



THE WEEK THAT CHANGED ETERNITY



FIRST MELISSA



Passion Week includes a multitude of events and trials we might not have chosen for our Savior, but He endured them for us.

This is a week that we need. Without it, we don't have a Savior.



- The Bible has four books dedicated to describing Jesus' earthly life and ministry. What's amazing is how much the Gospels focus on Jesus' final week before the Cross.
- The breakdown according to each of the Gospels:
 - A third of Matthew, from Matthew 21-28
 - A third of Mark, from Mark 11-16
 - A quarter of Luke, from Luke 19-24
 - Nearly half of John, from John 12-20
- The Gospel of John is the most concentrated upon the last week of Jesus. Nearly a third of John's Gospel is dedicated to one day, from John 13-19.
- There are a **total of 89 chapters** from all four Gospels. Of those chapters, **29 focus on the final week**. These chapters comprise one-third of the Gospels.
- Andy Naselli said, "The Gospels are essentially passion narratives with extended introductions."



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Passion Week Timeline

Day 1: Palm Sunday

Jesus enters Jerusalem and is welcomed by the crowds waving palm branches.
(Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19)

Day 3: Holy Tuesday

Jesus evades ambush, gives Olivet discourse.
(Matthew 21:23-24:51, Mark 11:20-13:37, Luke 20:1-21:36, and John 12:20-38)

Day 5: Maundy Thursday

Last Supper, Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.
(Matthew 26:17-75, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-62, and John 13:1-38)

Day 7: Black Saturday

Jesus' body lays in the tomb and is treated for burial; disciples come out of hiding and mourn openly.
(Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56, and John 19:40)

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Day 2: Holy Monday

Jesus curses the fruitless fig tree, enters the temple and clears out the corrupted money changers.
(Matthew 21:12-22, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-48, and John 2:13-17)

Day 4: Spy Wednesday

Jesus and disciples rest in Bethany. Judas agrees to betray Jesus.
(Matthew 26:12-14, Mark 14:10-12, Luke 22:3-6)

Day 6: Good Friday

Jesus is put on trial and crucified, then taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb.
(Matthew 27:1-62, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:63-23:56, and John 18:28-19:37)

Day 8: Resurrection Day

Multiple eyewitness accounts of Jesus having resurrected and the discovery of empty tomb.
(Matthew 28:1-13, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-49, and John 20:1-23)



What happened on the day of the Crucifixion?

Matthew 27:1-62

Mark 15:1-47

Luke 22:63-23:56

John 18:28-19:37



Jesus' Six Trials Before The Cross

Three Religious Trials before Jewish leaders

Before Annas

John 18:12–14

Before Caiaphas

Matthew 26:57–68

Before the Sanhedrin

Matthew 27:1–2

- Charged with blasphemy, claiming to be Son of God, Messiah.

Three Civil Trials before Roman officials

Before Pilate

John 18:28–38

Before Herod

Luke 23:6–12

Before Pilate

John 18:39–19:6

- Charged with treason, inciting people to riot, forbidding the people to pay their taxes, and claiming to be King.



Now Jesus stood before the governor [Pontius Pilate], and the governor questioned Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.” And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer. Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so the governor was quite amazed. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the people any one prisoner whom they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew that because of envy they had handed Him over. Matthew 27:11-18



While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, “Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death. But the governor said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Crucify Him!” And he said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they kept shouting all the more, saying, “Crucify Him!” When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.” And all the people said, “His blood shall be on us and on our children!” Matthew 27:19-25

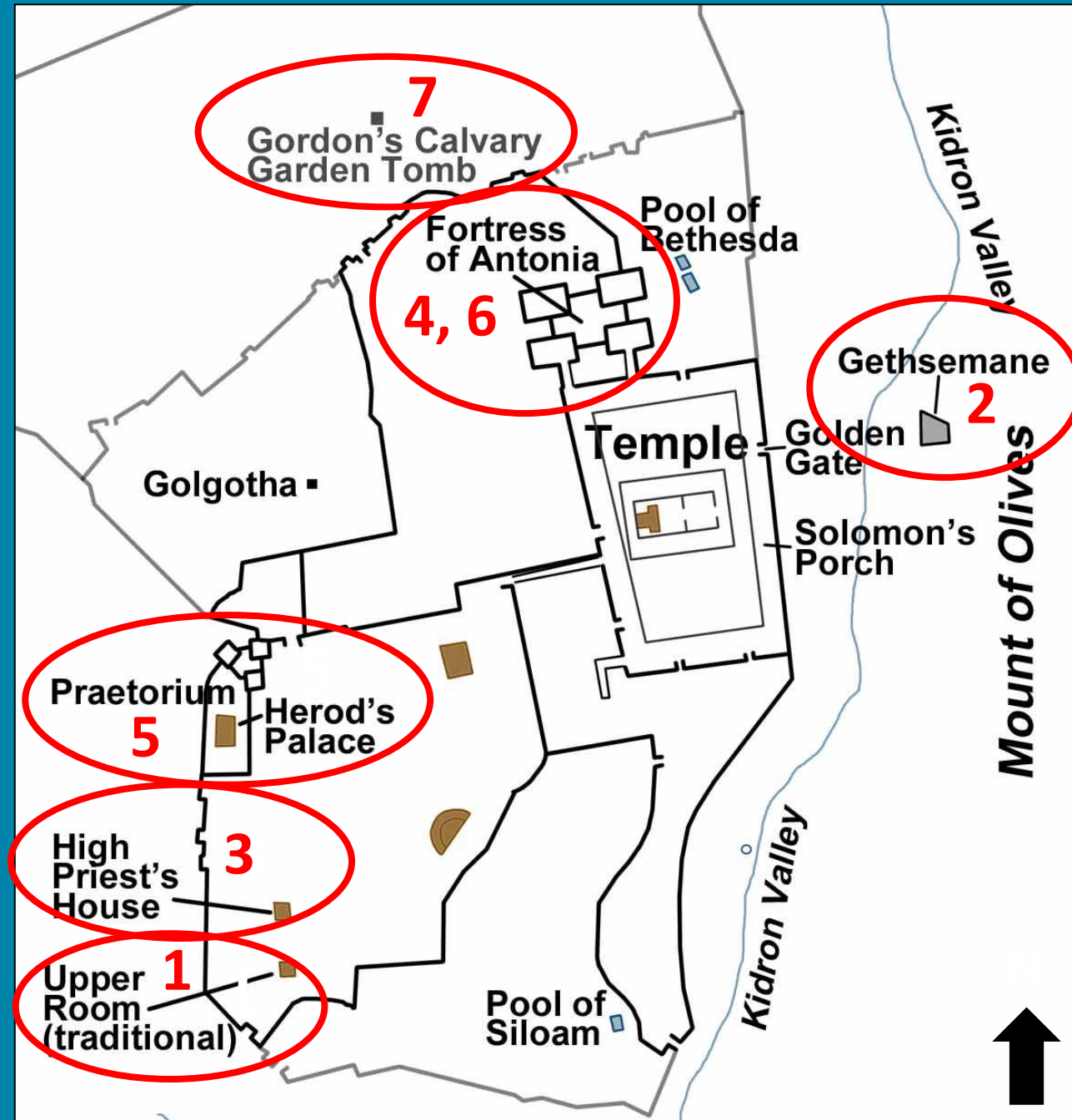


Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort [500+ soldiers] around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him. As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross. Matthew 27:26-32



Thursday night & Friday

1. Passover Meal in Upper Room
2. Prayer, betrayal and arrest in Garden of Gethsemane
3. Trial before Annas, Caiaphas, Sanhedrin (3 religious trials)
4. 1st appearance before Pilate
5. Appearance before Herod
6. 2nd appearance before Pilate
- Jesus walks the Via Dolorosa
7. Crucifixion and burial





And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink. And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. And sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, “THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” Matthew 27:33-40



Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’; but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’ ” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” John 19:19-22

ישוע נצרך מלכא ד'חודא
JESVS·NAZARENVS·REX·JUDAEORVM
IHCOYCO·O·NAZOPAIOC·O·BACINEYC·TQN·IOYΔAION



SEEK THAT
D E T E R N I T Y

Golgotha

Place of a Skull



"Skull Hill" just outside the walls of Jerusalem, photographed circa 1900.





In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, if He delights in Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words. Now from the sixth hour [12 pm] darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour [3 pm]. About the ninth hour [3 pm] Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Matthew 27:41-46



And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, “This man is calling for Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. But the rest of them said, “Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.” And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

Matthew 27:47-51



When the sixth hour came (12 pm), darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour (3 pm). At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Mark 15:33-34

And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” Mark 15:37-39



The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” Many women were there looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee while ministering to Him. Among them was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. Matthew 27:52-56



Daily **Mail**

Scientists confirm biblical earthquake that shook the earth at the moment of Jesus' crucifixion

By **STACY LIBERATORE**, US SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR
PUBLISHED: 12:51 EDT, 26 February 2026 | UPDATED: 13:21 EDT, 5 March 2026

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-15595731/biblical-earthquake-jesus-crucifixion-dead-sea.html>

NEW YORK POST

Jesus' crucifixion linked to lunar eclipse, according to NASA discovery — and it could pinpoint the exact day he died

By **Marissa Matozzo**
Published April 18, 2025, 4:11 p.m. ET

<https://nypost.com/2025/04/18/science/jesus-crucifixion-linked-to-lunar-eclipse-according-to-nasa-discovery-and-it-could-pinpoint-the-day-he-died/>

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When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave. Matthew 27:57-61



What happened on Resurrection Day?

Matthew 28:1-8

Mark 16:1-8

Luke 24:1-12

John 20:1-18

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a **garden**, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

John 19:41-42





NT

Jesus is placed in the tomb

Mark
15:46-47

Matthew
27:57-61





Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.


Matthew 28:1

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. Very early on the first day of the week (Sunday), they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

Mark 16:1-2



And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.” And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. Matthew 28:2-8



And he (the angel) said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him.” Mark 16:6



The empty tomb of Jesus



God's Perfect Timing Fulfills Biblical Patterns

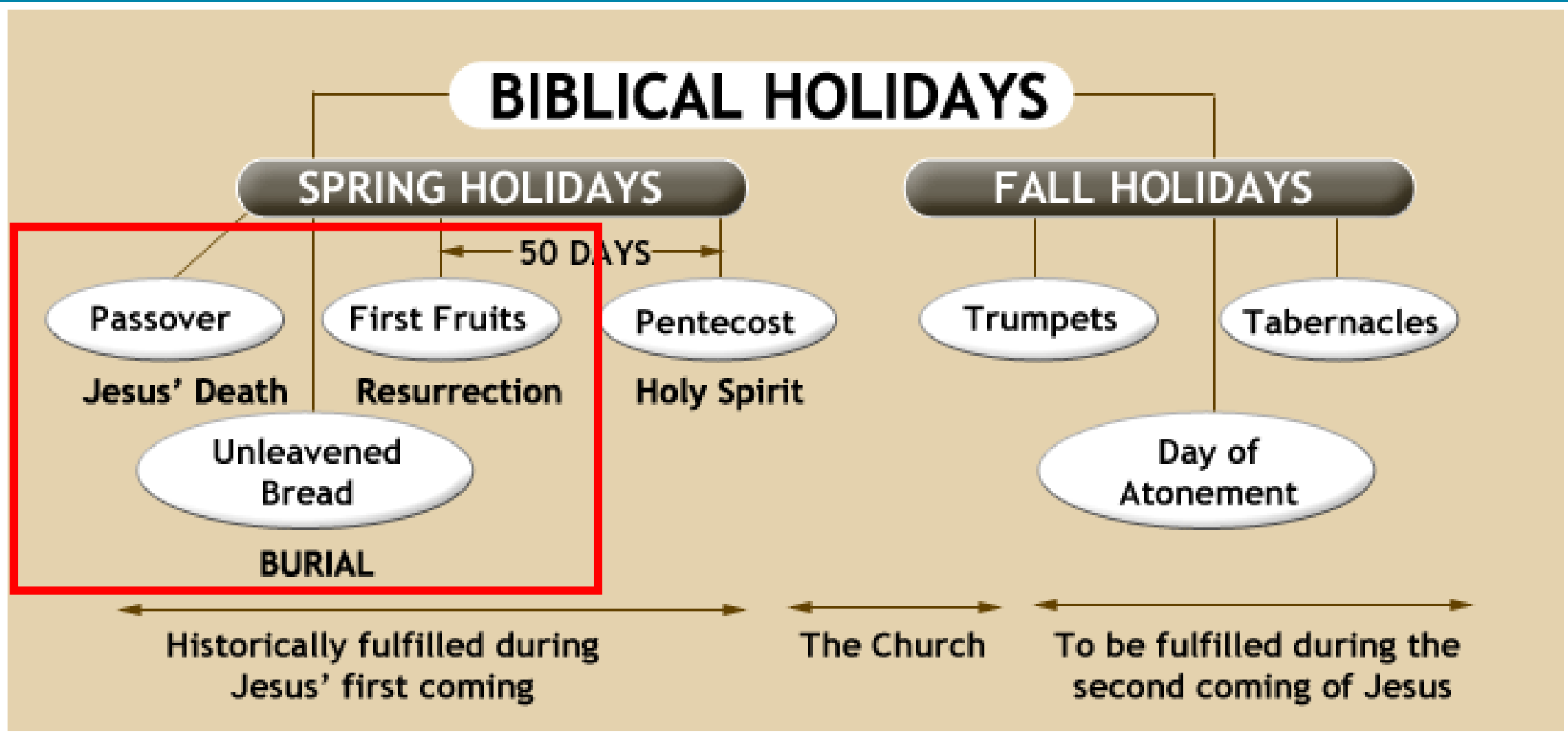
- It was the third hour [9 am] when they crucified Him. Mark 15:25
- Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head [at 3 pm] and gave up His spirit. John 19:30

On that Friday in Jerusalem, the shofar sounded at 9 AM to announce that morning sacrifice of lambs had begun in the Temple. At the same time, Jesus was nailed to a cross outside of Jerusalem. At noon the altar in the Temple was soaked with the blood of Passover lambs as the sun reached its peak in the sky. Suddenly darkness covered the land as the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God and the Light of the World, stained the cross. This was not a natural eclipse, but rather divine intervention by God the Father that lasted three hours. At 3 PM the afternoon sacrifice of lambs was carried out at the Temple. Simultaneously Jesus cried out loudly "It is finished" and died. At that moment the veil in the Temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom to announce that man could now approach God directly. When Jewish men suffered great anguish, they tore their clothes. The tearing of the veil also symbolizes the grief of God the Father in the suffering of His Son.



God's Perfect Timing Fulfills Biblical Patterns

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God's Perfect Timing Fulfills Biblical Patterns

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of **the first fruits** [Bikkurim] of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb one year old without defect for a burnt offering to the Lord.'" Leviticus 23:9-12

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, **the first fruits** of those who are asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:20



God's Perfect Timing Fulfills Biblical Patterns

Yeshua rides in on a donkey, four days before Passover. He celebrates a Passover seder meal and declares that the broken matzah represents His body—the wine of the third cup of redemption represents the new covenant, ratified by His blood.

And then days later, they find the empty tomb on a Sunday morning following the sabbath day's rest. The lamb slain from the foundation of the world, the lamb sacrificed at Passover and sung about during the Great Hallel has become the cornerstone of the people of God. (Psalm 118:22).

And now He rises as a wave offering, representing the first fruits of the promised land of the new covenant. He's the sacrificial lamb, the bread offering, and the wine offering of His blood, presented before God to forever seal the new covenant with God.

All of this hinges on the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead—His resurrection is the proof we hang all of our hope on!

Yeshua is the first fruits offering before God. And through Him—the only person to have escaped death has brought resurrection life to all who put their trusting faith in Him. He's the first fruits among everyone who has slept in the dust before His coming, and the first fruits of everyone who trusts in Him after. And He will return just as He promised to bring God's Kingdom fully to earth.

— John Horton

- <https://www.theancientway.org/articles/how-does-the-feast-of-firstfruits-connect-to-the-resurrection-jesus-as-messiah>



Why?



He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

WHAT'S THE WORD?

About Baptism?



Are you ready to say YES to Jesus?

Do you want to follow Him in baptism?

Click here



Email info@firstmelissa.com

Give your name to greeters at The Hub



What should we do if we meet the resurrected Jesus?

And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and ⁽¹⁾ worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, “⁽²⁾ Do not be afraid; ⁽³⁾ go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Matthew 28:9-10