

## Holy Week Timeline - Walk the Week of Passion With Jesus

All Scripture References Are From The Amplified Bible. Compare Them With The KJV As You Study The Passion Week Timeline. God Bless You – Dr. Jim Thomas

Beginning with **Palm Sunday**, we'll walk the steps of **Jesus Christ** this **Holy Week**, visiting each of the major events that occurred during our Savior's week of **passion**.

On the Sunday before his **death**, Jesus began his trip to Jerusalem, knowing that soon he would lay down his life for the sins of the world. Nearing the village of Bethphage, he sent two of his disciples ahead to look for a donkey with its unbroken colt. Jesus instructed **the disciples** to untie the animals and bring them to him.

Then Jesus sat on the young donkey and slowly, humbly, made his **triumphal entry** into Jerusalem, fulfilling the ancient prophecy in **Zechariah 9:9** - "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O Daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you; He is [uncompromisingly] just and having salvation [triumphant and victorious], patient, meek, lowly, and riding on a donkey, upon a colt, the foal of a donkey." Also see: Matthew 21:5; John 12:14-15

The crowds welcomed him by **waving palm branches** in the air and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of **David**! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

On Palm Sunday, Jesus and his disciples spent the night in Bethany, a town about two miles east of Jerusalem. In all likelihood, Jesus stayed in the home of Mary, Martha, and **Lazarus**, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

**Jesus' Triumphal Entry is recorded in the following Scriptures.**

**Matthew 21:1-11** <sup>1</sup> AND WHEN they came near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples on ahead,

<sup>2</sup> Saying to them, Go into the village that is opposite you, and at once you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie [them] and bring [them] to Me.

<sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, you shall reply, The Lord needs them, and he will let them go without delay.

<sup>4</sup> This happened that what was spoken by the prophet might be fulfilled, saying,

<sup>5</sup> Say to the Daughter of Zion [inhabitants of Jerusalem], Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey [a beast of burden].

<sup>6</sup> Then the disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them.

<sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their coats upon them, and He seated Himself on them [the clothing].

<sup>8</sup> And most of the crowd kept spreading their garments on the road, and others kept cutting branches from the trees and scattering them on the road.

<sup>9</sup> And the crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed Him kept shouting, Hosanna (O be propitious, graciously inclined) to the Son of David, [the Messiah]! Blessed (praised, glorified) is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna (O be favorably disposed) in the highest [heaven]!

<sup>10</sup> And when He entered Jerusalem, all the city became agitated and [trembling with excitement] said, Who is This?

<sup>11</sup> And the crowds replied, This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.

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**Mark 11:1-11** <sup>1</sup> WHEN THEY were getting near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, He sent ahead two of His disciples.

<sup>2</sup> And instructed them, Go into the village in front of you, and as soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied, which has never been ridden by anyone; unfasten it and bring it [here].

<sup>3</sup> If anyone asks you, Why are you doing this? answer, The Lord needs it, and He will send it back here presently.

<sup>4</sup> So they went away and found a colt tied at the door out in the [winding] open street, and they loosed it.

<sup>5</sup> And some who were standing there said to them, What are you doing, untying the colt?

<sup>6</sup> And they replied as Jesus had directed them, and they allowed them to go.

<sup>7</sup> And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their outer garments upon it, and He sat on it.

<sup>8</sup> And many [of the people] spread their garments on the road, and others [scattered a layer of] leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.

<sup>9</sup> And those who went before and those who followed cried out [with a cry of happiness], Hosanna! [Be graciously inclined and propitious to Him!] Praised *and* blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup> Praised *and* blessed *in the name of the Lord* is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna (O save us) in the highest [heaven]!

<sup>11</sup> And Jesus went into Jerusalem and entered the temple [enclosure]; and when He had looked around, surveying *and* observing everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany together with the Twelve [apostles].

**Jesus' royal procession into Jerusalem took place on what is now called "Palm Sunday."**

**Luke 19:28-44** <sup>28</sup> And after saying these things, Jesus went on ahead of them, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When He came near Bethphage and Bethany at the mount called [the Mount of] Olives, He sent two of His disciples,

<sup>30</sup> Telling [them], Go into the village yonder; there, as you go in, you will find a donkey's colt tied, on which no man has ever yet sat. Loose it and bring [it here].

<sup>31</sup> If anybody asks you, Why are you untying [it]? you shall say this: Because the Lord has need of it.

<sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it [just] as He had told them.

<sup>33</sup> And as they were loosening the colt, its owners said to them, Why are you untying the colt?

<sup>34</sup> And they said, The Lord has need of it.

<sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus; then they threw their garments over the colt and set Jesus upon it.

<sup>36</sup> And as He rode along, the people kept spreading their garments on the road.

<sup>37</sup> As He was approaching [the city], at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to rejoice and to praise God [extolling Him exultantly and] loudly for all the mighty miracles *and* works of power that they had witnessed,

<sup>38</sup> Crying, Blessed (celebrated with praises) is the King Who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven [freedom there from all the distresses that are experienced as the result of sin] and glory (majesty and splendor) in the highest [heaven]!

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<sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees from the throng said to Jesus, Teacher, reprove Your disciples!

<sup>40</sup> He replied, I tell you that if these keep silent, the very stones will cry out.

<sup>41</sup> And as He approached, He saw the city, and He wept [audibly] over it,

<sup>42</sup> Exclaiming, Would that you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for peace (for freedom from all the distresses that are experienced as the result of sin and upon which your peace—your security, safety, prosperity, and happiness—depends)! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

<sup>43</sup> For a time is coming upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank [with pointed stakes] about you and surround you and shut you in on every side.

<sup>44</sup> And they will dash you down to the ground, you [Jerusalem] and your children within you; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, [all] because you did not come progressively to recognize *and* know *and* understand [from observation and experience] the time of your visitation [that is, when God was visiting you, the time in which God showed Himself gracious toward you and offered you salvation through Christ].

**John 12:12-19** <sup>12</sup> The next day a vast crowd of those who had come to the Passover Feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him. And as they went, they kept shouting, Hosanna! Blessed is He *and* praise to Him Who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!

<sup>14</sup> And Jesus, having found a young donkey, rode upon it, [just] as it is written in the Scriptures,

<sup>15</sup> Do not fear, O Daughter of Zion! Look! Your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand *and* could not comprehend the meaning of these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified *and* exalted, they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him.

<sup>17</sup> The group that had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from among the dead kept telling it [bearing witness] to others.

<sup>18</sup> It was for this reason that the crowd went out to meet Him, because they had heard that He had performed this sign (proof, miracle).

<sup>19</sup> Then the Pharisees said among themselves, You see how futile your efforts are *and* how you accomplish nothing. See! The whole world is running after Him!

### Day 2: Monday Jesus Clears the Temple

On Monday morning, Jesus returned with his disciples to Jerusalem. Along the way, Jesus **cursed a fig tree** because it had failed to bear fruit. Some scholars believe this cursing of the fig tree represented God's judgment on the spiritually dead religious leaders of Israel.

Others believe the symbolism extended to all believers, demonstrating that genuine **faith** is more than just outward religiosity. True, living faith must bear spiritual fruit in a person's life.

When Jesus arrived at the Temple he found the courts full of corrupt **money changers**. He began overturning their tables and clearing the Temple, saying, **“Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.”** - **Luke 19:46**

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**On Monday evening Jesus stayed in Bethany again, probably in the home of his friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.**

**Monday's events are recorded in the following Scriptures:**

**Matthew 21:12–22** <sup>12</sup> And Jesus went into the temple (whole temple enclosure) and drove out all who bought and sold in the sacred place, and He turned over the four-footed tables of the money changers and the chairs of those who sold doves.

<sup>13</sup> He said to them, The Scripture says, My house shall be called a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers.

<sup>14</sup> And the blind and the lame came to Him in the porches *and* courts of the temple, and He cured them.

<sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He did and the boys *and* the girls *and* the youths *and* the maidens crying out in the porches *and* courts of the temple, Hosanna (O be propitious, graciously inclined) to the Son of David! they were indignant.

<sup>16</sup> And they said to Him, Do You hear what these are saying? And Jesus replied to them, Yes; have you never read, Out of the mouths of babes and unweaned infants You have made (provided) perfect praise?

<sup>17</sup> And leaving them, He departed from the city and went out to Bethany and lodged there.

<sup>18</sup> In the early dawn the next morning, as He was coming back to the city, He was hungry.

<sup>19</sup> And as He saw one single leafy fig tree above the roadside, He went to it but He found nothing but leaves on it [seeing that in the fig tree the fruit appears at the same time as the leaves]. And He said to it, Never again shall fruit grow on you! And the fig tree withered up at once.

<sup>20</sup> When the disciples saw it, they marveled greatly and asked, How is it that the fig tree has withered away all at once?

<sup>21</sup> And Jesus answered them, Truly I say to you, if you have faith (a firm relying trust) and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, it will be done.

<sup>22</sup> And whatever you ask for in prayer, having faith *and* [really] believing, you will receive.

**Mark 11:15–19** <sup>15</sup> And they came to Jerusalem. And He went into the temple [area, the porches and courts] and began to drive out those who sold and bought in the temple area, and He overturned the [four-footed] tables of the money changers and the seats of those who dealt in doves;

<sup>16</sup> And He would not permit anyone to carry any household equipment through the temple enclosure [thus making the temple area a short-cut traffic lane].

<sup>17</sup> And He taught and said to them, Is it not written, My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have turned it into a den of robbers.

<sup>18</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes heard [of this] and kept seeking some way to destroy Him, for they feared Him, because the entire multitude was struck with astonishment at His teaching.

<sup>19</sup> And when evening came on, *He and His disciples*, as accustomed, went out of the city.

**Luke 19:45-48** <sup>45</sup> Then He went into the temple [enclosure] and began to drive out those who were selling,

<sup>46</sup> Telling them, It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer; but you have made it a cave of robbers.

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<sup>47</sup> And He continued to teach day after day in the temple [porches and courts]. The chief priests and scribes and the leading men of the people were seeking to put Him to death,

<sup>48</sup> But they did not discover anything they could do, for all the people hung upon His words *and* stuck by Him.

**John 2:13-17** <sup>13</sup> Now the Passover of the Jews was approaching, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> There He found in the temple [enclosure] those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers sitting there [also at their stands].

<sup>15</sup> And having made a lash (a whip) of cords, He drove them all out of the temple [enclosure]—both the sheep and the oxen—spilling *and* scattering the brokers' money and upsetting *and* tossing around their trays (their stands).

<sup>16</sup> Then to those who sold the doves He said, Take these things away (out of here)! Make not My Father's house a house of merchandise (a marketplace, a sales shop)!

<sup>17</sup> And His disciples remembered that it is written [in the Holy Scriptures], Zeal (the fervor of love) for Your house will eat Me up. [I will be consumed with jealousy for the honor of Your house.]

### Day 3: Tuesday in Jerusalem, Mount of Olives

**On Tuesday morning, Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. They passed the withered fig tree on their way, and Jesus taught them about [faith](#).**

**At the Temple, the religious leaders aggressively challenged Jesus' authority, attempting to ambush him and create an opportunity for his arrest. But Jesus evaded their traps and pronounced harsh judgment on them: - [Matthew 23:24-33](#)**

<sup>24</sup> *Ye* blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

<sup>25</sup> Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

<sup>26</sup> *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

<sup>27</sup> Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.

<sup>28</sup> Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

<sup>29</sup> Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

<sup>30</sup> And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

<sup>31</sup> Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

<sup>32</sup> Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

<sup>33</sup> *Ye* serpents, *ye* generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

**Later that afternoon, Jesus left the city and went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives, which overlooks Jerusalem due east of the Temple. Here Jesus gave the [Olivet Discourse](#), an elaborate prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age. He taught in parables using symbolic language about [end times](#) events, including his [Second Coming](#) and the final judgment.**

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Scripture indicates that Tuesday was the day **Judas Iscariot** negotiated with the **Sanhedrin** to betray Jesus - **Matthew 26:14-16**.

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

<sup>15</sup> And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

<sup>16</sup> And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

After a tiring day of confrontation and warnings about the future, once again, Jesus and the disciples stayed the night in Bethany.

The tumultuous events of Tuesday and the Olivet Discourse are recorded in **Matthew 21:23–24:51**, **Mark 11:20–13:37**, **Luke 20:1–21:36**, and **John 12:20–38**.

### Day 4: Silent Wednesday

The **Bible** doesn't say what the Lord did on Wednesday of Passion Week. Scholars speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples spent this day resting in Bethany in anticipation of the **Passover**.

Bethany was about two miles east of Jerusalem. Here **Lazarus** and his two sisters, **Mary and Martha** lived. They were close friends of Jesus, and probably hosted him and the disciples during these final days in Jerusalem.

Just a short time previously, Jesus had revealed to the disciples, and the world, that he had power over death by **raising Lazarus** from the grave. After seeing this incredible miracle, many people in Bethany believed that Jesus was the **Son of God** and put their faith in him. Also in Bethany just a few nights earlier, Lazarus' sister Mary had lovingly anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume.

While we can only speculate, it's fascinating to consider how our Lord Jesus spent this final quiet day with his dearest friends and followers.

### Day 5: Thursday's Passover, Last Supper

Holy Week takes a somber turn on Thursday.

From Bethany Jesus sent **Peter** and **John** ahead to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to make the preparations for the **Passover Feast**. That evening after sunset, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as they prepared to share in the Passover. By performing this humble act of service, Jesus demonstrated by example how believers are to love one another. Today, many churches practice foot-washing ceremonies as a part of their **Maundy Thursday** services.

Then Jesus shared the feast of Passover with his disciples saying, - **Luke 22:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

<sup>16</sup> For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

As the Lamb of God, Jesus was about to fulfill the meaning of the Passover by giving his body to be broken and his blood to be shed in sacrifice, freeing us from **sin** and death.

During this **Last Supper**, Jesus established the Lord's Supper, or **Communion**, instructing his followers to continually remember his sacrifice by sharing in the elements of **bread and wine** - **Luke 22:19-20**.

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Later Jesus and the disciples left the Upper Room and went to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where Jesus prayed in agony to **God the Father**.

Luke's Gospel says, "**his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**" - Luke 22:44, **ESV**

Late that **evening in Gethsemane**, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by **Judas Iscariot** and arrested by the **Sanhedrin**. He was taken to the home of **Caiaphas**, the High Priest, where the whole council had gathered to begin making their case against Jesus.

Meanwhile, in the early morning hours, as Jesus' trial was getting underway, Peter denied knowing his Master three times before the rooster crowed.

Thursday's events are recorded in **Matthew 26:17-75**, **Mark 14:12-72**, **Luke 22:7-62**, and **John 13:1-38**.

### Day 6: Good Friday's Trial, Crucifixion, Death, Burial

**Good Friday** is the most difficult day of Passion Week. Christ's journey turned treacherous and acutely painful in these **final hours** leading to his death.

According to Scripture, **Judas Iscariot**, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was overcome with remorse and hanged himself early Friday morning.

Meanwhile, before the third hour (9 a.m.), Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment.

After a multiple of unlawful trials, he was sentenced to death by **crucifixion**, one of the most horrible and disgraceful methods of capital punishment.

Before Christ was led away, soldiers spit on him, tormented and mocked him, and pierced him with a **crown of thorns**. Then Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary where, again, he was mocked and insulted as Roman soldiers **nailed him to the wooden cross**.

Jesus spoke **seven final statements** from the cross. His first words were, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**" - Luke 23:34.

His last words were, "**Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.**" - Luke 23:46.

Greek Word: **παράτιθμι** – **paratithēmi** - **par-at-ith'-ay-mee** - to *place alongside*, i.e. *present* (food, truth); by implication to *deposit* (as a trust or for protection):- *allege*, *commend*, *commit* (the keeping of), *put forth*, *set before*.

Then, about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), Jesus breathed his last and died.

By 6 p.m. Friday evening, **Nicodemus** and **Joseph of Arimathea**, took Jesus' body down from the cross and lay it in a tomb.

Friday's events are recorded in **Matthew 27:1-62**, **Mark 15:1-47**, **Luke 22:63-23:56**, and **John 18:28-19:37**.

### Day 7: Saturday in the Tomb

Jesus' body lay in the **tomb** where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day on Saturday, which was the **Sabbath**. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m., Christ's body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by **Nicodemus**:

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"He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from **myrrh** and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth." - John 19: 39-40.

Nicodemus, like **Joseph of Arimathea**, was a member of the **Sanhedrin**, the court which had condemned Jesus Christ to death. For a time, both men had lived as secret followers of Jesus, afraid to make a public profession of faith because of their prominent positions in the Jewish community.

Similarly, both were deeply affected by Christ's death. They boldly came out of hiding, risking their reputations and their lives because they had come to realize that Jesus was, indeed, the long-awaited **Messiah**. Together they cared for Jesus' body and prepared it for burial.

While his physical body lay in the tomb, **Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin** by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal **salvation**:

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:18-19** <sup>18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

<sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Saturday's events are recorded in **Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56, and John 19:40.**

### Day 8: Resurrection Sunday!

On **Resurrection Sunday** we reach the culmination of Holy Week. The **resurrection** of Jesus Christ is the most important event, the crux, you might say, of the Christian faith. The very foundation of all **Christian doctrine** hinges on the truth of this account.

Early Sunday morning several women (**Mary Magdalene**, Mary the mother of James, Joanna, and Salome) went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the tomb's entrance had been rolled away.

An **angel** announced, **Matthew 28:5-6**: "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. **Mark's Gospel** says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to **Peter**, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all of the disciples except **Thomas**, while they were gathered in a house for prayer.

The eyewitness accounts in the **Gospels** provide undeniable evidence that the resurrection of Jesus Christ happened. 2,000 years after his death, followers of Christ still flock to see the empty tomb, one of the **strongest proofs** that Jesus Christ actually did rise from the dead.

Sunday's events are recorded in **Matthew 28:1-13, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-49, and John 20:1-23.**

*(Note: The exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Bible scholars. This timeline represents an approximate outline of major events.)*