

What Day of the Week Was Jesus Crucified?

This is not a trick question like, “Who is buried in Grant’s tomb?” Many of us would answer “Friday,” because of our observance of the crucifixion on “Good Friday.” But does a Friday crucifixion really fit with what Jesus Christ told His disciples?

The day of the resurrection, Sunday, is not disputed. It is stated as “the first day of the week” in every Gospel account. We will start there.

Matthew 28:1

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward **the first day of the week**, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Mark 16:9

Now when Jesus was risen early **the first day of the week**, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Luke 24:1

Now upon **the first day of the week**, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

John 20:1

The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

Since God created the earth, a 24 hour day started at sunset instead of midnight. This can complicate the counting but it is worth the effort. It is standard to use 6pm, because sunset will change every day.

Genesis 1:5

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And **the evening and the morning were the first day.**

It is Satan's goal to have us believe that we cannot trust God's word. Jesus' prophecy would not have been accurate if He had been crucified on Friday and resurrected on Sunday.

Jesus told the Pharisees that He would be in the heart of the earth for 3 days and 3 nights.

Matthew 12:38-40

Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas 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.

If Jesus had been crucified on Friday, He would have been 1 day (Friday afternoon after His death,) 1 night and 1 day (Saturday,) and 1 night (Sunday before His resurrection) for a total of 2 days and 2 nights in the heart of the earth.

We will take Jesus at His Word (as we should) and count 3 days and 3 nights for a Sunday resurrection. Please refer to the included chart.

Leviticus 23:5

In the **fourteenth day** of the first month **at even** is the LORD'S passover.

Jesus had the Passover meal with His disciples on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening: this has to be Thursday evening, sometime after 6pm, which was Passover and the day of preparation for the feast of unleavened bread. Jesus was also arrested, convicted, and crucified, all by 9am the next morning—Thursday. Christ died at 3pm the next afternoon—still on Thursday. The next day, Friday, was the feast of unleavened bread which began 3 hours later, at 6pm. This 3 hour period of time from His crucifixion to the feast, is **the first day** that Jesus was in the heart of the earth.

Mark 15:42-43

And now when the even was come, because **it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath**, Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

The sabbath above, was the first day of the feast of unleavened bread, but not the Sabbath which occurs every Saturday. Like the Saturday Sabbath, people were to do no work on this first day. This is why preparing Jesus' body for burial was not allowed right after He died. He died at 3pm and the sabbath would have started at 6pm—not a lot of time.

Leviticus 23:6-7

And on the **fifteenth day** of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. **In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.**

The difference in the sabbath days is shown in the next verses. The day of preparation—the day of the crucifixion—was followed by the sabbath that “drew on”—the feast of unleavened bread.

Luke 23:54

And **that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.**

The women followed the men with Christ's body to see where it would be laid. Then they returned to prepare spices and ointments to prepare Christ's body as soon as they were able. They had to wait for the first sabbath mentioned, the feast of unleavened bread, "the sabbath the drew on" and then "the sabbath day according to the commandment," mentioned separately, so we know there were 2 sabbaths, 2 days in a row.

Luke 23:55-56

And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and **rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.**

So now the count is 1 day (the 3 hours on Thursday after the crucifixion,) 1 night and 1 day (the sabbath of the feast of unleavened bread,) and 1 night and 1 day (the Saturday Sabbath according to the commandment,) for a total of 2 days and 3 nights.

The Saturday Sabbath ended at sunset and the first day of the week, Sunday, began. Sometime between the beginning of Sunday (at sunset) and dawn on Sunday morning Jesus was resurrected. These nighttime hours were the third night, to fulfill Jesus' prophecy: 3 days and 3 nights.

Passover	Feast of Unleavened Bread (Sabbath)	Sabbath according to the Commandment	First Day of the Week
Day of Preparation	Bread (Sabbath)	Commandment	Feast of Firstfruits
Thursday	Friday	Saturday (Sabbath)	Sunday (1st Day)
6pm	6pm	6pm	6pm
6am	6am	6am	6am
Wed Night	Thursday Night	Friday Night	Saturday Night
Thursday Day	Friday Day	Saturday Day	Sunday Day
Last Supper	Night 1	Night 2	Night 3
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Women arrive before dawn
Arrest and Trial	Crucifixion 9am-3pm	Christ in tomb	Christ in tomb
	Christ in tomb	Christ in tomb	Resurrection had already taken place