

## [F-8] What Day of the Week Was Jesus Crucified?

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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.

### {40} Matthew

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(57) When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: (58) He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. (59) And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, (60) And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. {Mat. 27:57-60 KJV}	(57) <b>When the evening had come</b> , there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: (58) He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. (59) And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, (60) And laid it in his own new tomb <sup>k</sup> , which he had cut out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. {Mat. 27:57-60 KJP}

### {41} Mark

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(42) And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, (43) Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. {Mark 15:42-43 KJV}	(42) <b>And now when the evening had come, because it was the preparation {day}<sup>f</sup></b> , that is, the day before the sabbath {Saturday}, (43) Joseph of Arimathaea, an honorable counselor, who also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly to Pilate, and requested the body of Jesus <sup>g</sup> . {Mark 15:42-43 KJP}

**{42} Luke**

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(50) And, behold, <i>there was</i> a man named Joseph, a counsellor; <i>and he was</i> a good man, and a just: (51) (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) <i>he was</i> of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. (52) This <i>man</i> went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. (53) And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. (54) And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. {Luke 23:50-54 KJV}	(50) And, <i>there was</i> a man named Joseph <sup>c</sup> , a counselor; <i>and he was</i> a good and just man: (51) (This same {man} had not consented to the counsel and their deed;) <i>he was</i> of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God <sup>d</sup> . (52) This <i>man</i> went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. (53) And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was cut in stone, in which no man before had lain <sup>e</sup> . (54) <b>And that day was the preparation<sup>f</sup></b> , and the sabbath {Saturday} was drawing near. {Luke 23:50-54 KJP}

**{43} John**

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(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 <i>that</i> they might be taken away. {John 19:31 KJV}	(31) The Jews therefore, <b>because it was the preparation<sup>g</sup></b> , that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath {Saturday}, (because that sabbath day {Saturday} was a high holy day,) requested of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and <i>that</i> they might be taken away. {John 19:31 KJP}

**{43} John**

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(41) Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. (42) There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation <i>day</i> ; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand. {John 19:41-42 KJV}	(41) Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb, in which no man had yet laid <sup>l</sup> . (42) There they laid Jesus therefore <b>because of the Jews' preparation <i>day</i><sup>m</sup></b> ; because the tomb was near at hand. {John 19:41-42 KJP}

**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.}  
This means Jesus hung on the cross the day of the **Passover** which began **Wednesday evening and extended to Thursday evening**. The Modern Jewish calendar was changed after Jesus lifetime to not allow **Passover** to be on **Wednesday!!** See my notes on the construction of the modern Jewish calendar {[The Jewish Calendar](#)} at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com).

{1} Nisan [Mar.-Apr.]

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Passover Crucifixion	15 Day of Preparation	16 [1] Sabbath
17 {1} Resurrection	18	19	20	21	22	23 [2]
24 {2}	25	26	27	28	29	30 [3]

[Nisan always has 30 days – see [The Jewish Calendar](http://www.TheWordNotes.com) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)]

{2} Iyar [Apr.-May]

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 {3}	2	3	4	5	6	7 [4]
8 {4}	9	10	11	12	13	14 [5]
15 {5}	16	17	18	19	20	21 [6]
22 {6}	23	24	25	26 Ascension	27	28 [7]
29 {7}						

[Iyar always has 29 days – see [The Jewish Calendar](http://www.TheWordNotes.com) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)]

{3} Sivan [May-Jun] [{3} Sivan 7 – Pentecost [50 days from Easter (counting Easter) -see Lev. 23:15-16]

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 [8]
7 {8} Pentecost	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

[Sivan always has 30 days – see [The Jewish Calendar](http://www.TheWordNotes.com) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)]

In the **fourteenth** day of the first month {Nisan [Mar.-Apr.]} at evening is the LORD {Jehovah}'s **Passover**. Lev. 23:5 KJP

Note: the new day begins at evening – see Genesis 1 – so the Passover began at 6 p.m. Wednesday {Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples Wednesday evening}; the day of Preparation began at 6 p.m. Thursday {Jesus was taken off the cross Thursday evening}; the Sabbath began at 6 p.m. Friday {Jesus could not be touched or taken off the cross on the Sabbath}.

Note: On the modern Jewish calendar, Nisan can never begin on a Friday and Passover has been moved to Nisan 15. {It is the opinion of this author that the calendar was changed by the Sanhedrin following Jesus' resurrection.} See note on [The Jewish Calendar](http://www.TheWordNotes.com) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)