


# Feasts and Sabbaths of Passover at the Time of Jesus' Birth


by Ashley Jones

Passover is to be remembered with memorial and feast. *Exodus 12:14*

**\*A Jewish day is counted from evening to morning (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13; Leviticus 23:32) (from sunset to sunset)**

Nisan 14 – Jesus Dies at 3pm

 **Tuesday – Passover Meal and Lord's Supper** *Matthew 26:26-28*  
*(Jesus is betrayed, arrested, and tried (John 18:2-27))*

 **Wednesday - Day of Preparation** *(John 13:29; Matthew 26:5; John 19:31; 40-4)*


Jesus is on the cross b/t 9am and 3pm


Jesus dies in the ninth hour (**3 pm**) *(Matthew 27:46-50, Mark 15:34-37, and in Luke 23:44-46)*, at the time of the Paschal Lamb sacrifice. - Nisan 14

**Passover** - *Numbers 28:16-17* "And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the Lord. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten."

The Hebrew literally says that the Paschal Lamb had to be slaughtered "between the two evenings." That was understood as afternoon when the sun was over its highest point and before sunset. *Exodus 12:5-6* "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 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. (Hebrew: "ben ha arbayim) between two evening or setting times]" \*Midpoint of the evening is at 3 pm.

Nisan 15


 **1<sup>st</sup> Night – Wednesday (6 P.M.)** Passover starts.  
*Jesus' body has to be in the grave by 6 pm b/c of the High Sabbath*


 **1<sup>st</sup> Day – Thursday (A.M.)** (High Sabbath Day) Passover Feast Day

*We know that Abram was seventy-five old when he entered Canaan. From that exact day (Nisan 15) until the exact day of the Exodus (Nisan 15) was 430 years (Exodus 12:40-42; Numbers 33:3).*


**1<sup>st</sup> day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Numbers 28:16-17)**

Nisan 16

 **2<sup>nd</sup> Night – Thursday (P.M.)** Nisan 16


 **2<sup>nd</sup> Day – Friday (A.M.)** Jesus' body was prepared because the weekly Sabbath would start at 6 pm.  
*Luke 23:56 "And they (the women) returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment."*


Nisan 17

 **3<sup>rd</sup> Night – Friday (P.M.)** The Weekly Sabbath starts at 6pm. No work.

 **3<sup>rd</sup> Day - Saturday (A.M.)** Rest (Weekly Sabbath) The women rested *(Luke 23:56)*

Nisan 18

 **4<sup>th</sup> Night – Saturday (P.M.)** Jesus has already risen by early morning. *(Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1-3; John 20:1; Matthew 28:1-6)* The women brought spices while still dark. Yom Rishon (Feast of Firstfruits) *(Matthew 28:1)*  
**Christ is the Firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:23)**

 **4<sup>th</sup> Day – Sunday (A.M.)** **Resurrection Day!** *Matthew 28:6 "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."*

Jesus is in the tomb 3 days and 3 nights, fulfilling Matthew 12:40.