

For Easter, April 15, 2001

MATTHEW 12:40, JOHN 12:1, MATTHEW 26:2, AND JOHN 19:31 VERIFY THAT THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL OF OUR LORD WAS ON WEDNESDAY (NOT FRIDAY) AND ACTS 12:4 RULES OUT EASTER CELEBRATION

Radio Message by Dale Crowley Jr.
On the "King's Business" Radio Program

Matthew 12:40 clearly teaches, in the words of our Lord, that He would remain buried "three days and three nights."

John 19:31 clearly teaches that our Lord was betrayed, crucified, and buried on the day of "preparation" before a "sabbath day," which was also a "high day."

The seventh day sabbath was never a "high day," nor was it ever preceded by a day of preparation. So John 19:31 was not talking about events that took place on Friday and Saturday.

The passover sabbath, on the other hand, was always on Nisan 15, always preceded by a day of preparation on Nisan 14. So our task is simply to determine on what day of the week the high day of passover occurred the year of our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection. If we can determine that day, then we know that He was buried the day before.

(Leviticus 23 established eight sabbath days during the year, three of which were high days. One of the three was passover. The seventh day sabbath was not a high day. The day after the passover sabbath was also a sabbath—the feast of unleavened bread.)

Our task is simple, the solution to be found in

John 12:1 and Matthew 26:2.

JOHN 12:1

John 12:1 records our Lord's journey from Jericho to Bethany on the Friday before Palm Sunday. (He would not have made that journey on the seventh day sabbath, or on any sabbath for that matter.)

John 12:1 clearly states that His arrival in Bethany was *six days before passover*. That puts passover that year on Thursday of the next week. No question.

MATTHEW 26:2

Four days after Bethany, and two days after Palm Sunday—Tuesday—we have the Olivet Discourse recorded in Matthew chapters 24 and 25. Immediately following the conclusion of the Olivet Discourse Jesus reminded the disciples that the feast of passover would be *in two days*. Matthew 26:2. That puts passover on Thursday (beginning sundown Wednesday). Accordingly, passover's day of preparation was Wednesday (beginning sundown Tuesday).

From these unmistakable statements of biblical chronology we can reconstruct the events of these days of the week and their dates:

Journey to Bethany	Friday Nisan 9
Seventh Day Sabbath Rest	Saturday Nisan 10
Palm Sunday	Sunday Nisan 11
Cleansing the Temple	Monday Nisan 12
Olivet Discourse	Tuesday Nisan 13
Day of Preparation Before Passover—	
Gethsemane, betrayal, trials, crucifixion, burial	Wednesday Nisan 14
First Night and Day in the Tomb	Thursday Nisan 15, Passover Sabbath
Second Night and Day in the Tomb	Friday Nisan 16, Unleavened Bread Sabbath
Third Night and Day in the Tomb	Saturday Nisan 17, Seventh Day Sabbath
Resurrection	Sometime after Sundown Nisan 18, the First Day of the Week

Thus we have solved our age-old Good Friday crucifixion error, and the dilemma of whether our Lord was buried 36 hours (one day and two nights) or 72 hours (three days and three nights).

EASTER—ACTS 12:4

The word "Easter" in this verse of scripture in the King James Version and many other versions (the only time "Easter" can be found in the Bible) is a gross mistranslation. The Greek

word is *πάσχα* (paska/pascha) and should have been translated *passover*, as it is in 27 other instances in the New Testament.

We are told that the translators mistranslated *πάσχα* this one time as a favor to King James and

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the Church of England, already deep into Easter celebration. ("Easter" is a word of pagan origin.)
Dear "King's Business" listener (and *Capitol Hill Voice* reader), I hope and pray this Bible study has been an enlightening blessing to you. "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall

make you free." John 8:32.

I was not taught this truth by any teacher, preacher, or school. God revealed it to me through careful and prayerful private study. Write for my larger presentation of this great truth in my 19 page pamphlet, "The Wednesday Crucifixion and Burial of Our Lord Jesus Christ."