

Friday



Exodus 12
The Passover is a celebration of Israel being delivered from bondage in Egypt. The first Passover lamb was sacrificed at that time.

In Luke 22:15 Jesus ate Passover with His disciples on Friday night. Then He was crucified next morning at 9am on that same Jewish Friday (Mk 15:25 & Luk 23:52-54).



Matt 27:45-54 & Luk 23:44-45
The sun stopped shining between the 6th and 9th hour (12-3pm) as the sins of the world and God's wrath were poured out on Jesus, the Light of the world. This darkness could not have been a solar eclipse as Passover is always held at full moon on the 14th day of the Jewish lunar month of Nisan. New Moons start lunar months so Passover is always on a full moon, being halfway through the month.



Matt 27:46-50
Jesus died about the 9th hour (3pm) on Passover Day as the Temple lamb was being sacrificed. He was the Lamb of God, the perfect and final Passover sacrifice, dying for the sins of the world.

Matt 27:51-53
When Jesus died, the Temple curtain was torn from top to bottom, and saints came out of their tombs.



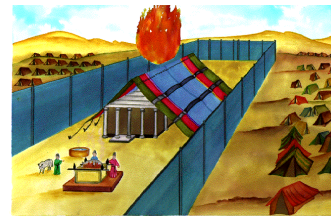
Deu 21:22-23 & Luk 23:52-54
Jesus was buried the same day, according to the Law, before sundown when the Sabbath commenced. This Sabbath was also the first day of the Feast Of Unleavened Bread. So Jesus, our 'kernel of wheat' and 'unleavened bread', was buried at the start of the Feast.

Mark 16:2
The tomb was found empty after sunrise on Sunday morning.

Jewish days start at sundown, say 6pm. Jesus ate the Passover meal after sundown, at the beginning of that Friday Passover - it was Thursday evening English time. He was crucified, died and buried the next day which was Friday in both Jewish time and ours. Jewish time is reckoned from sundown or sunrise so the 3rd hour was 9am (6+3) and the 9th hour was 3pm (6+9=15). Night 'watches' are measured from 6pm.

Matt 12:40 - "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Jesus was actually only in the grave for two nights and three days. Barnes' Commentary says "This computation is, however, strictly in accordance with the Jewish mode of reckoning. If it had "not" been, the Jews would have understood it, and would have charged our Saviour as being a false prophet, for it was well known to them that he had spoken this prophecy, Mat 27:63. Such a charge, however, was never made; and it is plain, therefore, that what was "meant" by the prediction was accomplished. It was a maxim, also, among the Jews, in computing time, that a part of a day was to be received as the whole. Many instances of this kind occur in both sacred and profane history." [On the day Jesus was resurrected He met with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. In Luke 24:19-21, one of them said that it was the third day since Jesus was crucified]

Saturday



Passover Day can fall on any day of the week because it is determined by the moon. Next day, the seven days of The Feast Of Unleavened Bread begins.

John 19:31 & Matt 27:57-62 say that Jesus died on Preparation Day (Passover Day also), the day before the Sabbath. This Sabbath was called a High Day, or a Special Sabbath, because it was also the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (one of the seven annual feast day Sabbaths).

[The Feast Of Unleavened Bread can be referred to as the Passover even though, strictly speaking, the Passover was a separate event.]

Sunday



It was God's timing for Jesus to be crucified on a Friday Passover. According to Scripture, Jesus was to be in the grave for three days and three nights and then rise from the dead on the third day. See notes below on Matt 12:40 and 3 days.

During the Feast Of Unleavened Bread, the first-fruit grain offering from the spring barley harvest was made. The priest offered it on the day after the Sabbath (Sunday - Lev 23:11). Jesus rose from the grave on this day. He was the first man to be resurrected with a spiritual body and so was referred to as the first-born from the dead. Being the first spiritually resurrected man, He became the first-fruit offering (of the harvest of men) to God followed along by the saints of Matt 27:51-53.

If, for example, Jesus was crucified on a Tuesday Passover then He would have had to have been in the grave for six days to rise as first-fruits on Sunday. For the three day prophecy to be fulfilled, and for Jesus to be the fulfillment of the Feasts, this Passover had to fall on a Friday.

