

A Timeline of  
Thursday and Friday of the  
**PASSION  
WEEK**

**THURSDAY:****A DAY OF MESSIANIC PREPARATION**

Events in Succession	Biblical References	Notes
Thursday evening: Jesus leads the 12 to the upper room, keeps His final Passover with the disciples, and then leads the 11 to the Garden of Gethsemane	Matt. 26:17–35 Mark 14:12–42 Luke 22:7–38 John 13:1–17, 26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The 12 argue over who would be greatest in the kingdom (probably struggling for best seats at the table). Jesus rebukes His disciples.</li><li>2. Jesus washes the disciples' feet.</li><li>3. Jesus announces that His betrayer is at the table; all wonder "Is it I?"; Judas (probably next to Jesus) asks Jesus, who says "It is you!"</li><li>4. Judas makes an excuse, departs to alert and guide the soldiers to Jesus (Luke 22:6).</li><li>5. Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper (after Judas' departure).</li><li>6. Jesus teaches the 11 ("Farewell Discourse"), abruptly leaves the room, sets out for Gethsemane (John 14:31), teaching (John 15, 16) and praying (John 17) along the way.</li></ol> <p><i>NOTE: Judas doubtless brought the soldiers back to the upper room (where he had left Jesus), found it empty, knew the only place where Jesus could have taken the 11 at this hour (John 18:2), made his way with arresting forces to Gethsemane.</i></p>
Thursday evening (late): Jesus arrives with the 11 at Gethsemane; there He struggles in prayer to His Father.	Matt. 26:36–46 Mark 14:32–42 Luke 22:39–46 John 18:1–2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Jesus leaves eight of the 11 in a cave that was part of the agricultural complex (i.e., Gethsemane) where He often stayed when in Jerusalem (John 18:2); begged them to pray for Him.</li><li>2. He took three into the garden itself, asking them to pray as well because His soul was "deeply grieved, even to the point of death," but they sleep as He prays.</li><li>3. Three times Jesus asks the Father to "take the cup," but always, "Not my will..."; after each season of prayer, He finds the three disciples sleeping; asks them to pray.</li><li>4. Luke 22:43–44 – the Father sent angels; Jesus' "sweat like drops of blood."</li></ol>
Jesus is arrested, deserted by His disciples, and led off to trial.	Matt. 26:47–56 Mark 14:43–50 Luke 22:47–53 John 18:2–11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Judas arrives with a large crowd with armor, weapons, and lanterns.</li><li>2. Judas approaches Jesus, says to Him, "Greetings, Rabbi," and kisses Him as a signal to the soldiers.</li><li>3. Jesus identifies Himself as the One they are after.</li><li>4. Peter cuts off an ear of the high priest's servant; Jesus heals the ear, rebukes Peter (Luke 22:51).</li><li>5. The 11 flee; Jesus is arrested and taken to be "tried."</li></ol>

FRIDAY MORNING BEFORE 6 A.M.:

# A TIME OF MESSIANIC PROSECUTION

Jesus is interrogated by the Jewish Sanhedrin and tried before the Roman prefect, Pilate.

Events in Succession	Biblical References	Notes
The Jewish hearings: The Sanhedrin struggles to legitimize an indictment of sedition (before and at dawn) — with the story of Peter’s denials interwoven in these accounts.	John 18.12–23	The FIRST stage: Jesus is examined by Annas, the former high priest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Nothing comes of this, so Jesus is taken to Caiaphas (son-in-law of Annas, current high priest ruling over the Sanhedrin, which is conducting this sham “hearing”).</li></ul>
	Matt. 26:57, 59–68 Mark 14:53, 55–65 Luke 22:63–65 John 18:24	The SECOND stage: a nocturnal, unprincipled “trial” conducted by Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin; Jesus is condemned, mocked, buffeted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Many illegalities by Jewish standards (place, time, haste, conflicting testimony tolerated, etc.).</li><li>▪ Witnesses brought, no credibility, contradicted one another – no progress making their case.</li><li>▪ In desperation, Caiaphas put Jesus under oath, demanding of Him, “Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God”; to Caiaphas’ shock and delight, Jesus answered, “I am!”</li><li>▪ Caiaphas condemns Jesus as a seditionist; Sanhedrinists concur – Hearing adjourned (possibly between 2–4 a.m.).</li></ul>
	Matt. 26:67–68 Mark 14:65	<i>NOTE: A problem – illegal to hold such a “hearing/trial” between sundown and sunup (can’t get witnesses). Accusers fear Pilate might dismiss the charge. Decide to hold a second such hearing at first blush of dawn (i.e., grayness on eastern horizon), so Jesus taken across courtyard to holding place (possibly a cellar or cistern); attending Roman soldiers abuse Him.</i>
	Matt. 26:58, 69–75 Mark 14:54, 66–72 Luke 22:54–62 John 18:15-18, 25–27	MEANWHILE, Peter had found his way into that very courtyard, denies his Lord three times. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ #1 – to servant-girl keeping the gate of the courtyard</li><li>▪ #2 – another girl recognized Peter, but he “denied with an oath”</li><li>▪ #3 – warming hands at fire, a servant (a relative of the one whose ear Peter had severed!) recognized him, as Peter denied Jesus a third time, ① a rooster crowed nearby; ② Jesus, being brought back into great hall at first blush of dawn, looked upon Peter</li></ul>
	Matt. 27:1 Mark 15:1 Luke 22:66–71	The THIRD stage: after dawn, Sanhedrin formally condemns Jesus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Purpose: to slap some façade of legitimacy on nocturnal hearing (after sunup – almost)</li><li>▪ No witnesses, procedure, etc. — just same question of Jesus, who gives same answer (“I am!”)</li><li>▪ To Pilate for trial as a seditionist (about 4:30 a.m. — at very first glimmer of dawn) — a charge, it would seem, to which Jesus had confessed!</li></ul>
	Matt. 27:3–10 Acts 1:18,19	MEANWHILE, the remorse and suicide of Judas.

Events in Succession	Biblical References	Notes
The Roman trials: Pilate again and again pronounces Jesus innocent of sedition and then condemns Him to be crucified as a seditionist.	Matt. 27:2, 11–14 Mark 15:1–5 Luke 23:1–5 John 18:28–38	<p>Stage #1: Before Pilate the first time; Jesus remains silent before the Prefect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pilate takes Jesus for private interview #1 – goes out to bema seat, announces: “Innocent!”</li> <li>▪ Jewish accusers: “NO. A troublemaker (i.e., threat to Rome) beginning in Galilee!”</li> <li>▪ Pilate (anxious to be rid of this issue): “Galilee belongs to Herod Antipas!” So Jesus sent to Herod.</li> </ul>
	Luke 23:6–12	<p>Stage #2: Before Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee: Jesus remains silent, in spite of the accusations hurled against Him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Herod Antipas is eager to see Jesus, hopes to witness a miracle (Luke 23:8), but Jesus is mute in the face of accusations (23:9–10), so Antipas mocks Jesus and sends Him back to Pilate.</li> <li>▪ While Pilate waits, he sees the city begin to awake; comes up with a brilliant idea.</li> </ul>
	Matt. 27:15–26 Mark 15:6–15 Luke 23:13–25 John 18:39–19:16	<p>Stage #3: Before Pilate a second time; the Procurator struggles to release Jesus; finally surrenders to the demand of the Sanhedrin that Jesus be executed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pilate’s idea: offer Jesus instead of Barabbas – but the Jewish leaders persuade the people to demand Barabbas! [Note – in this account three declarations of Jesus’ innocence by the official judge!]</li> <li>▪ Pilate receives message from his wife: “Have nothing to do with this innocent man!”</li> <li>▪ Pilate “washes his hands” (“I am free of the blood of this innocent person!”), has Jesus scourged.</li> <li>▪ Jewish leaders (fearful Pilate might persuade the people, release Jesus): “If you won’t crucify Him as a seditionist, by our law He must die because He made Himself the Son of God!”</li> <li>▪ Pilate tries harder to release Jesus; Sanhedrinists threaten to report to Caesar; Pilate to crowd: “Behold your King!”; Crowd: “We have no king but Caesar!” – Pilate “delivered Jesus to their will” (about 6 a.m.); writes the sign: “Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews.”</li> </ul>

**FRIDAY:**

# A DAY OF MESSIANIC PERFECTION

Jesus is taken outside a gate of the city and crucified. His lifeless body is laid in a nearby borrowed tomb.

Events in Succession	Biblical References	Notes
Final preparation: The place of crucifixion is made ready, two other victims are prepared, and the Roman soldiers lead Jesus to Golgotha (6–9 a.m.).	Matt. 27:31–34 Mark 15:20–23 Luke 23:25 John 19:16–22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The soldiers put Jesus' own garments on Him and "led Him away to be crucified."</li> <li>▪ Along the way, Jesus staggers and thus a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, was conscripted to carry Jesus' cross to the place of execution.</li> <li>▪ A "great multitude of the people" followed, and some women "mourned and lamented Him." Jesus warned of suffering to come upon them in days to come.</li> <li>▪ When Jesus arrived at the place of the cross ("Golgotha," or "the place of the skull"), He was offered "sour wine mixed with gall," but He refused to drink it.</li> </ul>
The crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, Messiah of Israel and the Son of God (9 a.m.–3 p.m.)	Matt. 27:37 Mark 15:26 John 19:19–22 Matt. 27:38 Mark 15:27 Luke 23:32 John 19:18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The probable method of crucifixion: the crossbeam is laid on the ground, Jesus' hands are nailed to the beam, and the beam is raised with Jesus affixed to it and attached to the vertical stake permanently fixed in place; then Jesus' feet are nailed to the cross as well.</li> <li>▪ The placard intended to identify the victim's crime — was placed "over His head."</li> <li>▪ Two thieves/revolutionaries were crucified with Jesus, one either side of Jesus.</li> <li>▪ For three hours (9 a.m.–noon) the sun shines normally — Jesus speaks three times during these hours.</li> </ul>
	Luke 23.34	1. As He is being crucified, Jesus speaks: "Father, forgive them, for the do now know what they do."
	Luke 23:39–43	2. To the repentant thief: "Today you will be with me in Paradise!"
	John 19:25–27	3. To John the apostle, referring to Jesus' mother: "Behold your mother!"
	Matt. 27:45 Mark 15:33 Luke 23:44–45	For three hours (Noon–3 p.m.) the sun is supernaturally darkened — Jesus speaks four times after those three hours
	Matt. 27:46–50 Mark 15:34–36	4. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
	John 19:28–30	5. "I thirst!" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jesus is offered a drink of sour wine again, and now He accepts it.</li> <li>▪ Probably, Jesus is requesting some moisture to strengthen Him sufficiently to be able to say His ...</li> </ul> 6. "It is finished!" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jesus sips some of that wine in order to moisten His organs of speech and thus to find the physical capability to make this declaration of grand and glorious victory.</li> <li>▪ Greek: tetalestai "to make an end or to accomplish, to complete something, not merely to end it, but to bring it to perfection or its destined goal, to carry it through."</li> </ul>

Events in Succession	Biblical References	Notes
The physical death of the God-Man — including physical phenomena at His death (3 p.m.)	Luke 23:46 Matt. 27:50 Mark 15:37	7. “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”
	Matt. 27:50 Mark 15:37 Luke 23:46 John 19:30	Jesus “yielded up His spirit” (Matt.), “breathed His last” (Mark, Luke), “bowing His head, gave up His spirit” (John).
		Breath-taking physical phenomena occurred in connection with Jesus’ surrender of His spirit.
	Matt. 27:51 Mark 15:38	The massive separating veil in the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom.
	Matt. 27:51b	The earth quaked and rocks were split
	Matt. 27:52–53	As a result of the quaking of the earth (evidently) rocks were split open, “and the graves were opened, and many of the bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”
	John 19:31–33	Soldiers come to break the legs of the victims, hasten death before the Sabbath; Jesus is found to be already dead, and thus His legs are not broken. ▪ Thus, the requirement of the Passover lamb (no bone broken) is fulfilled (Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12; 1 Cor. 5:7).
The burial of the body of Jesus, after proof of His death	John 19:34–35	Jesus side is pierced to certify physical death (spurting blood = beating heart; flowing blood w/ water = still heart) ▪ Thus, the prophecies of Zech. 12:10 & Ps. 22:26 – foretellings of Messiah being pierced – are fulfilled. ▪ note the oath of John in 19:35 – swearing that Jesus’ death was real, because only then can His resurrection be real.
	John 19:38–39	Pilate is assured of Jesus’ death, gives Joseph of Arimathea (a member of the Sanhedrin) permission to bury Jesus’ body; Nicodemus provides burial spices.
	Matt. 27:59–60 Mark 15:46 Luke 23:53–54 John 19:40–42	Jesus’ body is washed, wrapped in a clean linen cloth, bound in strips of cloth securing the spices, and laid on the stone shelf in Joseph’s nearby newly dug cave tomb; the cover-stone is rolled across the mouth of the tomb, to be left in place until Sunday morning when burial preparation could be completed.
	Two-fold watch on the tomb: Roman soldiers (Matt. 27:62–66) and sorrowing women (Matt. 27:61; Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55–56)	





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