

What is truth and
what is tradition?

**TRUTH
— OVER —
TRADITION**

The Early Church and Resurrection Celebration

- The earliest Christians focused on celebrating Passover (Pesach) with new meaning — seeing Christ as the Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7).
- Some churches (especially in Asia Minor) celebrated Jesus' death and resurrection on the actual date of Passover (14 Nisan), regardless of what day of the week it fell on. This practice was called Quartodecimanism (Latin for "fourteen").

Rome's Influence and Weekly Sunday Worship

- In contrast, the Church in Rome began to emphasize Sunday worship and the resurrection on Sunday morning, slowly developing a fixed “Holy Week” tradition:
 - Palm Sunday (Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem)
 - Good Friday (crucifixion)
 - Easter Sunday (resurrection)
- This shift led to assigning Friday as the crucifixion day, even though it conflicts with the “three days and three nights” Jesus prophesied in Matthew 12:40.

When Was Good Friday Officially Observed?

- The term “Good Friday” wasn’t used until much later.
- By the 4th century, after Constantine’s conversion and the Council of Nicaea (325 AD), the Church began systematizing Easter celebrations, and Good Friday became formalized in the liturgical calendar.
- The Catholic Church and later Protestant traditions adopted and maintained it.

Why Is It Called “Good” Friday?

It seems ironic, but “Good” refers to the good outcome of Christ’s death — the atonement of sin and the offer of salvation.

Some believe “Good Friday” comes from “God’s Friday,” though this is debated.

Biblical Timeline vs. Traditional Timeline

Biblical Clues

3 days and 3 nights (Matt 12:40)

Passover = 14 Nisan

Crucified midweek? (Wed?)

Women waited through 2 Sabbaths

Church Tradition

Friday to Sunday (barely 1.5 days)

Date varies each year

Fixed on Friday

Compressed into 1 Sabbath

#	Religious Month (Biblical)	Civil Month (Legal)	Biblical Name	Modern Equivalent	Key Feasts / Events
1	Nisan (1st)	7th	Nisan (Aviv)	March – April	Passover, Unleavened Bread, First fruits
2	Iyar (2nd)	8th	Iyar	April – May	Counting of the Omer, 2nd Passover
3	Sivan (3rd)	9th	Sivan	May – June	Shavuot (Pentecost)
4	Tammuz (4th)	10th	Tammuz	June – July	17th of Tammuz fast
5	Av (5th)	11th	Av	July – August	9th of Av (Tisha B'Av fast)
6	Elul (6th)	12th	Elul	August – September	Preparation month for High Holy Days
7	Tishrei (7th)	1st (Civil New Year)	Tishrei	September – October	Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot
8	Cheshvan (8th)	2nd	Cheshvan	October – November	Often no holidays
9	Kislev (9th)	3rd	Kislev	November – December	Hanukkah begins 25th Kislev
10	Tevet (10th)	4th	Tevet	December – January	10th of Tevet fast
11	Shevat (11th)	5th	Shevat	January – February	Tu BiShvat (New Year for Trees)
12	Adar (12th)	6th	Adar	February – March	Purim (14th of Adar)
(13)	<i>Adar II</i> (Leap Years Only)	—	Adar II	March	Used to align calendar with solar year

2025

Passover (Pesach)

Begins at sundown on Saturday, April 12, 2025

Ends at nightfall on Sunday, April 20, 2025

- *First Seder*: Saturday evening, April 12, 2025
- *Second Seder* (observed in the Diaspora): Sunday evening, April 13, 2025
- *Passover Sheni* (Second Passover): Begins at sundown on Sunday, May 11, 2025
Ends at nightfall on Monday, May 12, 2025

The Last Supper

- Some say this is a “Passover supper” or a Seder.

A Seder is the ritual meal held on the evening of Passover (15th of Nisan), following a very specific order (seder means “order” in Hebrew) with:

- Four cups of wine
- Matzah (unleavened bread)
- Bitter herbs
- A retelling of the Exodus story
- Haggadah reading
- Songs and prayers

BUT....

- The modern Seder developed after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, shaped by rabbinic Judaism. So the version we know today didn't fully exist in Jesus' time.
- Truth over tradition!

What would have the Last supper looked like?

Time and Setting

- Date: 14th of Nisan, beginning at sunset (which would become 15 Nisan)

What Is the 14th of Nisan?

It's the day on the Hebrew calendar (God's biblical calendar) when Passover is celebrated.

Leviticus 23:5 – *“On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover.”*

- Nisan (also called Abib) is the first month of the Hebrew religious year.
- The 14th day is when the Passover lamb was to be slain.

The Original Passover (Exodus 12)

The very **first Passover** occurred on **14 Nisan** in Egypt:

- Each family **slaughtered a lamb at twilight** (Ex. 12:6)

Exodus 12:6 (KJV)

*“And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it **in the evening.**”*

In Hebrew, the phrase translated “in the evening” is:

בֵּין הָעֶרְבַּיִם (bein ha'arbaim)

Literally: “**between the evenings**”

- The blood was put on the doorposts
- The death angel “**passed over**” those under the blood
- Israel was delivered from slavery in Egypt that same night

14 Nisan became the night of freedom — from bondage to liberty.

From 3:00 PM to Sunset (Traditional Rabbinic View)

- "First evening": when the sun begins to decline (around 12–3 PM)
- "Second evening": actual sunset (~6 PM)
- So **"between the evenings" = 3 PM to 6 PM**

This is the traditional **Temple time** for slaughtering Passover lambs. **Josephus (Jewish historian)** confirms this: *"They slay the sacrifice... from the ninth hour to the eleventh"* (3 PM–5 PM)

This matches **Jesus' crucifixion time**:

Mark 15:34 – *"At the ninth hour (3 PM), Jesus cried out..."*

He died **exactly when the lambs were slain** — fulfilling Exodus 12.

Jesus Was Crucified on the 14th of Nisan

Jesus is called the Lamb of God (John 1:29), and He died on Passover — exactly on the 14th of Nisan.

1 Corinthians 5:7 – *“Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us.”*

- He died at the same time lambs were being slain in the Temple
- He fulfilled the symbolism of the Passover lamb
- His blood brings eternal deliverance from sin and death
- Just as Israel left Egypt, we are set free from spiritual slavery

A pattern is set.

Feast	Date	Fulfillment in Christ
Passover	14 Nisan	Jesus crucified as our Lamb (John 19:14)
Unleavened Bread	15–21 Nisan	Jesus' sinless body buried
Firstfruits	Sunday after Sabbath	Jesus rises as Firstfruits (1 Cor 15:20)

The 14th of Nisan marks the **start of this entire redemptive timeline.**

A Pattern: Blood → Judgment Passes → Freedom

Pattern	Exodus 12	Gospel Parallel
Lamb slain	Blood on doorpost	Jesus' blood shed
Judgment comes	Death angel in Egypt	Judgment for sin
Protected by blood	Firstborn saved	Believers under His blood
Freed from slavery	Israel leaves Egypt	Freed from sin and death



- The sunset of the pervious day (let's say 6PM)
- Gen the evening and the morning were the day

In the **Hebrew worldview**, a **day begins at sunset**, not at midnight or sunrise like in modern Western culture.

Evening (sunset) starts the new day

- Then comes **night**
- Then **morning (sunrise)** and daytime
- The next **evening** begins the next day

Example

Modern Time	Biblical Day
Wednesday, 6:00 PM	Start of Thursday
Thursday, 6:00 AM	Still Thursday (morning/day)
Thursday, 5:59 PM	End of Thursday
Thursday, 6:00 PM	Start of Friday

Jewish daytime hours were counted from sunrise to sunset, usually from around 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Jewish Hour	Modern Time
1st hour	6:00 AM
3rd hour	9:00 AM
6th hour	12:00 PM (Noon)
9th hour	3:00 PM
12th hour	6:00 PM



- **Leviticus 23:32** – Speaking of the Day of Atonement:
“From evening to evening you shall celebrate your sabbath.”
- **Nehemiah 13:19** – The gates of Jerusalem were shut **“as it began to grow dark before the Sabbath”**
- **Jesus' burial** had to be completed **before sunset**, because the **Sabbath began at evening** (Luke 23:54)

Back to the Seder

- **Place:** A private home or upper room (Luke 22:12)
- **Lighting:** Oil lamps or candles
- **Seating:**
 - **Reclined at low tables** (called a *triclinium*), not sitting on chairs
 - Reclining showed **freedom** — no longer slaves in Egypt
 - They leaned on their left arm and ate with their right

Passover meal (before 70 A.D.), so it was more **biblical and simpler** than the modern Seder. Likely elements:

Item	Why It Was Included
Lamb	The Passover lamb, roasted whole (Exodus 12:8–9)
Unleavened Bread (<i>Matzah</i>)	No time to let bread rise — haste of the Exodus (Ex. 12:39)
Bitter Herbs (<i>Maror</i>)	Symbol of slavery's bitterness (Exodus 12:8)
Wine	Possibly 3 or 4 cups — not required by Scripture, but common
Charoset?	A sweet paste representing mortar — more common later
Salt water or vinegar	For dipping — mentioned in John 13:26

Four Cups of Wine?

The modern Seder has **four cups**:

1.Sanctification (I will bring you out)

2.Deliverance (I will rescue you)

3.Redemption (I will redeem you) ← *Possibly the cup Jesus blessed*

4.Praise (I will take you as My people)

- Jesus likely drank from **at least two cups**, which is reflected in Luke 22:17 and 22:20.

Order of the Meal (Likely Flow)

Not exactly the modern Haggadah, but possibly something like:

- 1. Blessing and first cup**
- 2. Hand washing (John 13 – Jesus washed feet here)**
- 3. Dipping bread/herbs in vinegar/salt water (John 13:26)**
- 4. Eating the meal — lamb, matzah, bitter herbs**
- 5. Second cup and main meal conversations**
- 6. Jesus institutes communion (bread and cup — Luke 22:19–20)**
- 7. Final hymn sung (*Hallel Psalms*, Matt. 26:30)**

Jesus' Unique Additions

Element	Traditional Meaning	Jesus' Fulfillment
Bread	Haste & affliction	"My body given for you" (Luke 22:19)
Wine	Joy and freedom	"My blood of the new covenant" (Luke 22:20)
Passover lamb	Salvation from Egypt	"The Lamb of God" (John 1:29)
Bitter herbs	Slavery in Egypt	Slavery to sin

They Sang a Hymn

Matthew 26:30 – “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out...”
Likely from the Hallel (Psalms 113–118) — traditional for Passover.

Was the Last Supper on Passover?

Yes:

Matthew 26:17 – *“On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?’”*

- Jesus **calls it Passover**.
- There is **bread** and a **cup** involved.
- They **recline at the table**, like a Passover meal.

Huston, we have a problem...

Luke 22:15 – *“With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”*

- Jesus celebrated what appears to be a **Passover meal** with His disciples the night before His crucifixion.
- This meal included **unleavened bread and wine** and likely other symbolic foods.
- He used the meal to **introduce the New Covenant** (Luke 22:19–20).

Jesus ate a Passover meal as a man, fulfilling His role as a faithful Jew, teacher, and leader of His spiritual family.

Jesus Was Crucified as the Passover Lamb (Fulfillment)

1 Corinthians 5:7 – *“Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”*

- Jesus died at the same time the Passover lambs were being slain in the Temple — around 3 p.m. on the 14th of Nisan.
- This fulfills the prophetic type established in Exodus 12 — a spotless lamb, sacrificed to protect from death.
- So, Jesus became the Passover Lamb, fulfilling the spiritual reality that the original lambs only pointed to.

Calendar Differences Explain the Timing

Jesus' Reckoning (Galilean?)

Ate Passover meal on the evening of 13th Nisan

Last Supper = His Passover

Temple's Reckoning (Judean)

Lambs slain on 14th, meal eaten that evening (start of 15th)

Crucifixion = Temple's lamb slaughter

- Jesus and His disciples may have followed a **different calendar** that allowed Him to **eat the Passover one day earlier**.
 - That's why He could **eat the lamb** with His disciples and still be **crucified as the Lamb** on the official Temple Passover.
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The Calendar Conflict: Galilean vs. Judean Reckoning

Galilean (or Essene) Reckoning

- Day begins at **sunrise**
- Passover meal would be held on the **evening of 13th into the 14th of Nisan**
- Jesus and many Galileans likely followed this reckoning

Judean (or Pharisaic/Temple) Reckoning

- Day begins at **sunset** (standard Jewish tradition)
- Passover lambs killed on **14th Nisan (afternoon)**, eaten that night (start of 15th)
- Temple calendar and official rituals followed this view

With all this said...

- Proof for a Wednesday Crucifixion

The Sign of Jonah Must Be Literal

- Jesus said He would be in the grave **three days and three nights.**
- Friday evening to Sunday morning is only **1 day and 2 nights** at best.

There Were Two Sabbaths That Week

John 19:31 — “...for that Sabbath was a high day...”

- There was the Passover Sabbath (a High Sabbath) on Thursday (Leviticus 23:6–7).
- Then came the regular weekly Sabbath on Saturday.
- This explains why the women waited until after both Sabbaths to bring spices (Luke 23:56).

Day	Date (Nisan)	Event
Day 1	14 Nisan (evening)	Passover (Lamb killed before sunset)
Day 2	15 Nisan	Start of Unleavened Bread – High Sabbath
Days 3–7	16–21 Nisan	Continue eating unleavened bread
Day 7	21 Nisan	Another holy convocation (Sabbath)

Scripture Ties the Passover and Preparation Together

Exodus 12:6 – *“You shall keep [the lamb] until the **14th day**... and kill it at twilight.”*

- This was the **Passover day**, not the meal.
- The meal happened **that night** (start of 15 Nisan, after sunset).
So the **14th of Nisan** is both:

Role	Explanation
Passover Day	Lambs killed in the afternoon
Preparation Day	Homes cleaned of leaven, lambs slaughtered, food prepared for the Sabbath feast starting at sunset (15th)

Jesus Died on Passover / Preparation Day

John 19:14 – *“It was the day of Preparation of the Passover...”*

John 19:31 – *“...the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath...”*

- Jesus was crucified on 14 Nisan, during the Preparation Day.
- He died around 3 PM — the same time Passover lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple.
- His body had to be buried before sunset, because the High Sabbath (Feast of Unleavened Bread) began at sundown.

Event	Jewish Date	Meaning
Preparation Day	14 Nisan (day)	Lambs killed, leaven removed, meal prepared
Passover Meal	15 Nisan (starts at sunset)	Lamb eaten at night, beginning of Unleavened Bread
Jesus' Crucifixion	14 Nisan	Fulfilled the Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7)
Sabbath (High Day)	15 Nisan	1st day of Unleavened Bread (Lev 23:6–7)

Leviticus 23:5–6

“On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread...”

•**14 Nisan (daytime)**: Lambs were **killed** in the afternoon (Ex. 12:6)

•**15 Nisan (starts at sunset)**: Lamb was **eaten that night**, during the first hours of the new day

Exodus 12:8 – *“Then they shall eat the flesh on that night...”*

The Women Bought and Prepared Spices on the same day

Mark 16:1 — Women bought spices after the Sabbath

Luke 23:56 — They prepared spices before the Sabbath

- These verses only make sense if there were two Sabbaths:
 - They bought spices after the High Sabbath (Thursday).
 - Then prepared them on Friday, then rested again on the weekly Sabbath (Saturday).

Jesus Rose at the End of the Sabbath (Saturday Evening)

Matthew 28:1 — “Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week...”

- The Greek suggests “dawning into the first day”, meaning Saturday evening, just after sundown.
- Jesus rose before Sunday morning, not at sunrise.

Emmaus Road Disciples – “Third Day Since These Things”

Luke 24:21 — “...today is the third day since these things happened.”

- They spoke on Sunday.
- “These things” = the crucifixion.
- If Friday was the crucifixion, Sunday is only the second day since.

So if Jesus was crucified on Wednesday:

- Thursday = 1 day since
- Friday = 2 days since
- Sunday = 3rd day since

Jesus Was Fulfilling and Closing the Old Covenant

- The Last Supper was the last true Passover under the Old Covenant.
- Jesus said:
“This is My body... this is My blood... the new covenant” (Luke 22:19–20)
- He honored the Old Covenant (eating the lamb) and initiated the New (offering Himself as the Lamb).