

## The Confusion of the Crucifixion, Part 2

### IV. Consider the wording the disciples on the road to Emmaus used.

- In Luke 24:21 we hear the disciples say to the man (Whom they did not yet recognize as Jesus), *“We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.”*
- This discussion happened on Sunday, the day Christ resurrected. Again, the number of days fits with a Thursday crucifixion — Thursday day, Friday night, Friday day, Saturday night, Saturday day, Sunday night. Those represent three sets of days and nights that — to the disciples walking down the road to Emmaus — happened three days ago.

### V. Consider the women who went to anoint Jesus.

- Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1; John 19:39-40; Acts 2:27
- Though they were running late, these women wouldn't have attempted to anoint the body four days late, so they headed out before the sun was up to get in on the tale end of the third evening.
- But why not just anoint Jesus on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday? Well, a Thursday crucifixion would have put the body in the tomb right before sundown on the Passover. Friday was a High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Saturday was the weekly Sabbath; the best these ladies could have done was to wait until Sunday. Otherwise, they would have been breaking God's law.

### VI. Consider the Elements of the Passover.

- John 12; Exodus 12:3; I Corinthians 15:20; Leviticus 23:12-13
- John 12 tells us that six days prior to the Passover, Jesus visited Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. Since the Passover was on the 14th of Nisan, then six days earlier would have been the 8th of Nisan. So, Jesus would have arrived during the daytime hours on Friday which would have been the 8th. Friday evening would have ushered in the weekly Sabbath (the 9th of Nisan). However, the meal Martha served and the anointing of Jesus performed by Mary would have been very wrong had they been done on the Sabbath.
- Therefore, the meal and anointing described in John 12 happened on Saturday evening, the 9th of Nisan which was no longer the Sabbath. Later in the day, the daytime hours of Sunday, Jesus entered into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday.
- But Palm Sunday had more significance to the Jews than many of us realize. The lambs that were sacrificed on the 14th of Nisan were selected on the 10th of Nisan. We learn that in Exodus 12:3.
  - After they were selected, they were presented for inspection that same day. Jesus did just that in presenting Himself when He rode into Jerusalem.
  - The lambs selected for the sacrifice were then taken home and inspected over the next four days to be certain they were pure and spotless. It's interesting to note that the next few days Jesus was also questioned and tested by the Jewish leaders.
  - This tradition of taking the lamb home was also done so that the family would feel the impact of sacrificing this adorable lamb that had lived in their house as a member of the family for the better part of a week.
  - Then on the 14th of Nisan, the Passover lambs were killed and their blood was spilled. The blood was then placed over the doorposts in remembrance of the first Passover and of God's deliverance of His people from Egyptian bondage. With the 10th of Nisan on a Sunday, the day of crucifixion — four days later — would have been Thursday, the 14th of Nisan.

- But just like the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem had multiple levels of significance, the day of Jesus' death was no coincidence either.
  - Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover as early in the Jewish day as the possibly could (Wednesday night on the 14th of Nisan). Jesus did this for two reasons: First, because He knew what was going to happen later that day, and second, many of the Jews celebrated the Passover at home earlier in the day while the chief priest and pharisees and others like them celebrated it later in the day at the Temple.
  - So Jesus and the disciples go out to Gethsemane, and the rest is history. Jesus is slaughtered on the same day that Passover lambs were slain and sacrificed. That still would have been the 14th of Nisan, but it would have been Thursday during the day.
  - Jesus is buried before Thursday evening which would have been the 15th of Nisan and the High Sabbath Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- Now, normally, the Feast of First Fruits would have been the very next day after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but the waiving of the sheafs was not allowed to take place on a Sabbath. Since the High Sabbath of Unleavened Bread happened right before the regular weekly Sabbath, the Feast of First Fruits had to wait until Sunday. The 17th of Nisan obviously would have started on Saturday evening, but during the day time hours on Sunday morning, the priests would wave a sheaf of grain before the Lord as an act of recognizing the provision of the Lord in the barley harvest.
  - Jesus had to raise on this day. Just as Jesus fulfilled the sacrifice of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, He also fulfilled the Feast of First Fruits when He rose from the grave and ascended to His Father. His ascension was a type of wave offering, and just as the first fruits of the harvest were waved as an offering to the Lord, Jesus ascended to the Father as the first fruits of the resurrection.
  - Jesus was the lamb of the meat offering, and His blood was the wine of the drink offering. With His Resurrection before the Father on Sunday morning, the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled the Feast of First Fruits.
  - So, with the selection of the lamb on the 10th day of Nisan (the day Jesus entered Jerusalem) and the wave, meat, and drink offerings of the Feast of First Fruits, Jesus was the fulfillment of the entire Passover.
- All of the following events took place on the 17th of Nisan:
  - Noah's Ark safely rested on Mt. Ararat (Genesis 8:4. Note that the seventh month was later designated as the first month at the time of the Exodus, Exodus 12:2).
  - Hebrews entered Egypt (Exodus 12:40-41) 430 years before deliverance.
  - Moses led the Israelites through the Parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 3:18, 5:3)
  - Israel entered and ate the first fruit of the Promised Land (Joshua 5:10-12)
  - The cleansing of the Temple by Hezekiah (eight hundred years after entering the promised land. (2 Chronicles 29:1-28)
  - Queen Esther saved the Jews from Elimination (Esther 3:12, 5:1)
  - The Resurrection of the Messiah
  - God miraculously used Nisan 17 to be a day of new beginnings. What more perfect day could there have been for Christ to rise?

### AMBrewster's Journey to Discover the Date of the Crucifixion

In my research I hit a snag I hit in my study.

So, I finally found an explanation that perfectly matches up with all the biblical data, and that lead me to wonder . . . well, if we know that Jesus died on a Thursday that also happened to be the 14th of Nisan, we should be able to figure out with a huge amount of certainty which year He died and — consequently — which day on the Gregorian calendar he died.

So, I searched . . . for a long time . . . in many places, and I was completely unable to find a Thursday that fell on Nisan 14 anywhere from AD 27 through AD 35. In fact, some sources told me that it's *impossible* for the 14th of Nisan to *ever* fall on a Thursday because of the way it's calculated with the moon cycles and so on. However, it frequently falls on a *Friday*.

Let's just say, I was discouraged. I knew Jesus was crucified on Passover and rose on the first of the week. Those points cannot be argued. And because I couldn't find a Passover that landed on Thursday, I started to understand why so many people were willing to overlook or explain away the whole three days and three nights thing in order to nail down a Friday date.

But then I learned that there are some significant issues with applying current calculation models to past Jewish years. Nearly all the Hebrew year calculators on the internet have no problem extrapolating out dates moving forward, but they can't perfectly determine dates moving backward.

For example, the priests determined the calendar after the spring new moon when at least two witnesses independently verified that they had seen the first waxing crescent moon. Needless to say, there were definite possibilities for human error due to overcast nights and the like.

And then I found it!

The U.S. Naval Observatory Astronomical Applications Department calculated that in AD 34 the Vernal Equinox fell on Monday, March 22 and the astronomical new moon conjunction was Wednesday, April 7th ([http://intercontinentalcog.org/Appendix/Passover\\_dates\\_26-34\\_AD.php](http://intercontinentalcog.org/Appendix/Passover_dates_26-34_AD.php))

Based on all of this, the first evening the waxing crescent after the new moon would have been visible was on Thursday, April 8th. That corresponds to the first day of Nisan. On the Gregorian Calendar, that would have been from Thursday evening on the 8th through Friday afternoon on the 9th.

All of this means that means that in AD 34, the 14th day of Nisan would have landed on a Thursday. And — on the Gregorian calendar — that Thursday would have been April 22nd.

My friends, I believe it's safe to say that — according to our American calendar, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died at 3:00 pm on Thursday, April 22nd in AD 34.