

## What Day of the Week Was Jesus Crucified? {Short version}

There has been much controversy through the years as to what day of the week Jesus was actually crucified. The fact is that **the gospels clearly tell us what day it was**, but the problem is that most English speaking Christians have forgotten how the Jewish calendar works. For the Jews **the new day begins at evening** [not midnight]. This goes back to the first chapter of Genesis: “**there was evening and there was morning the first day...**” [Gen. 1:5]; “**there was evening and there was morning the second day...**” [Gen. 1:8], etc.

Matthew and Mark both plainly tell us that Jesus was taken off the cross **at evening** – this means that **the new day had begun**. The only question remaining is whether this “**new day**” was the “**sabbath**” or “**the day of preparation**” and Mark, Luke, and John answer that question.

If Jesus was crucified on Friday, as most traditions say that He was, then **the evening {of the new day}** that Jesus was taken down off the cross **was the sabbath** which begins Friday evening. If Jesus was crucified on Thursday then **the evening {of the new day}** that He was taken down off the cross **was the “day of preparation”** [which began the Thursday evening] which was the day before the sabbath. The scriptures speak for themselves.

Mat. 27:57 “When the evening had come...”

Mark 15:42 “And now when the evening had come, because it was the preparation {day}, ...”

Luke 23:54 “And that day was the preparation...”

John 19:31 “The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation...”

Mat. 12:40 “Because as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

**Jesus was crucified on Thursday; Thursday evening began “the day of preparation”**. Jesus lay in the tomb Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday night and on the third day He arose just as He said He would. The “**day of preparation**” was to prepare for Sunday the day of the “**First Fruits Offering**” according to Leviticus 23 – later to be called “**Easter**.” The Jews could not “prepare” on the **sabbath** so a special day was set aside for that purpose **the day before the sabbath**. {For calendar purposes the new day for the Jews begins at 6:00 p.m. - for prophetic purposes 6 p.m. Jerusalem time.}

Note Palm Sunday was on Nisan 10 {see **Exodus 12:3**}. On that day the Jews penned up a lamb without blemish to show to everyone - this is the Passover Lamb that is to be killed.

**On Palm Sunday God was saying, “This is My Lamb that will be sacrificed on the Passover.**