

23T08b Holy Week Timeline

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Holy week. If you have grown up in the church or attend regularly today, then you know the Holy week events. Beginning with Palm Sunday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, ending with Easter Sunday or what I prefer to call Resurrection Sunday.

But is this really the Holy Week of the Bible?

Let's pray. Heavenly Father please guide our discussion today. Help me to stay out of the way, so you can use me. We trust you and we know you have promised the wisdom we need to understand your word in the Bible. Help us to let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us. Bless our time together and I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Palm Sunday is the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem the Sunday before His crucifixion. This is contained in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19-28-44 and John 12:12-19. So, without a doubt I agree, Palm Sunday is the beginning of this great week of importance.

The week includes,
Jesus Cleansing the Temple
Anointing of Jesus by Mary 6 days before Passover at the house of Lazarus, Martha and Mary
Anointing of Jesus 2 days before Passover at Simon the leper's house
Last supper, Trial, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus

Today I want to concentrate our discuss on Passover to Resurrection.

During the week, Jesus again foretells his death and resurrection. Starting with verse 39 ***39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 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. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. 42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.***

So Jesus clearly predicts He will be in the grave Three Days and Three Nights. But our Church Tradition of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday does not support this. If Jesus died on Good Friday at about 3pm and rose on resurrection Sunday morning, well that is not 3 days and 3 nights. It's more like 2.5 days and 2 nights.

Does this mean Jesus didn't stay in the grave long enough to fulfill his own prophecy? Certainly not. Jesus has to have been in the grave three days and three nights, which is why the early Christians taught that he was raised on the third day (Acts 10:40, 1 Corinthians 15:4).

Okay how is this possible?

First, The Jewish calendar is lunar or based on the phases of the moon. Our modern Calendar is the Roman calendar which is solar based on the rotation of the Earth around the Sun. This is the reason why the date of Easter changes every year. Today in Western Christianity, Easter is celebrated on the Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon. I'm not going to go into why today. But Easter and Passover dates on our modern calendar change every year and in fact the day of the week for Passover changes every year. Passover is not always on a Friday.

Today, we think of the new day beginning when we wake up or maybe at midnight. But in Jewish culture, the new day begins at sunset or dusk. So, when the sun sets on Monday, it is not considered Monday evening, it is considered the beginning of Tuesday or Tuesday night, followed by Tuesday day beginning at dawn or sunrise.

We know that Jesus resurrected on a Sunday, "the first day of the week" (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2,9; Luke 24:1) but keep in mind to a Jewish person Sunday started at sunset Saturday.

Passover begins on the 14th day of Nisan at dusk. This commemorates the last plague in Egypt when the angel of death Passed over, the home of the Hebrews. In the exodus story they ate a meal which is commemorated as the Passover meal typically eaten at dusk on Passover. This the beginning of the Day of Preparation, when the Hebrews prepared to leave Egypt, in the day of Jesus, it was the day a preparation for the festival of Unleavened Bread, one of the High Days or special Sabbaths. This High Day began on 15th day of [Nisan](#) at dusk. (Ref. Leviticus 23:5-6 (NKJV), ⁵*On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover.* ⁶*And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.* ⁷*On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.*)

This special sabbath was the first day of the Unleavened Bread festival. High day or special Sabbath could be any day of the week, not always Saturday during the weekly sabbath.

We know this was a High Day or some English Translations use Special Sabbath. After Jesus died this is recorded in John 19:31(NKJ), *Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should 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*

The special Sabbath referred to in John 19:31 after Passover was the 1st day of Feast of Unleavened Bread, a holiday which is always observed on the 15th day of Nisan according to the Jewish calendar and can fall on any day of the week.

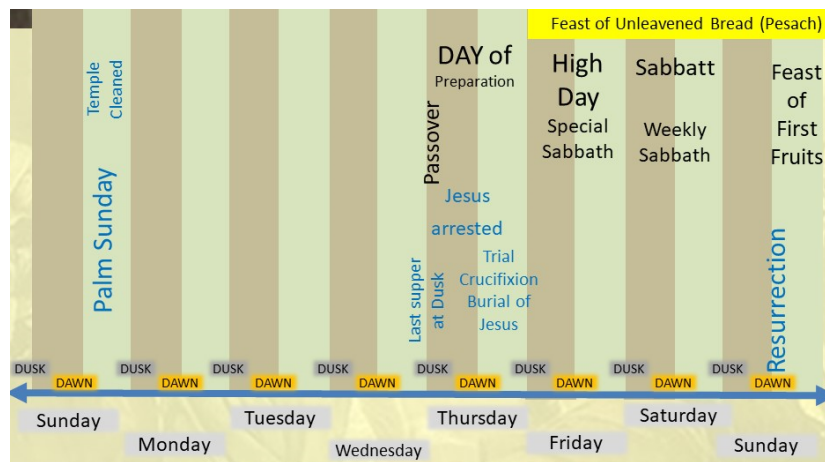
To give you a little more background, according to Leviticus 23, there are three special holidays in the month of Nisan: Passover (the 14th of Nisan at dusk), the Feast of Unleavened Bread (15-22 of Nisan) and the Feast of First Fruits which was held on the Sunday following the Passover.

So, we know Jesus was eating the Passover Feast the night before he was crucified and he was resurrected on Sunday.

This year, 2023, Passover begins at dusk on Wednesday. Let’s take a look at the Holy week timeline beginning with Passover. I will provide a diagram to help us visualize this.

Again, this year Passover begins at dusk on Wednesday which is the beginning of the day of preparation. In Jewish culture Night comes first, then Day. So Thursday to Hebrews started at Dusk Wednesday. This night Jesus share the Passover meal with His disciples, what we call the Last Supper. This is the beginning of the sacrament we call Communion. After the meal, Jesus would be arrested over night and sometime after dawn on Thursday morning Jesus is brought to Pilate. Jesus is condemned, flogged and then crucified. Then Jesus dies that afternoon. We know from the Bible that Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea bury Jesus assumably by dusk. Then on Sunday morning Jesus rises again.

But how would this work with Jesus’ prediction of 3 days and 3 nights in the grave. Let’s look at it. Night 1 Friday night, Day 1 Friday day, Night 2 Saturday night, Day 2 Saturday day, Night 3 Sunday night and on the 3rd day at dawn Sunday, resurrection Sunday Jesus rises again. Of course, our definition of day and night confuse this. But we have to use the day and night as defined by the writers and Jesus himself.



The question you have to ask is how can we be sure that this is what happened? Sometime back, the London Royal Observatory decided to figure out if it was possible the Passover fell on a Wednesday evening (Thursday night for Jews) around the time of Jesus. Since the Jewish calendar is lunar, there is always a full moon on Passover. From 26AD to 34AD. Please remember these dates are in our classic not Hebrew convention.

26 A.D. Sun. April 21	31 A.D. Wed. April 25 (at dusk)
27 A.D. Fri. April 11	32 A.D. Mon. April 14
28 A.D. Wed. April 28 (at dusk)	33 A.D. Sun. May 3
29 A.D. Mon. April 18	34 A.D. Thurs. April 22
30 A.D. Fri. April 7	

Even more amazing is the Sunday after Passover was the Feast of First Fruits (Leviticus 23:9-11). This means Jesus' resurrection was on the day of the Feast of First Fruits. Why is this amazing. Well Paul later writes this in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (NKJV), *²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.*

So did you see that. Jesus was most assuredly in the grave three days and three nights. And Jesus was the First Fruits of the resurrection on the day of the Feast of First Fruits, He was the Passover lamb selected on the Nisan 10th and sacrificed on Nisan 14th.

I just love seeing how God weaves His Bigger, Better Plan. Jesus died on the exact day to this happen. No coincidence or anomaly, just God working in His perfect timing so we can see Him. A miracle in the middle, a miracle in the greatest story ever told. Amen

Father God, thank you for giving us the resources and sources to answer these tough questions. we know you know all things. When we see how things fit perfectly in your plan. Wow. Only with God is this possible Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. Help us to open the Bible and look into history to answer our questions. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us for the rest of the series about the "Tough Questions" that we struggle with as Christians.

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See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.