

The Passion of Christ

**A Timeline of Events
from Passover
through the Ascension**

Kelly McDonald, Jr.

Written/authored by: Kelly McDonald, Jr.

Published by Hungry Hearts Ministries
PO Box 10334
Jackson TN 38308
hungryheartsmi@aol.com
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Introduction

Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price for the sins of humanity with His own life. He laid down His life to show His love for us. Did you know that the end of Christ's earthly life occurred during the Passover season? This was the season in which God chose to show His love for the world.

To delve deeper into this subject, we must first review some details from the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the foundation or background for the New Testament. The Old Testament is quoted hundreds of times in the New Testament. To **FULLY** understand the chronology of events at the end of the gospels, we need a better grasp on the Old Testament. This will make the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ come to life.

The second detail we must grasp is how time is reckoned in the Bible. If this was the **ONLY** sign, it seems that it would be important to know it. What does three days and three nights really mean?

The Roman Catholic timeline of Christ's Passion is as follows: He had Passover and was arrested on a Thursday evening. He then suffered and died on Friday afternoon; lastly, He resurrected on Sunday morning. Many non-Catholic Christians also accept this view. Do we simply accept the traditional view? Only the Bible can direct us in the proper understanding of days and nights and the timeline of Christ's Passion.

Chapter 1

Old Testament Background

The Old Testament is our background source for the New Testament. We learn vital things to help us understand basic truths. For instance, we learn that days are reckoned from sunset to sunset. In Genesis 1:5 we learn “evening and morning were the first day.” In the New Testament Paul said, “do not allow the sun to go down on your wrath.” Sunset marks the end of one day and the beginning of another.

When it comes to months, the Hebrew Calendar is based upon the moon. In fact there were special ways to recognize the appearing of the new moon (see Num. 10:10, 28:14; Ps. 81:3). The first month of the festival calendar occurs in the early Spring. It is called Nissan or Aviv.

At the end of the book of Genesis and the first part of Exodus, we learn that the children of Israel had been in Egypt for 400 years. They were enslaved and cried out to God for deliverance. God raised up Moses and used him to lead the people out of bondage.

Moses approached the leader of the Egyptians, Pharaoh, and told him to let the people go. He refused to obey so God sent plagues upon Egypt. After nine of them, he still would not release them. God then sent one more which resulted in their freedom.

In this tenth plague, God was going to send a death angel through the land of Egypt. The first born of every living thing would be slain.

In Exodus chapter 12, God gave the people of Israel specific instructions to follow to be spared from this judgment. During the evening portion of the 14th of Nissan, the people were commanded to kill a one-year old lamb and place its blood on the top and sides of the door post outside their homes. They were to eat the meat of this lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

That same night, at midnight, the death angel went through the land of Egypt to slay the first born of those who did not follow

these instructions. This was the first national Passover. Any remaining lamb had to be burned up by morning (Ex. 12:10). The people were commanded to stay in their homes until daylight (Exodus 12:22).

The children of Israel plundered the Egyptians during the daytime portion of the 14th of Nissan (Ex. 12:33-39). They left Egypt on the evening portion of the fifteenth of Nissan (Ex. 12:40-42, Num. 33:3).

The fifteenth day of Nissan starts a seven-day period called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The First and Last Days of this seven-day period are annual Sabbaths. Annual Sabbaths are special days in a year in which no work or labor is to be performed (this is in the same manner as the weekly Sabbath, which is from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset).

Altogether, Passover and Unleavened Bread are eight days. Sometimes they are listed separately and at other times the entire eight-day period is called Unleavened Bread or Passover. We have some Biblical examples below:

“5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening, is the LORD’s Passover. 6 On the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread to the LORD. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. 7 In the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no regular work. 8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD seven days. In the seventh day is a holy convocation: you shall do no regular work” (Lev. 23:5-8).

“Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God; for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night...3 You shall eat no leavened bread with it. You shall eat unleavened bread with it seven days, even the bread of affliction; for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste; that you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life” (Deut. 16:1, 3).

“Three times in a year all of your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which he chooses: in the feast of unleavened bread, in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tents.

They shall not appear before the LORD empty” (Deut. 16:16).

“14 You shall observe a feast to me three times a year. 15 You shall observe the feast of unleavened bread. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month Abib (for in it you came out of Egypt), and no one shall appear before me empty...” (Exodus 23:14-15).

“It was now two days before the feast of Passover and the unleavened bread...” (Mark 14:1).

“Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching” (Luke 22:1).

These details provide the necessary background information to understand the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Sometimes Passover is listed separately from Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:5-8; Deu. 16:1-3, Mark 16:1). In Deuteronomy 16:16 and Exodus 23:14-15, God gives a summary of the three Holy Day seasons. While it is not specifically mentioned, Passover was still observed the day before the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

As we read the gospels, we learn that Christ was not just keeping “the last supper” with His disciples. They were keeping Passover.

To learn more about Passover and how to celebrate it, download our free booklet “Passover Preparation.”

Chapter 2

Understanding Time

The second aspect of the Bible that is necessary to understand the Passion of Christ is to understand how time is calculated. When Jesus was on earth, He only gave us one sign. “39 But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given it but the sign of Jonah the prophet. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:39-40). In Jonah 1:17, the Bible records that Jonah “...was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

There has been a debate about the meaning of these words. Was Jesus in the Tomb parts of three days (such as part of Friday, Part of Saturday, and Part of Sunday) or was He in the Tomb three whole days and three whole nights (72 hours). A series of verses from the Bible will provide clarity.

“Jesus answered, ‘Aren’t there twelve hours of daylight? If a man walks in the day, he doesn’t stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light isn’t in him’” (John 11:9-10). In these verses, we learn about events that happened just before Passover. Jesus plainly said that there were twelve hours of day. Night is juxtaposed as a separate time from the twelve hours of day.

Some would use Jesus’ words to proclaim that only the hours of day are counted. However, the hours of night and day are both counted in the Bible. “For these aren’t drunken, as you suppose, seeing it is only the third hour of the day” (Acts 2:15). “Prepare two hundred soldiers to go as far as Caesarea, with seventy horsemen, and two hundred men armed with spears, at the third hour of the night” (Acts 23:23).

These two examples from Acts teach us that both the night and day hours are counted. In fact, the night was divided into four watches of so many hours each. “In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea” (Matthew 14:25).

In Mark 5:5, we learn about the man of Gedara, who was possessed by demons. “And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying and cutting himself with stones.” Obviously, night and day are mentioned in the verse to describe a 24-hour period. The man was crying out at all times.

In Matthew 4:2, we learn that Christ fasted forty days and forty nights: “When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry afterward.” I have never heard anyone make the assertion that Christ fasted less than forty days with 24 hours each.

From these Biblical examples, the answer is plain. Jesus was in the tomb three days and three nights or 72 hours.

Now that we have the Biblical understanding of Passover and time, we will begin to map out the events that happened from the Passover through the Resurrection.

Chapter 3

The Timeline of the Passion

(As you read through this chapter, I encourage you to read through the Bible verses referenced in addition to the summaries I have provided. For the sake of space, only some verses have been quoted.)

Tuesday Night – The Passover

Matthew 26:17-20 – “Now on the first day of unleavened bread, the disciples came to Jesus, saying to him, ‘Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?’ He said, ‘Go into the city to a certain person, and tell him, ‘The Teacher says, ‘My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ The disciples did as Jesus commanded them, and they prepared the Passover. Now when evening had come, he was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples.”

The first day of Unleavened Bread mentioned in these verses is later clarified as the Passover. Matthew is clearly referring to the entire eight days as Unleavened Bread. Passover comes first. Notice that Passover began in the evening. As discussed in chapter 1, days begin in the evening. While Jesus kept the Passover, the following events happened:

John 13:2-17 – As the meal was being served, Christ washed the feet of His disciples. He set an example for us to do the same.— quote end of this

Luke 22:17-18 – Jesus opened the Passover meal with the blessing of the first cup (historically this was called the Kiddush).

“17 He received a cup, and when he had given thanks, he said, ‘Take this, and share it among yourselves, 18 for I tell you, I will not drink at all again from the fruit of the vine, until God’s Kingdom comes.’” (Luke 22:17-18)

Matthew 26:23-25; John 13:18-30 – Judas ate the bread dipped in the dish (likely the bitter herb). He left the meal to betray Jesus.

“He answered, ‘He who dipped his hand with me in the dish will betray me. The Son of Man goes even as it is written of him, but woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born!’” Judas, who betrayed him, answered, ‘It isn’t me, is it, Rabbi?’ He said to him, ‘You said it.’” (Matthew 26:23-25).

“Therefore having received that morsel, he went out immediately. It was night” (John 13:30).

Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20 – Jesus took the unleavened bread and the last cup; He revealed and instituted that these elements represented His body and blood. Luke noted that this cup was taken at the end of the meal.

Quote Matthew 25:26-28

Matthew 26:31-35 – Jesus told the disciples that they would stumble this same night. “Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of me tonight’...” (Matthew 26:31). Peter contended that he would never fall away. Jesus then prophesied that Peter would deny Him three times.

John Chapters 14-17 – Christ taught the disciples about the meaning of discipleship and the coming of the Holy Spirit. He prayed for all those who would believe in Him.

Matthew 26:36-46; John 18:1; Luke 22:39-44 – Christ went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray with the disciples. He took on the sins of the world and suffered in great agony. In this angst, He sweat great drops of blood.

Matthew 26:47-56; John 18:2-12 – In the Garden, Judas arrived with troops and soldiers to betray Jesus. Our Savior was arrested and the disciples were scattered.

Matthew 26:57-68 – Jesus was led before the high priest, elders, and Sanhedrin; He was hastily put on trial and falsely accused.

Matthew 26:69-75 – Peter denied Christ three times. The rooster crowed; he realized his sin and wept.

Wednesday Morning

Matthew 27:1-2 – “Now when morning had come, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: and they bound him, and led him away, and delivered him up to Pontius Pilate, the governor.”

Matthew 27:11-26a; John 18:28-40 – Jesus was put on trial by Pilate; while many accusations came forward, Pilate declared Him innocent. The people refused this ruling and wanted a criminal released instead.

John 19:1-3; Matthew 27:26b-30 – Contrary to popular teachings, Jesus was not flogged/scourged by the Jewish people, but by the Romans. While the Jewish people had a limit on the number of lashes a person could be given (Deut. 25:3), the Romans did not have such a rule. Christ had a crown of thorns driven into his head. The people wanted His crucifixion; Pilate washed his hands of Christ’s blood and turned Him over to their demands.

“So Pilate then took Jesus, and flogged him. 2 The soldiers twisted thorns into a crown, and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple garment. 3 They kept saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and they kept slapping him” (John 19:1-3).

Wednesday Afternoon

Matthew 27:31-38; John 19:16-24 – Jesus was led out to be crucified; He began carrying his own cross. At some point along the way, Simon of Cyrene helped him carry the cross. Christ was crucified along with two convicted criminals, who were placed on either side of Him.

Matthew 27:39-51 – Christ was mocked while He suffered. Darkness covered the land from the sixth hour unto the ninth hour of day (12 pm to 3 pm in our reckoning of time). About 3 pm, Christ breathed his last breath and died.

Wednesday Late Afternoon

John 19:31-33 – “Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn’t remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Therefore the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with him; but when they came to Je-

sus, and saw that he was already dead, they didn't break his legs.”

In Roman times, they broke the legs of those nailed to a cross because it hastened their death (by suffocation). John's gospel informs us why they wanted the bodies off the crosses.

John 19:31 reads: “...for that Sabbath day was a special one” The Greek word translated as ‘special one’ is *mezas*. When *mezas* is used with the word Sabbath, it refers to an Annual Sabbath (not the weekly Sabbath). Therefore, John 19:31 references the First Day of Unleavened Bread, which is the day after Passover. They did not want the bodies to remain on the crosses during this Holy Day. Jesus had already passed away before they could break His legs.

Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47 – In the late afternoon, Joseph of Arimathea asked for Jesus' body. He wrapped the body in linen cloth and laid it in his own tomb, which was carved out of rock. Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin. This means he had to bury Jesus' body, wash with water, and still attend the public celebration of Passover after sunset.

Mark 15:47 – “Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joseph, saw where he was laid.”

Thursday Morning

Matthew 27:62-66 – On the First Day of Unleavened Bread, the priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to place a guard over the cover of the entrance to the Tomb for the next three days. They recalled Jesus' words that He would rise from the dead after 3 days. Pilate agreed and sent troops. The tomb was also sealed to prevent anyone from rolling it away.

Thursday Evening or Friday Morning

Mark 16:1 – “And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.”

The Sabbath which passed was the First Day of Unleavened Bread. No shops would have been open, so they had to wait until the Annual Sabbath was over before they could buy and prepare them.

Luke 23:56a – “They returned, and prepared spices and ointments...”

They then rested on the Sabbath. The only way to have Mark 16:1 and Luke 23:56b not contradict each other is if there are two Sabbaths (and there were!).

Friday at Sunset

Luke 23:56b – “...On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.” The day between the Annual Sabbath and weekly Sabbath they bought the spices and ointments and prepared them. On the weekly Sabbath, they rested. The weekly Sabbath (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) is a commandment (Ex. 20:8-11).

Saturday Late Afternoon – Jesus resurrected from the dead. This was 3 days and 3 nights after He died and was buried. Most Jewish people would have been at synagogue or resting at home.

Saturday Evening – “Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went early, while it was still dark, to the tomb, and saw the stone taken away from the tomb. 2 Therefore she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have laid him!’ Mary came to the Tomb and found it empty. She ran to tell Peter and John. They ran to the tomb to see that it was empty” (John 20:1-2).

Recall that Biblical days begin and end at sunset. Therefore, early on the first day of the week while it was still dark would have been just after sunset on Saturday. As soon as the Sabbath ended they went to the Tomb. It was empty.

John’s testimony is of great importance because He was the only one of the gospel writers who stayed with Jesus from the time of His arrest through the crucifixion and the resurrection. His testimony proves that the resurrection could not have happened on Sunday or Sunday morning.

Thus, we can see that the only arrangement of time that allows for 72 hours to elapse from Christ’s death to His resurrection is a

Tuesday night Passover and arrest, a Wednesday crucifixion/death, and a Saturday afternoon resurrection. This arrangement also allows for an Annual Sabbath (special Sabbath) and weekly Sabbath to be included.

Now we can better understand the gospel accounts describing the timeline of Christ's Passion.

Commonly Asked Questions: What About Luke 24:21?

In Luke chapter 24, we learn about one of Christ's appearances after the resurrection. The day after the resurrection, which was the first day of the week, two of the disciples were walking to Emmaus. Jesus appeared to them, but concealed His identity. They said to Him, "But we were hoping that it was he who would redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened" (Luke 24:21). Some have used this verse to state that the death of Jesus still occurred on either Thursday or Friday.

Look at the language used in the verse. It had been the third day since "these things happened." This was also referenced in Luke 24:14 "They talked with each other about all of these things which had happened." The last major event before the resurrection was when the chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate and asked for guards to be sent to the tomb for three days.

"Now on the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees were gathered together to Pilate. "Sir, we remember what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' Command therefore that the tomb be made secure until the third day..." (Matthew 27:62-64a).

The chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate on the First Day of Unleavened Bread. We can now understand the statement of the disciples in Luke 24:21 that it had been the third day since these 'all' these things happened. The phrase "these things" would have included the placement of the guard in front of the Tomb, which occurred three days earlier.

If anything, these verses confirm that Christ died on a Wednesday afternoon.

Chapter 4

From the Resurrection through the Ascension

(As you read through this chapter, I encourage you to read through the Bible verses referenced in addition to the summaries I have provided. For the sake of space, only some verses have been quoted.)

In this chapter, we will trace the timeline of events from Christ's resurrection, which happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, until his ascension, which took place just before the Feast of Pentecost.

As we review these details, one thing to keep in mind is that the four gospels are eye-witness testimonies. These recorded accounts were directly observed either by the author or by someone that the author knew. In each testimony, only certain events are mentioned or emphasized. Other events certainly may have happened; the person recounting the events has a focus on specific individuals and a specific flow of events. This is important.

As we compare each of the four gospel accounts, some of the details seem to contradict each other. When we harmonize all of them, we can see that they line up with each other. We can then have the full picture of what happened. This is especially true of events after the resurrection.

When the disciples arrived at the Tomb on Saturday evening, Christ was gone from the tomb. This means Christ's resurrection had already happened by the time they arrived. This was just the beginning of events that would take place over the next forty days.

Between Saturday Evening and Sunday morning – John 20:1-2; Luke 24:1-11; Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8 – As we harmonize all the gospel accounts, we learn that Mary Magdalene went to the Tomb with other women to anoint Jesus' body with spices. Just before these women reached it, an earthquake shook the earth and an angel rolled back the stone. When they arrived, two angels

informed them that Christ had risen.

These brave women were then commanded to go tell the disciples, including Peter, that the Lord was not in the tomb. Mary went alone to inform John and Peter. The rest of the women went to tell the other disciples. This becomes confirmed when we combine the separate mention of Peter in Mark 16:7 and the specific mention of Mary going to see Peter and John in John 20:1-2.

John 20:3-8, Luke 24:12 –After being informed of Mary’s discovery, John and Peter ran to the tomb. John arrived at the scene first. He looked in it and saw the linen laid there, but the body was gone. Peter then arrived and went a step further. He entered the empty tomb; John went in next.

“3 Therefore Peter and the other disciple went out, and they went toward the tomb. 4 They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter, and came to the tomb first. 5 Stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying, yet he didn’t enter in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, 7 and the cloth that had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 So then the other disciple who came first to the tomb also entered in, and he saw and believed” (John 20:3-8).

“12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he departed to his home, wondering what had happened” (Luke 24:12).

In Luke 24:12, only Peter is mentioned as going to the Tomb. Later in Luke’s testimony we learn that more than one person went to the empty tomb (Luke 24:24: “Some of us went to the tomb, and found it just like the women had said, but they didn’t see him”). John reconciles this by mentioning Peter and John. Luke’s emphasis is on Peter at first. There are likely two reasons for this. First, Peter was the first one to step into the tomb (as John mentions). Secondly, Peter denied Christ before the crucifixion. Peter’s rush to the burial site would be very important as it showed He did not fully abandon Christ.

Sunday Morning

John 20:10-18 – Mary Magdalene went back to the tomb. She

was crying as she stood outside of it. Two angels, dressed in white, were seated in the tomb and asked her why she was crying. She responded by telling them that someone had taken the Lord away.

Jesus then appeared to her, but she did not recognize Him. He asked the same question as the angels. After He spoke her name, she knew it was Him! He then said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God” (John 20:17).

Matthew 28:9-10 – As the other women went to tell the other disciples, Jesus appeared to them. He encouraged them to tell the disciples to go to Galilee so that they could see Him; the women worshipped Him.

“9 As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” They came and took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go tell my brothers that they should go into Galilee, and there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:9-10)

Matthew 28:11-15 – quote As these events took place, some of the guards went into the city and reported what happened to the chief priests and elders. They were paid money to spread a rumor that his disciples came and took his body in the night. This rumor persisted for some time into the future.

“11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. 12 When they were assembled with the elders and had taken counsel, they gave a large amount of silver to the soldiers, 13 saying, “Say that his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept. 14 If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him and make you free of worry.” 15 So they took the money and did as they were told. This saying was spread abroad among the Jews, and continues until today” (Matthew 28:11-15).

Luke 24:33-34, I Cor. 15:5 – At some point before Christ appears to all the disciples, He appeared personally to Peter. This would have shown great comfort to him. Peter informed the other apos-

bles of this appearance.

“33 They rose up that very hour, returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and those who were with them, 34 saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” (Luke 24:33-34).

“4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.” (I Cor. 15:4-5)

Sunday Morning or Afternoon

After Christ’s appearance to Mary, He ascended to the Father (John 20:17). When He did this, He offered His blood on the Altar of Incense and Ark of the Covenant in Heaven (Hebrews 9:11-28). He was also waved as the first fruits of the resurrected dead (Lev. 23:9-14; I Cor. 15:20-21).

Late Sunday Afternoon

Luke 24:13-33 – The resurrected Jesus concealed His identity and appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, about 7 miles from Jerusalem. One was named Clopas and the other is not identified. The Lord accompanied them; together they discussed the events which had happened the past few days.

Christ opened their eyes to the Scriptures so that they could understand that Jesus was the Messiah. As the daylight started to decline, the disciples invited Him into their home to eat. Jesus broke the bread, and they finally recognized Him! He then disappeared. They ran to tell the remaining Eleven apostles.

Just Before Sunset on Sunday

John 20:19-23; Luke 24:33-49 – Cleopas and the other disciple discussed with ten of the original Apostles the encounter they had with Jesus. As they were talking, He appeared among them and comforted them. He showed them His hands and feet so that they could see He had a body– but His was glorified.

He ate a piece of fish in their presence to show them that He was not a disembodied spirit. He blew upon them the Holy Spirit and instructed them about forgiveness. He opened their minds so that they could understand the Scriptures. He informed them that they

would soon be clothed with power.

“19 When therefore it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were locked where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the middle, and said to them, “Peace be to you.” 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus therefore said to them again, “Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit! 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone’s sins, they have been retained.”” (John 20:19-23).

Not long after this visit

John 20:24-25 – Christ could not have been with them for very long, as Thomas came into the room right after the visit. Luke’s account said that Cleopas and the other disciple shared their road to Emmaus testimony with the original Eleven, including Thomas. John recorded that Thomas was not originally with them; he appeared later. This can only be reconciled if Thomas arrived to see the other disciples just after Christ’s personal visit. He then heard about their encounter with the risen Lord. He refused to believe it until he could touch the nail scars.

Eight Days Later

John 20:26-31 – Jesus appeared to the remaining 11 Apostles. Thomas was with them this time, and Christ challenged him to touch His hands and feet. Thomas believed. The risen Lord did many more miracles in their presence.

Sometime After John 20:26-31

Matthew 28:16-20 – The Apostles were commanded to meet with Christ in Galilee on multiple occasions (see Mathew 28:7, 10; Mark 14:28; Mark 16:7; Luke 24:6). His first visits with them were in homes away from Galilee. The disciples did not originally go to Galilee because they were afraid of the Jewish people (John 20:19). When they all finally traveled to the mountain in Galilee, they received the Great Commission to preach to the entire world. This makes perfect sense; Christ first preached/ministered in Galilee (see Matt. 4:12-19, Mark 1:9-14, Luke 4:14, John 1:43, 2:1-11). He gave them their commission at the place of

His first ministry.

“16 But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had sent them. 17 When they saw him, they bowed down to him; but some doubted. 18 Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” (Matthew 28:16-20)

Sometime After John 20:26-31

John 21:1-25 – Sometime later, several disciples gathered by the Sea of Tiberius to fish. Among them were Peter, Thomas, Nathanel, the Sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. After fishing all night, they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus spoke to them from the shore and told them to throw their net on the right side of the boat. After doing so, they caught such a great number of fish that they could not bring in the net.

Peter then recognized that Jesus gave this command. He jumped into the water to swim out to Him! The other disciples followed in the boat. When they arrived at the shore, a fire was already set up with cooked fish and bread – ready to eat! They had a fellowship meal with Christ.

According to John 21:15-19, Jesus instructed Peter to feed His sheep three times. He also indicated that Peter would face martyrdom for the faith. Peter asked Jesus about John, but He refused to tell him anything. A rumor spread that John would remain alive until the second coming.

Acts 1:1-8 – In the first chapter of Acts, we learn that all these appearances of Christ to the disciples occurred over a forty-day period. About 500 believers saw Him during this time (I Cor. 15:6). He instructed them about the Kingdom of God and especially about the outpouring of His Spirit to come. This outpouring was/is also called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8). They were commanded to stay in Jerusalem until this event oc-

curred.

Forty Days After the Resurrection

Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11 – quote At the end of the forty days, which I will call the ‘days of final instruction’, Christ took the disciples out to Bethany. He lifted up His hands to bless them (in a similar manner to the Aaronic blessing) and was taken up into Heaven. Two men dressed in white stood beside the disciples while this happened.

One question to be resolved is this: Why did Jesus choose Bethany as the site of the ascension? There are some important things to consider about this city.

Bethany was only two miles from Jerusalem, so it was not far away. Christ didn’t want the disciples to be too far away from the city. More importantly, it was known as the hometown of four prominent figures: Simon the leper, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Each of these individuals played a very important part in Christ’s ministry. It is recorded that Jesus had a special love for Martha, Mary and Lazarus (John 11:5).

Just before Christ’s arrest and suffering, Simon hosted a dinner to honor Him. Martha served Jesus at this gathering (John 12:2). Just one chapter earlier she made the confession that Jesus was the Messiah of the world (John 11:27). At this same event, Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with her hair and an expensive jar of spikenard (Matt. 26:6-13, Mark 14:1-9, John 12:1-11). This event was so important that Jesus instructed the disciples to preach about Mary wherever they went (Matt. 26:10; Mark 14:6-9).

Let us also not forget that Christ raised Martha and Mary’s brother, Lazarus, from the dead (John chapter 11). Jesus used that event as an opportunity to explain that through Him there is life after death (John 11:25-26). He is the resurrection and the life.

Bethany was the last place he stopped before going to Jerusalem to be put on trial and suffer. It would be logical that Bethany would be His last stop on earth as part of His first coming. At the place where He proclaimed Himself the resurrection and the life, the living resurrection was lifted into Heaven. This is the timeline from the resurrection through the ascension.

After it occurred, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy! They stayed in the Temple praising God. Fifty Days from Christ's resurrection, the outpouring of God's Spirit happened on Pentecost (Acts chapter 2). This event empowered believers to be His witnesses to the entire world.

The rest is history.

More Materials

Hungry Hearts Ministries has a variety of materials on the Bible to help you in your walk with God.

Free booklet: Passover Preparation

On Passover, we commemorate the Son of God, Jesus Christ, coming down to earth to lay down His life for our sins. He willingly gave His life for so that we could be forgiven. There is also a seven-day festival rich with meaning and spiritual significance for Christians. As we approach this time of the year, it is vitally important that we prepare to honor the Lamb of God.

Download for free from www.hungryheartsministry.com. Go to the Free Resources page and scroll down. You will see it.

We also have a free magazine called Pursuit that you can have delivered to your home free of charge. Just send your name and address to: hungryheartsmi@aol.com

Timeline From Passover to the Resurrection*

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><u>Evening</u> Jesus was arrested (Matthew 26:31-68). Jesus kept Passover (Matthew 26:17-30).</p>	<p><u>Evening</u> 1st Day of Unleavened Bread (Annual Sabbath) (John 19:31a)</p>	<p><u>Evening</u> Women bought and prepared spices (Luke 23:56a)</p>
	<p><u>Day</u> Jesus beaten, crucified, and buried (Matthew 27:27-61, John 19:31-42)</p> <p>Jesus put on trial (Matthew 27:1, 11-26)</p>	<p><u>Day</u> 1st Day of Unleavened Bread (John 19:31a)</p> <p>Chief Priests go to Pilate to request guard (Matt. 27:62-66)</p>

***Keep in mind that days begin in the evening. This chart is a brief overview.**

Timeline From Passover to the Resurrection

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><u>Evening</u> Rested on the Sabbath (Luke 23:56b)</p>	<p><u>Evening</u> Go to the tomb, and Jesus is risen (John 20:1)</p>	<p><u>Evening</u></p>
<p><u>Day</u> Women bought and prepared spices (Luke 23:56a)</p>	<p><u>Day</u> Jesus resurrected Rested on the Sabbath (Luke 23:56b)</p>	<p><u>Day</u> Just before sunset, Jesus breathed upon them the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23)</p> <p>Jesus was waved in Heaven as the firstfruits from the dead (John 20:17, I Cor. 15:20)</p> <p>Jesus appeared to Mary (John 20:11-18).</p>

Passover Chart of Events
Bible Verses
Passover 2020

Passover— 14th of Nissan Exodus 12:6, Lev. 23:4, Num. 33:3
Night to Be Much Observed— 15th of Nissan (evening portion) Ex. 12:42; Num. 28:17
1st of UB— 15th of Nissan (day portion)— (Annual Sabbath)
— Exodus 12:16, Lev 23:7
7th of UB— 21st of Nissan— (Annual Sabbath) — Exodus
12:16, Lev 23:8

Day on American Calendar (2020 Feasts)	Day on the Hebrew Calendar (Days begin at sunset)	Event
Sunset, Tuesday, April 7th	14th of Nissan	The Passover Starts at sunset
Sunset, Wednesday, April 8th	15th of Nissan	Night to be Much Observed Starts at Sunset; also starts the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread
Thursday, April 9th	16th of Nissan	During the Day, we celebrate the First Day of Unleavened Bread
Friday, April 10th	17th of Nissan	
Saturday, April 11th	18th of Nissan	
Sunday April 12th	19th of Nissan	First fruits of the Barley harvest (not a feast day)
Monday, April 13th	20th of Nissan	
Sunset, Tuesday, April 14th through sunset Wednesday April 15th	21th of Nissan	7th Day of Unleavened Bread

Meet the Author

Kelly McDonald Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. For 21 years, Kelly attended Trinity Baptist Church in Bemis, TN, where he was saved in 1992. While at Trinity, a small independent Baptist church, Kelly learned boldness for the Kingdom of God and that being a Christian is an all or nothing experience. In June 2006, Kelly was called to his first ministry, going door to door in the Bemis community and inviting people to church. In September 2006, Kelly was called to begin a Christian men's group at his then college, Lambuth University. In February 2007, Kelly was called to preach. Less than a month later, he became introduced to Hungry Hearts Ministries.

Since becoming a member of Hungry Hearts, Kelly has taken on many roles to further the ministry's work, from going door-to-door to pass out booklets, preaching, administering the prison ministry, teaching Bible Studies, and starting churches. Due to his service in the ministry, he was ordained a Deacon during the Feast of Pentecost on May 31st, 2009. His spiritual growth and desire to serve God led to his ordination as an Evangelist during the Feast of Pentecost on May 25th, 2012.

Kelly has written for a local Christian magazine, *The Christian to Christian Connection*, the international Sabbatarian magazine, *The Sabbath Sentinel*, and the regional magazine, *The GoodNews*. He currently writes for and serves as the Editor for the Ministry's magazine, *Pursuit*. Kelly has written 12 books and 30 booklets on various Bible topics.

Kelly graduated *summa cum laude* from Lambuth University in Jackson, TN in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Legal Studies. Kelly has been preaching since 2007 and is available to speak at your church upon request.

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Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. He died for all mankind to be saved from sin and death. Many people are not aware that the sequence of events at the end of His life occurred during the Passover season. Once we understand this important season, we can better understand the sequence of events at the end of Jesus' earthly life. In this booklet, you will learn the timeline of events from Christ's last Passover through His ascension back to Heaven.



Kelly McDonald, Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. He is also President of the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA). He has written over 40 books and booklets on pursuing Jesus Christ. He has been preaching since 2007 and is available to speak at your church upon request.