

Joan H. Richardson

MYSTERIES
of the
ANCIENT WORD

Unlocked Treasures Hidden for the End of Days

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Mysteries of the Ancient Word

Unlocked Treasures Hidden for the End of Days

Joan H. Richardson

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Dedication



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is DEDICATED to ALL who fervently love

Truth, *searching diligently* for it.

Thy Word is a *lamp* to my feet

And a *light* to my *path*.

[From *Psalm* 119:105.]

Giving Thanks

Much thanks to my sister, Noreen, who saved my life more than once. Thanks to Sylvia whose encouraging words helped me press on to find the end of *Unveiled!* and thus the end of *Mysteries* as well. Thanks to Xulon for letting me do so many redo's! My best friend is Yeshua my Savior who knows me best and loves me more than I can know.

Thank You for the hard times, Lord, because without them, there are no Victories. Without the *fire*, nothing is purified. You are the LIGHT in our hearts, banishing our DARKNESS.

Ruin the STRONGHOLDS. Teach us the TRUTH.

Your Word leads to *Wisdom* and enlightens our eyes. Thank You for Miracles in supernatural places as we BUILD Your Kingdom together with You, WINNING the BATTLES by the *Spirit* and FAITH in Your Name.

Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended?
Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell? (Proverbs 30:4)

... for my name shall be great among the Gentiles.
(from Malachi 1:11)

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CHAPTER 5

Yeshua's Last Seder

On the tenth of Abib, five days before the LORD's Passover, Jews took their best year-old lambs into their homes as the Lamb of God entered Jerusalem.

The Homecoming

Jesus customarily entered the city in the early morning. (Lk. 21:38; Mat 28:1) The crowds rushed to see Him riding the colt of a donkey as Zechariah had prophesied. (Zec. 9:9) Spreading their palm branches on the road, they adored Him, nearly crowning Him King the day after Shabbat:

¹² The next day, the huge crowd that had come up for the feast heard that *Yeshua* was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting,

“Hoshia-na!

Baruch ha-ba b'shem *ADONAI!*

'Blessed is He who comes

in the name of the LORD!' [See Ps. 118:25-26]

The King of Israel!" (John 12:12-13 TLV)

¹ Now it was two days before Passover and the Feast of Matzah. The ruling *kohanim* and *Torah* scholars were searching for a way to grab *Yeshua* by stealth and kill Him. ² “But not during the festival,” they were saying, “so there won't be a riot among the people.” (Mark 14:1-2 TLV)

It was against their law to put a man to death on the Sabbath; yet not for the law, but for political expediency, they would not kill Him during the festival. Two celebrations are named here. The feast had several Sabbaths for rest and worship, marking their liberty from Egypt. The Seder was the first day of Matzah.

The LORD's Passover Week started on the tenth and ended on the seventeenth—eight days long. The Feast of Matzah, called “Passover,” was its result, beginning on the fifteenth and ending on the twenty-first, making all the Days of Matzah eight days long, which include the fourteenth, the Seder. Both the LORD's

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Passover and the Days of Matzah end on their own Sabbaths. The feast had four Sabbaths, including the regular weekly one.

During the daytime on the fourteenth, Israel prepared for the “Feast of Passover” and slew their lambs just as Yeshua died at 3 p.m. Releasing His life to the Father from the wood that bore His body, He was the Isaac of God, the Son God sacrificed to fulfill the words of Abraham, Moses, and the prophets: *And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. (Gen. 22:8)*

On the fourteenth of Abib, the Seder celebrated the night in Egypt when the death angel passed over each house that was protected by the blood of a lamb. Fifteen hundred years later, Peter and John prepared the Seder meal for Yeshua to share with His disciples in Jerusalem:

22 The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called Passover, was drawing near. ...

⁷ Then the Day of Unleavened Bread came when the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us, so we can eat it.”

⁹ “Where do you want us to prepare it?” they asked Him.

¹⁰ “Listen,” He said to them, “when you’ve entered the city, a man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters. ¹¹ Tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks you, “Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover with My disciples?’” ¹² Then he will show you a large, furnished room upstairs. Make the preparations there.”

¹³ So they went and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ When the hour came, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. ¹⁵ Then He said to them, “I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 22:1, 7-16 HCSB)

The festival was called “Passover” by the Jews, which in a sense, it was. In leaving Egypt, God passed over the Hebrews but judged the Egyptians. The feast, however, is not the LORD’s Passover Seder, but a weeklong celebration that begins and ends with a holy assembly as a *Shabbat* [Sabbath], or “day of rest.”

Yeshua's Last Seder

The fourteenth of Nisan, the LORD's Passover, offers the ceremonial *Seder*. Yeshua celebrated the LORD's Passover, but the priests must not have known what was hidden by the rabbis' teachings; yet they knew Preparation Day was not a Sabbath. Thus the Messiah shared the LORD's Passover the night before He was crucified, on the fourteenth of Abib—the fifth day of the Jews' week that year [Rome's Wednesday night].

Fifteen centuries earlier, the Israelites had slain, drained, and roasted the first Passover lambs with their organs intact. God had commanded the consumption of the whole lamb that night.

¹⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves: ¹⁸ For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

¹⁹ And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁰ Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

²¹ But behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table. ²² And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed! (Luke 22:17-22)

After supper He took the cup of redemption, explaining it to His disciples. The elements of the Passover had prophesied His body and blood for centuries before Messiah died, nearly two thousand years after Melchizedek met with Abram. Now each time His disciples would take the matzah and wine, they would commemorate His death until His return.

Later that night, Yeshua explained His relationship with the Father and His impending death and resurrection. He said He would draw people to Himself; then, prayed for the disciples and for the union of Jewish and gentile believers. By our union, we show the world that Jesus came from God.

They hiked across the Kidron Valley to the garden where He agonized in prayer as His disciples slept. Under cover of night, Judas led a multitude of temple guards, soldiers, and spectators to Gethsemane to arrest Yeshua; thus they fulfilled the prophecy (in Ps. 2; Zec. 11:13; John 13; Mat. 26; Mk. 14; Lk. 22).

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That Preparation Day

After daybreak on Preparation Day for the feast, their guards led Him to the high priest where false witnesses alleged charges against Him. Then He told them they would see Him *seated on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven* (Mat. 26:64), He spoke the truth, but they declared Him a blasphemer though He was the Word of God. (Deut. 18:15-18; Mat. 26:47-67)

Next they took Yeshua to Pilate the governor of Judea who sent Him to Herod the tetrarch. After treating Him harshly, they returned Him to Pilate who yielded to the will of the crowd: *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take council together, against the LORD and against His anointed one, saying, ³Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.* (Ps. 2:2-3)

At the judgment *bema* [a high platform], Pilate ordered His scourging. The Roman soldiers mercilessly whipped, beat, and mocked the Lord. Gentiles [“dogs” in Ps. 22:16] surrounded Him, spat on Him, pulled out His beard, and stripped Him (in Ps.22:16).

At noon Pilate presented Him to the Jews. Under pressure from the Sanhedrin and the crowd, he sentenced the Savior to death on a cross and washed his guilty hands: *And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!* (Jn. 19:14) [Its feast was called *Passover* here; *the sixth hour* was noon.]

Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. (John 18:28 NIV) [Re: “*the Passover*”: Jews called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, “the Passover.” Abib 14th was its Day of Preparation after the Passover Seder, *the LORD’s Passover*, the night before. (See Ex. 12:11, 27)]

³⁷ “You are a king then!” said Pilate.

“Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

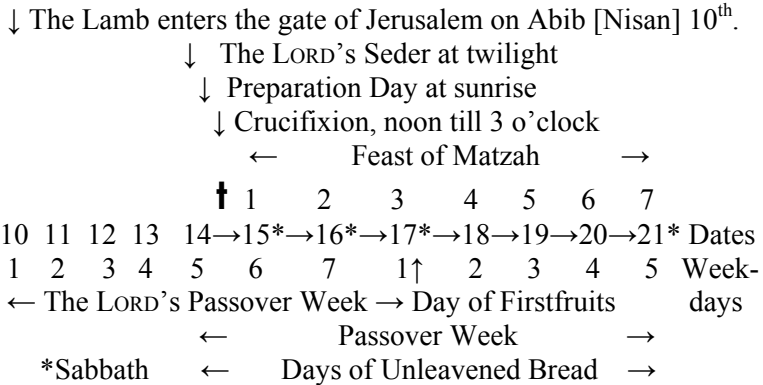
³⁸ “What is truth?” Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge

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against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews?'"
(John 18:37-39 NIV)

Charting that Passover week sheds the light on its days:

Yeshua's Last Passover Week



The days and dates on the chart correspond to Yeshua's last Passover Seder, not to be confused by other years since its dates fall on other weekdays. The ancient calendars are inaccurate, a fact well-known to the Jews who study them. One day God will reveal it all and correct the Hebrew calendar. Its inaccuracy is a stronghold that must be corrected by the strength of the Word; His coming will prove it. By meditating and praying, we destroy the traditions of men to discover the truth: after the crucifixion, three Sabbaths were back-to-back.

⁴¹ There was a garden in the place where He was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it. ⁴² They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation and since the tomb was nearby. (John 19:41-42 HCSB) [The Feast was on Abib 15 at sunset.]

A soldier pierced his side with his iron spear, and blood and water poured out. He was already dead. Crucified between two Passover celebrations and between two thieves, the Lamb of God had died. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea buried the body by sunset on Nisan 14 as the Jews roasted lambs for the feast.

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⁴² Now evening had already come. Since it was the Day of Preparation, that is, the day before Shabbat, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected council member who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for *Yeshua's* body.

⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him whether *Yeshua* had been dead for long. ⁴⁵ When Pilate learned this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

(Mark 15:42-45 TLV) [Israelis call late afternoon “evening” because it’s near the end of the day.]

Like Jonah

³⁹ But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ 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.

(Matthew 12:39-40 NKJV)

God ordered the days of creation: evening, then morning, but *Yeshua* said He would be in the heart of the earth three days and then three nights, not the opposite. As the third night was ending, they found the tomb empty in the middle of Abib 17th.

How did Messiah enter the heart of the earth? He made His Soul a burnt offering. (See Gen. 22:1-8; cf. Is. 53:10-12) Jesus said His descent would be like Jonah in the belly of the great fish. Its mystery is in the abyss, the bottomless pit.

Jonah was conscious in the great fish, aware of hell. He may have been dead in the fish’s belly. David also tasted the pangs of hell; however, the Word indicates he was alive but in hell.

Each man described hell as the heart of the earth, condemned without hope or comfort. Both were cast into its whelming sea, a prison of hopelessness and condemnation. David cried out, *Thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell. (Ps. 86:13b); he drew me out of many waters. (Ps. 18:16b; also see Ps. 116, 142.)* The issue is whether a man can suffer hell while still in the body.

2 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish’s belly, ² And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction

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unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. ³ For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. ⁴ Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. ⁵ The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. ⁶ I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. (Jonah 2:1-6) [YHVH = Yehováh, written as *ADONAI*, or LORD.]

⁵ "When the waves of death surrounded me,
The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

⁶ The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me;
The snares of death confronted me.

⁷ In my distress I called upon the LORD,
And cried out to my God;
He heard my voice from His temple,
And my cry *entered* His ears.

(2 Samuel 22:5-7 NKJV; cf. Ps. 18:4-5) – King David

Condemned for us, who could know the Savior's anguish that day? His Soul sank into the depths of grief as He faced our judgment. His own people shouted, "Crucify Him!" He took the world's sins in His body, despising our shame, the dread of our damnation, and the horror of our hell. No one else could have carried His cross as our sacrifice, but He made His own Soul an offering for our guilt. (Isaiah 53:10)

His judgment began at dawn after the night of His arrest on the day of His crucifixion, just hours after His Passover Seder. How did His Soul descend to the heart of the earth? By the hopeless despondency that overtakes a condemned man, certain of death with no escape. The sentence is guaranteed. Apart from faith in the Savior, he is without hope; but Jesus was all alone, offering his Soul to lift the curse from humankind.

In the garden at night, He accepted His commission to drink the cup of death that day. At sunrise, in dread of all that would come upon Him, surely He felt His Soul's descent. That day His body was laid in a tomb before His quickened Soul was led into

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the fire of hell. In a similar way, on another day He was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Later He advised His followers to pray not to be led into temptation as He had been. But now Yeshua was the man in the fire. (See Dan. 3:25) On that terrible day, only He knew the depth of His grief, despair, and pain as He emptied Himself to take our place in judgment.

His enemies raged against Him; most of His disciples fled from Him, and God judged Him as He would have judged us. Though innocent, He was marked by our sins. Romans tortured and scourged Him with whips of cords tied with broken pieces of pottery and stones. They mocked Him, pressed a crown of thorns into His scalp; then beat Him until His face and form no longer looked human. They pulled out his beard and forced Him through the jeering crowds; stripped Him naked, and nailed His hands and feet to a splintered cross; then raised it up above them.

His Father forsook Him as He would have forsaken us. For Him who received our judgment, it had to be that way. **The first day**, His Soul entered the heart of the earth when the Son of God died as a common man but by no sin of his own. The Passover was slain for the fire; thus Jesus entered hell where He preached the truth to its captives, and even there He exalted the Father!

They crucified Him, but He gave up his mortal spirit, fulfilling the scriptures by giving up His life sooner than a crucified man could die. *For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.* (Ps. 22:16) Had He shrunk from death, his legs would have been broken, but He willingly gave up the life of His flesh, fulfilling the prophecy as our Passover Sacrifice: *He keepeth all his bones; not one of them is broken.* (Ps. 34:20) *In one house it shall be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.* (Ex. 12:46)

Normally, death on a cross took days, not hours, but God gave His Son the right to lay down His life and to raise it again, so He declared His death, not with a whisper, but with a shout:

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Matthew 27:45-46; also Psalm 22:1)

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“The Spirit is the One who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (Jn. 6:63 HCSB)

Before Jesus died the Father took His Holy Spirit from Him. He would taste death as the perfect man for every man. He was the second Adam, with just His words and the spirit of the flesh left in Him. *But the body without the spirit is dead (in Jas. 2:26):*

And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. (Luke 23:46)

If we abide in Him, our soul will not taste death. His Spirit will never leave us, but the innocent One was made the final Sacrifice to give up His life for us. *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison. (1 Pet 3:18-19)* As He’d led Him into the desert to be tempted after His baptism, the Spirit led His Soul into hell after His baptism into death. *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. (Ps. 139: 8)*

When the centurion, who was standing opposite Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “This man really was God’s Son!” (Mark 15:39 HCSB)

And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned. (Luke 23:48)

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (Jas 2:26) Separated from the Holy Spirit, He gave up the spirit of His flesh—His mortal life—to God in the ninth hour when darkness and the guilt of our sins overwhelmed Him. *... for love is strong as death; (SS 8:6b)*

Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it; if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would be utterly contemned. (Song of Songs 8:7)

By the power of the Spirit, His Soul revived to preach to the spirits in prison. On the third day, by the same Spirit that led

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Him into hell, He raised His body to life again:

¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father. (John 10:17-18)

The Timing

Joseph, a wealthy Arimathean, and Nicodemus, a respectable Pharisee, took His body from the cross and wrapped it in linen with spices, laying it in the rich man's tomb at sunset. (Is. 53:9) As they did this, Jesus' mother and Mary Magdalene watched them together. It was nearly the sixth day of the week.

His Seder had been the eve of Preparation Day. An unusual triple Sabbath started with the feast at twilight on the fifteenth. The weekly Sabbath followed the high Sabbath of the feast that year. They made preparations for three Sabbaths; the third was the Day of Firstfruits immediately after the weekly Sabbath.

It was against Jewish law to execute a man on a Sabbath as it was to leave his body on a cross, so they took Him down to bury Him before sunset, the high Sabbath of the feast:

Therefore, because it was the Preparation *Day*, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. (John 19:31 NKJV)

To speed their deaths before the Sabbath, the Roman soldiers broke the legs of two thieves on either side of Him. When they came to Jesus He was already dead. From His pierced side, the gush of red blood and clear plasma proved His death to the eyewitnesses. The night before, He'd sat with his disciples in an upper room, sharing matzah and wine while explaining their prophetic meanings. That afternoon He fulfilled His commission.

¹⁰ 'And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon

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the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.¹² "Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.'¹³ "Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust;¹⁴ for *it is* the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.' (Leviticus 17:10-14 NKJV) –to Moses

Joseph and Nicodemus placed His body in the tomb on the fourteenth, ending Preparation Day. The Feast of Matzah began at sunset, the fifteenth of Abib. (Lev. 23:6) The women returned home to mix spices and oils for His body as the first Sabbath of the feast began, celebrating their liberty.

⁵⁴ That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near.⁵⁵ And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid.⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.
(Luke 23:54-56 NKJV)

After the weekly Sabbath, sunset began the first day of the week when they bought more spices. The next day was a feast and a Sabbath too, the Day of Firstfruits. (Lev. 23:9-21) Sabbaths were for rest from common labor. The Sabbath in the next verse refers to the weekly Sabbath that preceded the Day of Firstfruits:

16 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. (Mark 16:1 NKJV)

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.⁷ After that He was seen by James,

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then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also as one born out of due time.

(Acts 15:3-8 NKJV)

They buried Jesus near twilight on the Jews' sixth day; after the sixth, the seventh day passed; finally, in the middle of the third day—near dawn on the first day of the week, He rose to life and left the tomb to appear to men.

The way to verify the days of Jesus' death and resurrection is by the revelation of the scriptures. To find the truth, we must return to its roots if we are grafted into the olive tree as branches. Here we are in the promised new covenant that is unlike the old though Jewish history still impacts our faith. (Jer. 31:31-40) The Kingdom belongs to the King of the Jews, the Son of the God of Israel—Yeshua HaMashiach—our Lord and Savior too.

If the temple priests had known God's Passover would be fulfilled by the sacrifice of His own Son, they would not have planned His death at all, but He was not revealed to them. And though His crucifixion was prophesied, its day was hidden from them. It came at a time in history when men were thoroughly versed in rabbinical teachings but not in the Holy Scriptures themselves. Ironically, its day has been hidden from gentiles for centuries but is being revealed at the end of the gentile age.