

HOLY WEEK 33 AD

1 - PREAMBLE

1A - General

Elsewhere I have argued that Tiberius 15 commenced in August 29 AD, that Messiah was baptized by John-the-Baptist in mid-August 29 AD,¹ that Messiah's 30th birthday occurred on August 28, 29 AD, that Messiah spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, and that Messiah's Ministry commenced on October 7, 29 AD, lasted 3.5 years, and end with Holy Week in early April 33 AD.

1B – A Source of Confusion

The cause of much confusion in ancient chronology is the difference between the sacred and secular calendars – specifically how the day is divided into daytime and nighttime, and particularly in discerning the sequence of events surrounding Holy Week. The sacred calendar starts the day at 6:00 pm (sometimes called dusk), and the secular calendar starts the day at midnight, as follows

Sacred=Jewish Calendar Day (6 pm-6 pm).

- Nighttime (6 pm-midnight).
 - Part 1-Evening (6 pm-midnight).
 - Part 2-*Madrugada*² (midnight-6 am).
- Daytime (6 am-6 pm).
 - Part 1-Morning (6 am-noon).
 - Part 2-Afternoon (noon-6 pm).

Secular=Gregorian Calendar Day (midnight-midnight).

- Nighttime
 - Part 2-*Madrugada* (midnight-6 am).
- Daytime (6 am-6 pm).
 - Part 1-Morning (6 am-noon).
 - Part 2-Afternoon (noon-6 pm).
- Nighttime
 - Part 1-Evening (6 pm-midnight).

¹ Hence, Messiah was born on August 28, 2 BC, which in that year was the Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Ha Shanah.

² English lacks a term for the period of the day between midnight and 6:00 am. In Spanish, it is called *madrugada*, which I will use. Thus, the sacred day is divided into the following four periods: (1) Evening (6:00 pm-midnight), (2) *Madrugada* (midnight-6:00 am), (3) Morning (6:00 am-noon), and (4) Afternoon (noon-6:00 pm); and the secular day is divided into the following four periods: (1) *Madrugada* (midnight-6:00 am); (2) Morning (6:00 am-noon); (3) Afternoon (noon-6:00 pm); and (4) Evening (6:00 pm-midnight).

As a result of the above, the Sacred and Secular calendars are six hours out of phase. For example: Assume that Passover occurs on both Nisan 14 in the Jewish calendar and April 2 in the Gregorian calendar. One has to keep in mind that Nisan 14 and April 2 share only 18 hours of the day (midnight to 6:00 pm). Six hours (6:00 pm to midnight) of Nisan 14 falls on April 1 and six hours of April 2 falls on Nisan 15. This distinction easily gets lost when trying to configure Holy Week.

Incidentally, which of the above makes the most sense to you?

1C – The Hebrew Weekdays

The Hebrew names of the days of the week are mostly numerical:

- **Yom Rishon** or "first day" = Saturday 6 pm-Sunday 6 pm .
- **Yom Shani** or "second day" = Sunday 6 pm- Monday 6 pm.
- **Yom Shlishi** or "third day" = Monday 6 pm-Tuesday 6 pm.
- **Yom Revi'i** or "fourth day" = Tuesday 6 pm-Wednesday 6pm.
- **Yom Hamish** or "fifth day" = Wednesday 6 pm-Thursday 6 pm.
- **Yom Shishi** or "sixth day" & **Erev shabbat** "eve of Sabbath" = Thursday 6 pm-Friday 6 pm.
- **Yom Shabbat** or "day he stopped," which refers to the seventh day of Creation Week when God rested from his creative work, = Friday 6 pm-Saturday 6 pm.

2 - CHURCH VERSION OF HOLY WEEK

Church tradition indicates the following sequence of events involving Holy Week:

- Palm Sunday & the Cleansing of the Temple fell on the 1st day of the week, Sunday.
- The Olivet Discourse fell on Tuesday.
- The Day of Preparation fell on Thursday,
- Passover fell on Friday.
- The Sabbath fell of Saturday.
- Easter Sunday fell on the 1st day of the week, Sunday.

Because the Jewish day begins at 6:00 pm in the evening and extends to 6:00 pm the following evening, this sequence requires that

- On Thursday afternoon before 6:00 pm, the disciples killed the unblemished lamb.
- On Thursday evening after 6:00 pm, Messiah and His disciples celebrated the Passover supper (known as the Last Supper).
- After the Last Supper, Messiah and His disciples retired to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Messiah prayed to His Father.

At that point, Messiah's ordeal began:

- He was arrested by the Temple guard.
- He was tried by the Sanhedrin.
- He was interrogated by Pontius Pilate.
- He was interrogated Herod.

- He was rejected by His people in favor of Barabbas.
- He was delivered into the hands of the Roman garrison about midnight.
- He was verbally and physically abuse by the Roman soldiers.
- He was required to carry the cross from the Roman station to Golgotha.
- He was crucified at 9:00 am on Friday morning.
- Darkness descended on the land for three hours on Friday afternoon (noon to 3:00 pm).
- He died at 3:00 pm on Friday afternoon.
- He was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea at 6:00 pm on Friday.
- He remained in the tomb from 6:00 pm on Friday until about 6:00 am on Sunday, when the women arrived and found the tomb empty - i.e. about 36 hours.

3 – THE PROBLEM WITH THE CHURCH VERSION

Unfortunately, the traditional version of Holy Week is flatly contradicted by something the Bible says about Messiah’s time in the grave. The key verse is Matthew 12:40. In it, Messiah states to the scribes and pharisees: “...as Jonas 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” (KJV) - i.e. exactly 72 hours, twice as long as the traditional chronology has Him there. Note that Messiah uses the same phraseology here as does Genesis 1:1-2:3. In both instances, God clearly does not want us to misconstrue the fact that normal, twenty-four hour days are being described.

4 - BIBLICAL VERSION OF HOLY WEEK

As a result of the previous paragraph, I believe that events involving Holy Week unfolded as follows:

NISAN 8 = Yom Hamish = 5th Day of the Week (Thu 6 pm-Fri 6 pm).

Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

- Six days before Passover, Messiah arrived in Bethany where His friend Lazarus lived (John 12:1) with His sisters Mary and Martha.

NISAN 9 = Yom Shishi = 6th Day of the Week (Thu 6 pm-Fri 6 pm).

NISAN 10 = Yom Shabbat = 7th Day of the Week (Fri 6pm-Sat 6 pm) = **Sabbath.**

NISAN 11 = Yom Rishon = 1st Day of the Week (Sat 6 pm to Sun 6 pm) = **Palm Sunday**

Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

- Messiah rode a donkey into Jerusalem (Matthews 21:1-9).
- Messiah visited the Temple for the first time, when (a) He cleansed it by ejecting the money-changers and then (b) healed the blind and the lame (Matthew 21:10-16).

NISAN 12 = Yom Shani = 2nd Day of the Week (Sun 6 pm-Mon 6 pm)

Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

- Messiah lodged in Bethany.(Matthew 21:17), probably in the home of Lazarus and his sisters..

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

NISAN 13 = Yom Shlishi = 3rd Day of the Week (Mon 6 pm to Tue 6 pm) = **Day of Preparation.**

Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

- Messiah had dinner in the home of Simon the Leper in Bethany, which Lazarus was one of the guests and his sister Martha served. (Matthew 26:6, Mark 14:3, and John 12:2).
- Messiah was anointed by Mary Magdalen (Matthew 26:7-13, Mark 14:4-11) and John 12:3-11).³

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

- In the morning, an unblemished lamb was killed by the disciples for the Last Supper which would occur later, at the beginning of Passover in Nisan 14.
- Messiah cursed the fig tree (Matthew 21:18-19 and Mark 11:12-14).
- Messiah visited the Temple for the second and last time, when He (a) taught the multitudes and (b) was challenged by the pharisees, who questioned His authority to teach and heal the people and were confounded by His answers (Matthew 21:23-27, Mark 11:27-33, and Luke 20:1-8).
- Messiah left the Temple and went to the Mount of Olives, where he delivered the Olivet Discourse to His disciples (Matthew 24:1-44, Mark 13:1-14:1, and Luke 21:5-38).

NISAN 14 = Yom rev'i = 4th Day of the Week (Tue 6 pm to Wed 6 pm) = **Passover.**

Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

- Messiah and His disciples celebrated the Last Supper during the hours of about 6-7 pm on Tuesday (Matthew 26:20).
- Messiah and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Messiah prayed to His Father..
- Messiah was arrested by the Temple guards.
- Messiah was tried by the Sanhedrin in Caiaphas' house.
- Messiah was interrogated by Pontius Pilate.
- Messiah was interrogated by King Herod.
- Messiah was rejected by His people when they choose Barabbas to be set free..
- Messiah was turned over to the Roman garrison around midnight.

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

- Messiah was verbally and physically abused by the Roman soldiers.
- Messiah was required to carry His cross from the Roman station to Golgotha.
- Messiah was crucified at 9:00 am (3rd hour) on Wednesday morning.
- Darkness fell on the land at Noon (6th hour) on Wednesday and lasted three hours.
- Messiah died at 3:00 pm (9th hour) on Wednesday afternoon, when the Temple veil was torn from top to bottom.

³ Although the passages concerning Messiah's visit to the home of Simon the Leper and His anointing by Mary Magdalene is located by Matthew, Mark, and John after the passage concerning the Olivet Discourse, I believe that they refer back to events of the previous evening.

- Pilate granted permission to Joseph of Arimathea to take down Messiah's body and bury it in his own tomb in a nearby garden..
- Joseph and others transported His body to the tomb.
- Women cleansed and anointed His body and wrapped it in a burial cloth.
- A Roman garrison sealed the tomb just before 6:00 pm on Wednesday and commenced continuous vigil to ensure that Messiah's body was not molested or stolen.

NISAN 15 = Yom Hamish = 5th Day of the Week (Wed 6 pm to Thu 6 pm) = the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread ⁴ (Messiah's 1st day in the grave lasted 24 hours).

Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

- Messiah spent the nighttime in the grave.

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

- Messiah spent the daytime in the grave.

NISAN 16 = Yom Shishi = 6th Day of the Week (Thu 6 pm to Fri 6 pm) = Normal Day (Messiah's 2nd day in the grave lasted 24 hours).

Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

- Messiah spent the nighttime in the grave.

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

- Messiah spent the daytime in the grave.
- Women bought oil and spices in a market.

NISAN 17 = Yom Shabbat = 7th Day of the Week (Fri 6 pm to Sat 6 pm) = Sabbath (Messiah's 3rd day in the grave lasted 24 hours).

Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

- Messiah spent the nighttime in the grave.

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

- Messiah spent the daytime in the grave.
- Messiah rose from the dead at 6:00 pm on Saturday/Sunday, which was accompanied by a blast that opened the tomb and stunned the Roman soldiers.

⁴ Originally, *Passover* was observed in the home on Abib 14, and the *Feast of the Unleavened Bread* began on Abib 15 and ended on Abib 19 (Exodus 12:6-20, Leviticus 23:5-8, and Numbers (9:2-5). During the reigns of Hezekiah and Josiah, Passover was observed in the Temple (II Chronicles 30 & 35). Then, during the Babylonian Captivity, the name of Abib was changed to Nisan, and the Jews began observing *Passover* on Nisan 14 and the beginning of the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* on Nisan 14 or 15. (See David C. Grabbe's "Is Passover on the First Day of Unleavened Bread," Part 1 at <https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/weekly/id/741/is-passover-on-first-day-unleavened-bread-part-one.htm> and Part 2 at <https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/weekly/id/742/is-passover-on-first-day-unleavened-bread-part-two.htm>.) I believe that, during Holy Week, *Passover* fell on Nisan 14, when Messiah was crucified, and the first day of the *Feast of the Unleavened Bread* fell on Nisan 15.

NISAN 18 = Yom Rishon = 1st Day of the Week (Sat 6 pm to Sun 6 pm) = Easter Sunday.

. Nighttime (6 pm-6 am)

- Messiah rose from the dead at 6:00 pm on Saturday/Sunday, which was accompanied by a blast that opened the tomb and stunned the Roman soldiers.
- Messiah left the garden.

Daytime (6 am-6 pm)

- The women arrived at the garden to apply oil and spices to Messiah's body around 6:00 am on Sunday morning. Mary Magdalene ran ahead, entered the garden first, and found the tomb empty.
- Mary ran and told Peter and John what she had found.
- All three of them went to the tomb.
- The disciples left the tomb, but Mary stayed behind in the garden.
- Two angels and then Messiah Himself appeared to Mary.