



Palm Sunday to Easter

A TIMELINE THROUGH SCRIPTURE

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Introduction

- ▶ When we think of celebrating Easter each year, we usually begin with the observance of Palm Sunday, a remembrance of the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem (fulfilling Old Testament prophecy to the very day) as He was lauded as the King and Messiah by those who lined the road. But in order to understand the true significance of these events we need a clear picture of the actual time line. A careful examination of the Gospel accounts of this last week gives us a picture of what Jesus was doing and where He was each day of the week before He was crucified and raised from the dead in order to redeem His people.
- ▶ So where was Jesus and what did He do and say each day of the last week before His crucifixion? Here is the Biblical text from the Gospel accounts arranged chronologically to be read this week so that you might study what happened daily with Jesus and the disciples.

Passover

- ▶ Background: The First Passover – Israel and the Exodus
- ▶ Exodus 12; Lev. 23:4-5; Num. 28:16-25; Deut. 16:1-8
- ▶ The month of Abib, which means “green” or “tender”, was renamed Nisan, which means “first month”, after the Exile in Babylon. See Nehemiah 2:1; Ezra 3:7
- ▶ Abib (or Nisan) was the first month in the Jewish year and falls in March/April on our current calendar. On the Tenth Day the families selected the Passover Lamb which was brought into the home as a pet and cared for until the time of preparing the Passover meal. On the Fourteenth Day the sacrifice of the lamb occurred between 3-5 pm, followed by the Passover meal where the lamb was cooked and eaten according to the regulations given in Exodus and Leviticus. On the Fifteenth to Twenty-first Days the Jews celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Eight Days

- ▶ Here are the Selected Scriptures arranged chronologically from the Four Gospels for each day of the Week.
- ▶ 1. Sunday – Matt. 20:17-34; Mark 10:32-52; Luke 18:31-43
- ▶ 2. Monday – Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-15
- ▶ 3. Tuesday – Matt. 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46
- ▶ 4. Wednesday – Matt. 21:18 – 26:16; Mark 11:11 – 14:11; Luke 20:1 – 22:6
- ▶ 5. Thursday – Matt. 26:17-75; Mark 14:12-72; Luke 22:7-62; John. 13:21 – 18:27
- ▶ 6. Friday – Matt. 27:1-61; Mark 15:1-47; Luke 22:66 – 23:55; John 18:28 – 19:42
- ▶ 7. Saturday – Matt.27:62-66; Luke 23:56
- ▶ 8. Sunday – Matt. 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-6; Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1-8

Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

- ▶ Sunday, the 9th Day of Nisan, A.D. 33
- ▶ Matt. 20:17-34; Mark 10:32-52; Luke 18:31-43
- ▶ Matt. 20:17 Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, 18 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”

Triumphal Entry

- ▶ Monday, the 10th Day of Nisan, A.D. 33:
- ▶ Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-15
- ▶ Triumphal Entry - Yes it happened on Monday, not Sunday, but we celebrate it on Sunday as we gather for worship. This was the very day that the Passover Lamb was chosen by Jewish families and brought into the house. Jesus entered Jerusalem and was proclaimed by the people to be their King. They cried out “Hosanna” which means “Save Now”, and was a fulfillment of Psalm 118.
- ▶ The Triumphal Entry happened TO THE DAY that it was prophesied to happen according to Zech. 9:9; Daniel 9:25; and Neh. 2:6.
- ▶ Technical Note: Jews who lived in the northern part of the country, Galilee, kept time a little differently than those in the south region of Judea. As a result, in Jesus’ day they celebrated the Passover a day early, on Thursday. Those to the south would celebrate on Friday. Jesus was from the north, remember that He was from Nazareth in Galilee, so He and His disciples celebrated according to the northern calendar on Thursday. But the rest of Jerusalem would be celebrating on Friday.

Cleansing the Temple

- ▶ Tuesday, the 11th Day of Nisan, A.D. 33
- ▶ Matt. 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46
- ▶ Mark 11:12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany...15 So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. 17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" 18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.

Three Days and Three Nights

- ▶ Wednesday, the 12th Day of Nisan, A.D. 33 – Jesus' Last Parables
- ▶ Matt. 21:18 – 26:16; Mark 11:11 – 14:11; Luke 20:1 – 22:6
- ▶ NOTE: Here is what did NOT happen on this day - Jesus was not crucified on Wednesday!
- ▶ This really should not be a controversial question, but it tends to be based upon one verse of Scripture. 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." Some take this verse to mean that Jesus had to be crucified on Wednesday. In order to be in the grave a full three days and three nights Jesus could not have been crucified on Friday, which is the day traditionally remembered as the day of the week Jesus died.
- ▶ If He was crucified on Wednesday, then here is how He was in the grave "three days and three nights":
 - Night 1 – Wednesday night / Day 1 – Thursday
 - Night 2 – Thursday night / Day 2 – Friday
 - Night 3 – Friday night / Day 3 – Saturday
- ▶ Resurrected after sunset Saturday, which would have been considered Sunday morning. However...

Three Days and Three Nights

- ▶ When you understand that the phrase “three days and three nights” is idiomatic, that is, that it simply means “three days” and can be taken as whole days or even a part of three separate days, then it makes sense that He was crucified on Friday.
- ▶ Further, other than this one verse in Matthew where the phrase is used, every other reference to three days says that Jesus will be raised on the third day, not after three days and nights. Look at the other verses that speak to this:
- ▶ Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.
- ▶ Matt 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.”
- ▶ Mark 9:31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

Three Days and Three Nights

- ▶ Mark 10:34 and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”
- ▶ Luke 9:22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”
- ▶ Luke 24:7 saying, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”“
- ▶ Acts 10:40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly.

Three Days and Three Nights

- ▶ So then when we understand that “three days and three nights” means any part of three days, we see that Jesus was crucified on Friday and put in the tomb before sundown. That means we have:
- ▶ Day 1 – Friday
- ▶ Day 2 – Saturday
- ▶ Day 3 – Sunday
- ▶ And He was raised, according to all of these other verses, on the third day, on Sunday. To say otherwise is to allow an idiomatic phrase used in one verse to obscure all the other verses that are clear as to the fact of the resurrection being on the third day, not after three days and nights.

The Upper Room

- ▶ Thursday, the 13th Day of Nisan, A.D. 33
- ▶ Matt. 26:17-75; Mark 14:12-72; Luke 22:7-62; John. 13:1 – 18:27
- ▶ The Upper Room
- ▶ Jesus washed His disciples' feet, observed the Passover with them and during the meal instituted the Lord's Supper, left for the Garden of Gethsemane, was betrayed and arrested, and went through the first of three trials, this one by the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious court.
- ▶ Look at all that Jesus said and did in this one evening with His disciples – John 13:1-18:27.

Judas at the Last Supper

- ▶ The Gospel of Luke gives us the sequence of events topically and not chronologically. In Luke it appears as if Judas ate the Last Supper with the Disciples and Christ, but examination of the other accounts shows us that he left before Jesus instituted the Supper from the Passover meal.
- ▶ Matt. 26:23 He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. 24 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 not been born." 25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

Judas at the Last Supper

- ▶ Mark 14:17 In the evening He came with the twelve. 18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me." 19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?" 20 He answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. 21 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." 22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

Judas at the Last Supper

- ▶ John 13:26 Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.” And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.” 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. 29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, “Buy those things we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. 30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.
- ▶ Why is this significant? Because when Jesus instituted the Supper He said, “This is My body which is given for you.” And He said “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.” (Particular Redemption)

Crucify Him!

- ▶ Friday, the 14th Day of Nisan, A.D. 33
- ▶ Matt. 27:1-61; Mark 15:1-47; Luke 22:66 – 23:55; John 18:28 – 19:42
- ▶ This day was the Passover for Pharisees and Sadducees from Jerusalem, in Judea to the south. Jesus was tried before Pilate, sent to be tried before Herod, returned to Pilate for the final judgment, sent to be scourged and was then offered to be released to the crowd. A political prisoner Barabbas released to the crowd instead by the crowds demands and Jesus was sent to be put to death.
- ▶ At the Crucifixion, Jesus died at the ninth hour (3 PM) which was the exact hour the Passover lambs were being sacrificed in Jerusalem for the Passover meal. He was buried in a borrowed tomb.

From Gethsemane to Golgotha

- ▶ 11:30 PM to 1:00 AM - The Garden of Gethsemane
- ▶ Matt. 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-11

- ▶ 3:00 AM The Trial before the High Priest
- ▶ Matt. 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:63-71; John 18:12-27

- ▶ During the Trial before the High Priest Peter Denies Christ
- ▶ Matt. 26:69-74; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62

From Gethsemane to Golgotha

- ▶ Dawn Friday - The Trial before the Sanhedrin
 - ▶ Matt. 27:1; Luke 22:66-71
- ▶ 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM - The Trials before Pilate and Herod
 - ▶ Matt. 27:2-28; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:15
- ▶ 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - The Place of the Skull
 - ▶ Matt. 27:29-66; Mark 15:21-47; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:16-42

Low in the Grave He Lay

- ▶ Saturday, the 15th of Nisan, AD 33:
- ▶ Matt.27:62-66; Luke 23:56

He is Risen!

- ▶ Sunday, 16th Day of Nisan, AD 33:
- ▶ Matt. 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-6; Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1-8
- ▶ Matthew 28: Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." 8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.