

# EASTER



## 1. Introduction

At the first Easter, 2000 years ago, 38 O.T. prophesies were fulfilled.

This was the time when Spiritual Warfare and God's Love would combine, at a place outside an occupied city in a backwater of the mighty Roman empire.

Why? Because God's love was the only way to rescue mankind from the spiritual battle it had lost in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:6).

- Isa 53:6
- Isa 59:2
- 1 John 1:10
- Rom 2:11,12
- John 3:16

The reason for Jesus Christ to come into this World was to win a spiritual battle (1 John 3:8).

## 2. Thursday

Last Supper (Luke 22:14-20) - taken a day early - should've been Friday evening

- The Jewish Passover transformed into the Christian Communion
- Jesus washes the Disciples' feet (Jn 13:4-10)
- Jesus announces His betrayal (Luke 22:21,22)
- After His example, the Disciples still argue about who's the greatest! (Luke 22:24)
- Jesus' parting words (Jn 14:1-31), especially Jn 14:6 - Christian Gospel truth!
- Parable of the true vine (Jn 15:1-11)
- Promise of the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:7-15)
- The intercessory prayer (Jn 17:1-26), especially for all Believers - then and now (vv 20-26)

## 3. Friday

Some approximate time references concerning the events leading up to the Crucifixion:

- Fri, just after midnight, "*And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*" (Matt 26:30):
  - Ever wondered what the hymn was? It's sung to this day by the Jewish people ... Ps 113:118, and we know Ps 118:24 very well "*This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.*" The Lord had made this day His day, and we remember that whenever we celebrate the Lord's Table!

- Fri, around 1 am, Jesus agonises in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:36-46)
- Fri, around 2 am:
  - Jesus betrayed by Judas (Matt 26:47-49). Even here Jesus tries to reach out to him (Matt 26:50)
  - Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest Caiaphas (Matt 26:57)
- Fri, around 3 am, Peter denies Jesus (Matt 26:58,69-75)
- Fri, around 4 am, Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin - yet a trial had to be held in the daylight; this one was illegal under Jewish law! (Matt 26:59-68; Matt 27:1)
- Fri, around 6 am, Jesus before Pilate (Matt 27:2; 11-14)
- Fri, around 7 am, Jesus before Herod (Luke 23:6-12)
- Fri, around 8 am, back to Pilate:
  - He was scourged (39 times) (Matt 27:26; Jn 19:1)
  - Guards put on Him a robe and a crown of thorns
  - They then beat Him (Matt 27:27-31; Jn 19:2)
- Fri, around 9 am, Jesus sent to be crucified (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16)
  - "Father forgive them" (Luke 23:34)
  - The two thieves (Luke 23:39)
  - One repentant - "... this day you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:40-43)
- Fri, from Noon to 3 pm, darkness over the whole area (Matt 27:45; Mk 15:33)
- Fri, around 3 pm:
  - Jesus was separated from the Father by our Sin (Mk 15:34)
  - Then Jesus cries out "It is finished!" ; He bowed His head and '... gave up His spirit' - Jesus wasn't 'killed', **He** chose the time at which to die (Matt 27:50; Jn 19:30):
  - Temple veil torn in two - top to bottom (Matt 27:51; Mk 15:38)
  - severe earthquake that even cracked open solid rocks (Matt 27:51)
  - graves were opened up and the bodies of many saints were raised to life, appearing to many after Easter Sunday (Matt 27:52,53) -- with Jesus' death came resurrection life!
  - No wonder the Roman Centurion and the other soldiers who saw all this all said "*Truly this was the Son of God!*" (Matt 27:54)

- AND - at that very moment, the Passover lamb was being slain!

#### 4. Friday Evening & Saturday:

The Spiritual battle transfers from the physical realm to the spiritual one!

- Friday evening - Jesus is in Paradise (Luke 23:43).
- Saturday - Across the chasm (Luke 16:26) to 'the prison' (φυλακη) where Jesus preached the Gospel (1 Pet 3:18-20; 4:6).

#### 5. Sunday:

Spiritual power bursts through into the physical World:

- Sun around 5 am:
  - Earthquake (Matt 28:2)
  - Angel appears to remove the stone (Matt 28:2,3)
  - Effect on trained Roman guards (Matt 28:4)
  - Jesus had risen! The tomb was empty (Matt 28:1-7; Mk 16:1-5; Luke 24:1,2; Jn 20:1)
- Jesus appears first to:
  - Mary Magdalene (Mk 16:9)
  - the other women (Matt 28:10)
  - Peter (Luke 24:34)
  - the two on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
  - the Disciples less Thomas (Luke 24:36-48)
  - the Disciples including Thomas (Jn 20:26-29)
  - disciples (1 Cor 15:6)
  - James the Lord's brother (1 Cor 15:7)
  - Paul (1 Cor 15:8)

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