

The Passion

## **Jesus' Final Week**

A Day-by-Day Account  
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The following is a timeline of Jesus' final week leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection. There is much historical evidence that these events occurred during Nisan 8-16 (according to the Jewish calendar) or April 10-17 (according to the Roman calendar) in the year, A.D. 30. Passover spans 8 days and includes the Passover Feast (2 days before the Jewish Passover), the Sacrificing of the Passover Lambs (the day before the Jewish Sabbath), concluding with the Observance of Passover (which takes place on the Jewish Sabbath).

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments clearly point to Jesus Christ as being the Passover Lamb given to take away the sins of the world. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament which point to the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus. Key texts include: Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, Jeremiah 23, Micah 5, Zechariah 9 and 11. Mathematical probability indicates that the chances of only eight of these 300 being fulfilled are 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. These odds are statistically impossible apart from a sovereign God who knows the future.

### **Saturday, Nisan 7, A.D. 30 (April 9) - 6 days before Observance of Passover**

Jesus travels to Bethany (from Ephraim) and has dinner at Simon's house with Mary Magdalene, Martha, Lazarus (who Jesus raised from the dead), and the disciples. Jesus' feet anointed by Mary. A woman anoints Jesus' head (John 12:1-11, Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-8).

### **Sunday, Nisan 8, A.D. 30 (April 10) - 5 days before Observance of Passover**

Jesus' "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem, for what is now celebrated as "Palm Sunday" (John 12:12-19). The Pharisees are jealous over the attention Jesus is receiving from the crowds (John 12:19). This is also the day on which the lambs were selected for Passover (Exodus 12:3). Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44). After sunset, Jesus returns to Bethany (Mark 11:11).

### **Monday, Nisan 9, A.D. 30 (April 11) - 4 days before Observance of Passover**

Jesus, being hungry, curses the fig tree because, though it had leaves, it did not have any fruit (Mark 11:12-14). Early in the morning, Jesus teaches in the temple daily (Luke 21:37). Jesus cleanses the temple of the money changers. Chief Priests fear Jesus and seek to destroy him (Mark 11:15-18). Jesus spends the night praying in the Mount of Olives (Luke 21:37).

### **Tuesday, Nisan 10, A.D. 30 (April 12) - 3 days before Observance of Passover**

Early in the morning, Jesus teaches in the temple. On this morning, the Pharisees questioned Jesus about paying taxes, the Sadducees questioned Jesus about the Resurrection, the Scribes questioned Jesus about which is the Greatest Commandment, they all questioned Jesus' authority, and Jesus responded by questioning them all about Psalm 110:1, when King David refers to his descendent, the Messiah, as LORD (Luke 21:37, Matthew 22:22-40, Mark 11:27-33, Mark 12:1-44). Jesus predicts His

death on the cross, and a voice from heaven is heard by all the people around affirming Jesus' words (John 12:26-36). Jesus spends the night praying in the Mount of Olives (Luke 21:37).

### **Wednesday, Nisan 11, A.D. 30 (April 13) - 2 days before Observance of Passover**

The Bible doesn't say what the Lord did on the Wednesday of Passion Week. Scholars speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples spent this day resting in Bethany in anticipation of Passover. Judas contracts with the Pharisees to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16).

### **Thursday, Nisan 12, A.D. 30 (April 14) - Passover Feast: 1 day before the Observance of Passover**

In the morning, Jesus instructs the disciples to prepare for the Passover (Luke 22:7-13).

That same evening, Jesus washes his disciples' feet (John 13:1-17). Jesus and the disciples take the Passover Feast. Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper and the signs of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:17-25, Luke 22:14-22, John 13:2-32, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29). Jesus prophesies Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. Judas leaves (Matthew 26:20-25; 34, John 13:18-30; 38). Jesus teaches and prays for the 11 remaining disciples (John 14:1-17, Luke 22:35-37). Jesus and the disciples sing a hymn and go to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30). From about 9:00 p.m. to midnight, Jesus prays intensely, sweating as drops of blood, in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46, Luke 22:39-46).

### **Friday, Nisan 13, A.D. 30 (April 15) - Passover Lambs Sacrificed**

While praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (from about midnight to 3:00 a.m.), with his disciples, Jesus is arrested (Matthew 26:47-56, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-11). The disciples abandon Jesus and flee (Matthew 26:56). Early in the morning, before dawn (from about 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.), Jesus is brought to the house of Annas (the former High Priest), who is also Caiaphas' father-in-law, imprisoned, and unofficially put on trial (John 18:12-14). While Jesus is being questioned and put on trial by Annas, Peter denies that he knows Jesus (John 18:19-23). Jesus is struck by a Roman officer during his questioning (John 18:22-23). Jesus is sent to Caiaphas, the current High Priest, who also puts him on trial (Matthew 26:57). Jesus is mocked and beaten by the Roman soldiers (Luke 22:63-65). Jesus brought before the Sanhedrin, for a third trial, and is convicted of blasphemy, even though no testimony could be brought against him (Matthew 26:57-68, Luke 22:66-71). Peter denies Jesus twice more, and the rooster crows, as Jesus had prophesied (Matthew 26:69-75, John 18:25-27).

At dawn (from about 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.), Jesus is sent to Pontius Pilate (the Roman governor), for a fourth trial. Jesus is accused of making himself a king. This charge is brought against him by the Jewish religious leaders so that he would be found guilty under Roman law (Matthew 27:1-2). Judas, who betrayed Jesus, hangs himself (Matthew 27:3-10). Pilate finds no fault in Jesus (Matthew 27:11-14).

Pilate doesn't want to deal with Jesus, so he sends Him to Herod (since Jesus, being from Galilee, is under Herod's jurisdiction) for a fifth trial. Herod is exceedingly glad to see Jesus because of all that he has heard of him. Jesus is silent before Herod. Herod mocks Jesus and adorns him with a gorgeous

robe, then sends him back to Pilate. Interestingly, after Jesus' crucifixion, Pilate and Herod (who had always greatly dis-liked one another) became friends (Luke 23:6-12). Jesus is sent back to Pilate for a sixth trial (Luke 23:12). Jesus and Pilate converse in Pilate's court (John 18:33-38). Pilate confers with the Chief Priests and Elders about releasing Barabbas instead of Jesus. The Jewish crowd demands that Jesus be crucified (Matthew 27:15-23). Pilate's wife has a very disturbing dream about Jesus, and she tells him to have nothing to do with that "just man" (Matthew 27:19). Pilate washes his hands (to symbolize that he has nothing to do with the verdict about to be rendered), releases Barabbas, and has Jesus scourged (Matthew 27:22-26, Luke 23:13-17, John 18:39 – 19:1). Roman soldiers put a robe on Jesus and a crown of thorns on his head, then Pilate brings him out before the Jewish crowd (John 19:2-5).

Pilate converses again with Jesus, and upon this conversation, Pilate seeks hard to release Jesus. Pilate knew that Jesus was accused of claiming to be the Son of God, and he was beginning to fear that he actually may be (John 19:7-12). Pilate brings Jesus out to "the pavement" while he sits in the judgment seat (John 19:13-14), and he turns Jesus over to be crucified (Matthew 27:26-31, Luke 23:20-25, John 19:15-16).

Jesus, carrying his cross, is led away to Golgotha (the place of the skull) to be crucified (Matthew 27:31, John 19:17). Simon of Cyrene is pulled out of the crowd to help carry Jesus' cross (Matthew 27:32). Jesus speaks to women who are in mourning along the side of the road, as he passes by (Luke 23:27-31).

At around 9 a.m. on Friday, Jesus was crucified between two criminals (Mark 15:25, Luke 23:33, John 19:18). The sign posted above Jesus' head on the cross read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (Matthew 27:36, Mark 15:26, Luke 23:38, John 19:19). From around noon until 3:00 p.m., the sun darkened and there was darkness over the land (Matthew 27:45, Luke 23:44).

Jesus spoke His first words from the cross, when He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Roman soldiers gamble for Jesus' clothes, fulfilling the prophecy in Psalm 22:18 (Matthew 27:35, Luke 23:34, John 19:23-24). Soldiers mock Jesus and offer him sour wine to drink (Matthew 27:39-43). Jesus spoke His second words from the cross, in a conversation with one of the criminals, who acknowledges Jesus to be the Son of God. Jesus said to the criminal, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:39-43). Jesus spoke His third words from the cross when he speaks to Mary (his mother) and John the disciple, saying, "Woman, behold your son!" To John, Jesus says, "Behold, your mother!" (John 19:25-27). Jesus spoke His fourth words from the cross as he experiences the intensely painful and complete separation from the Father (for the first and only time in all eternity), "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" bringing reference to the prophecy in Psalm 22 (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34). Knowing all things were accomplished for the fulfillment of the scriptures, Jesus spoke His final words from the cross, saying, "I thirst" (John 19:28), "It is finished," and "Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit." Jesus gives up his Spirit and dies. The veil of the Temple is torn in two. The sun darkens completely. The earth quakes. Rocks split open. Tombs are broken open. (Matthew 27:45-53, Luke 23:44-46). The Roman Centurion and the

soldiers at the foot of the cross say, "Truly, this was the Son of God" and "Certainly, this was a righteous man" (Matthew 27:54, Luke 23:47). The Roman soldiers break the legs of the criminals, and pierce Jesus' side, fulfilling the prophecies in Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, and Psalm 34:20 that Jesus' bones would not be broken (John 19:31-37). Nicodemus (the Pharisee) brings spices and helps to prepare Jesus' body for burial (John 19:39). Joseph of Arimathea buries Jesus' body in his garden tomb, before the Sabbath starts at sunset (Matthew 27:57-61, Luke 23:50-55, John 19:38-42). Pilate secures the tomb with Roman guards to make sure that nothing happens (Matthew 27:62-66).

### **Saturday, Nisan 14, A.D. 30 (April 16) - Jewish Sabbath & Observance of Passover**

Sanctioned Passover Observance and the Passover lamb is eaten (Exodus 12:8-11).

Jesus' lifeless body lays dead in the tomb.

### **Sunday, Nisan 15, A.D. 30 (April 17) - The First Day of the Week**

Early Sunday morning, as the sun began to rise, Mary and Mary Magdalene brought spices to the tomb, but found that the stone has been rolled away and Jesus' body is not there! (Matthew 28:1-2, Luke 24:1-2, John 20:1). The earth quaked as an angel rolled away the stone. Mary and Mary Magdalene speak to the angel who tells them that Jesus has risen from the dead, just as he said he would. Then, the angel shows them the empty tomb (Matthew 28:3-7, Luke 24:3-8).

Mary Magdalene runs to tell John, Peter, and the rest of the disciples (John 20:2). Jesus meets Mary and Mary Magdalene on their way to the disciples (Matthew 28:9-10). Peter and John run to the tomb (John 20:3-10). Mary Magdalene is at the tomb, and she begins talking with who she thinks is the gardener. The person she thinks is the gardener is actually Jesus, but Mary doesn't recognize him until he calls her by name. Jesus speaks to Mary Magdalene at the tomb (John 20:11-17). After Jesus' resurrection, the bodies of the saints who had died were raised from the dead, they left the cemetery, walked into Jerusalem, and appeared to many people (Matthew 27:45-53).

The Chief Priests and Elders hear the news that Jesus' body is not in the tomb, so they bribe the guards to say that the disciples stole the body (Matthew 28:11-15). Jesus appears to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Jesus appears to the disciples, who were fearful and in hiding. Thomas doubts that it is really Jesus, and he doesn't believe until he can actually touch Jesus' nail pierced hands (Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:36-43, John 20:19-29). Jesus appears on the beach, with the disciples in Galilee, while they were out fishing. Jesus restores Peter (John 21:1-24).

### **The Next 40 Days**

Over the next 40 days, Jesus made many appearances (Acts 1:1-3) and was seen by a crowd of 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6). Jesus ascends into heaven (Luke 24:46-52, Acts 1:9-11).

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. They are given eternal life for believing in me and will never perish."*

*- Jesus Christ (from John 11:25,26)*