

## **DAY OF PREPARATION**

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Day of Preparation.**

### 1. **Our lesson text begins with “The Jews therefore (oun).”**

The Greek word **Oun**, referencing (John 19:30) when Jesus said, “It is finished!” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”

(John 19:31 “The Jews therefore, because (epi) [since] it was [the day of] preparation (paraskeue), so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, (for that Sabbath was a high (megas) day (he hemera), (the Jews) **asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.**” (Ex.12:14-19, 33-39).

Pilate agreed to their demand. Read carefully **John 19:32-36** and keep the following two questions in mind.

**NOTE:** In 30 AD, on the Jewish calendar this took place on Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, Passover and called “The day of preparation”.

- **First:** “Did these Jewish religious leaders understand the Passover rule about not breaking bones of Passover Lamb of Ex.12:46? “
- **Second:** “Did they understand John the Baptist’s claims that Jesus was the prophetic Lamb of God come to save their people from their sin (John 1:29)? “

**The answer is YES.** They were already upset with Pilate for writing on the cross of Jesus - “Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.’

They had a plot already working to destroy Jesus (John 19:19-22; 18:14 (John 11:47-51) Judas’ betrayal (Matt.27:1-10).

Despite all the plotting against the Plan of God, God’s Plan moved forward on schedule (Isa.54:17). **This is true today in our present crisis.**

### 2. **Following the Babylonian Captivity, the returning Jewish leaders combined the Passover holiday with the Unleavened Bread holiday into one eight-day messianic festival.**

By the time of Jesus Christ, these names were used interchangeably for this eight-day messianic festival (Luke 22:1-2, 7).

In our last lesson,

- We learned that Passover occurred on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan (a date, not a day)
- We also learned that the Unleavened Bread festival took place from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nisan.

During this time, Jews used the term “Day of Preparation” interchangeably with “Passover” (John 19:30-31, 41-42; Matt.26:17-20).

**Where did the idea come from that Jesus died on Friday, buried on Saturday, and was raised on Sunday?**

### 3. It came from a failure to study messianic history!

As a result, the connection between the **four messianic holidays associated with the First Advent of Jesus Christ** was lost:

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First-fruits
- Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks.

**NOTE:** The Day of Preparation (Passover) (day #1) [Nisan 14] was getting ready for the feast of Unleavened Bread (7 days).

The next day after Passover was called a great (megas) Sabbath, a Holy Convocation or High Sabbath. (John 19:31, 42).

The first day of Unleavened Bread, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan and the last day, the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nisan (two dates, not days) were both High Sabbaths (**Lev.23:6-8**).

Therefore, during the feast of Unleavened Bread (7 days), there were two High Sabbaths (15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>) and one weekly Sabbath (Saturday, a day and not a date).

### 4. The day following the weekly Sabbath of “Unleavened Bread” was the “First Fruit” messianic holiday (**Lev.23:9-14**).

This is called the first day of week or our Sunday (Luke 24:1-8).

Jesus was raised from the dead on **First fruits**. As a result Paul refers to the resurrection of Jesus as First Fruits in (1 Cor.15:20-23; Acts 26:23).

Remember the four Old Covenant messianic festivals: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Feast of Weeks called Pentecost (Acts 2).

(Lev.23:4) “These are the appointed times of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them.”

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|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| • <b>Passover</b>         | <b>(Jesus died on cross)</b>              |                 |
| ○ <b>Wednesday</b>        | 14 <sup>th</sup> of Nisan                 |                 |
| • <b>Unleavened Bread</b> | <b>(burial and resurrection of Jesus)</b> | (Matt.12:38-40) |
| ○ <b>Thursday</b>         | 15 <sup>th</sup> of Nisan                 | High Sabbath    |
| ○ <b>Friday</b>           | 16 <sup>th</sup> of Nisan                 |                 |
| ○ <b>Saturday</b>         | 17 <sup>th</sup> of Nisan                 | Weekly Sabbath  |
| • <b>Resurrection</b>     | <b>(First day of week or Sunday)</b>      |                 |
| ○ <b>Sunday</b>           | 18 <sup>th</sup> of Nisan.                |                 |

Jesus began His post-resurrection appearances before (18-21) and continued after the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nisan, Wednesday which was the last day of Unleavened Bread, a High Sabbath.

**NOTE: From messianic First fruits (the Resurrection of Jesus, our Sunday), you count seven weekly Sabbaths to the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (That 50th day was also a Sunday) (Acts 20:7).**