

FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

**The Events of Passion Week
04/05/2023**

Introduction:

Through the years, as I have studied the life of Jesus, I have noticed that I still have questions regarding the events leading up to his crucifixion. As we read the gospels, we see the same story, but the order of the events surrounding his trial, crucifixion and resurrection have at times confused me.

So, I want to take a break from Proverbs for the next couple of weeks and spend our time looking at what happened during this week and the subsequent weeks after Jesus was raised from the dead.

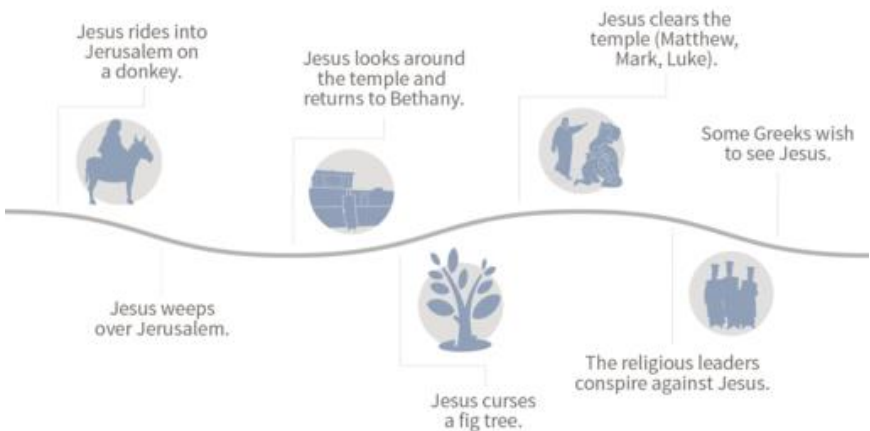
I want to take more of an apologetic look at these events. Peter tells us 1 Peter 3:14–15 (ESV): 14 *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,* 15 *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense (ἀπολογία – ap-ol-oo-gee-ah) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, . . .*

Knowing the events in their specific order helps the believer to better share the story.

Message:

There is no debate that Jesus of Nazareth rode a donkey into Jerusalem on the Sunday before Passover. It is late Sunday afternoon, very close to the end of the day and the start of Monday. This is the 9th/10th of Nissan, 30 A.D. (Nissan is the first month of the Jewish calendar that begins their festival of unleavened bread, which is Passover. For us, it falls sometime between mid-March and early April.) This is exactly 483 years after the decree that came from the Persian ruler Artaxerxes, (Nehemiah 2:1-8).

Daniel had predicted that the time frame of this event would occur 483 years after a decree to rebuild the walls was made.

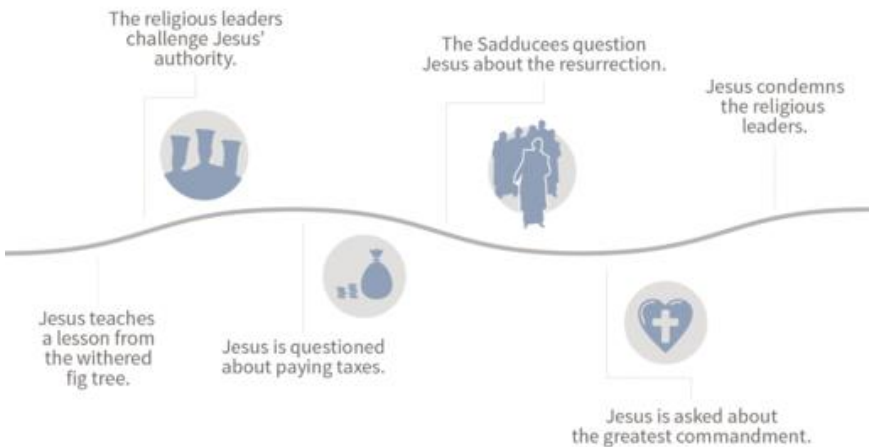


As Jesus approaches the city, he weeps because the leaders and most of the people will miss the final appeal of God to become the people he has intended that they become.

In a gesture meant to symbolize God's rejection of Israel as his people and vessel to carry the news of his covenant with men, Jesus will pause at a fig tree looking for fruit. When he finds none on it, he curses it, declaring that fruit will never again grow on it. The tree withers quickly, and the disciples are amazed at the rapidity of its wilting.

Jesus will leave the Temple after turning over the tables of the money exchangers, declaring his Father's house will be known as a house of prayer, not a den of thieves.

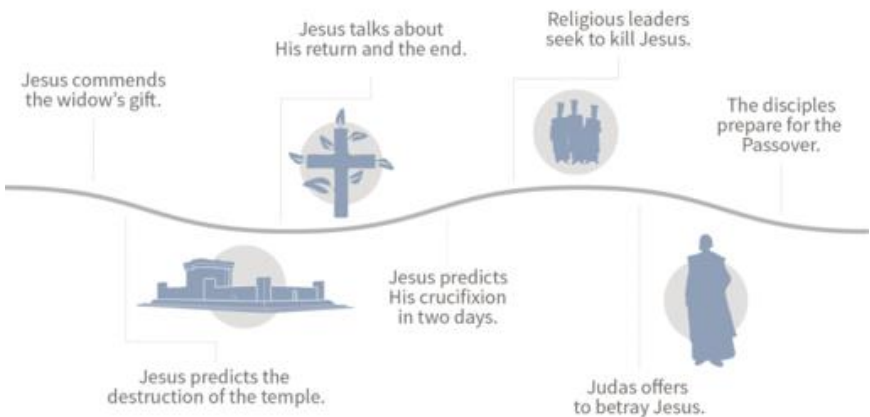
The Temple leaders will begin to plot how they might eliminate Jesus and remove his influence.



The next morning, still Monday, Jesus will return to the Temple, teaching the people and challenging the religious leader's ideas of who God is and what God expected.

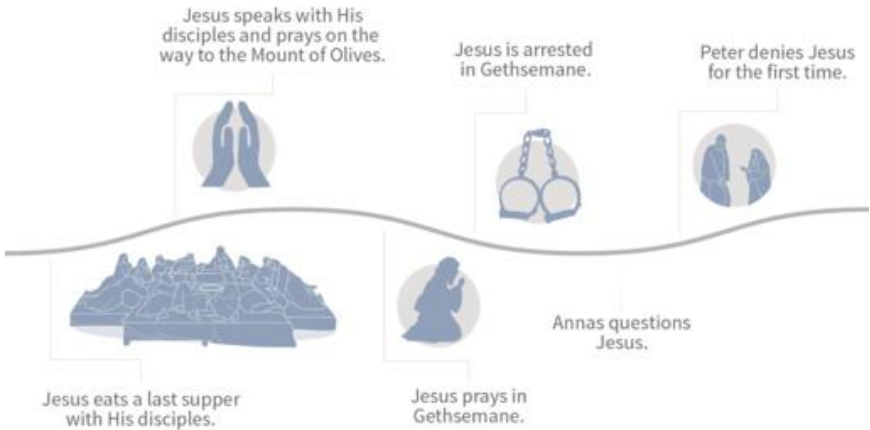
During the course of the day, a widow is commended for giving far more than the wealthiest of gifts. *“They give out of abundance, while she gives out of her lack.”* (Luke 21)

Sometime on Tuesday or Wednesday, Jesus will predict the destruction of the Temple, which will happen 40 years later in A.D. 70, when Titus destroys the city and the Temple, shutting down another Jewish rebellion. Almost 600 years earlier, the prophet Obadiah speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem said; Obadiah 1:18 (ESV):
 18 *The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau, for the Lord has spoken.*



Judas has reached his fill, and by Wednesday he is making plans with Temple leaders how they might take him. Satan now has full control of this greedy man, who wanted a nation free of Rome, glory free of righteousness, and a Messiah who would do as Judas wanted.

Jesus will begin to teach about the ending of the age, and what his disciples should expect, the persecution that is coming, and the destruction of all they hold dear.



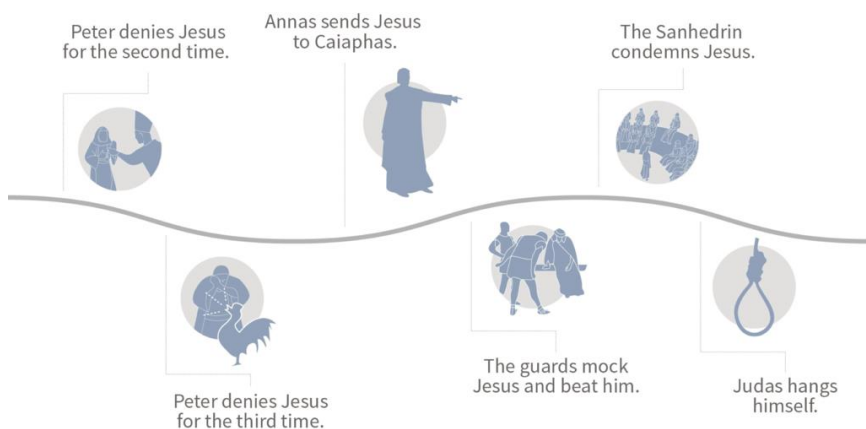
On Thursday morning, Jesus will instruct his disciples to go and prepare for the Passover supper. It will be later that Thursday when Jesus symbolizes the bread as his body being broken and the wine as his blood being spilled. As he picks up the third cup of Passover, the cup of Salvation and Blessing, Jesus tells his disciples this cup is the New Covenant in my blood. A new covenant is being established – one that is wholly based on the nature of God. Men had broken the old covenant; and as a result, there is the expectation of God’s wrath. Therefore, Jesus will take that wrath to bring the blessing of salvation to humanity.

Judas leaves the group, after learning where Jesus and the disciples will be heading after supper.

Late in the evening, which is now early Friday, Jesus and the disciples will make their way back across the Kidron valley to the Garden of Gethsemane.

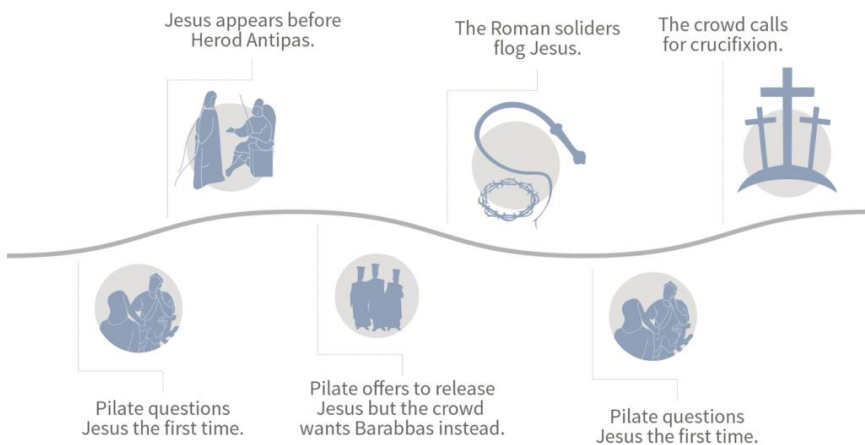
It is here that Jesus asks his Father to let this cup pass from him, and he then adds, *“Not my will, but your will be done.”*

The disciples fall asleep and are sleeping when, being led by Judas, Temple guards arrive so they can take Jesus into custody.



The disciples will scatter; and for the rest of the night, they will watch the illegal trial of Jesus as close as they dare to get. It is during this time that Peter will deny that he knows Jesus, cursing and swearing that he does not know the man.

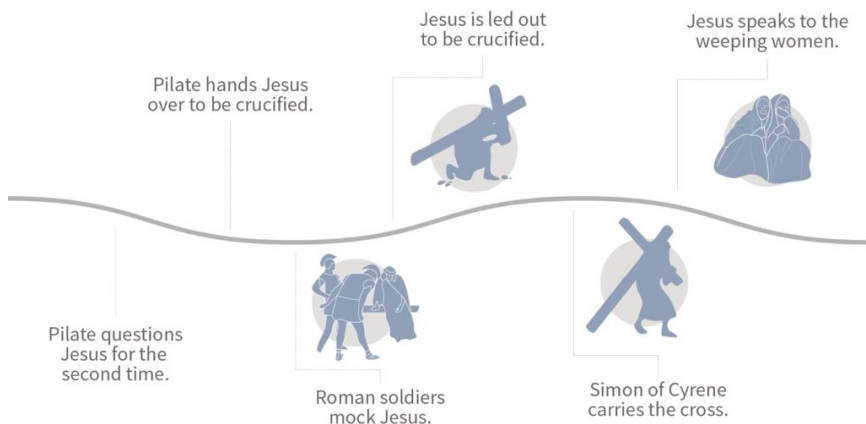
Early Friday morning around 6 a.m., Jesus will be taken to Pilate's palace where he will be questioned by Pilate. Within an hour, Pilate will declare him innocent of any sedition and send him to Herod, who, after mocking Jesus, will also find him innocent of any sedition. Sometime close to these events, Judas will hang himself as it dawns upon him what he has done.



Jesus will be returned to Pilate, and the Jews will by this time have a crowd of paid protestors who will begin to cry for the crucifixion of Jesus. Matthew 27:20–23 (ESV):
 20 *Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.* 21 *The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.”*

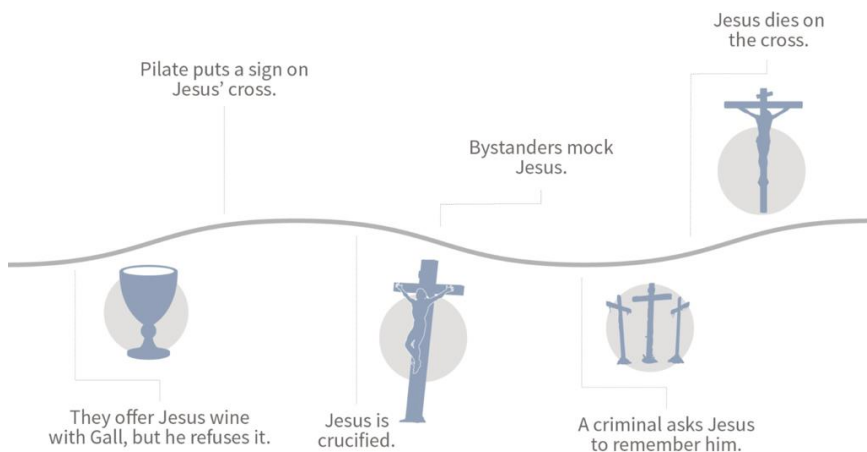
22 *Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!”*

23 *And he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”*

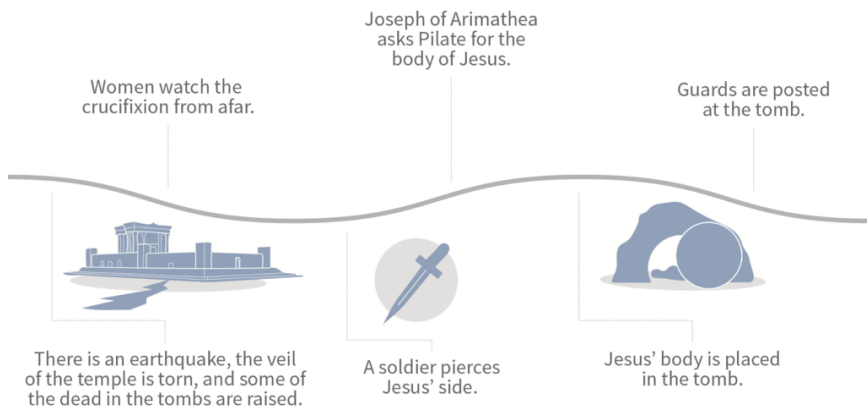


By now, it is 9 a.m. and Jesus has been beaten, mocked, spit upon, and is carrying his cross outside of the city. He is the Son whom the vineyard owner expected those in his vineyard to respect and honor. He is now driven out of the vineyard and cast out before the world. (Luke 20) The religious leaders have found their way to get rid of this annoying preacher.

It is interesting to consider that as the annual sacrificial lamb is being slaughtered by the priests at the Temple to cover the sins of the people, Jesus is hanging on a Gentile cross and paying for the sins of humanity.

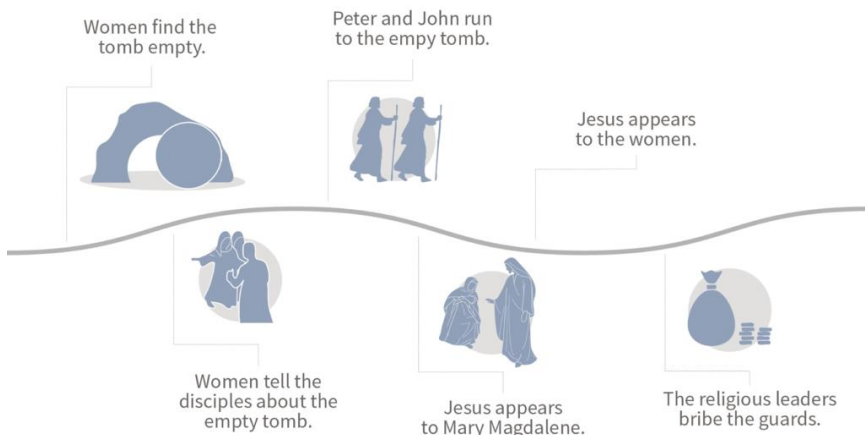


He is nailed to the cross piece and will hang there for the next 6 - 8 hours when he will give up his spirit to his Father. The creator of man has now been killed by man, the creator of life has now laid his life down, the infinite love of God has faced the full measure of human hatred and appears to have been defeated.

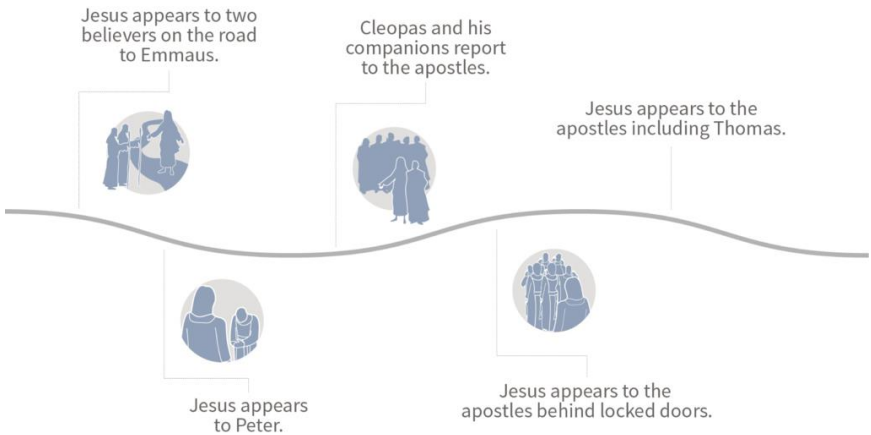


As the end of the day approaches, around 6 p.m. and the new Sabbath will begin, some of his followers' request that Pilate release his body to them, so they can prepare it for burial. He gives them permission, and they bury Jesus in Joseph's tomb, close to the place of crucifixion.

Conclusion:



The story of Jesus continues, not because this was a heinous crime and great injustice – which it was – It continues because on Sunday morning, the tomb of Jesus was found empty. And over the next forty days, Jesus will appear to, speak with, and eat with hundreds of people, and a group as large as 500 will see and hear him before his ascension to heaven.



Before his ascension, Jesus will commission his disciples to take the gospel to all ethnic groups in the world. This was specifically instructed to prevent what happened with the Jewish people who saw other ethnic groups as inferior and undeserving of God's covenant. He will also remind the disciples that the kingdom will come, but that only his Father knows when.

