

Legend



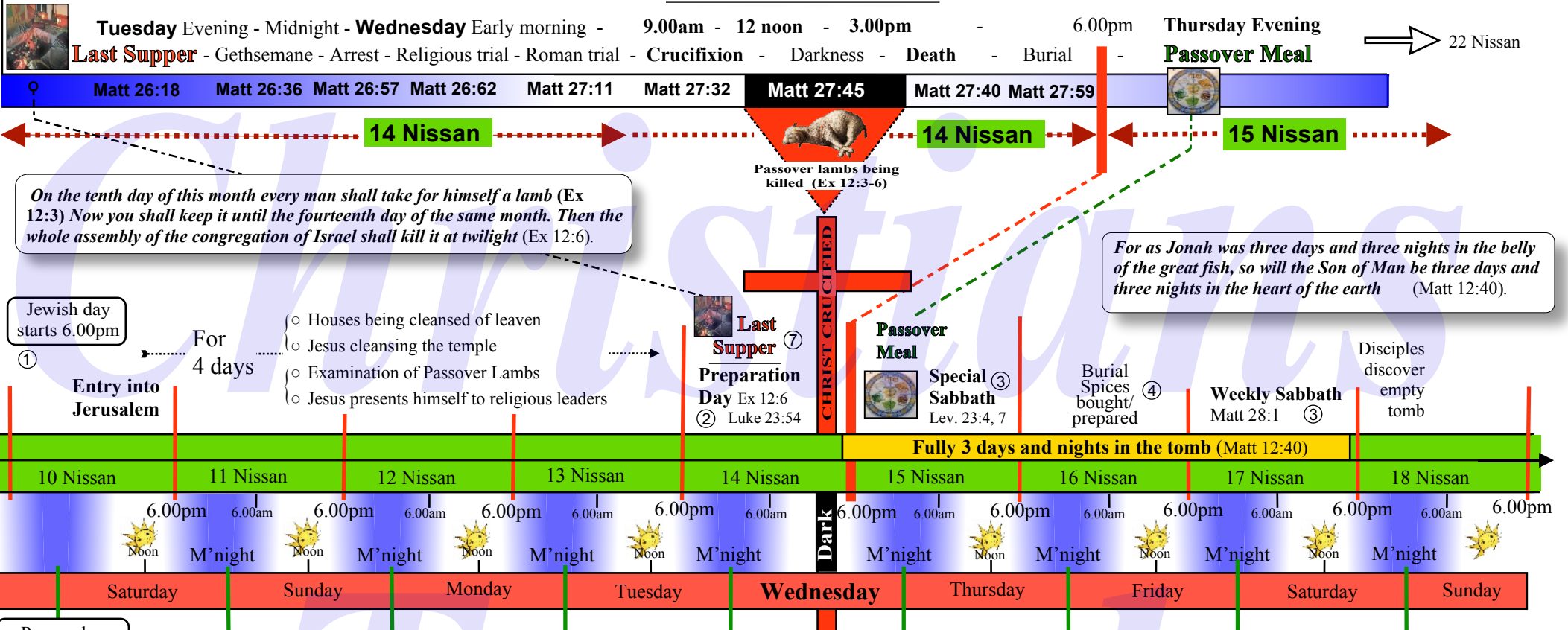
Jewish Calendar

Roman Calendar

Passion Week to Passover

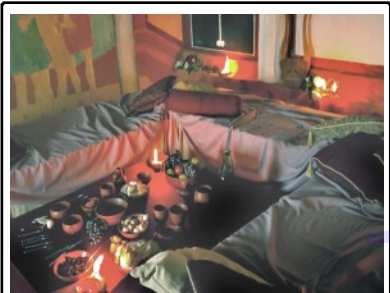
(and the Feast of Unleavened Bread) ⑤

14 Nissan - 22 Nissan



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 Friday night 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.



Triclinium ⑦