7-8

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In Exodus 11, God detailed, through His servant Moses, the tenth and final judgment plague which would befall the Egyptians and their so-called "gods" or "deities." At midnight, the Lord would pass through the land of Egypt and kill the firstborn of each home where a lamb was not slain and where blood was not applied to the doorpost and lintel.

The effects of this tenth and final plague reach into the house of Pharaoh. Since the Pharaoh of Egypt was worshipped as a god, a god's son would die. Some scholars believe that King Tut's mysterious death was due to this tenth plague. With this final climatic plague, God would dramatically set His people free from the bondage of Egypt.

In Exodus 12, God outlined in detail the steps to be taken by those who trusted in Him so that they, unlike Pharaoh and the Egyptians, would not be struck down by the last plague. On the tenth day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, they were to select a year-old lamb without blemish or spot out from the flock and keep it until the fourteenth day of the month.¹³ During this time frame, each family would become personally attached to their lamb so it would no longer be just an ordinary lamb, but their very own pet. This would deeply impress upon them the costly nature of the sacrifice; an innocent lamb was to die in their place.

On the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month, as the sun was setting, the lambs were to be publicly killed by "The whole assembly" and then subsequently eaten.¹⁴ None of the animal was to be left over on the following morning.¹⁵ Although collectively everyone was responsible for the death of the lambs, each family was to individually apply the blood of their lamb to the doorposts of their own home as a visible sign of their faith in the Lord. At that moment, the innocent lamb became their substitute making it possible for the Lord's judgment to "Pass over" them. Therefore, the Lord instituted Passover as "A night to be much observed unto the Lord for bringing them out from the land of Egypt."¹⁶

¹³ Exodus 12:3

¹⁴ Deuteronomy 16:7

¹⁵ Exodus 34:25

¹⁶ Exodus 12:42

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The Service

God commanded that Passover be observed as a memorial forever and¹⁷ that it was to be kept by a service. This service was to incorporate the lamb, the matzah (*unleavened bread*), and bitter herbs as well as raise questions in the minds of children so that the Exodus story could be rehearsed from generation to generation.¹⁸ The Lord, however, did not detail the order of the service; He only mentioned that it was to be kept.

As recorded in Exodus 12:8, God required three symbolic foods to be eaten that Passover night: the lamb, Matzah (*unleavened bread*), and bitter herbs called "**Maror**" in Hebrew. The sacrifice was to be a young lamb, depicting innocence. It was to be roasted with fire portraying the judgment that would befall it instead of their own firstborn. Matzah was to be eaten symbolizing the purity of the sacrifice since leaven, with its souring characteristic, was often a symbol of sin.¹⁹ In addition, bitter herbs were to be eaten as a reminder of the suffering of the lamb.

Several centuries before Christ, a somewhat traditionalized Passover service began to emerge. The ritual Passover service was called "**The Seder**" from the Hebrew word meaning "**Order**." It prescribed the traditional order of the Scripture readings, prayers, symbolic foods, and hymns in the Passover service. The basic order of the Passover Seder today remains much as it was during the time of Christ even though the service continued to be embellished with more song and traditions up through the Middle-Ages.

The Importance

Several important facts must be understood concerning the holiday feast of Passover.

- First of all, there was only one Passover in the history of mankind; this event occurred when the Lord passed through the land of Egypt executing judgment. Every observance since then has been a memorial commemorating that occasion.²⁰

¹⁷ Exodus 12:14, 25

¹⁸ Exodus 12:26-27

¹⁹ I Corinthians 5:6-8

²⁰ Exodus 13:3

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- Secondly, Passover is an ancient feast, one that spans some thirty-five centuries of human existence. This holiday forms the primary background for understanding the events of the Upper Room, the symbolism of the Lord's Table (*Communion*), and the meaning of Jesus' death.
- Thirdly, Passover holds great distinction among the religious feasts of the world. Passover is the oldest continually observed feast in existence today, celebrated for some 3,500 years. Even today, more Jewish people keep Passover than any other high holy day. It is a strong, cohesive force within the fabric of Jewish community and culture.
- Finally, Jesus (Yeshua) was crucified during the Passover event. He and His disciples ate a Passover meal together on the eve of His death. During this meal Jesus said, "This is my body," and "this cup is the New Testament in my blood."²¹ All of those lambs sacrificed down in Egypt (one per household) pointed to the one true Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.²² Writing to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul noted for all of time, "Christ, our Passover (*Lamb*), is sacrificed for us."²³

²¹ Luke 22:7, 19-20

²² John 1:29

²³ I Corinthians 5:7

Daniel's Seventy Weeks

a Short Overview



Daniel 9:25-26; ²⁵"Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem²⁴ Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks [*Shabuas*]; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. ²⁶And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined."

Why is this scripture important to the Passover Week? This prophecy of the coming messiah was well known among the Jewish people. Many believed that their messiah was Yeshua and that He would re-establish the kingdom of David and throw off Roman rule. This thought is believed to be one motivating factor for the actions of Judas, to push Christ to a point where He had to act or be killed.

At the time of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, many wanted to declare Him "**King of the Jews**" but soon they would turn on Him and reject Him in favor of Barabbas. This triumphal entry into Jerusalem had another significant impact; it marked, to the day, the end of the sixty-ninth week of Daniels seventy week prophecies. There are two sets of weeks mentioned in Daniel, seven weeks (The time until the rebuilding would begin) and sixty-two weeks (the time until Messiah would be cut off.) These two sets of weeks give us the sixty-nine weeks from the giving of the prophecy until Christ entry into Jerusalem and three days later would be "Cut off" or die for the sins of the world.

These weeks were not regular weeks as we would see them but weeks of years. Each week represented seven years, so then seventy weeks would represent

²⁴ Ezra 7:12-13

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four hundred ninety years. This number four hundred ninety year countdown would be from the decree to build Jerusalem until the messiah would come to usher in His thousand year reign. In v26 Gabriel says the Messiah would be cut off or die, but not for Himself.

Chronologically the end of the sixty-ninth week or four hundred eighty three years after the decree went out Yeshua came through the eastern gate riding on a donkey. Three days later He would die for the sins of the world. The theology we have been taught is that God's Divine Chronical Clock concerning Israel stopped when His people rejected Jesus Christ and shouted "His blood be on us and on our children." This then gave way to the Gentile "Church Age."

However, we can find no evidence in scripture of God stopping any Chronical clock, then how do we count for the almost 2000 years of silence from Pentecost to this present day? This is the subject that is looked at in detail in that I have rightfully called the "2520 Study." The time is quickly approaching when that years that were added to the Jewish countdown (for the return of the Messiah) will be upon us. Then we who are alive shall see Him who was "*Wounded for our transgressions bruised for our iniquities ...*"²⁵

²⁵ Isa.53:5

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The Passover Week

Sunday Nisan 11 thru Sunday Nisan 18

"Never in the universe of God did there take place such things as took place that week on this earth." John Duncan.

Passover Week includes:

- The triumphal entry on Palm Sunday
- Jesus cleansing the temple for the second time
- Jesus giving His Olivet Discourse on the end times
- Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples
- Jesus' arrest and trials before the chief priests, Pilate and Herod
- Jesus' scourging at the hands of the Roman soldiers
- Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus' death and burial
- Jesus' resurrection

What it does not include:

- A Rabbit, aka: the Easter Bunny
- Easter Eggs

Just about 8-10 hours before Jesus was to stand before Pilate, He and the disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus would ask His Father a question any man in His position, knowing what was coming, might ask His Father also.

Matthew 26:38-39, “³⁸Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." ³⁹And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as you will” (also Luke 22:42).

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Jesus' own words "*My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death*" and then, "*if it is possible, let this cup pass from me.*" This shows Jesus' human side for though he was the Son of God He was also fully man. Here we see Jesus in great "Soul Anguish" which is defined as "great suffering, as from worry, grief, or pain; agony" we can find examples in scriptures in Psalm 6:3; Job 7:11.

For the sake of prophecy and the covenant He was about to seal by His blood, He willing went to the cross as He told Peter that night,

Matthew 26:54,56, "⁵⁴But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? ... ⁵⁶But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled."

As He told Pilot, "*You say that I am a king. I have been born and have come into the world for this reason ...*" (John 18:37). This was the moment that He was born for, to fulfill the covenant agreement for the remission of man's sin agreed to before the foundation of the world. To answer Jesus' question to His Father, there was no other way.

Events Leading up to the Passover Week

Scripture Reference John 11, 12



Mary, her sister Martha and their brother Lazarus were loved very much by Jesus. It was Mary who earlier had anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. As it were, Lazarus became sick, so much so that the sisters being concerned for him ran to get Jesus (Jn.11:1-3).

Note: A custom of the Jews was that a body would not be declared officially dead until after three days. They believed that the Rabbi's could pray for an individual to be healed up to three days. If the individual died and still was dead after three days, then by the fourth day, only an act of God would bring him back and so they would not even try. All hope was abandoned by the fourth day.

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As the story is told, Jesus waits two extra days (Jn.11:6) and returns back to Bethany where Lazarus, by this time, had been dead four days. Jesus had allowed this to happen so that the disciples would believe and that God may be glorified (Jn.11:4). It was at this time Jesus called Lazarus from the grave and all the people marveled and praised God (Jn.11:11-17, 38-45).

Then many of the Jews which had seen this believed on Jesus, but there were some who went straight to the Pharisees. The Pharisees argued among themselves that if they left Jesus alone, the people would all believe on Him and that would cause the Romans to come and take away their positions and destroy the nation. They argued that “*One man should die rather than an entire nation should perish.*”²⁶ At this point, the Pharisees sought for a way to put Jesus to death along with Lazarus.

It is now six days (Jn.12:1) from Passover (Thursday, Nisan 8), Jesus and the disciples are at the house of Martha eating supper and with them is Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead. Mary took about a pound of expensive ointment called spikenard and anointed the feet of Jesus, to which Judas Iscariot complained that the ointment should have been sold and given to the poor. Judas did not care for the poor, but was only interested in keeping the money. Judas got up and left the house and went to the Pharisees to plan how he would betray Jesus.

Many people had heard that Jesus was now in Bethany and came to see Him and also Lazarus whom He had raised from the dead. For the next few days Jesus stayed in the area with His disciples for the Sabbath was close at hand.

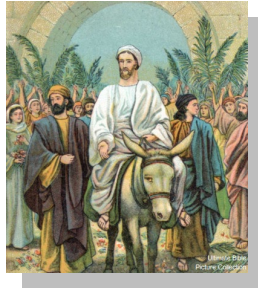
²⁶ Jn. 11:50, 18:14

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Sunday Nisan 11

April 25th 28 A.D.

(Mt.21:1-17, Mk.11:1-11, Lu.19:29-48; Jn.12:12-50)



Main Events of this Day

- Triumphal Entry: Mt. 21:1-11
- Cleansing the Temple: Mt.21:12-13
- Healing: Mt.21:14
- Encounter with Chief Priest: Mt.21:15-16
- Spends the night at Bethany: Mt.21:17

It was on this first day of the week that Jesus and His disciples arrived into Bethphage and the Mount of Olives. After arriving there, Jesus sent two of His disciples into Jerusalem to get a young donkey, one that had never been ridden and bring it back. So they went into the town and found a young colt and brought it to Jesus. After the disciples covered the back of the colt with their own clothes, Jesus sat down on the colt for the ride into Jerusalem.

The city of Jerusalem was quickly filling with people as the yearly celebration and sacrifice of Passover was just three days away. Word spread quickly of Jesus' coming as the donkey and its rider, followed by the small band of disciples, descended the Mount of Olives heading for Jerusalem. A large crowd ran out to greet Him and excitement filled the air as the people wanted to see this man who

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had performed so many miracles, who just four days earlier had raised Lazarus from the dead.

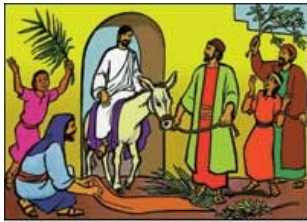
As the crowd approached, they could hear the disciples shouting their praises for Jesus, *"Blessed be the King that comes in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven and glory in the highest."* In the crowd were many Pharisees that called out to Jesus to rebuke His disciples for what they were shouting, but instead He said to them *"I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."*²⁷

Prophecy:

Psalms 118:26 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD."

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."

Isaiah 62:11 "Indeed the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. "



Now the crowd had joined the disciples and could be seen taking off their robes and laying them down as a path for the colt and its rider, the King of the Jews. In the excitement of the moment, many cut small palm branches to wave in the air and to lie on the path because the larger branches could cause the donkey to trip or stumble. This was an act of homage at the entrance of the king, and not a celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. The customary act of spreading the branches was in recognition of a king.²⁸ By now the shouts of praise could be heard inside the city of Jerusalem as the crowd shouted *"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"*

As Jesus approached Jerusalem, He stopped and looked over the city with great sorrow in His heart. He began to weep for Jerusalem for He knew that the

²⁷ Lu. 19:37-38

²⁸ 1 Maccabees 13:51 and 2 Maccabees 10:7

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time was coming when it and its inhabitants would be destroyed.²⁹ The destruction would be so complete that not one stone would be left upon another.³⁰

Prophecy:

Ezekiel 44:1-2 “Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the LORD said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the LORD God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.”

Upon entering into Jerusalem Jesus went to the temple and there He found merchants using the temple as a place to buy and sell. In His anger He began to overturn their tables and run them out of the temple saying, “*My house is the house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.*”³¹



Jesus' actions that day made many of the Pharisees angrier at Him as they sought ways to kill Him. However, that day would have to wait for today the crowds were too big and followed Jesus listening to His every word and His teaching. As He lingered in the temple, the people began to bring to Him the blind and the lame and having compassion on them He reached out and healed them according to their faith.

The people, seeing the wonderful things He did, began to praise Him even more. Even the little children in the Temple cried out, “*Hosanna to the Son of David.*” The chief priests and the scribes were indignant and they said to Him, “*Do you hear what they are saying?*” Jesus responded to them, “*Yes, have you never read: “Out of the mouths of babes and suckling’s have they perfected praise?”*”³² Jesus spent the day teaching in the temple; and when evening came, He went out of the city. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people sought an opportunity to destroy Him, but they could not, for all the people were very anxious to hear Him.

Soon Jesus went out of the city and went up to Bethany for the night (Mt.21:17).

²⁹ Lu.19:41-44

³⁰ This event happened in 70 A.D.

³¹ Lu.19:46

³² Ps.8:2

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Monday Nisan 12


April 26th 28 A.D.

(Mt.21:18-26:16; Mk.11:12-26 Lu. 20:1-21:37)



Main Events of this Day

- The Fig Tree: Mt. 21:19-22
- Confronts the Chief Priest: Mt.21:23-27
- Parable of the two sons: Mt.21:28-31
- Parable of the Wicked Husband: Mt.21:33-41
- Parable of Marriage of the Kings Son : Mt.22:1-14
- The Greatest Commandment: Mt.22:35-40
- Woes Pronounced upon Hypocrisy: Mt.23:13-36
- Laments over Jerusalem: Mt.37-39
- Destruction of the temple foretold: Mt.24:1-2
- The Olivet Discourse: Mt.24:3-42
- Wise and Foolish Virgins: Mt.24:1-13
- Parable of the Talents: Mt.24:14-30

n this Monday morning as Jesus and His disciples rose and being hungry, passed by a fig tree that had no fruit on it, Jesus cursed the tree and immediately it withered away. The speed at which it withered amazed the disciples. Jesus then told them that they would do this and even command

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mountains to be removed if they only had faith and did not doubt. He used this to teach the disciples on prayer, that if they ask in prayer, believing, they shall receive.

As Jesus entered back into the city and into the temple He began to teach and many people came to hear the words He would speak and the Chief Priest and the elders came also. These men challenged Jesus' authority, asking why He did these things. At every turn He was to be tested by men who sought to destroy Him. Again and again Jesus would answer them in a way that either left no doubt in their minds or silenced them by revealing their own evil intentions.

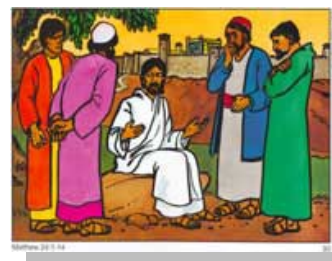
Jesus would spend the day teaching the people the things of the Kingdom of Heaven using many parables. He took aim at the Pharisees with the "Parable of the Two Sons" and the "Wicked Husband," while in the parable of the "Marriage of the Kings Son" He revealed that *"many are called but few are chosen."* A young lawyer stepped forward to test Jesus and asked *"Which is the **greatest commandment** in the law?"* To which Jesus replies *"To love the Lord God with all your heart and soul and mind,"* then adds a second *"To love your neighbor as yourself."*

Among all His teaching that day, Jesus also gave us what can be called a "test of service." What we do for our fellow man in the giving of food and a simple drink of water, how we treat a stranger and visit the sick and those in prison. When we do it to the least of these, we are doing it unto Him. These things, more than anything else, shows our heart and that we truly love as He loves.

Among the crowd of people who clung to every word that Jesus spoke were the chief priest, scribes and many elders, who after hearing His teaching that day assembled together in the palace of Caiaphas. Together they conspired how they might take Jesus and kill Him, but not on the feast day because they feared the people.

Now as Jesus and the disciples were leaving the temple, Jesus made an amazing prophecy concerning the temple that *"Not one stone shall be left upon another, till all them are thrown down"*³³ (a reference to the future destruction of the temple in 70A.D. by the Romans.) As He continued back to the Mount of Olives and sat down. The disciples came to Him privately and wanting to know more asked Him, *"When shall these things* (the destruction of the

³³ Mt. 24:2



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temple) *be and what shall be the sign of your coming?*” Jesus gave the disciples (and us today) an outline of future prophetic signs and conditions in the world that will lead to the coming of an Anti-Christ, and of a coming time of tribulation and great tribulation such as the world has never known, and finally of His own return.³⁴

After Jesus had finished all His teaching He said to the disciples,

Matthew 26:2, “² You know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.”

Jesus was correct, because the feast of Unleavened Bread which begins on Nisan 14 every year, fell on Wednesday of that year. Jesus was telling the disciples of His death and by what means He would die. This news they either didn’t fully understand or didn’t believe. As Jesus would soon tell Pilate it was for this reason He came into the world.

John 18:37, “³⁷ Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

As the day drew to an end, Jesus and the disciples went again into Bethany, to the house of Simon the Leper. While they were there a woman came having an alabaster box of precious oil and anointed Jesus with it. The disciples became upset and questioned her actions to Jesus saying the oil should be sold and used to help the poor. Jesus defended her by saying “*the poor you will have with you always, but I will not be with you always, she anoints my body for my burial.*” Jesus told the disciples that her actions would stand as a memorial to her wherever the gospel is preached. Upon hearing this, Judas Iscariot slipped out of the house and went to the chief priest and asked, “*What will you give me, and I will deliver Him to you?*” Judas that night made a covenant with the chief priest to turn over Jesus to them for thirty pieces of silver.

³⁴ Mt. 24:1-42

Tuesday Nisan 13

April 27th 28 A.D.

(Mt.26:17-19; Mk.11:27-14:31; Lu.21:38-22:40; Jn.13:1-38, 18)



Main Events of this Day

- Jesus Sends two disciples into Jerusalem to prepare the Passover Meal: Mt. 26:17-19

Matthew does not tell us much of the events of this day and so we can only speculate that in the morning Jesus must have continued with some of His teaching from the day before while also resting for the beginning of the Passover, which was upon them.

In the gospel of Luke (Lu.22:3) we are told that this was the day Satan entered into Judas³⁵ and he went to the chief priest and talked about how he might betray Jesus. The chief priests were glad to hear from Judas. Now they had an ally and offered him thirty pieces of silver in exchange for his help in delivering Jesus into their hands.

It is time for the yearly feast called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This feast includes the Passover observance, which happens the day before, on the 14th day of the month of Nisan. On this day, the disciples came to Jesus to ask Him where He would like for them to go to prepare the Passover meal. Jesus sent Peter and John³⁶ into Jerusalem where they would find a man who would give them a room to eat their Passover meal. The disciples left and did as Jesus had said. The narrative skips directly to Tuesday evening, Matthew 26:20 (after 6pm which would be Nisan 14 Wednesday the beginning of Passover.)

³⁵ Lu.22:3

³⁶ Lu.22:8

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Prophecy:

Leviticus 23:5 “On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD's Passover.”

Zechariah 11:12-13 “12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter" -- that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.”

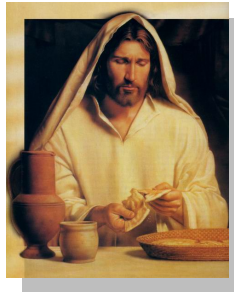
Note: Typically the Passover meal would consist of, but not limited to roasted “Lamb.” This little lamb would be one the family purchased 14 days earlier to allow time for each family member to become personally attached to the lamb, becoming like a member of the family. On the 14th of Nisan between 3-5pm all the lambs were to be publicly sacrificed by the “whole assembly.” Each family was to apply the blood of their personal lamb upon the doorpost as a sign of their faith in the Lord’s deliverance (Exodus 12:3-7). The meat of the lamb would then be eaten along with wine or today many use grape juice, and unleavened bread. Some may include peas and carrots and certainly nothing un-koshered.³⁷

³⁷ The term kosher means "**clean, fit or proper**". The purpose of these rituals was to assure safe and sanitary meats during Biblical times.

Wednesday Nisan 14

April 28th 28 A.D.

(Mt.26:20- 27:61; Mk.14:31-15:47; Lu.22:41-23:35; Jn.18:1)



Main Events of this Day

- Eating of the Passover Meal: Mt. 26:20-29
- The Garden of Gethsemane: Mt.26:30-45
- Peter's Denial: Mt.26:69-75
- Christ Before Pilate: Mt.27:11-14
- Christ or Barabbas : Mt.27:15-26
- The Crucifixion of Jesus (3rd hour):Mk.15:25; Mt.27:31-54
- The Entombment: Mt.57-61

Jesus gathered together with His disciples for the Passover meal in what is now called The Upper Room. Jesus begins to eat with the disciples. As they ate³⁸ and talked among themselves, Jesus shocks them all by telling them that *“One of you shall betray me.”* Suddenly the disciples begin to question one another and Jesus by asking *“Lord is it I?”* In His response Jesus declared that *“He who dips his hand with me in the dish is the same one who will betray me.”* Judas quickly withdraws his hand from the dish and asks *“Lord is it I,”* to which Jesus responds, *“You have said.”*

³⁸ http://www.herealittletherealittle.net/index.cfm?page_name=Last-Supper-Passover-Meal

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The gospel of Mark records that Jesus then adds *“The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.”* At this point it is assumed that Judas gets up and leaves the meal, he has an appointment with the chief priest to keep.

Then Jesus took bread and broke it and gave thanks and told the disciples to eat for this is His body and to drink the wine for it is His blood, the blood of the New Testament (New Covenant) that will be shed for the remission of sins. It will not be long before the symbolism of the moment would meet the reality of the cross. This He said to do in remembrance of Him. The disciples ate the bread and drank the wine then Jesus added that they will not do this again until they do it in His Father’s Kingdom.

After they sang a hymn, they left the room and went out to the Garden on the Mount of Olives. While on their way to the Garden, Jesus shocks the disciples again by telling them that this very night, they will all be offended by Him and scatter. Hearing this, Peter in his zeal shouts back *“Though all men shall be offended because of you, yet I will never be offended,”* to which Jesus answered back that *“this night before the cock crows you shall deny me three times.”* Peter and the others just responded that they shall never deny Him, even unto death and the hour was very late.

Prophecy:

Jeremiah 31:31-33 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah -- 32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Late Tuesday night, after Jesus and the disciples share the Passover meal together, they headed out towards the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. Sometime during the events of that night, it becomes early Wednesday morning, Nisan 14.

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As they reached the garden, Jesus asked the disciple to wait for Him here while He took Peter and two others with Him. The weight of the moment and the knowledge of what was about to happen to Him caused Him great sorrow, as He shared with Peter and the other two “*Even unto death.*” He asked the three men to wait with Him while He prayed, then goes off privately and falls on His face in prayer. The anguish that He felt, for He knew what was coming tempered with the desire to do His Father’s will, led Him to cry out “*Oh My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as you will.*”



Jesus came back to where Peter and the other two disciples were and found them asleep (because of the lateness of the hour). He woke them and asked if they could not stay awake for even one hour to pray with Him? Again Jesus went back to pray and again Peter and the others fell asleep.

The Arrest of Jesus

(Mt.26:46-56; Mk.14:41-53; Lu.22:47-54; Jn.18:2-13)



Most likely it was Jesus who was the first to see the soldiers coming towards Him being led by Judas. The disciples jumped to their feet in protest of their coming when Judas, who led the crowd, approached Jesus and with a kiss betrayed the Son of God. One of the disciples (most likely Peter) in his zeal to defend Christ pulls out a sword and cuts off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Quickly Jesus shouts back “*put away your sword, for all that live by the sword shall die by the sword,*” He then said “*the cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink it?*” He then healed the servant’s ear. Jesus goes on to state that if He wanted to, He could call down twelve legions of Angels. In this statement Jesus tells us that no one takes His life but that He gives it up willingly.

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Prophecy:

Psalms 41:9 "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me."

Jesus is arrested and taken away and the scriptures tell us that "*all the disciples forsook Him and fled.*"

Matthew 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

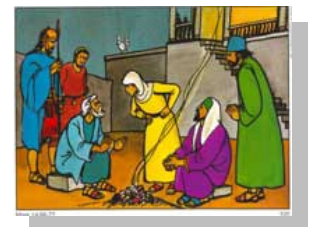
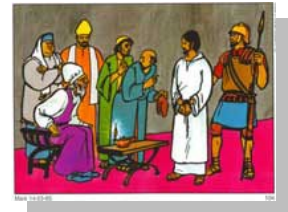
Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion," Says the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

The Trial of Jesus

(Mt.26:57-27:14; Mk.14:53- Lu.22:63-20; Jn.18:14-19:15)

The Four Parts of the Trial

1) **Before Caiaphas** - Jesus was taken first to Caiaphas, the high priest, and assembled together with him were the scribes and elders. Peter, the only disciple who followed the soldiers from a distance, entered into the palace also but sat with the servants so he could see what was happening. The council sought out those who would come and give false testimony against Jesus, but none could be found until the end, when two did come forward to accuse Jesus, but neither of their witnesses agreed with each other. Finally the high priest shouted at Jesus "*I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!*" To which Jesus replied, "*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*" His reply only made the priest more angry as they tore his clothes and said they had no more need of witnesses. Jesus had committed blasphemy and is guilty of death. They proceeded to hit and slap Him and mock Jesus.



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About this time, the servants thought they recognized Peter as one of Jesus' disciples, a charge Peter denied. Peter got up and walked out onto a porch but again, a young girl said she knew that Peter was a disciple of Jesus but again Peter denied even stronger "He does not know the man." Yet even a third time the crowd is sure because of his speech that he is a disciple of Jesus. This time Peter swears that he "knows not the man," and no sooner than the words came out of his mouth, then the cock crowed. It was about six a.m. in the morning (Mt.26:69-75).

Prophecy:

Matthew 26:34 "Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

One of those who were watching the mock trial of Jesus was the disciple Judas and after seeing that they had condemned Jesus he repented of what he had done and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priest and said "*I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.*" The chief priest replied "*What is that to us?*" Unable to escape the guilt and sorrow he felt for his actions, Judas went out and hung himself. The chief priest would not put the money back into the treasury because it was blood money, so they bought the potter's field to bury strangers in and the field is called to this day the "Field of blood."

Prophecy:

Zechariah 11:12-13 " Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter" -- that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter."

Meanwhile in the palace of the high priest, the chief priest and elders sought ways to put Jesus to death. They bound Jesus with ropes and chains and lead Him away and turned Him over to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the province.

2) **Before Pilate** - Jesus was taken to Pilate for judgment. They began accusing Jesus before Pilate saying "*We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ the King.*" Upon hearing this, Pilate asked Jesus if he was the "King of the Jews?" Jesus'

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only reply was “*you have said.*” The chief priest accused Jesus before Pilate and brought in false witnesses against Him, also but Jesus said not a word in His defense, so much that Pilate was marveled at His silence. Finally Pilate declares that “*I find no fault in this man.*” Again His accusers told Pilate that Jesus has stirred up the people from Galilee to this place, to which Pilate asked if He was a Galilean. Upon hearing that Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate sent Jesus to Herod.

3) **Before Herod** – Also known as Herod Antipas, governor of the Roman province of Galilee, northern Palestine, 4 BC–AD 39, son of Herod the Great. This was the same Herod who was responsible for the death of John the Baptist. Now Jesus was brought before Herod by the request of Pilate (Lu.23:7-11). Herod had heard of Jesus and His miracles and had waited for a long time hoping to see a miracle performed by Him but Jesus spoke not a word, neither answered him at all. After more accusations were made and Herod and his soldiers mocked Him, Herod finally sent Jesus back to Pilate giving no judgment.

Prophecy:

Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”

4) **Back to Pilate** - By now the first hint of light was beginning to dawn and the people of Jerusalem were beginning to venture out into the streets as their busy day began. It was now early (about 6am) Wednesday morning (Mt.27:1) as the news quickly spread that Jesus had been arrested and was now on trial. The people began to gather at the house of Pilate.

Luke tells us that Pilate and Herod became friends over this exchange of Jesus, one to another (Lu.23:12). Pilate once again called together the chief priest and the rulers of the people and told them that he had found no fault with Jesus and no proof of the things they have accused Him of and neither did Herod. Therefore Pilate would have Jesus chastised and then released for it was necessary because it was the start of the feast day as was their custom.

As the people gathered in the courtyard Pilate appeared on the balcony. Jesus was bound in chains and there was also one of the local criminals named Barabbas. Was this Jesus the same man, who just a few days ago they had hailed as King of the Jews as he rode into the city and who had taught them in the temple? All their hopes of restoring the Kingdom of David and the fulfillment of scripture rested with Him and now He is on trial for His life. Many in the crowd

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became discouraged and stopped believing in Jesus, they wanted a King, not someone bound in chains.

The Sentencing of Jesus

(Mt.27:15-26; Mk.15:12-15; Lu.23:21-25; Jn.19:15-16)



The chief priest and elders mixed into the crowd of people and began to excite them against Jesus. Pilate tried to calm the crowd by telling them he found no fault in Jesus. Pilate's wife called Him a just man, but the crowd was becoming even more agitated by the priest and elders.

Finally, Pilate offered the people a choice of Jesus or the criminal Barabbas. Which do you choose? Remember it was the time of the Feast of Passover and a custom to release a prisoner as a sign of good faith to the people. By now the elders and priests had been able to turn much of the crowd against Jesus, so much so that they had forgotten His miracles and acts of kindness.

Now they only saw broken promises of a kingdom that would never happen. The crowd shouted, "give us Barabbas," then Pilate asked, "What shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ?" The crowd shouted back "let Him be crucified." Pilate, out of frustration asked the crowd, "Why, what evil has He done?" The crowd once again shouts "Let Him be crucified." Finally, when Pilate saw that the crowd would not be swayed, he took some water and washed his hands and declared "I am innocent of the blood of this man." Pilate looked at the soldiers standing nearby and said "see to it." The crowd shouted back "His blood be on us and on our children." Barabbas was then released and Jesus was scourged and delivered to the soldiers to be crucified.

The Execution of Jesus

(Mt.27:27-54; Mk.15:15-37; Lu.23:26-46; Jn.19:17-34)



The soldiers took Jesus to a common hall and there surrounded Him and stripped Him. They put a scarlet robe on Him and a crown of thorns upon His head and a reed in His right hand. They did this to mock Him as they bowed before Him saying “Hail King of the Jews.” They spit on Him and took the reed from His hand and repeatedly hit Him in the head with it, mocking Him. After they had finished mocking Him, they took off the scarlet robe and placed His garments back on Him and led Him away to be crucified.

By now Jesus had not slept since the night before. Tired and exhausted, He had been beaten, whipped, spit upon, mocked and a crown of thorns had been forced onto His head. Bleeding from the scourging on His back and the crown of thorns on His head, he falters under the weight of the cross He was now forced to bear on the road to Golgotha, the place of the skull. A large crowd had formed and lined the sides of the road to see Jesus pass by. As Jesus falls under the weight of the cross, a soldier goes into the crowd and grabs hold of a man named Simon from Cyrene and compels him to finish carrying the cross.

As they reached the top of the hill, they nailed Jesus to the cross and after they had crucified Him, took His garments and cast lots for them. They hung a sign above His head which read “THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” Then said Jesus, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” All this happened at the “third hour” of the day, about 9 a.m.

Prophecy:

Psalms 22:18 “They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”

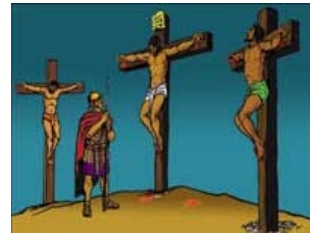
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Psalms 34:20 "He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken."

Exodus 12:46 "In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones."

The crowd that had watched Jesus stagger and falter under the weight of His burden, now passed by the foot of His cross. Many wagged their heads and reviled Him mockingly saying "if you are the Son of God come down from the cross." Also the priests were among the crowd and they too shouted "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let him deliver Him now, if He will have Him: for He said I am the Son of God."

There were two other thieves that were crucified, one on the right of Jesus and the other on His left. One of them turned to Jesus and said, "if you are the Christ, save yourself and us." The second thief answered back to the first, "do you not fear God, seeing how you are in the same position? We indeed receive our just reward for our deeds but this man has done nothing wrong." Then turning to Jesus asked "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom," to which Jesus answered back "this day you shall be with me in paradise."



Prophecy:

Isaiah 53:12 "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."

John 10:15 "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."

About the sixth hour of the day, (12 p.m.) there was a darkness that came over all the land until the ninth hour (3 p.m.). It was at the ninth hour of the day that Jesus cried out with a loud voice "My God, My God why have you forsaken Me?" Many around him thought that He was calling to the prophet Elias and so mocked Him even more saying "let us see if Elias will come to save Him." Then with His last breathe, Jesus turned His head towards heaven and cried out with a

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loud voice “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit,” having said this He gave up His spirit and was dead. Then the ground and the rocks shook and there was a great earthquake and the veil that was in the temple was torn from top to bottom. One of the Roman centurions, after having seen all that had happened and all that was done that day became very afraid and proclaimed, “Truly this was the Son of God.” All this happened at the ninth hour of the day, about 3:00 p.m.

Because this day was the Passover and the day of preparation for the feast, the Jews went to Pilate and requested the legs be broken so that the bodies not remain on the crosses but rather could be taken away. Pilate granted their request and the guard broke the legs of the two thieves. When the guard came to Jesus he did not break His legs for He was already dead. Then a Roman soldier took his spear and pierced the side of Jesus and out ran blood mixed with water.

Prophecy:

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."

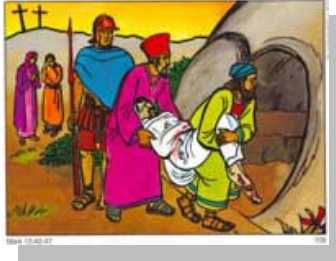
Psalms 34:20 "He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken."

John 15:25 "But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'"

Additional scriptures: Psalms 22:6-22, 69; Isaiah 53:1-12

The Entombment

(Mt.27:57-61; Mk.15:42-47; Lu.23:50-56; Jn.19:38-42)



As the evening approached (6 p.m.), a certain rich man named Joseph from Arimathaea who was himself a disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate and begged for the body of Jesus. After Pilate had determined from the centurion that Jesus was indeed dead, he then commanded that the body be turned over to Joseph. Joseph quickly took the body of Jesus down from the cross and wrapped it in clean linen and placed it in his own tomb and rolled a stone in front of the door and then left.

This was the eve of the day of preparation for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a Sabbath day observance. The women did not have time to get to the body of Jesus to anoint it with the oils as the law required, they would have to wait until the end of the feast days to anoint Jesus.

Where did Jesus go?

Eph. 4:9-10 "Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things."

Jesus then preached to those being held in prison (**Paradise or Abraham's bosom**).

1 Peter 3:19 "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison."

1 Peter 4:6 and Jn 5:25 makes it clear that these prisoners Jesus is preaching to are the dead.

The Passover Week

Thursday Nisan 15

April 29th 28 A.D.

(Mt.27:62-66)



Main Events of this Day

- Sealing the Tomb: Mt. 27:62-66

The feast day was upon the Jews and many were home fulfilling the law in regards to the feast days. The Pharisees and chief priests go back to Pilate. Their concern was that Jesus (They called Him “the deceiver”) had prophesied that He would rise again after three days. They requested that the tomb be made secure and guarded against His disciples coming to steal the body away. Pilate granted their request and so they sealed the tomb and placed Roman guards to stand watch over the entrance.

Matthew 27:64 "Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

The sealing of the tomb covers part of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and early Sunday (Nisan 15, 16, 17 and 18).

Friday Nisan 16

April 30th 28 A.D.

Disciples in Hiding



Main Events of this Day

- Disciples in hiding for fear of the Jews and the Romans.
- Was in celebration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

The scriptures are quiet about the events of this day. However, after the execution of a leader of a group, it was not uncommon for the Romans to also round up the followers and execute them also. We are told that the disciples all fled in the garden the night Jesus was arrested.

Prophecy:

Zechariah 13:7, “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is* my fellow, says the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.”

Prophecy Fulfilled:

Matthew 26:31, “Then said Jesus unto them, All you shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.”

In the Garden the night Jesus was arrested:

Matt. 26:56; Mark 14:50, “⁵⁰ And they all forsook him, and fled.”

The day of Jesus’ resurrection, the disciples were still hiding for fear of the Jews.

John 20:19, “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews...”

The Passover Week

We are only told of Peter venturing out to witness Jesus before the chief priest. This is when he denied knowing Jesus three times in fear of retribution from the crowd and the authorities.

This was the second day of hiding and staying out of sight of the authorities while they too celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread. I would speculate there was much talk about what to do now in the light of the past events. Confusion and uncertainty about the future prevailed as some of the disciple's contemplated going back to the life they knew before they were called out by Jesus. What would be their next step, only time would tell, but for now they wait. The weekly Sabbath would begin at 6 p.m. and so they stayed inside and prepared for the Sabbath.

Saturday Nisan 17

May 1st 28 A.D.


(The Sabbath day)

Mt. 28:1



Main Events of this Day

- The Resurrection of Christ: Mt.27:45-54
- Graves are opened, The dead seen in walking in Jerusalem : Mt.27:52-53

his day would start out like all the other Sabbath days, as a day of rest. To honor the Sabbath was to rest, or to cease from your work. The Hebrew verb for cease is “*Shabbat*,” from which comes the word for the Jewish weekly holy day, **Sabbath**. It was the only day that God blessed and called holy (Gen.2:3). For this reason, the tomb of Jesus still laid undisturbed and the second full day of being sealed by the Roman guards and remained so until early on the evening of the first day³⁹ (Sunday), which would be the end of the three days Jesus’ body was in the tomb. No one had come to anoint the body as required by Jewish law and custom because it was still late in the evening.

It was the Sabbath and by 3 p.m. the three days and three nights prophesied by Jesus would have now passed. These were three full nights and days as in Gen. 1:5 no part of a day, but three full days.

Prophecy:

Matthew 12:40 "For 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."

³⁹ Jn. 20:1; Mk 16:9

The Passover Week

The Biblical narrative in Matthew is unclear as to the exact timing of His resurrection. We find in the book of Luke agreement with the words spoken by Jesus.

Luke 24:46, "Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day."

This being said, we can then agree that the resurrection must have happened sometime between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. late Saturday afternoon, depending on if you start counting the three days when Christ died, or when He was put in the tomb. It was getting late and by the time the disciples had permission to take the body of Jesus down from the cross and secured a tomb for him it was getting very close to 6pm the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Note: All feast days were treated as Sabbaths and the rules for a Sabbath were followed just the same. This is why the disciples were only able to get Jesus in the tomb and cover with a burial cloth. They had to hurry back to the house before the six o'clock hour came. The anointing of the body would have to wait till sunrise on the first day.

Prophecy:

Psalms 16:10 "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."

With no fanfare or noise being made and as the sun was going down on the Sabbath the Son of God, Jesus the Messiah in a sudden burst of overwhelming light and energy suddenly rose from the dead and the physical body was transformed to a glorious body of flesh and bone. All happening while Roman guards stood watch outside the sealed tomb. At this point it was early on the evening (twilight 6pm) of the first day of the week, and the Sabbath is about to be over. The disciples and the world would not discover what had happened until the sun came up almost twelve hours later. A new week had truly begun and the world would never be the same ... forever.

Matthew tells us in his gospel that after the resurrection of Christ, the graves were opened and many bodies of the saints arose and were seen by many walking around the holy city or Jerusalem (Mt.27:52-53). What is even more

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amazing is that the people claimed to know who these Old Testament characters where as the story is related to in a letter from Pontius Pilate to Caesar (page 51).

Sunday Nisan 18

May 2nd 28 A.D.

(The First Day of the Week)

Mt. 28:1-15, Mk.16:1-13; Lu.24:1; Jn.20:1-25



It is Sunday morning and it was still dark but about to dawn (Jn. 20:1) when the women went to the tomb to anoint the body of their Lord. As the women left for the garden tomb they knew they would need the help of the soldiers to roll away the great stone, so they could enter the tomb. What if the soldiers would not help, what if they chased them away, what would they do then?

Matthew 28:1-4, “¹Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. ²And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ³And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.”

As the women approached the garden area, suddenly a great earthquake came and an angel whose countenance was like lightning and whose clothes was white like snow, descended from heaven in full view of the women and the soldiers, and rolled away the stone from in front of the tomb then sat down on it. The sight of this sent waves of fear into the soldiers causing them to shake profusely and fall on the ground as though they were dead.

Matthew doesn't tell us that the women were afraid, nor did they fall on the ground like they were dead, but Luke's Gospel does. Then one and maybe two brilliant and magnificent angels of the Lord speak to them.

Matthew 28:5-6, “⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.”

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The angel didn't say anything towards when Jesus had risen just that HE HAS RISEN, past tense. The angel even rolled away the stone so the women could see inside it and know Jesus was not there. At the appearance of the angel the Roman guards fell on their faces in fear and became like dead men. The angel had a message for the women,

Matthew 28:7-10, ⁷“Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.” ⁸And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

In Luke's Gospel he adds more detail:

Luke 24:5-7, ⁵“and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? ⁶“He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

After the angel left the soldiers ran back to the high Priest with the news of what had happened and when.

Matthew 28:11-13, ¹¹Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. ¹²And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’

The soldiers and the High Priest had no idea what time Jesus rose from the dead. All they knew they had reported to the High Priest and the Priest told them to lie saying the disciples (a group of fisherman, tax collector and doctor) snuck past sleeping armed guards) and stole the body away and none of the guards heard a thing. The only part of the lie that actually was correct is that he came up missing during the night, early on the Sabbath about the 6pm hour.

The Passover Week

Now the women did as the angel had said to them as we read,

Luke 24:8-12, ⁸“And they remembered His words, ⁹and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.¹⁰Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. ¹¹But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.”

It is amazing that the disciples didn't believe the women.

Note: It is important to note that both the woman and the men were surprised that Jesus had risen. There was no hint of anticipation among any of them of a resurrection having occurred. Such a surprise is important, because it shows that even Jesus' own followers had to be convinced of His resurrection even after Jesus had told them several times that He would rise again in three days. It is clear that the disciples never grasped the point of what Jesus was promising.

Matthew 16:21, “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, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Matthew 12:40, “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Additional scriptures: Mat. 17:9, 23; Mark 8:31, 9:12, 31, 10:34; Luke 9:22, 17:25, 18:32, 24:7, John 2:19; 1 Cor. 15:4

The angel gave the women a message, to go tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead and that He had gone into Galilee and there they would find Him. As the women ran away with great joy in their hearts, they met Jesus on the road and fell down at His feet to worship Him. Jesus told them to not be afraid but rather to go and tell the disciples to go into Galilee where they would see Him.

The Passover Week

Matthew 28:7, "Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

His Appearing

From the Book of John

In John 20:11-18, at the garden tomb, John tells us that there were two angels standing at the head and one at the foot of where Jesus had been laid. Mary looked in and the angels asked her why do you weep? Mary responds, "because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him." From behind her she could feel the presence of someone. She turned around and believed the person she was looking at to be the gardener. The person asked her "woman why do you weep, who do you seek?" Mary answered him "if you have taken Him, tell me where you have laid Him and I will go take Him away."

Mary must have turned back around to the angels because when Jesus called her name "Mary," she turned back around and recognized it was Her Lord and that He was alive and called to Him "Rabboni" which is to mean "Master."

John 20:19-25, the disciples (except Thomas) by now had gathered together because they had much to discuss and it was all about the news of Jesus. Behind closed doors, for fear of the Jews, they assembled, when suddenly there appeared before them Jesus saying to them "Peace be unto you." All the conversation stopped and to their amazement, He stood before them alive. Jesus held out His hands to show them His wounds and then His side where the soldier ran his spear through.

Now Thomas was not present at the time and when he had later heard the news he said he would not believe until he could see for himself the nail prints and hole in His side.

Jesus once again said to them, "Peace be unto you, as my Father has sent me, even so do I send you." Then He breathed on them all and told them to receive the Holy Spirit.



The Passover Week

So ends the seven days of the "Passover Week." What started out as a triumphal entry into Jerusalem ended up an even more triumphal resurrection. As Christ is our example, so we who believe on the name of Jesus shall, also like Him, rise again and will forever be with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Forty days after His resurrection Christ makes His ascension back into heaven and ten days later Christ fulfills another promise on the "Day of Pentecost" and sends them the Holy Ghost which will give them power from on high.


Prophecy:

Acts 1:4-5, "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."



Rev. 1:18, "I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death."

A Personal Perspective

here has been much debate over the events of this week and the exact day they happened. Though understanding the correct sequence of events is important, it should never overshadow the most important of all the events and that is the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. All the other events of that week pale in importance to the proper understanding of this one single event and its impact on the human race and all mankind.

I will now try to back up a bit and re-examine some of the controversial questions.

- The Sabbath Day question: Let's clear up a misunderstanding commonly made by most all Gentile believers. The Sabbath day (Saturday) is not the only "Sabbath" observance for Israel. The fact of the matter is that ALL the feasts of Israel were considered "Sabbaths." This particular week, the Jews had two Sabbaths, the Feast of Unleavened Bread which began with Passover (Nisan 14) and the weekly Sabbath (Saturday).
- The Three Days and Three Nights Issue: The Jewish people believe that a day is from sundown to sundown. One full day equals 24 hours, one rotation of the earth. Three of these would equal 72 hours. This is how long Christ said He would be in the belly of the earth and compared it to Jonah being in the belly of the fish. We cannot count half a day or some part of a day. In order for the prophecy to be true, it must also be correct and accurate. A day is one 24 hour period, not a part of a day or 3 hours of a day. Christ was buried in the grave for a full 72 hour, period, or else Jesus was lying to us, and had betrayed His own culture. Reference scriptures Mt.12:40, 27:63; Jn.2:19; 1 Cor.15:4
- Did Christ die on Friday as traditional taught: Two big issues pop out at me here. One, there was simply not enough time for Christ to be in the grave three days and three nights as He prophesied, and second, the scriptures are clear that He died on Passover, being the Lamb of God that was slain for our sins. (Jesus would have had to be slain on the Passover along with the lambs that the priests were slaying for the people less than a mile away). According to the Law of Moses and of God (Lev.23:5; Num.28:16) the Passover was to be observed every year on the 14th day of the month of Nisan. On this week in that year the 14th day of Nisan fell on Wednesday, which began at 6pm on the 3rd day of the week.

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- Did the Resurrection happen on Sunday Morning? If Christ rose from the grave on Sunday, it would mean that He would have been in the grave longer than three days and three nights and again it would make Him out to be a liar, because He would not have fulfilled His own prophecy (Mt.12:40). Out of all the gospel accounts of what happened on Sunday morning, including the gospel of John, only Mark seems to allude to Christ rising early on the first day of the week. All the other accounts only tell us that the women went to the tomb and the angels rolled away the stone (or they would have had to do it) so the women could see that Jesus had ALREADY risen. No time frame is put on when He arose; it is purely speculation on anyone's part as to when He arose, except that Jesus told us when He would rise, after three days and three nights. This time frame would put the resurrection between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. of the Sabbath Nisan 17 three days later.

So what about that account given to us by Mark? Mark 16:9, "Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons." Anyone with a Strong's concordance and half an effort can resolve this problem very easily. This seems to be a problem with the translators, the phrase "*first [day] of the week*" (the word "day" is interjected and assumed by the translators and put in brackets [day]) if you looked it up in Strong's the reference number is #4521 and refers to the Sabbath and not Sunday. If you were to look this scripture up in the original Greek, you would find that it actually says, "*having risen and early on the first of the Sabbath.*" It does appear that Mark agrees with the other gospels and John after all.

A correct scenario would then be that Christ rose from the dead as He said He would, three days and nights after He died. Having died on Passover, Nisan 14, He would then rise up again Nisan 17, on or about the same time He died or was laid in the tomb. Lets suppose it was closer to the 6 p.m. hour, because Joseph of Arimathaea would need time to go to Pilate to ask for the body, wait for the centurion to confirm to Pilate that Jesus was indeed dead and then get back to the cross and get the body down and wrap it up and then carry it to the tomb. All this being done, Jesus would have been laid in the tomb closer to 6 p.m., which would mean He could have risen closer to 6 p.m. on the Sabbath. For the Jews, the first day of the week (Sunday) started at 6 p.m. However being the Sabbath (Lu.23:56) the first chance the women would have had to go to the tomb would be early Sunday morning as the sun came up. The women would not have been able to move the stone away from the tomb by themselves. Perhaps they thought the soldiers would help them since they were going to anoint the body, not steal it.

Christ Hours on the Cross

Jn. 19:26-27 Jesus said to his mother, "Woman behold your son!" Then said he to the disciple, "Behold your mother."

Lu. 23:43 Jesus said to him, ... "Today you shall be with me in Paradise"

Lu. 23:40-42 But the other answering rebuked him ... "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Lu. 23:39 One of the men railed on him, "if you are Christ, save yourself and us."

Lu. 23:36-37 The soldiers also mocking him saying, "if you be the King of the Jews, save yourself."

Mk. 15:31 The Chief Priest mocking him said "He saved others himself he cannot save."

Mk. 15:33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

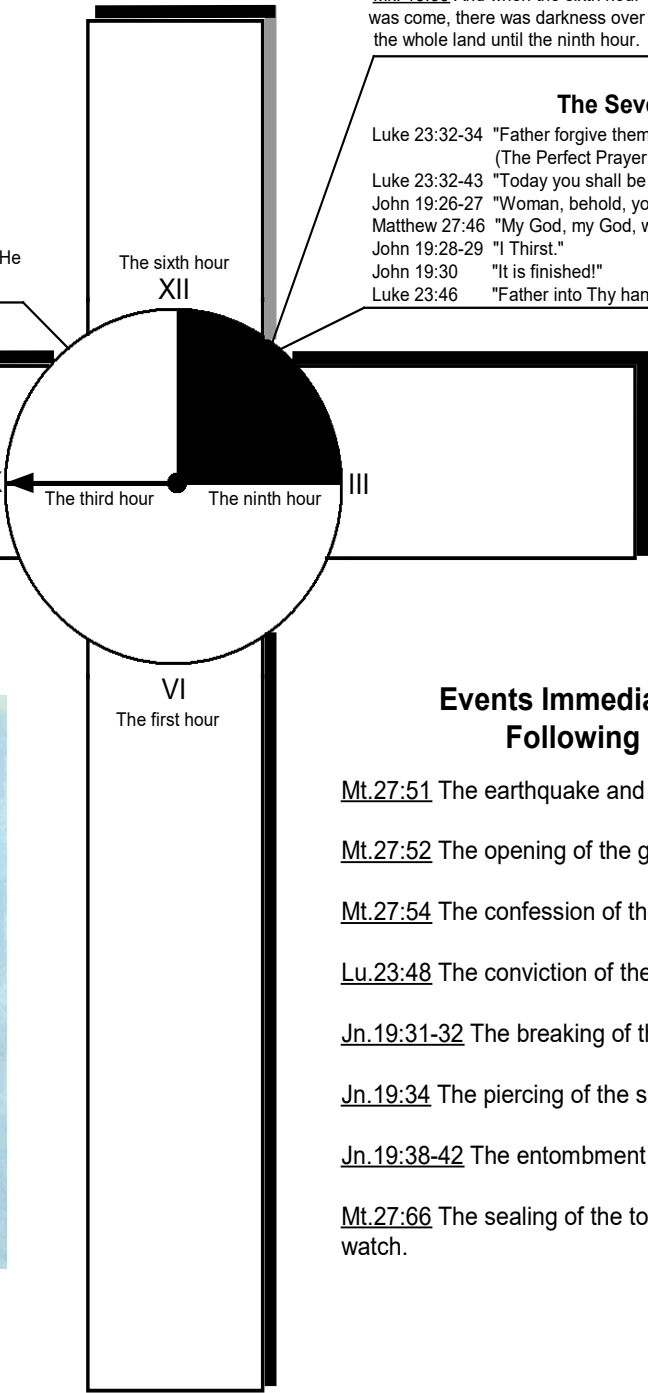
The Seven last sayings

- Luke 23:32-34 "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." (The Perfect Prayer)
- Luke 23:42-43 "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Eternal Life Today)
- John 19:26-27 "Woman, behold, your son!" (Substituting for the Substitute)
- Matthew 27:46 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?"
- John 19:28-29 "I Thirst."
- John 19:30 "It is finished!"
- Luke 23:46 "Father into Thy hands I commend my spirit."

Mk. 15:24 The Soldiers parted his garments, casting lots upon them.

Lu. 23:34 Jesus said, Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Mk. 15:25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.










Events Immediately Following

- Mt.27:51 The earthquake and the rending of the temple.
- Mt.27:52 The opening of the graves.
- Mt.27:54 The confession of the centurion.
- Lu.23:48 The conviction of the multitude.
- Jn.19:31-32 The breaking of the legs of the thieves.
- Jn.19:34 The piercing of the side of Jesus.
- Jn.19:38-42 The entombment
- Mt.27:66 The sealing of the tomb and the setting of the watch.



The Day Christ Died

<p style="color: blue; font-size: small;">Tuesday Night (Gentile)</p> <p style="color: blue; font-size: small;">Wednesday (Gentile Calendar)</p> <p style="color: blue; font-size: small;">Wednesday Nisan 14 (Jewish Calendar)</p>	<p>6 PM Evening (Sunset)</p> <p>Night</p> <p>12 AM</p> <p>Early Morning</p> <p>Daybreak 6 AM</p> <p>Morning</p> <p>9 AM</p> <p>12 PM</p> <p>3 PM</p> <p>Late Afternoon 6 PM Early Evening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus washes disciples feet and institutes the symbols of the bread and wine. • Jesus foretells His betrayal and disciples desertion. • Jesus prays for His church. Mt.26:26-30; Mk.14:27-23; Lu.22:14-23; Jn13:3-17,36-38, Chapt14-17. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Gethsemane, Christ prays. The disciples fall asleep. An angel appears and strengthens Christ. Mt.26: 36-46; Lu.22:43 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judas arrives with a mob. Christ is seized • The disciples forsake Him. Mt.26:47-56 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ taken to Annas, questioned and sent to Caiaphas. • Peter denies Christ Jn.18:12-24 • The Sanhedrin, through false witness, tries to condemn Christ for blasphemy. Mt.26:57-66 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter denies Christ a second and third time. Mk14:70-72; Lu.22:58-62 • Christ is mocked and beaten Lu.22:63-65 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judas is remorseful, hangs himself. Mt.27:3-10 • Pilate questions Christ, then returns Him to Herod Lu.23:1-7 • Herod questions Christ then returns Him to Pilate Lu.23:8-11 • Pilate seeks to release Christ but the people reject Him. • Christ is scourged and led to Golgotha Mt.27:15-26, Mk.15:21-22, Jn.19:1-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ crucified between two robbers Mk.15:25-28 • Christ prays for His murderers forgiveness. Lu.23:34 • The Soldiers divide His garments. Mt.27:35 • Christ is scoffed at and mocked. Mt.27:39-44 • Christ asks John to care for Mary. Jn.19:25-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ tells the thief of the cross, "this day you will be with Me in Paradise." Lu.23:43 • Darkness over the land. Mt.27:45 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ is given wine vinegar. • Christ speaks His last words and dies. Lu.23:46; Jn.19:28-30, 34-37 • The Vail of the Temple is torn in two from the top to the bottom • An earthquake which split rocks and opens graves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph of Arimathea claims Christ's body. • He and Nicodemus prepared it for burial. Christ's body is laid in Joseph's new tomb. Mt.27:60; Mk.15:42-46; Jn.19:38-42 	      
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Mt. 27:39,40 They that passed by reviled him saying ... "If you be the son of God, come down from the cross."

*The Report of Pontius Pilate,
Procurator of Judaea Sent to Rome
to Tiberius Caesar.*

⁴⁰SECOND GREEK FORM.

To the most mighty, venerable, awful, most divine, the august,--Pilatus Pontius, the governor of the East: I have to report to thy reverence, through this writing of mine, being seized with great trembling and fear, O most mighty emperor, the conjuncture of the present times, as the end of these things has shown. For while I, my lord, according to the commandment of thy clemency, was discharging the duties of my government, which is one of the cities of the East, Jerusalem by name, in which is built the temple of the Jewish nation, all the multitude of the Jews came together, and delivered to me a certain man named Jesus, bringing against him many and groundless charges; and they were not able to convict him in anything.

And one heresy of theirs against him was that he said that the Sabbath was not their right rest. And that man wrought many cures, in addition to good works. He made the blind see; he cleansed lepers; he raised the dead; he healed paralytics who could not move at all, except that they only had their voice and the joining of their bones; and he gave them the power of walking about and running, commanding them by a single word. And another mightier work he did, which was strange even with our gods: he raised up a dead man, Lazarus, who had been dead four days, by a single word ordering the dead man to be raised, although his body was already corrupted by the worms that grow in wounds; and that ill-smelling body lying in the tomb he ordered to run; and as a bridegroom from the bridal chamber, so he came forth out of the tomb, filled with exceeding fragrance.

And some that were cruelly vexed by demons, and had their dwellings in deserts, and ate the flesh of their own limbs, and lived along with reptiles and wild beasts, he made to be dwellers in cities in their own houses, and by a word he rendered them sound-minded; and he made those that were troubled by unclean spirits to be intelligent and reputable; and sending away the demons in them into a

⁴⁰ <http://aggreen.net/bible/noncanon.html>

The Passover Week

herd of swine, he suffocated them in the sea. Another man, again, who had a withered hand, and lived in sorrow, and had not even the half of his body sound, he rendered sound by a single word.

And a woman that had a flow of blood for many years, so that, in consequence of the flowing of her blood, all the joining of her bones appeared, and were transparent like glass; and assuredly all the physicians had left her without hope, and had not cleansed her, for there was not in her a single hope of health: once, then, as Jesus was passing by, she took hold of the fringe of his clothes behind, and that same hour the power of her body was completely restored, and she became whole, as if nothing were the matter with her, and she began to run swiftly to her own city Paneas.

And these things indeed were so. And the Jews gave information that Jesus did these things on the Sabbath. And I also ascertained that the miracles done by him were greater than any which the gods whom we worship could do.

Him then Herod and Archelaus and Philip, and Annas and Caiaphas, with all the people, delivered to me to try him. And as many were exciting an insurrection against me, I ordered him to be crucified.

And when he had been crucified, there was darkness over the whole earth, the sun having been completely hidden, and the heaven appearing dark though it was day, so that the stars appeared, but had at the same time their brightness darkened, as I suppose your reverence is not ignorant of, because in all the world they lighted lamps from the sixth hour until evening. And the moon, being like blood, did not shine the whole night, and yet she happened to be at the full. And the stars also, and Orion, made a lament about the Jews, on account of the wickedness that had been done by them.

And on the first of the week, about the third hour of the night, the sun was seen such as it had never at any time shone, and all the heaven was lighted up. And as lightnings come on in winter, so majestic men of indescribable splendour of dress and of glory appeared in the air, and an innumerable multitude of angels crying out, and saying: Glory in the highest to God, and on earth peace, among men goodwill: come up out of Hades, ye who have been kept in slavery in the underground regions of Hades. And at their voice all the mountains and hills were shaken, and the rocks were burst asunder; and great chasms were made in the earth, so that also what was in the abyss appeared. And there were seen in that terror dead men raised up, as the Jews that saw them said: We have seen Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the twelve patriarchs, that died two thousand

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five hundred years ago; and we have seen Noah manifestly in the body. And all the multitude walked about, and sang praises to God with a loud voice, saying: The Lord our God that has risen from the dead has brought to life all the dead, and has plundered Hades, and put him to death.

All that night therefore, my lord, O king, the light ceased not. And many of the Jews died, and were engulfed and swallowed up in the chasms in that night, so that not even their bodies appeared. Those, I say, of the Jews suffered that had spoken against Jesus. And one synagogue was left in Jerusalem, since all those synagogues that had been against Jesus were engulfed.

From that fear, then, being in perplexity, and seized with much trembling, at that same hour I ordered what had been done by them all to be written; and I have reported it to thy mightiness.

The History of Easter

⁴¹A Dictionary Definition: The best dictionary definition of Easter is found in the root of its meaning from the mythical goddess 'EOSTRE' (also known as Ostara or Ishtar), a goddess of the dawn and spring.

Its History

⁴²Since its conception as a holy celebration in the second century, Easter has had its non-religious side. In fact, Easter was originally a pagan festival.

The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Eastre. When the second-century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations, they attempted to convert them to Christianity. They did so, however, in a clandestine manner.

It would have been suicide for the very early Christian converts to celebrate their holy days with observances that did not coincide with celebrations that already existed. To save lives, the missionaries cleverly decided to spread their religious message slowly throughout the populations by allowing them to continue to celebrate pagan feasts, but to do so in a Christian manner.

As it happened, the pagan festival of Eastre occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. It made sense, therefore, to alter the festival itself, to make it a Christian celebration as converts were slowly won over. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed to its modern spelling, Easter.

The Date of Easter

Prior to A.D. 325, Easter was variously celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by Emperor Constantine. It issued the Easter Rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. However, a caveat must be introduced here. The

⁴¹ <http://www.shalom-peace.com/easter.html>

⁴² <http://wilstar.com/holidays/easter.htm>

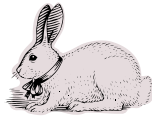
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"full moon" in the rule is the ecclesiastical full moon, which is defined as the fourteenth day of a tabular lunation, where day 1 corresponds to the ecclesiastical New Moon. It does not always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon. The ecclesiastical "vernal equinox" is always on March 21. Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.

The Cross

The Cross is the symbol of the Crucifixion, as opposed to the Resurrection. However, at the Council of Nicaea, in A.D. 325, Constantine decreed that the Cross was the official symbol of Christianity. The Cross is not only a symbol of Easter, but it is more widely used, especially by the Catholic Church, as a year-round symbol of their faith.

The Easter Bunny



The Easter Bunny is not a modern invention. The symbol originated with the pagan festival of Eastre. The goddess, Eastre, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit.

The Germans brought the symbol of the Easter rabbit to America. It was widely ignored by other Christians until shortly after the Civil War. In fact, Easter itself was not widely celebrated in America until after that time.

The Easter Egg



As with the Easter Bunny and the holiday itself, the Easter Egg predates the Christian holiday of Easter. The exchange of eggs in the springtime is a custom that was centuries old when Easter was first celebrated by Christians.

From the earliest times, the egg was a symbol of rebirth in most cultures. Eggs were often wrapped in gold leaf or, if you were a peasant, colored brightly by boiling them with the leaves or petals of certain flowers.

History of Easter in America⁴³

Easter did not enjoy the status of a popular festival among the early settlers in America. Because most of them were Puritans or members of Protestant Churches who had little use for the ceremonies of any religious festivals. Even the Puritans in Massachusetts tried their best to play down the celebration of Easter as far as possible. While various rites are said to be associated with the celebration of Easter, most of them have come as part of the ancient spring rites in the Northern hemisphere.

Not until the period of the Civil War did the message and meaning of Easter begin to be expressed as it had been in Europe. It was the initiative of the Presbyterians. The scars of death and destruction which led people back to the Easter season. They found the story of resurrection as a great source of inspiration and renewed hope.

Easter and the Bible

Wrongfully Inserted

⁴⁴To give legitimacy to the Easter holiday the King James translators inserted into the Bible (Acts 12:4), the term 'EASTER', which in reality should read 'PASSOVER'.

The above reference to Easter appears only once in the entire Bible. Yet, with all the carrying on in reference to Easter parades, Easter bunnies, Easter eggs, Easter sunrise services, Easter this and Easter that, ad infinitum, one would expect that THE HOLY BIBLE would be replete with Scripture after Scripture mentioning the word 'EASTER'. It's not. If anything should have been spoken of and written about, even celebrated, in connection with The Resurrection of Our Messiah, The LORD Jesus Christ, it should have been the 'PASSOVER'.

What I don't agree with is the inclusion of a pagan mythical goddess (Eostre), and all of the trappings that go along with it; the mixing of pagan and heathen customs with The Resurrection of Our LORD Jesus Christ.

⁴³ http://www.theholidayspot.com/easter/history/us_easter_roots.htm

⁴⁴ <http://www.shalom-peace.com/easter.html>

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Worship of the Sun?

Therefore, Easter, and the eggs, and the bunnies, and the sunrise services (worship of the sun and not the SON) are all opposite to the Scriptural and truthful meaning of The Resurrection of The LORD Jesus Christ. By the way, if you read correctly the account describing when Y'shua (Jesus) rose from the dead, you will then understand that the resurrection took place while it was dark (night-time). So, why do those who represent Christianity insist on remembering The Resurrection after the sun rises? It is because of the pagan influences. It is not only of the mythical goddess 'Eastre', but also the heathen practice of worshipping the sun as another mythical and pagan god.

Mark 7:7 “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Information Sources

- Feast of Israel – From the WEB
“<http://www.christcenteredmall.com/teachings/feasts/>”
 - NonCanonical Gospels and Other Writings – From the WEB
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