

THE DURATION OF JESUS' ENTOMBMENT

The Church of God (Seventh Day) teaches that Jesus' entombment was a full three days and three nights. Most other Christians teach that Christ was crucified on Friday and raised early on Sunday morning.

"Feast of Unleavened Bread . . . called the Passover" (Luke 22:1; Exodus 12:6-21)

Jesus in the Tomb (Matt. 12:40)
3 nights and 3 days = 72 hours
(six 12-hour parts — John 11:9)

Note: In Bible times, a day began and ended at sunset, so the night part occurred before the daylight part of the day. This chart is based on that configuration.

FRIDAY (Nisan 9)		SABBATH (Nisan 10) Weekly Sabbath		SUNDAY (Nisan 11)		MONDAY (Nisan 12)		TUESDAY (Nisan 13)		WEDNESDAY (Nisan 14) Preparation Day		THURSDAY (Nisan 15) High Day Sabbath		FRIDAY (Nisan 16)		SABBATH (Nisan 17) Weekly Sabbath		SUNDAY (Nisan 18)		MONDAY (Nisan 19)		TUESDAY (Nisan 20)		WEDNESDAY (Nisan 21) High Day Sabbath			
Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day		
Jesus journeyed to Bethany Mark 11:1, 2; John 12:1 — • — Martha prepared supper John 12:2		Triumphal entry into Jerusalem John 12:12-15 — • — Jesus wept over Jerusalem Luke 19:41 — • — Jesus observed temple Mark 11:11		Fig tree cursed Mark 11:13, 14 — • — Jesus returned to cast out money changers Mark 11:15		Fig tree dried Mark 11:19, 20		Upper room reserved Luke 22:8-14 Jesus secluded Himself		Lord's Supper instituted Luke 22:7-14 — • — Judas betrayed Christ Luke 22:47, 48		The trial Luke 22:66 — • — Jesus Crucified; three-hour darkness Matt. 27:34-50 — • — Jesus entombed John 19:31-42		Jesus one night and one day in the tomb — • — Yearly high day Sabbath John 19:31 — • — Watch set and tomb sealed Matt. 27:62-66		Jesus entombed two nights and two days — • — Woman brought and prepared spices to anoint Jesus' body Mark 16:1 Luke 23:56		Jesus three nights and three days in the tomb — • — Jesus resurrected (before sundown) Matt. 28:1-7 — • — Angels declared event Matt. 28:6, 7		Visits made to tomb while dark and at sunrise; Jesus not there! Mark 16:1-6 Luke 24:1-6 John 20:1-6 — • — Third day since watch set and sealed Luke 24:12-21		Fifth Day of Unleavened Bread Exodus 13:6, 7		Sixth Day of Unleavened Bread Deut. 16:8		Yearly High Day Sabbath Deut. 16:8 Exodus 12:15-18	

The above chart shows events that took place each day during the last six days of Christ's life before His crucifixion, and it ends at the close of the week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. John 12:1 says Jesus went to Bethany six days before the Passover. Evidently, this means six days before the Passover Sabbath (Nisan 15). Counting back, Jesus went to Bethany on Nisan 9, and His triumphal entry into Jerusalem occurred

on Sabbath, Nisan 10. Jesus was crucified on "the Preparation Day of the Passover," Nisan 14 (John 19:14). The Jews killed the Passover lambs on the same day, and then ate the Passover meal after sundown, at the beginning of Nisan 15, the annual high day Passover Sabbath.

The references shown on the chart represent events that happened on each day. Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal, and Jesus

instituted the Lord's Supper at the beginning of Wednesday, the fourteenth of Nisan (following sundown at the end of the thirteenth). Then Jesus was crucified during the daylight part of this day, on the Preparation Day of the Passover Sabbath (or high day Sabbath), approximately the same time the Passover lambs were killed by the Jews.

Jesus was placed in the tomb just before sunset as the Passover Sabbath drew on. He

remained in the tomb Thursday night and day, Friday night and day, and the weekly Sabbath night and day, rising from the tomb just before sunset at the end of the weekly Sabbath. Jesus was in the tomb 72 hours, or a full three days and three nights. Thus, He fulfilled the prophecy He had given in Matthew 12:40: "So will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."