

What Day of the Week Was Jesus Crucified? {Short version}

There has been much controversy through the years as to what day of the week Jesus was actually crucified. The fact is that **the gospels clearly tell us what day it was**, but the problem is that most English speaking Christians have forgotten how the Jewish calendar works. For the Jews **the new day begins at evening** [not midnight]. This goes back to the first chapter of Genesis: “**there was evening and there was morning the first day...**” [Gen. 1:5]; “**there was evening and there was morning the second day...**” [Gen. 1:8], etc.

Matthew and Mark both plainly tell us that Jesus was taken off the cross **at evening** – this means that **the new day had begun**. The only question remaining is whether this “**new day**” was the “**sabbath**” or “**the day of preparation**” and Mark, Luke, and John answer that question.

If Jesus was crucified on Friday, as most traditions say that He was, then **the evening {of the new day}** that Jesus was taken down off the cross **was the sabbath** which begins Friday evening. If Jesus was crucified on Thursday then **the evening {of the new day}** that He was taken down off the cross **was the “day of preparation”** [which began the Thursday evening] which was the day before the sabbath. The scriptures speak for themselves.

Mat. 27:57 “When the evening had come...”

Mark 15:42 “And now when the evening had come, because it was the preparation {day}, ...”

Luke 23:54 “And that day was the preparation...”

John 19:31 “The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation...”

Mat. 12:40 “Because as Jonah 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.”

Jesus was crucified on Thursday; Thursday evening began “the day of preparation”. Jesus lay in the tomb Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday night and on the third day He arose just as He said He would. The “**day of preparation**” was to prepare for Sunday the day of the “**First Fruits Offering**” according to Leviticus 23 – later to be called “**Easter**.” The Jews could not “prepare” on the **sabbath** so a special day was set aside for that purpose **the day before the sabbath**. {For calendar purposes the new day for the Jews begins at 6:00 p.m. - for prophetic purposes 6 p.m. Jerusalem time.}

Note Palm Sunday was on Nisan 10 {see Exodus 12:3}. On that day the Jews penned up a lamb without blemish to show to everyone - this is the Passover Lamb that is to be killed.