

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS CONCERNING
THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Passion Week Dates and Times

Date: April 9-16, AD 30

Because of the tradition of men and the ignorance of the Scriptures (*Matt. 22:29 - But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."*) Did Jesus die on Good Friday and rise on Easter Sunday as many believe and teach? What does the Bible say?

Jesus said in *Matthew 12:40 - For just as Jonah was **three days and three nights** in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.* And in *Matthew 20:19, And deliver Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and **He will be raised on the third day.***

There was a difference in the **Roman** day, the **Jewish** day, and our own **present** day. The Roman day began at 6:00am and finished at 6:00am the next day. The Jewish day began at sunset (6:00pm) and finished at sunset (6:00pm) the next day. Our day begins at midnight and finishes at midnight the next day.

Keep in mind the Jewish day was 12 hours and the Jewish night was 12 hours. Hours in Bible times were divided into four divisions beginning at sunrise and ending at sundown. The third hour would be 9:00am/pm, the sixth hour would be 12pm/am, the ninth hour would be 3:00pm/am, and the twelfth hour would be 6:00pm/am.

Dates for AD 30

Sunday – April 9

Monday – April 10

Tuesday – April 11

Wednesday – April 12

Thursday – April 13

Friday – April 14

Saturday – April 15

Sunday – April 16

AD 28 – Nisan 14 took place starting on Sunday evening, March 30th (start of Monday for Jews)

AD 29 – Nisan 14 took place starting on Wednesday evening, April 5th (start of Thursday for Jews)

AD 30 – Nisan 14 took place starting on Wednesday evening, April 12th (start of Thursday for Jews)

AD 31 – Nisan 14 took place starting on Sunday evening, April 1st (start of Monday for Jews)

AD 32 – Nisan 14 took place starting on Thursday evening, April 18th (start of Friday for Jews)

AD 33 – Nisan 14 took place starting on Tuesday evening, April 8th (start of Wednesday for Jews)

Time and Dates for the month of Nisan AD 30

Nisan 10 – Our time is 6pm (Saturday) to 6pm on Sunday. The Passover lamb was to be chosen on Nisan 10. This was between Saturday evening (6pm our time) and Sunday evening (6pm our time). It was this timeframe that Jesus rode into Jerusalem to become our Sacrificial Lamb.

Nisan 11 – Our time is 6pm (Sunday) to 6pm on Monday. Jesus cleanses the Temple (Mark 11:15-18)

Nisan 12 – Our time is 6pm (Monday) to 6pm on Tuesday. Jesus gives His disciples a sermon illustration of the widow throwing in her two copper coins thus showing them the value of sacrificial giving, which He is about to do by going to the cross.

Nisan 13 – Our time is 6pm (Tuesday) to 6pm on Wednesday. Mary anoints the feet of Jesus in preparation for His death.

Nisan 14 – Our time is 6pm (Wednesday) to 6pm on Thursday.

- A. Passover meal celebrated.
- B. Jesus institutes the New Covenant.
- C. Goes to Gethsemane.
- D. Gets arrested.
- E. Crucified as a criminal.
- F. Dies on the cross.
- G. Buried in a borrowed tomb and the Jewish date is still Nisan 14 until 6pm on Thursday.

Nisan 15 – Our time is from 6pm (Thursday) to 6pm on Friday. Jesus is in the grave.

Nisan 16 – Our time is from 6pm (Friday) to 6pm on Saturday. Jesus is in the grave.

Historical timelines though preclude Christ dying any year before AD 29 or after AD 31. Thus, only possible year fully accounted for the crucifixion would be AD 30. This means Christ died on a Thursday on April 12th, AD 30.

Chronological Dates and Events That Transpire

1. The triumphal entry of Jesus took place on Sunday during the day (April 9th, AD 30).
2. Jesus is brought before Pilate at midnight on Wednesday night (April 12th, AD 30) (*John 19:14 - Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"* And early on the Thursday morning (*Matt. 27:1-2 - When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. 2 And they bound him and led him away and delivered Him over to Pilate the governor.*) (*Mark 15:1 - And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered Him over to Pilate.*)
3. Jesus is crucified at 9:00am on Thursday (April 13th, AD 30) - (*Mark 15:25 - And it was the third hour when they crucified Him.*) From the Old Testament we find that the Passover Lamb was killed on Nisan 14 which took place between Wednesday evening (6pm our time) and Thursday evening (6pm our time). As Christ was crucified during the day, this must have taken place during the daylight hours of Thursday, April 13th, AD 30.
4. At noon until 3:00pm there is darkness over all the land (*Matt. 27:45 - Now from the sixth hour (12 noon) there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour (3pm).*)
5. Jesus dies at about 3:00pm (*Matt. 27:46, 50 - And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ... 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.*)
6. Jesus is buried before 6:00pm when the High Sabbath began (*Mark 15:42 - And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, **the day before the Sabbath** (which would begin at 6pm – sunset).*)

*John 19:30-31 - When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for **that Sabbath was a high day**), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.*

In AD 30, the start of Sabbath began the evening of Wednesday, Nisan 14, at 6pm (sunset). In Jewish reckoning, the Jewish day started with the evening which would be Thursday for them (6pm – 6pm). In our time, Nisan 14 would be 6pm Wednesday and conclude at 6pm on Thursday. According to the Talmud and Rabbinical writings, any part of a day was considered as a full period of the day.

7. Jesus had to be buried before the High Sabbath began at 6:00pm (Thursday our time) – *Deut. 21:22-23 - And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.*
8. Jesus would be in the tomb just as Jonah was in the whale – *Matt. 12:40 - For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.* And in *Jonah 1:17 - And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish **three days and three nights.***
9. Timeline of the days and nights (corresponds to the chart below)
 - A. **The FIRST DAY** Christ was dead and “in the heart of the earth.” Remember that even a part of a day was considered a day by Jewish reckoning. This would have been from approximately 3pm – 6pm Thursday afternoon.
 - B. **The FIRST NIGHT** began on Thursday evening (6pm our time) in AD 30 which was the beginning of the High Sabbath (start of Friday for the Jews). This was the Passover and coincides with Christ being our Passover Lamb. So, the first night was from 6pm (Thursday) until 6am (Friday).
 - C. **The SECOND DAY** for Jesus would have started on Friday (6am our time) and concluded at the end of the High Sabbath which was on Friday evening (6pm our time).
 - D. **The SECOND NIGHT** started on Friday evening (6pm our time) and concluded on Saturday morning (6am our time). This was the regular Sabbath that always begins on Friday evening until Saturday evening (6pm our time). This was the start of Saturday for the Jews.
 - E. **The THIRD DAY** for Jesus would have started on Saturday (6am our time) and concluded at the end of the regular Sabbath which was on Saturday evening (6pm our time).
 - F. **The THIRD NIGHT** started on Saturday evening (6pm our time) and concluded before Sunday morning (6am our time.) The start of the new day (our Sunday) for the Jews was Saturday evening (our time).
9. **CHRIST AROSE!** This means that Christ arose sometime between Saturday evening (6pm our time) and Sunday morning (6am our time). This was the start of Jesus being our Eternal Sabbath. Never again would the requirement to hold to the Jewish Sabbath be applied to any true believer.
10. Timeline of the women
 - A. Purchased and prepared spices. Could only have been between 3-6pm on Thursday (before the High Sabbath began) or if the market was open on Saturday evening after 6pm when the regular Sabbath ended.
 - B. Came very early in the morning on the first day of the week (Sunday our time) – *Luke 24:1*
 - C. Came while still dark (*John 20:21; Matt. 28:6*). Sunrise was between 5:45-6:15am on April 16, AD 30.
 - D. Came at the rising of the sun (*Mark 16:2*)

E. When the women got to the tomb before sunrise on Sunday, April 9, AD 29 (or April 16, AD 30), He had already risen from the dead (*Matt. 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6; John 20:1*).

Concluding thoughts -

The reality is that there are several different calendars that were in play almost 2000 years ago and different ways of telling the year and the date. However, we know that it is NOT possible to get 3 days and nights (or parts thereof) between Friday and Sunday if Christ was crucified on Friday and buried late that afternoon.

Friday was actually a Roman Catholic invention designed to feed the treasury of the church. They decided to inform the faithful that they could only eat fish on Fridays in order to save money that they were to put in the offering in order to atone for their own sins or the sins of those relatives who had gone into eternity before them. In reality, the Bible (New Testament) does not ever condemn the eating of any kind of meat on any particular day and we are certainly not commanded to do so in order to remember the death of Christ.

Besides the quandary of the actual day and the date, the most vital truth that cannot be overlooked is this – Jesus Christ, the Perfect Spotless Lamb of God, the One Who knew no sin, became sin for us in order that we (lost, condemned, and worthless sinners) might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21).

While I personally believe Christ died on a Thursday (our timeframe), there are some who believe that He died on a Wednesday, while the vast majority of Roman Catholics and Protestants believe that He died on a Friday. We will forever give thanks to our Savior that He was willing to come and die on any day though whether it was a Wednesday, Thursday, or a Friday. Regardless of the day of the week, Sunday was coming and Christ arose triumphant over death, hell, and the grave. He ascended back to the Father where He sits at the right hand of God ever living to make intercession for us and one day, He will return for His bride in the same manner He left.