



Good Wednesday

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- “Tonight we’re going to walk through something that many people either overlook... or overcomplicate.
- We’re talking about Passover, the timing of the cross, and why it actually matters.
- But before we get into dates, calendars, and arguments—let me ask you the real question:
- Why does this matter?

The point it this

- If God set these feasts as His calendar...
If they were shadows pointing to something real...
And if Jesus fulfilled them *on purpose, in precision...*
- Then this isn't about tradition.
- This is about **trusting the Word of God at a deeper level.**"
- Because **If God design a pattern... and did Jesus fulfill it exactly?"**

Why it matters

- **It strengthens your trust in Scripture**

If God nailed the timing of the cross down to the exact feast... then this book is not loose—it is precise.

- **It reveals Jesus more clearly**

He is not just someone who died...

He is the *Passover Lamb*—on the exact day, at the exact time, in the exact way God said.

- **It calls us out of passive tradition into intentional faith**

Not rejecting everything... but asking:

Am I following truth, or just what I inherited?"

Is this legalistic?

- “Let’s make something very clear tonight:
- We are not studying Passover because we think Christians are **justified** by keeping feast days.

We are not doing this to go back under the Law.

We are not doing this to earn righteousness.

And we are not doing this because observing a calendar can save anybody.

Why bring up the feasts then?

- Because the feasts were never the Savior. They were signposts pointing to the Savior.
- The problem is not the pattern God gave. The problem is when people trust the pattern instead of the Person the pattern points to.
- It helps us see that Jesus did not die randomly. He died as the Lamb of God in the exact redemptive pattern God established from the beginning.”

And So

- Christians are **not required** to keep the feasts as a matter of salvation, righteousness, or covenant obligation.
- But Christians are also **free** to remember, study, and even celebrate them in a Christ-centered way if they do it unto the Lord.
- A birthday or anniversary does not save you. It is a remembrance.
- Communion does not save you. It is a remembrance.
- The right approach “These are God-given patterns that point to Christ, and remembering them helps me worship Him with greater understanding.”



Colossians 2:16

- **16** So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, **17** which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.
- *skee'-ah*
- Apparently a primary word; “shade” or a shadow (literally or figuratively [darkness of error or an *adumbration*]): - shadow.

But the Body or Substance.

- *so'-mah*
- From G4982; the *body* (as a *sound* whole), used in a very wide application, literally or figuratively: - bodily, body, slave.
- Paul is saying that all these are sign posts pointing to Christ.

Leviticus 23:2

- “The feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.”
- The phrase “feasts” there is tied to / **טַיִןמוֹעַד**
- **Meaning of moed**
- A **moed** is an **appointed time**, an **appointed meeting**, or a **set time**.
- It is not merely a party.
It is not merely a cultural celebration.
It is not merely a Jewish tradition.
- It is a **divine appointment** set by God on His calendar.

And so

- When we talk about Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles, we are talking about **God's appointed times**
- So when we talk about Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles, we are talking about **God's appointed times pointing to who?**

God's calendar

- They mark time on **God's calendar**, not merely man's.
- That is why the timing matters so much in the death, burial, resurrection, and future return of Christ.
- So the feasts are not just dates to remember.
They are **times when God says, "Meet Me here. Watch this. Learn this. Remember this."**

Who is Christ?

- 1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
- The law of first mention.
- Exo 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it *is* the LORD'S Passover.

Exodus 12

- Starting in verse 2.
- We see that God rearranges the months. Tishri was the first month of the year is switched with Nisan. (the seventh month)
- So God is telling Moses that the month that they are doing this event is called Nisan (because that was the month they were in at the time)
- Vs 3 on the 10th day (10 Nisan) take a lamb.
- Vs 5-6 Examine it for 4 days.
- Then on the 14th day at the evening kill it.

Exodus 12

- VS 7 Take the blood and put on the door posts.
- VS 8 Eat it that night.
- So the Jewish day started at sundown (Genesis 1 the evening and the morning was the first day)
- They were told to take the lamb on the 10th, examine it for 4 days and then ON the 14th they were to kill it and place the blood on the door post (BTW the Angel came at night and they were safe behind the blood)
- When the sun went down (would be the next day, the 15th they would EAT the lamb)

Leviticus 23

- Vs 5 Lev 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even *is* the LORD'S Passover.
- There is NO question as to when the Passover is. 14th Nisan.
- Then Lev 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.
- Lev 23:7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. (Nisan 15 is the first day and no work)
- It is a high Sabbath!

Leviticus 23

- **Lev 23:10** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:
- Lev 23:11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. (Not the High Sabbath)
- The feast of first fruits MOVES but the Passover and the unleavened bread are fixed to a date.

Now with that background

- Lets look at the Gospels.
- Palm Sunday last week was 10th Nisan.
- Remember Exodus
- Exo 12:3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the **tenth day of this month** they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of *their* fathers, a lamb for an house:
- Exo 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats:
- Exo 12:6 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.

What do we know?

- **Joh 20:1** The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark,
- **Mar 16:1** And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.
- **Mar 16:2** And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.

Sunday

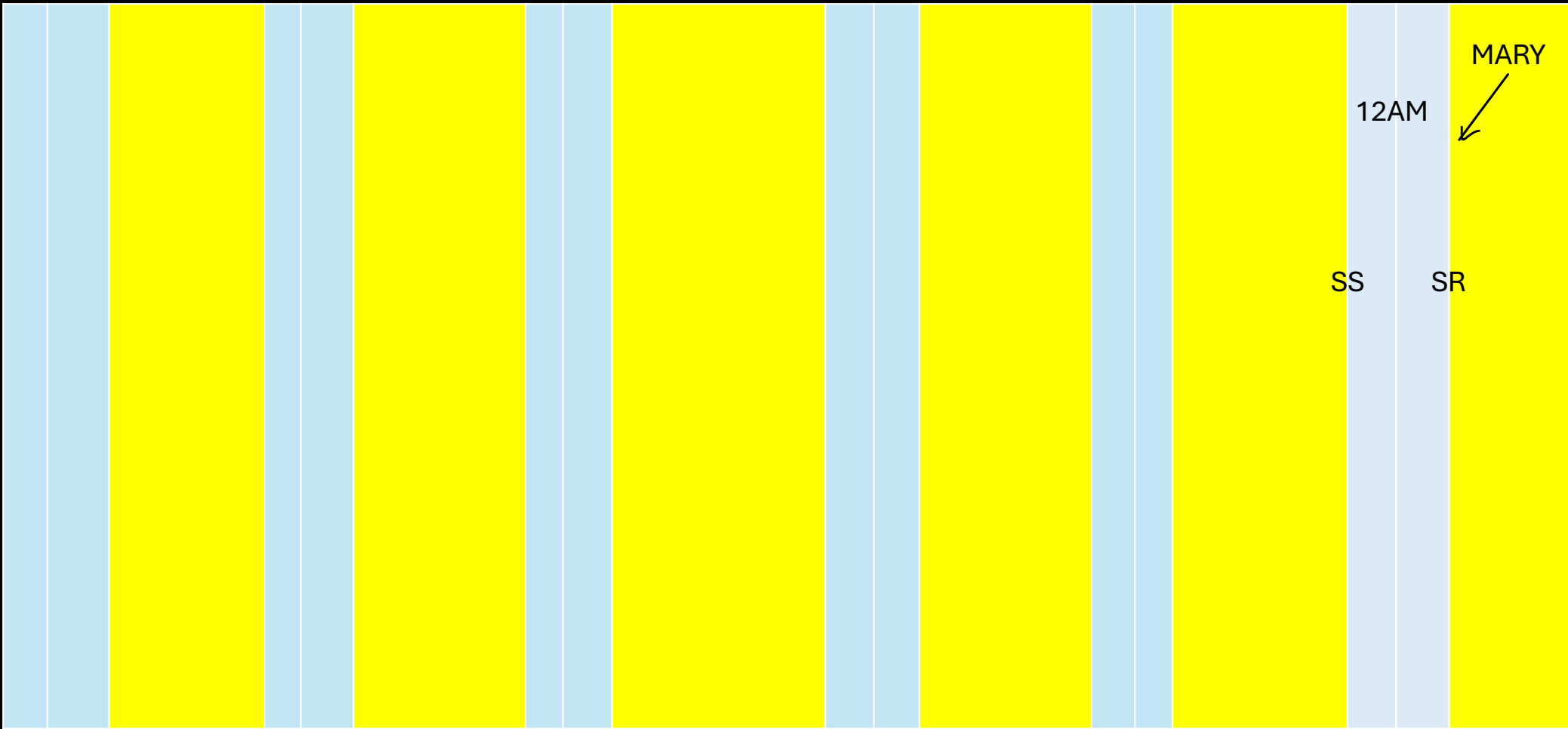
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What next?

- We also know she came following a Sabbath.
- **Mar 16:1** And when the sabbath was past,

Saturday Sunday

Sabbath

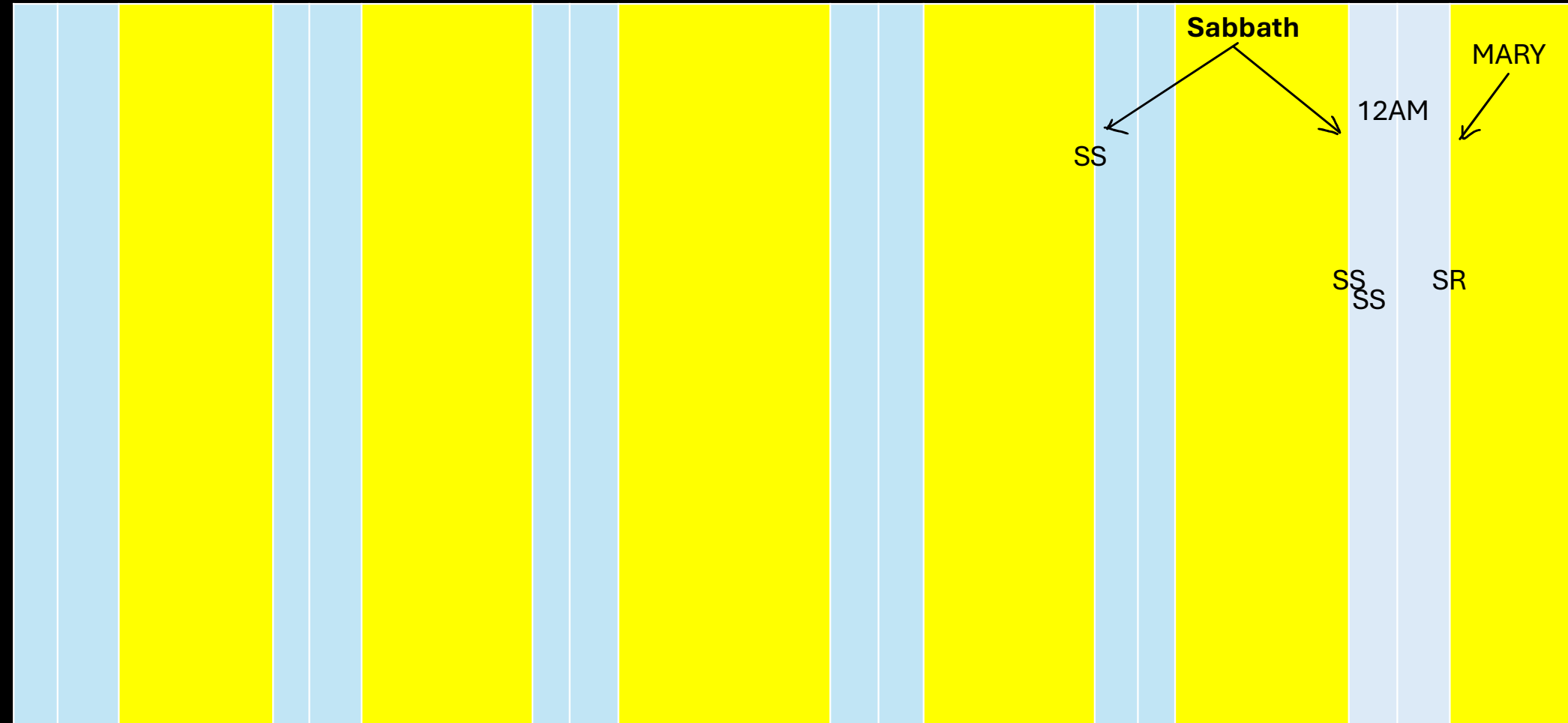
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Luke 23

- Luk 23:55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how his body was laid.
- Luk 23:56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.
- This can seem confusing So we have to look to John for more information.

John 19

- Joh 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.
- This tells us that the HIGH day was not a normal Sabbath.
- Remember Lev 23?
- What was 15th Nisan? A Sabbath that began the feast of unleavened bread.
- And it was the day after the Passover 14th Nisan.

So there were 2 Sabbaths that year.

- Keep this in mind
- the 14th of Nisan does not always fall on the same “week day”.
- The biblical calendar is **lunar-based**, not fixed like our modern Gregorian calendar.
- Months begin with the **new moon**
- A year is about **354 days**, not 365
- Leap adjustments (Adar II) are added to keep seasons aligned
- Because of that, **the same date (14 Nisan)** moves through the days of the week over time.

The new moon

- In ancient Israel, the start of a month (**Rosh Chodesh**) began when the **first visible crescent** of the new moon appeared in the sky after sunset.
- People watched the western sky at sunset
- When the thin crescent appeared → **new month began**
- That sighting marked **Day 1**



Can we work backwards?

- No Because the calendar in Jesus' day was based on **actual lunar observation and official declaration**, not our later fixed calculated Jewish calendar.
- That means reconstruction is possible, but not mathematically perfect in every detail.
- The Jews used a **luni-solar** calendar: lunar months, but adjusted to stay in the right season. A normal 12-month year is about **354 days**, and then an extra month was added when needed so Passover stayed in the spring.
- The other thing to note is that some Jewish groups in the Second Temple period did use alternative calendar schemes, including a **364-day** calendar at Qumran,

Spices?

- Luk 23:56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.
- If you had 2 back to back Sabbaths when did this happen?
- Plus John said 19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*.
- First **Joseph and Nicodemus** performed the hurried burial and used spices immediately.
- The **women** then prepared additional spices/ointments for a more complete burial anointing after the Sabbath.
- That makes sense because Jesus was buried quickly due to the approaching Sabbath.

Don't forget the High Sabbath.

- Joh 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

The High Sabbath.
The first day of the feast of unleavened bread

WE KNOW TO BE 15 NISAN

Spices being prepared by the women.
Luke 23:56

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Sabbath

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The sunset

- Passover (14 Nisan) always falls in **early spring** (March–April).
- In Jerusalem during that time:
- Sunset is typically around **6:00 PM – 6:30 PM**
- Very commonly close to **~6:15 PM**
- **1st hour** = about 7:00 AM
- **3rd hour** = about 9:00 AM
- **6th hour** = about 12:00 PM
- **9th hour** = about 3:00 PM
- So when the Gospels say Jesus cried out or died around the **9th hour**, that points to **mid-afternoon, about 3 PM**.

History tells us

- Josephus says that at Passover the lambs were slain “from the ninth hour till the eleventh”—about 3 PM to 5 PM
- Jesus Dies at 3 PM the same time!
- Is this important?
- YES!!! Remember It is a **divine appointment** set by God on His calendar.
- So you can see the sense of urgency to get the body in the tomb.

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

The pass over.
Jesus Dies at 3pm
+

WE KNOW THIS TO BE 14 NISAN

The High Sabbath.
The first day of the feast of unleavened bread

WE KNOW THIS TO BE 15 NISAN

Spices being prepared by the women.
Luke 23:56

Sabbath

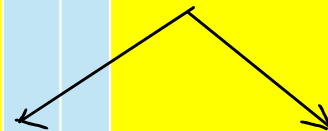
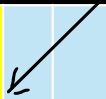
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3 DAYS 3 NIGHTS

- Mat 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

The pass over.
Jesus Dies at 3pm +

WE KNOW THIS TO BE 14 NISAN

The High Sabbath.
The first day of the feast of unleavened bread

WE KNOW THIS TO BE 15 NISAN

Spices being prepared by the women.
Luke 23:56

Sabbath

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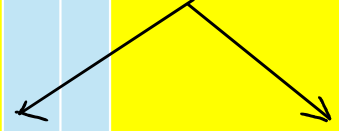
Jesus is risen!

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Feast of first fruits!

- Lev 23:11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. (Not the Hogh Sabbath)
- This would put it on 18th Nisan!

Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

The pass over.
Jesus Dies at 3pm +

WE KNOW THIS TO BE 14 NISAN

The High Sabbath.
The first day of the feast of unleavened bread

WE KNOW THIS TO BE 15 NISAN

Spices being prepared by the women.
Luke 23:56

16 Nisan

Sabbath

17 Nisan

12AM MARY

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18 Nisan

Jesus is risen!

1-1

2-2

3-3

Want to see one last thing?

- Exodus 12:3 on the 10th day (10 Nisan) take a lamb.
- Vs 5-6 Examine it for 4 days.
- Then on the 14th day (14th Nisan) at the evening kill it.
- If the Passover in that year was 14th Nisan, Wednesday what would the 10th be?
- Saturday!
- BUT THAT'S the Sabbath

John 12

- John 12:1 says:
- **“Jesus therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany”**
- Then John 12:12 says:
- **“On the next day”** the triumphal entry happens.
- So if you count from **Passover = 14 Nisan / Wednesday**, then:
- **6 days before Passover = 8 Nisan / Thursday** → Jesus comes to Bethany
- **next day = 9 Nisan / Friday** → triumphal entry **PALM FRIDAY!!!!**

What's the point?

- We can talk about dates, days, timelines and see the importance.
- But we must not forget, all of these are shadows of Christ.
- He is our Passover Lamb, nailed to the cross on our behalf.
- Yes we have to, take to heart, and Honor the Days the God has placed in our timeline. The cross would of happened at 6am this morning (our time).
- And we must not be deceived!
- We may have different clocks, but it is the same moment in the History of mankind, Where God so loved the world He sent His only Son!