

**Legend**



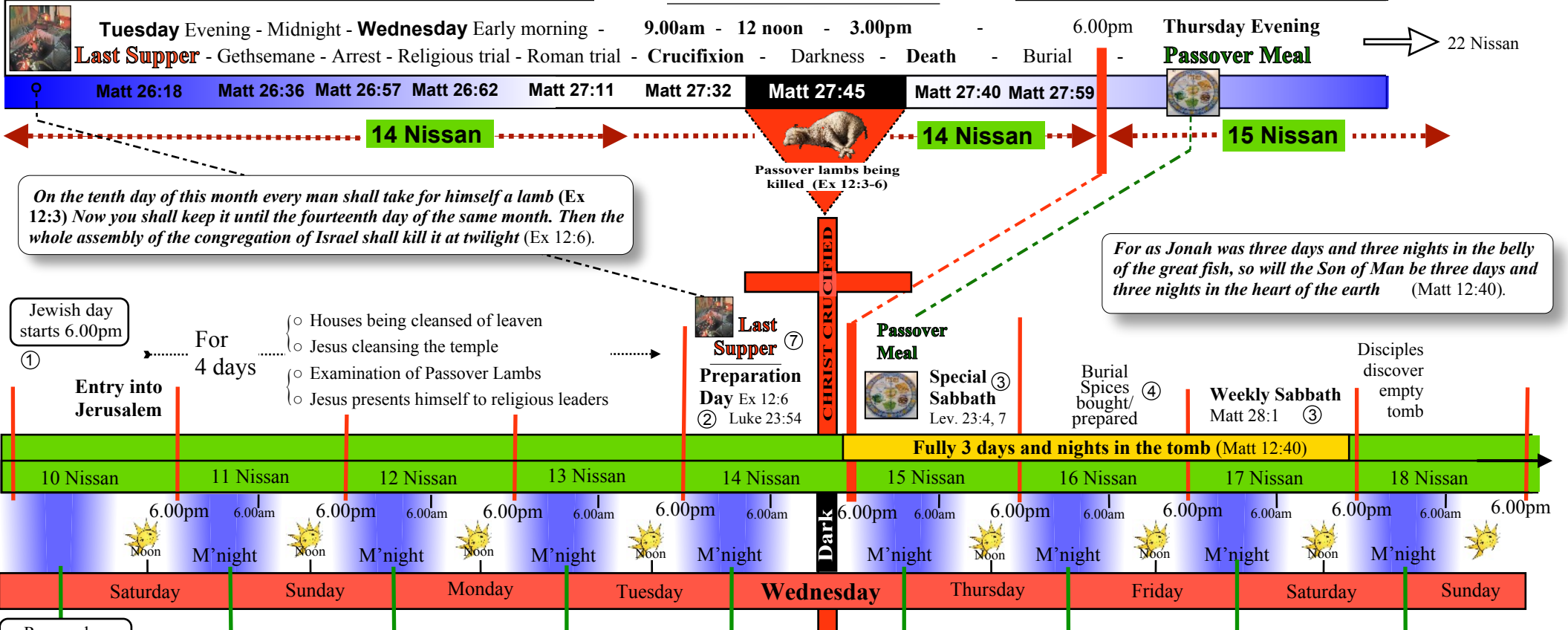
Jewish Calendar

Roman Calendar

# Passion Week to Passover

(and the Feast of Unleavened Bread) ⑤

14 Nissan - 22 Nissan



*On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb (Ex 12:3) Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight (Ex 12:6).*

*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matt 12:40).*

Jewish day starts 6.00pm

Roman day starts at midnight



Triclinium ⑦

**Key points**

1. The Jewish day commences at 6.00pm (twilight).
2. The sacrificial lambs (1-year-old sheep) were sacrificed on Preparation Day (Mark 15:42) which preceded the Passover meal that evening (i.e. the start of the following Jewish day). So just at the time the lambs were being slaughtered, Jesus was dying on the cross (John 19:30-31).
3. In the Jewish year there are both weekly Sabbaths (Fri/Sat) and special Sabbaths which are associated with the 'Feasts' and fixed by the calendar date and not the day of the week.
4. One Gospel account (Luke 23:56) tells of the spices and oils being bought before the sabbath and another (Mk. 16:1) after the sabbath. This apparent contradiction is explained by the fact that there were two Sabbaths that week – the special (Passover) sabbath when the passover was eaten, and the weekly sabbath commencing 6.00pm on Friday.
5. It should be remembered when reading the Bible accounts that the term 'Passover' sometimes refers to the 'day' (a special sabbath) when the actual Passover meal was eaten and sometimes to the 'season' covering the period of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Mark 14:1; Luke 22:1). It's similar to Christmas which can refer to both a day and a season.
6. The term 'first day of the week' refers to a period commencing at twilight on Saturday/Sunday, i.e. it includes the Saturday night hours and will often actually denote this period.
7. The Last Supper was a full meal. The 'table' was a Triclinium (see illustration) and not a long refectory/banqueting table as depicted in Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting.
8. The Passover Lambs were presented four days prior to the day of Preparation so that they could be judged as being free of any defects. During this period Christ 'presented himself' to the religious leaders.