

THE DAY OF PREPARATION

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Bodies on crosses (Jn.19:31, 42) bad news about Passover (Deut.21:22-23).
- Break legs (Jn.19:32-34) good news about Christ (Num.9:12; Ex.12:46; John 19:33-36).
- Believe Scriptures (Jn.19:35-37) good news about Christ (Ps.34:20; Zech.12:10)
- Burial of Jesus Christ (Jn.19:38-41) good news about Christ (Isa.53:9) - underground disciples

“The Jews therefore, because it was **the day of preparation (paraskeue)**, so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath [for the Sabbath was a high (megas) day (he hemera)], asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.” (Jn.19:31; Ex.12:16 exceptions)

The NIV study bible offers the following footnote on John 19:31: “Preparation. See note on v.14. A special Sabbath. The Sabbath that fell at Passover time. The Passover meal had been eaten on Thursday evening, the day of Preparation was Friday, and the Sabbath came on Saturday.” **WRONG!**

This is normally true except for the national holiday such as Passover and Unleavened Bread. Once again, we mention a formula we learned in the study of Job: **False assumptions lead to false interpretations that lead to false expectations that lead to false application.**

This lesson will examine FIVE reasons these students of the Scriptures missed the proper interpretation of the “Day of Preparation and high Sabbath day.” .

Last Wednesday night (03/28/07) we studied the biblical history of the Passover and Unleavened Bread holiday. You are encouraged to study “The First Passover in Land” on our web site (doctrinal studies.com)

1. After the Dispersion, the Jews added Passover to Unleavened Bread into one eight-day national holiday.

By the New Testament time, these two holidays were known as one and their names used interchangeably (Luke 22:1, 7). Therefore, this eight-day holiday could be called by either of these names (Mark 14:1, 12, 16; 15:1, 42; 16:1-2, 9-13). **Remember the Jewish day went from 6pm to 6pm.**

During this time, the Jews used the term “Day of Preparation” interchangeably with Passover (Matt.26:17-20; Mark 14:1-2, 12; John 19:31, 42).

2. Roman theology changed the meaning of both the Greek words for preparation. (paraskeue) [to make ready a meal] as well as the Latin word for preparation (parascève).

It was changed when they developed the doctrine of Good Friday for the crucifixion of Jesus. Their error was misunderstanding the details of the national holidays and Sabbath systems.

John 19:14 Day of preparation for the Unleavened Bread is Passover. It was based on a **date not day**, the 14th of Nisan.

John 19:31 The **next day** after “the Day of Preparation” was called a **High Sabbath**. It was the first day of Unleavened Bread. It too was not based on day but on date, the 15th of Nisan. High Sabbath meant it carried the similar requirements of the weekly Sabbath, but it wasn’t Saturday.

John 19:42 “Therefore on account of the Jewish day of preparation, because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”

3. The eight-day holiday of Passover (1 day) and Unleavened Bread (7 days) had four Sabbaths.

Three of these Sabbaths were called high days or high Sabbaths. Lev.23:4 says that the Lord appointed these feasts and the sacred assemblies (high sabbaths) and appointed their times. Nisan was the first month of the Jewish New Year based on the Exodua (Ex.12:1-2).

The day after preparation or Passover was always celebrated on the 15th of Nisan, which was the first day of Unleavened Bread. It was a **High Sabbath** (Ex.12:16; Lev.23:7). Remember the Jewish day went from 6pm to 6pm.

Next came the **weekly Sabbath (always Saturday)**.

The day after the weekly Sabbath was Firstfruits holiday (our Sunday). It also was a **High Sabbath** (Lev.23:9-13; Num.28:26). Fifty days from it was Pentecost holiday (Sunday) (Lev.23:15-22; Acts 1-2).

The last day of Unleavened Bread (the 21st of Nisan) was a **High Sabbath** (Ex.12:16; Lev.23:8).

4. Now let us apply this to the week of the crucifixion, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Nisan 14, the **Day of Preparation** or Passover took place on a Wednesday (April, of our calendar) in 30AD.

- This was the day of the Last Supper, Gethsemane, Jesus’ arrest, Judas’ suicide, the Jewish and Roman trials and the crucifixion - all taking place between 9am to 3pm,
- Jesus died around 3pm on Nisan 14, 30 AD. Remember, the Jewish day was 6pm to 6pm.
- The burial had to take place prior to 6PM on Nisan 14- BECAUSE THE NEXT DAY WAS A HIGH SABBATH (the first day of Unleavened Bread / Nisan 15).

Nisan 15	High Sabbath	Thursday	Jesus’ body is in the grave
Nisan 16		Friday	Jesus’ body is in the grave
Nisan 17	Weekly Sabbath	Saturday	Jesus’ body is in the grave

[Mat.12:40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 27:6-66; John 2:19-20; Luke 24:20-21]

Nisan 18 **High Sabbath** (First Fruits) **Sunday** or first day of week.

- Resurrection of Jesus, prior to 6AM and the post-resurrection appearances begin (Luke 24:1, 6, 13).
- **Fifty days** from Firstfruits was Pentecost (Lev.23:9-14; 15-22; Num.28:26-31; Deut.16:9-12)
- The last day of Pentecost was a High Sabbath (Num.28:21) which also followed the weekly Sabbath.

Nisan 21 **High Sabbath** **Wednesday** last day of Unleavened Bread.

5. Four of the seven national holidays of the Old Covenant were fulfilled beginning with this 8-day Passover of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:44-53).

- **Passover** (Nisan 14), **Unleavened Bread** (Nisan 15) **Weekly Sabbath** (Nisan 17) and **First Fruits** (Nisan 17). And 50 days from **First Fruits** is the **Day of Pentecost**, another **High Sabbath**. (Lev.23:21)
- Nisan 14 (crucifixion of Christ) – Nisan 15, 16, 17 (burial of Christ) – Nisan 18 (resurrection of Christ)
- Nisan 18 First Fruits (Sunday, the first day of the week) and seven Sabbaths to the day of Pentecost (50th day).
- From Nisan 18 (resurrection of Christ), through the next 40 of the 50 days to Pentecost were the post-resurrection appearances of Christ.

- If you count down the 40 days, you will see that Jesus Christ ascended to heaven on a Thursday (Acts 1:1-3, 9-11).
- The Jewish calendar had alternating days per month from 30 to 29 days. If I counted right - Nisan 18 +12 days of post-resurrection (30 days in Nisan) plus Ijar 28 days of post-resurrection (29 days in Ijar) equals the 40 (12+28) days. We would arrive at May 16th, 30 AD as the date for the ascension of Jesus Christ.

“Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.” (1 Cor.5:7)

Using the Hebrew to Gregorian calendar

<p style="text-align: center;"> « April 0030 » change view: [event list calendar grid] </p>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 (Nisan 14) Crucifixion Day of Prep. Passover	4 (Nisan 15) Burial Unleavened Bread	5 (Nisan 16) Burial	6 (Nisan 17) Burial Weekly Sabbath
7 (Nisan 18) First Fruits (Resurrection)	8	9	10	11	12	13 Weekly Sabbath
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Weekly Sabbath
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Weekly Sabbath
28	29	30				

<p style="text-align: center;"> « May 0030 » change view: [event list calendar grid] </p>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Weekly Sabbath
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Weekly Sabbath
12	13	14	15	16 (Ascension)	17	18 Weekly Sabbath
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Weekly Sabbath
26 (Pentecost) (50th Day)	27	28	29	30	31	