

The Biblical Chronology of Jesus Christ's Burial and Resurrection

Tuesday

Our Roman calendars count days from mid-night to midnight, but the Bible counts days from sunset to sunset (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, Leviticus 23:32).

Wednesday

Nisan 14

The "Preparation Day" before the annual (not the weekly) Sabbath

Thursday

High-Day Sabbath

The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which follows the "Preparation Day"

Friday

Nisan 16

Weekly Sabbath

No work was to be done on the weekly Sabbath, lasting from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset

Saturday

Nisan 18

Sunday

3 DAYS AND 3 NIGHTS IN THE TOMB

Good Friday to Easter Sunday: **only 1½ days**

Tuesday evening:

After sundown, Jesus Christ ate a Passover meal with His disciples (at the beginning of Nisan 14, Jewish reckoning) and instituted the New Covenant symbols of bread and wine (Matthew 26:26-28). Jesus was then betrayed by Judas, arrested and during the night brought before the high priest (John 18:2-27).

Wednesday:

Jesus was crucified around 9 a.m. and died around 3 p.m. (Matthew 27:46-50). This was the preparation day for the annual—not weekly—Sabbath, which began at sunset (Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:31). Jesus' body was placed in the tomb just before sunset (Matthew 27:57-60).

Thursday:

This was the high-day Sabbath, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (John 19:31; Leviticus 23:4-7). It is the day after the "Day of Preparation" (Matthew 27:62). Wednesday night and the daylight portion of Thursday were the first of three days and nights Jesus' body was in the tomb.

Friday:

After the high-day Sabbath, the women bought and prepared spices for anointing Jesus' body before resting on the weekly Sabbath day, which began at sunset (Mark 16:1; Luke 23:56). Thursday night and the daylight portion of Friday completed the second of the three days and nights Jesus had foretold.

Saturday:

The women rested on the weekly Sabbath day, according to the Fourth Commandment (Luke 23:56; Exodus 20:8-11). Jesus rose late that afternoon, three days and three nights after His death and burial in the tomb, fulfilling the sign of Jonah and authenticating the sign He gave of His messiahship.

Sunday:

The women brought the spices early in the morning *while it was still dark* (Luke 24:1; John 20:1). Jesus had *already* risen (Matthew 28:1-6; Mark 16:2-6; Luke 24:2-3; John 20:1). He did not rise on Sunday morning, but in the afternoon the day before—three days and three nights after His burial in the tomb.