**Events of The Lord's Resurrection**

**“Six Days Before the Passover”**

**Reading – Matthew 12:38-40, John 12:1 and Luke 24:1-7**

**Background Information**

Three Great Feasts in Nisan: 1-Passover 2-Pentecost and 3-Tabernacles.

First day of each feast was a “holy convocation” a “sabbath” where no servile work was to be done. **[Leviticus 23:7, 24, 35. Compare to Exodus 12:16]**

That “**Sabbath**” and the “**high day**” of John 19:31 was the “**holy convocation**”, the FIRST day of the feast. This overshadowed the ordinary weekly sabbath.  ***[John 19:31] 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.***

This ***great*** Sabbath has been mistaken from the earliest times for the weekly sabbath. This has led to all of the confusion we have today.

This has naturally caused the further difficulty as to the Lord’s statement that ***“even as Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights, so shall the Son of man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.” [Matthew 12;40]***

**Important background information on the last week of   
Events Prior To The Resurrection**

* Three separate feasts were observed in Nisan = PASSOVER, PENTECOST and TABERNACLES.
* The FIRST day of these feasts was “a holy convocation” - a “sabbath” on which no servile work was to be done. **[Leviticus 23:7, 24, 35. Compare to Exodus 12:16]**
* That “Sabbath” and the “high day” of **John 19:31** was the “holy convocation”, the FIRST day of the feast. This overshadowed the ordinary weekly sabbath.
* This great Sabbath has been mistaken from the earliest times for the weekly sabbath. This has led to all of the confusion we have today.
* This has naturally caused the further difficulty as to the Lord’s statement that ***“even as Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights, so shall the Son of man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.” [Matthew 12;40]***

**Facts Provided for Our Guidance**

1. The ‘high day” of John 19:31 was the FIRST day of the feast.
2. The ‘first day of the feast” was on the 15th day of Nisan.
3. “Six days before the Passover” [John 12;1] takes us back to the 9th day of Nisan
4. “After two days is the Passover” [Matthew 26:2 & Mark 14:1] takes us to the 13th day of Nisan
5. Sunday, “The first day of the week” [Matthew 28:1] Jesus rose from the tomb
6. This fixes the days of the week with the days of Nisan.
7. Reckoning back from this, ‘three days and three nights” [Matthew 12:40] we arrive at the day of His burial which must have been before sunset on the 14th day of Nisan. WEDNESDAY
8. Wednesday, Nisan14, was the “preparation day” on which the crucifixion took place.
9. All four Gospels definitely say that this was the day on which the Lord was buried ***”because it was the preparation day the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, for that day was a high day”*** not the ordinary Saturday sabbath***.***
10. The Jews observe the Passover feast Nisan15 - Thursday

**Conclusions**

1. The Lord was crucified on “the preparation day” meaning that Lord could not have eaten the Passover lamb.
2. Why? Because HE WAS the Passover Lamb!
3. He was hanging on the cross at noon [the 6th Hour] and he stated “It is Finished” [the 9th hour – 3 p.m.] when “He gave up the ghost”.
4. This was the “death of the testator” that ushered in a “New Covenant” ***[Hebrews 9:16-17***]
5. The captives in the graves were freed from the bondage of sin!

***[Matthew 27:51-52] Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;***

The beginning of the events of resurrection commences in Bethany.

***[John 12:1-3] Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3Then 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.***