

# CRUCIFIXION DAY — THURSDAY OR FRIDAY?

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The reason why many think that Yeshua was crucified on Friday is because the Gospels speak of the Day of Preparation and the Sabbath drawing near,<sup>1</sup> but in Mark 15:42 it reveals that Yeshua was crucified on Thursday:

‘And when *evening had already come*, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,’ (NASB).

The verse is saying that the *evening* of Preparation Day had come, which is Thursday evening. In Scripture the evening precedes the day, so Thursday night begins the (next) day of Preparation. This begins in the evening at dark and goes through the night and into the daylight of Friday and ends at darkness on Friday night, when the Sabbath begins (on Friday night at dark). All the days of Scripture begin this way because Creation Week establishes this (Gen. 1:1-5f.). First there is ‘evening’ (darkness) and *then* there is (day) light.<sup>2</sup>

In Mark 15:42 it was *already* evening and they are calling it Preparation Day. If it were the evening of Friday night it would have been the beginning of 7th day Sabbath. In other words, Mark tells us it was Thursday night, the *beginning* of Preparation Day.

At *this* time, Thursday evening (Mk. 15:42), after Yeshua had died at 3 PM, Joseph went to Pilate and asked for the body of Yeshua. Pilate checked with the centurion to see if Yeshua was actually dead, and after ascertaining that He was dead (Mark 15:44-45), granted Joseph’s request. It’s certainly quite dark now (cf. Mk. 15:42), which according to Mark is Thursday night, not Friday night.

Then Joseph, after leaving Pilate, *buys fine linen* (Mark 15:46). If this were Friday night it would already be the evening of the 7th day Sabbath. Where in Jerusalem would Joseph have been able *to buy* linen on the Sabbath? All the shops that sold linen fabric would have been closed for the Sabbath by 4 PM, but if it were Thursday night, which is the time when Preparation Day begins, Joseph could buy whatever he wanted, especially as the annual Sabbath of the first day of Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:6-7) would have ended at the beginning of dark on Thursday night (i.e. Preparation Day).

The annual Sabbath of the first day of Unleavened Bread began on Wednesday night that year:

1. Yeshua ate the Passover lamb Wednesday evening (the first day of Unleavened Bread; Lev. 23:6-7; which is 15 *Aviv* in the Hebrew calendar, a holy annual Sabbath, which can take place on any day of the week).
2. Yeshua was crucified the next morning, Thursday at 9 AM, which was still 15 *Aviv* (the first day of Unleavened Bread; a holy annual Sabbath).
3. Yeshua is dead by 3 PM on Thursday.
  - A. Sometime after that Joseph of Arimathea asks Pilate for the body of Yeshua.
  - B. Pilate finds out from the centurion at the Cross that Yeshua is dead.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:14, 31, 42.

<sup>2</sup> See *When Does the Sabbath Begin?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/When-Does-The-Sabbath-Begin.pdf>.

C. Pilate grants Joseph the body of our Lord.

4. The annual Sabbath of the first day of Unleavened Bread ends on Thursday night at dark. Preparation Day begins on Thursday night at dark. This is when Joseph buys the linen and then wraps the body of Yeshua and puts Him in his tomb.

A. Thursday night, as Mark points out,<sup>3</sup> not Friday night, nor Wednesday night because Preparation Day doesn't begin on Wednesday night.

According to Mark the Lord died on Thursday afternoon and was placed in the tomb on Thursday night, which is the beginning of Preparation Day. This also coincides with what Matthew, regarded now as the first Gospel to have been written,<sup>4</sup> is saying when he writes:

“Now when *evening*<sup>5</sup> had come, *there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock, and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and departed.*” (Matthew 27:57-60)

Matthew too speaks of the evening already having come when Joseph came to Pilate. Mark says that the women *bought* spices *after* the (first annual) Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread ended; either at dark on Thursday night or Friday morning:

“Now *when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.*” (Mark 16:1 NKJV)

This Sabbath that *was past* was the annual Sabbath of the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Luke states that the women prepared spices and fragrant oils and rested on the Sabbath, meaning the 7th day Sabbath. Luke also writes that it was the Day of Preparation when Yeshua was buried:

“Now, behold! There was a man named Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin, a good and righteous man. He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the Kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. ***That day was the Preparation, and the (7th day) Sabbath drew near.*** And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they *returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils.* And they rested on the (7th day) Sabbath according to the commandment.” (Luke 23:50-56)

The women wouldn't have prepared the spices, etc., if the Sabbath had already begun because no stores would have been open for them to have bought anything. Also, for the spices and oil “to set up” would take at least 24 hours.

In terms of Preparation Day, the 7th day Sabbath couldn't be ‘drawing near’ if it was already the 7th day

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<sup>3</sup> For those who think that Yeshua died on Wednesday, which is what I had thought for some time, please ask for the PDF, *Three Days and Three Nights*.

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.churchinhistory.org/pages/booklets/authors-gospels-1.htm>. For years, theologians thought that Mark was the first Gospel, but today many theologians understand that Matthew was written first, Luke second and Mark third.

<sup>5</sup> This means that it was Thursday night, the beginning of Preparation Day.

Sabbath, which begins on Friday night. In other words, “That day was the Preparation” Day, began on Thursday night. If it were a Friday crucifixion, the 7th day Sabbath would have begun when they buried Yeshua and the women wouldn’t have been able to buy anything on Friday night and prepare “spices and fragrant oils” and also “rest on the Sabbath according to the commandment” (Luke 23:56 NKJV).

There are some questions in John as to time frames, etc. (John 13:1-2, 29; 18:28; 19:14, 31),<sup>6</sup> but John too concurs that it was Thursday night when Yeshua was placed in the Tomb when he writes:

“So there they *laid* Jesus, *because of the Jews’ Preparation Day*, for the tomb was nearby.” (John 19:42)

All four Gospels point to Thursday night being the time when Yeshua was buried in the tomb because Preparation Day *begins* on Thursday night, not Friday night.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> For the how the Fourth Gospel of John coincides with the three Synoptic Gospels on the time when Yeshua ate the Passover meal, ask for the PDF see *Passover and the Apostle John* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Passover-and-the-Apostle-John.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Revised on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.