

Meeker Christian Church
Pastor Jim Pelley
CHARACTERS AND CHRONOLOGY OF HOLY WEEK
4/13/25

There are no specific Bible dates given for the physical life of Jesus. Different sources suggest different possibilities. With that in mind, today, we will go with the study that Christ was born 4 B.C. That translates to the events of the week prior to Resurrection Sunday began on Friday April 8, 29 AD. That would have been the 33rd year of Jesus' physical ministry on earth.

Some of the key characters in the life of the Holy Week of Jesus:

A. The Romans were the world power from about 230 BC - 400 AD. At the time of the events of Holy Week the Roman Caesar was Tiberius who (ruled 14 - 37 AD) - The New Testament of the Bible was all during the time and influenced by the domination of the Roman empire. who was responsible for the destruction of the second temple in 70 AD.. In the year 66 AD the Jews of Judea rebelled against their Roman masters. In response, the Emperor Nero dispatched an army under the generalship of Vespasian to restore order. By the year 68, resistance in the northern part of the province had been eradicated and the Romans turned their full attention to the subjugation of Jerusalem. That same year, the Emperor Nero died by his own hand, creating a power vacuum in Rome. In the resultant chaos, Vespasian was declared Emperor and returned to the Imperial City. It fell to his son, Titus, to lead the remaining army in the assault on Jerusalem. The Roman legions surrounded the city and began to slowly squeeze the life out of the Jewish stronghold. By the year 70, the attackers had breached Jerusalem's outer walls and began a systematic ransacking of the city. The assault culminated in the burning and destruction of the Temple that served as the center of Judaism.

B. For our Resurrection account, Pontius Pilate was the Roman procurator of Judea (Luke 23:12). A procurator was an officer of the Roman empire. Pontius was the fifth governor of the Roman province of Judea. He presided over the trial of Jesus and ultimately ordered His crucifixion.

C. Herod Antipas - Tetrarch of Galilee (Luke 23) was similar to a procurator but was particularly responsible for business/financial dealing of an area. But on the last day of Jesus' earthly life, when Jesus was brought before Pilate; Pilate had heard that Jesus was a Galilean. Herod was visiting Jerusalem at the time; so Pilate sent Jesus to Herod Antipas. Pilate was Governor of Judea. Herod Antipas was district ruler of neighboring Galilee. Actually Pilate and Herod had been enemies. However, this move on Pilate's part pleased Herod and they became friends. Later in Acts 4:27 it connects the two rulers as colluding against Jesus.

D. Caiaphas was the Jewish high priest (John 18). Joseph Caiaphas, a Sadducee, served as the Jewish high priest in the Jerusalem temple, and he presided over the Sanhedrin during Jesus' time on earth. As mandated by the Lord, only Aaron's descendants could be true high priests, but Caiaphas and his father-in-law, Annas, were appointed to their positions by Roman governors.

E. Annas - Caiaphas' father-in-law. John 18

F. Temple officers or guards were Jewish and they had no authority to carry out a death sentence.

G. The Roman garrison of soldiers who were the authorized tormentors and executioners of the crucifixion. A very public event held in a place for all to witness and be deterred.

H. What do Jewish people celebrate on Easter? Resurrection Sunday is the Passover, known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is one of the three main feasts of Judaism.

The other two are Shavuot or Pentecost, also referred to as the Feast of Weeks, which overlaps with the Christian commemoration of Pentecost, and Sukkot, also recognized as the Feast of Tabernacles.

Now we look at some events of HOLY WEEK starting with:

FRIDAY April 8th, 29 AD - Jesus arrived in Bethany to have supper with Mary, Martha & Lazarus. Bethany lies about 2 miles east of Jerusalem on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives across the Kidron Valley.

John 12:1-8. *Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. 4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. 7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."*

SATURDAY April 9th - The Triumphal entry (Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19)

John 12:12-18 *12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!" 14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: 15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt." 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. 17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. 18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.*

SUNDAY April 10th - The Fig tree instruction: Matthew 21:18-19 *18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found*

nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.

MONDAY April 11th - Was a full day of teaching as in Matthew 22 & 23; Mark 12; Luke 20 & 21.

TUESDAY April 12th - Jesus taught signs of the end times in Matthew 24 and then the Plot to kill JESUS unfolds as in Luke 22:1-4 *22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. 2 And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. 3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them.*

WEDNESDAY April 13th - JESUS anointed as told in Matthew 26:6-13 *6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." 10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.*

THURSDAY April 14th - Passover meal (last supper) Matthew 26:17-30 *17 Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" 18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples." ' 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. 20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. 21 Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." 22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" 23 He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." 25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

THURSDAY was also the time of Jesus' farewell discourses in John 14 - 17; Gethsemane prayer in Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22 & John 18; concluding with the arrest of Jesus.

FRIDAY April 15th - Crucifixion Day Matthew 27:23-25 23 *Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"* 24 *When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."* 25 *And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."*

1st three hours on the cross, 9-12 a.m. Matthew 27:35-44 35 *Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."* 36 *Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.* 37 *And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.* 38 *Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.* 39 *And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads* 40 *and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."* 41 *Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,* 42 *"He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.* 43 *He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'*" 44 *Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.*

2nd three hours, 12 - 3 p.m., darkness and death Matthew 27:45-50 45 *Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.* 46 *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* 47 *Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"* 48 *Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.* 49 *The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."* 50 *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.*

And Jesus was buried in the borrowed tomb. Matthew 27:57-61 57 *Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.* 58 *This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.* 59 *When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,* 60 *and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.* 61 *And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting [a]pposite the tomb.*

SATURDAY April 16th - Matthew 27:62-66 62 *On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,* 63 *saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'* 64 *Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."* 65 *Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."* 66 *So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.*

SUNDAY April 17th - Resurrection Sunday Matthew 28:1-6 *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

Time in tomb: 3 hours on Friday (1st day), 24 hours on Saturday, 12 hours on Sunday

More is recorded of that last week than the first 30 years of the life of JESUS. Nothing in the history of the age is so well documented as the events of the Holy Week and the resurrection of JESUS. From the mouth of Jesus is the result of His resurrection and the invitation for you to accept him, which you are invited to do, come forward and speak to me during the singing of our invitation song.

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* Nothing is as important in a person's life as responding to that invitation. If you believe then respond ...