

PASSION WEEK CHRONOLOGY

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A. Was Palm Sunday actually on Sunday?

1. If Jesus Christ were crucified on “Good Friday,” then the Passover lamb would have been selected five days earlier, the previous Sunday (Palm Sunday). Jesus was presented on that day as *Hosanna* (meaning: “save now”) and “*He who comes in the name of the Lord.*” (John 12:13; cf. Ex.12:3-6)
2. Jesus was proclaimed as the “*Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*” by the apostle John. (John 1:29)
3. However, if Jesus were crucified on Friday, then He could not have been in the ground for “*three (full) days and three (full) nights*” as He Himself prophesied. (Matt. 12:39, 40) Therefore, His crucifixion had to have occurred on Wednesday.
4. Also, six days before the Passover, Jesus would have traveled from Ephraim to Bethany on a Sabbath day. This seems unlikely. (John 11:54; John 12:1)
5. Since the Mosaic Law (Ex. 12:3-6) states that the Passover lamb is to be selected five days before Passover (Good Wednesday), then Jesus would have entered Jerusalem on “Palm Friday,” not Sunday.

B. Scripture presents ample evidence for the presentation of Jesus Christ as Savior and King as He entered Jerusalem on “Palm Friday.”

1. Jesus came to Bethany on Thursday evening, six days before Passover, and had supper with Lazarus (whom Jesus had raised from the dead), Mary, and Martha. (John 12:1-11) This supper would not have been a Sabbath meal.
2. Scripture states that the next day (Friday Morning) Jesus approached Jerusalem from Bethphage, to the Mount of olives (located very near Bethany). (Matt. 21:1; John 12:12)
3. Jesus sent two disciples to the village to obtain a donkey and its colt to ride on as He entered Jerusalem on Friday morning. (Matt. 21:1-7; John 12:14, 15; Mk. 11:1-7; Lk. 19:28-35; cf. Zech. 9:9)
4. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was proceeded by a multitude spreading their garments and palm branches before Him. (Matt. 21:8; Mk. 11:8; Lk. 19:36; Jn. 12:13a) and all the multitude who were Him were crying out, “*Hosanna, to the Son of David, ... He who comes in the name of the Lord, ... even the King of Israel.*” (Matt. 21:9-11; Mk. 11:9-10; Lk. 19:37-38; John 12:12-15; cf. Isa. 62:11)
5. Then Jesus went to the temple and overturned the money-changer tables and healed many people in the temple, probably late Friday morning. (Matt 21:12-16; Mk. 11:11; Lk. 19:45-48)

6. Late on Friday, Jesus went out of Jerusalem and went back to Bethany, probably to celebrate the Sabbath at the house of Lazarus, beginning at 6:00pm Friday evening, as the Saturday Sabbath began. (Matt. 21:17; Mk. 11:11b)
- C. Jesus' teaching, the last supper, the trials, the crucifixion, and the resurrection:
1. In the Morning, still the Saturday Sabbath, Jesus traveled back to Jerusalem from Bethany and He became hungry and looked for figs on a fig tree. Finding none, He cursed the tree. (Matt. 21:18-22; Mk. 11:12-14)
 2. On the same day, Saturday, a Sabbath, Jesus again entered the temple and began teaching. (Matt. 21:23-23:39)
 3. When Jesus came out of the temple and was going to the Mount of Olives, He gave a prophecy of the destruction of the temple! (Matt. 24:1, 2; Mk. 13:1, 2)
 4. Then Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and continued teaching the disciples privately, probably Saturday afternoon. (Matt. 24:3-25:46)
 5. When Jesus concluded His teaching of His disciples Saturday afternoon and evening (already Sunday as of 6:00pm Saturday night), He said , "*You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be delivered up for crucifixion.*" (Matt. 26:1, 2; Mk. 14: 1; Lk. 22:1) The two days following would be Monday and Tuesday.
 6. As the Days of Unleavened Bread approached, on Tuesday His disciples asked where Jesus was going to eat the Passover. (Matt. 26:17-19; Mk. 14:12-16; Lk. 22:7-13)
 7. Jesus ate an early Passover on Tuesday evening after 6:00pm as Wednesday, Nisan the 14th, began. (Matt. 26:20-30; Mk. 14:17-26; Luke 22:14-38; John 13:1ff.) This was six days after Jesus came to Bethany. (John 12:1)
 8. After the early Passover that Jesus shared with His disciples, they all went out to the Mount of Olives to pray. (Matt. 26:30-56; Mk. 14:26-52; Lk. 22:39-53; John 18:1-12)
 9. Jesus underwent six illegal trials that night and the next morning and was actually crucified from 12:00pm until 3:00pm Nisan 14th at the time when most of Israel were sacrificing the Passover lamb. (Matt. 27:31-50; Mk. 15:24-37; Lk. 23:33-46; John 19:17-30) **Jesus Christ is our Passover.** (1 Cor. 5:7)
 10. Jesus bore the sins of the whole world on the cross of Calvary. (1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:14, 21; Heb. 10:10, 12, 14; 1 Peter 2:24)
 11. However, after three full days and three full nights, on Sunday, the Day of First fruits, Jesus arose from the dead. (Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20; 21) Jesus Christ is called the **first fruits of resurrection.** (1 Cor. 15:20, 23)