

Crucifixion Week Timeline

Scripture references are from the NKJV

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Always remember that the “day”/date begins at twilight (sunset) and ends at twilight (about 6pm).

Date/Day Month of Nissan		Event	Scripture	Notes
9 Friday	Day	Jesus arrives at Bethany	John 12:1	“6 days before the Passover” (That is the Passover week which starts on Nissan 15)
10 Saturday	Day	Triumphal Entry	Mt. 21:1-11, Mk. 11:1-10, Lu. 19:28-40, Jn. 12:12-19	10 th of Nissan fits well with Exodus 12:3-6. Jesus is taking the role of the Passover Lamb, to be inspected by the religious rulers who try to find a flaw in Jesus during the next four days. No passage states this was on the traditional “Palm Sunday”.
11 Sunday	Eve			
	Day	Temple Cleansed. Olivet Discourse in the afternoon into the eve of the next date.	Mt. 21:12-17, Mk. 11:15-19, Lu. 19:45-48	Mark places this on the “next day” after the triumphal entry. Mark 11:12
12 Monday	Eve	Olivet Discourse. See above	Mt. 24-25, Mk. 13, Lu. 21	
	Day			
13 Tuesday	Eve	Anointing?	Mt. 26:2-13, Mk. 14:1-9, Jn. 12:1-8	2 days before Passover (Passover week – starting Nissan 15]
	Day	Preparing the Passover. See note.	Mt. 26:17-20, Mk. 14:12-17, Lu. 22:7-14,	According to Moses, this is the date they should have been <i>preparing</i> to kill and eat the Passover lamb at twilight – which is the start of Nissan 14. See Exodus 12:6.

Date/Day Month of Nissan		Event	Scripture	Notes
14 Wednesday	Eve	Last Supper and other lessons and exhortations	Mt. 26:17-35, Mk. 14:12-31, Lu. 22:7-38, Jn. 13-17, 1 Cor. 11:23-26	
	Night	The Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin followed by Peter's denial.	Mt. 26:36-75, Mk.14:32-72, Lu. 22:39-71, Jn. 18:1-27	
	Day	Passover day. Jesus brought before Pilate and Herod. Crucifixion and burial. See note below.	Mt. 27:1-61, Mk. 15, Lu. 23, Jn. 18:28-42	Jesus' body was laid and sealed in the tomb before the eve of 15 Nisan. Luke 23:56 says that "they" rested on the Sabbath.
15 Thursday		1 st day of Unleavened Bread (High Sabbath). Passover meal/lamb is eaten/celebrated 24 hours late by the Jews. See note below.		1 st day of The Feast of Unleavened Bread was a "high day" or "holy convocation". See John 19:31, Exodus 12:16 and note below.
16 Friday		Women buy and prepare spices to correctly spice Jesus' buried body when they get access to the tomb	Mk. 16:1 Lu. 23:56	The women had observed the men do so in haste and likely wanted to redo this customary practice correctly.
17 Saturday		Normal Saturday Sabbath	Lu. 23:56	Not to be confused with the High Sabbath of the 15 th day of Nissan.
18 Sunday		He is Risen, Feast of First Fruits (Lev. 23:11)	Mt. 12:40, 28:1, Mk. 16:1-2, Lu. 24:1, Jn. 20:1	Jesus is raised before dawn. Very early in the morning on the first day of the week. This concludes three days and nights in the grave, as Jesus had prophesied.

13 Tuesday – This is the day that the Passover should be prepared and the lamb killed at twilight (Exodus 12:6). Remember at the first Passover, the Jews would have been leaving Egypt during the next day (Nisan 14). They could not travel on the 15th because it was the first day of Unleavened Bread, a High Sabbath Day. Therefore they were not allowed to travel that far. Their traveling had to start/happen on the day Nisan 14.

14 Wednesday – The actual killing of the lamb is to be at twilight (sunset - Exodus 12:6), which (by Jewish ways of reckoning days) puts the actual day of the sacrifice on Wednesday. Remember that during the day after lambs were killed at twilight on the eve of the first Passover in Moses' day, the Jews would have been leaving Egypt because of the Egyptian's change of heart after losing all of their firstborn during the night. This exit from Egypt had to be on 14 Nissan because the 15th of Nisan is the first day of Unleavened Bread, a High Sabbath Day (which would prevent the Jews from traveling).

Notice that John 13:1 says “before the Feast of the Passover”. This along with Luke 22:1 helps to understand that the week of Unleavened bread became known in Jesus’ day as the Passover week, the Feast of Passover or simply Passover. With this understanding, the eve of Nisan 14 is the proper time to eat the Passover Lamb and coincides with Jesus’ teaching at the last supper (that the bread and wine were symbolic of His sacrifice for them – soon to be accomplished on the cross).

The reason that this is significant is because this shows that Jesus did in fact die on Passover (as practiced by the Jews when they left Egypt). When John the Baptist first saw Jesus, he declared, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The apostle Paul said that Jesus is our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7). On that same day fifteen hundred years earlier, the Jewish people were set free from slavery in Egypt by the power of God (Exodus 12). It is only by the power of God, found only in the blood of the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ), that any person can be passed over by death and set free from the slavery of sin and death!

15 Thursday – It must be remembered when considering these things that the Jewish calendar date begins with sunset and ends the following day at sunset (the date begins at 6pm and ends at 6 pm).

According to Jewish calendars in contemporary (modern) times, the Passover meal is eaten 24 hours later than the time prescribed by Moses in Exodus 12. Also, I have verified with Synagogues in my area that they believe that the Jewish people have been eating the meal at this same time since the beginning of Passover.

However, according to Exodus, the Jews should be eating the Passover meal at the beginning or eve of Nisan 14. The lamb should be killed and eaten at twilight (Ex 12:6) of Nisan 14, 24 hours earlier than they typically do today. At the time of the original Passover, they would have taken some of the blood of the lamb and “put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it” (Ex. 12:7). That night the Lord struck all the first born in the land of Egypt” (Ex. 12:11-12). The blood was to be a sign so the Lord’s judgment would pass over any house that was marked with the blood of the lamb (Ex. 12:13). If the lamb is killed/eaten the next evening (Nisan 15 - as was practiced in Jesus’ day and now) then the timing of remembrance of that first Passover is lost.

In the days of Moses, when the Lord came to strike the first born in the land of Egypt., they were to “eat it in haste” (Ex. 12:10-11) because before that night was over, Pharaoh would tell Moses and Aaron to “go out from among my people” (Ex. 12:31).

Conclusion

Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples in harmony with the events of the exodus from Egypt, when the Jews were set free from slavery. In doing so, Jesus was deviating from the practice of His day, and now, because He was exactly fulfilling His role as the final Passover lamb.

In Moses’ day, the people had to believe by faith that putting the blood of a sacrificial lamb on their doorpost would somehow cause death to pass over. If they had faith and acted, the first born lived.

Fifteen hundred years later, the “Passover” that Jesus offered was, and is, a much better sacrifice. If by faith we believe and act on Jesus’ offer to forgive our sins and give us eternal life (John 3:16), then we are set free from the slavery of sin and are forever cured of its consequences – spiritual death.

In Moses’ day, the believing Jews (and Egyptians) avoided the death of the first born, and the Jews were set free from slavery. Since the days of Jesus’ death and resurrection, those who have humbled themselves before God and asked Him to apply the forgiving blood of Jesus to their hearts have been granted everlasting life and a new heart removing the power of sin to enslave them.

Are you saved from sin? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Don’t be like the foolish Egyptians and ignore this offer of protection from death. *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*” (John 3:36)