

On What Day Was Jesus Crucified?

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The traditional day is Friday
 - 1. The Scripture says that the Jews called for Pilate to hurry the deaths of the men on the cross, because the next day was Sabbath
 - 2. Sabbath is usually understood to be Saturday, therefore Friday was the day
- B. But there are some questions that arise, if Jesus was crucified on Friday
 - 1. What of the missing day? (see section III)
 - 2. What of the 3 days and 3 nights prophecy of Jesus? (see section IV)

II. AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF INFORMATION IS OFTEN NEGLECTED, WHEN CALCULATING WHAT DAY THE SABBATH WAS BEFORE JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

- A. Holy days were considered to be a _____, sometimes called a "_____ " (John 19:31 — "Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that _____ was a _____ day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.")
- B. Examples of such holy days...
 - 1. _____: Ex. 12:14-20
 - a) no _____
 - b) date: first month of the Jewish lunar calendar, 14th day
 - 2. Atonement: Lev. 23:26-32
 - a) no _____
 - b) date: seventh month of the Jewish calendar, tenth day
- C. Dates that occur on the same calendar date every year will be on different _____ of the _____ from year to year
 - 1. Example:
 - a) July 4
 - b) Christmas
 - c) your birthday
 - 2. So also with Jewish holy days
 - 3. Therefore holy days could fall on _____ day of the week from year to year
 - 4. Therefore a high Sabbath (and the day before) could fall on any day of the week from year to year
- D. John (19:31) refers to the Sabbath of the crucifixion week as a "high Sabbath"

III. THE PASSION WEEK IN THE GOSPELS

- A. See Table A for Crucifixion on Thursday Scenario
- B. See Table B for Crucifixion on Friday Scenario

IV. THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE TOMB (MATT. 12:40)

- A. Matt. 12:40 — "for just as JONAH WAS _____ DAYS AND _____ NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be _____ days and _____ nights in the heart of the earth."
- B. See Table C for Three Days and Three Nights Comparison

Table A — Crucifixion on Thursday Scenario

Day of the week	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Events
Sunday (6pm Sat. through 6pm Sun.)	21:1-12, 14-17	11:1-11	19:29-44	12:12-19	Triumphal entry, entering the Temple, healing
Monday (6pm Sun. through 6pm Mon.)	21:18,19,12,13	11:12-18	19:45-58		“on the morrow”(Matt. 21:18) — Cursing the barren fig tree, cleansing of the Temple
Tuesday (6pm Mon. through 6pm Tues.)	21:20—25:46	11:19—13:37	20:1—21:38	12:20-50	“As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up” (Mk. 11:19,20) — Rreligious leaders question Jesus, prophecy of the doom of Jerusalem
Wednesday (6pm Tues. through 6pm Wed.)	26:1-19	14:1-16	22:1-13		“Now after two days was the feast of the Passover and the unleavened bread” (Mk.14:1) — Jesus instructs the apostles to prepare for the Passover,
Thursday (6pm Wed. through 6pm Thurs.)	26:20ff	14:17ff	22:14ff	13:1—19:42	the Lord’s Supper instituted, Gethsemane, arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial — Jesus in the tomb, day 1
Friday (6pm Thurs. through 6pm Fri.)					Passover begins; Jesus in the tomb, night 1, day 2
Saturday (6pm Fri. through 6pm Sat.)					Jesus in the tomb, night 2, day 3
Sunday (6pm Sat. through 6pm Sun.)	28:1ff	16:1ff	24:1ff	20:1ff	“at early dawn, while it was yet dark, came Mary Magdalene early and the other Mary...” — Jesus in the tomb, night 3; Christ’s resurrection before sunrise

Table B — Crucifixion on Friday Scenario

Day of the week	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Events
Sunday (6pm Sat. through 6pm Sun.)	21:1-12, 14-17	11:1-11	19:29-44	12:12-19	Triumphal entry, entering the Temple, healing
Monday (6pm Sun. through 6pm Mon.)	21:18,19,12,13	11:12-18	19:45-58		“on the morrow”(Matt. 21:18) — Cursing the barren fig tree, cleansing of the Temple
Tuesday (6pm Mon. through 6pm Tues.)	21:20—25:46	11:19—13:37	20:1—21:38	12:20-50	“As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up” (Mk. 11:19,20) — Rreligious leaders question Jesus, prophecy of the doom of Jerusalem
Wednesday (6pm Tues. through 6pm Wed.)					Nothing recorded
Thursday (6pm Wed. through 6pm Thurs.)	26:1-19	14:1-16	22:1-13		“Now after two days was the feast of the Passover and the unleavened bread” (Mk.14:1) — Jesus instructs the apostles to prepare for the Passover,
Friday (6pm Thurs. through 6pm Fri.)	26:20ff	14:17ff	22:14ff	13:1—19:42	the Lord’s Supper instituted, Gethsemane, arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial — Jesus in the tomb, day 1
Saturday (6pm Fri. through 6pm Sat.)					Passover begins; Jesus in the tomb, night 1, day 2
Sunday (6pm Sat. through 6pm Sun.)	28:1ff	16:1ff	24:1ff	20:1ff	“at early dawn, while it was yet dark, came Mary Magdalene early and the other Mary...” — Jesus in the tomb, night 3; Christ’s resurrection before sunrise

Burial Day Comparison

	Thursday Burial	Friday burial
Thursday	1 hour	—
Friday	24 hours	1 hour
Saturday	24 hours	24 hours
Sunday	6-12 hours	6-12 hours
TOTAL	55-61 hours	31-37 hours

Matt. 12:40 — “for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Table C — Three Days and Three Nights Comparison

	Thursday burial	Friday burial	Important details
Thursday night			
Thursday day	1 day		1 hour = 1 day
Friday night	1 night		
Friday day	2 days	1 day	1 hour = 1 day
Saturday night	2 nights	1 night	
Saturday day	3 days	2 days	
Sunday night	3 nights	2 nights	
Sunday day		3 days?	The women arrived at the tomb before or at sunrise*
Monday night		what happened to the 3rd night?	
TOTAL	3 days, 3 nights	3 days (?), 2 nights	

Keep in mind...

- Every day of the week starts at 6PM
- Any part of a day is counted as a day

When did Jesus arise?*

Matt. 28:1 Now 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.

Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.
2 Very early on the first day of the week, they *came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

Luke 24:1 But on the first day of the week, **at early dawn**, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

John 20:1 **Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene** *came early to the tomb, while it *was still dark, and *saw the stone already taken away from the tomb.