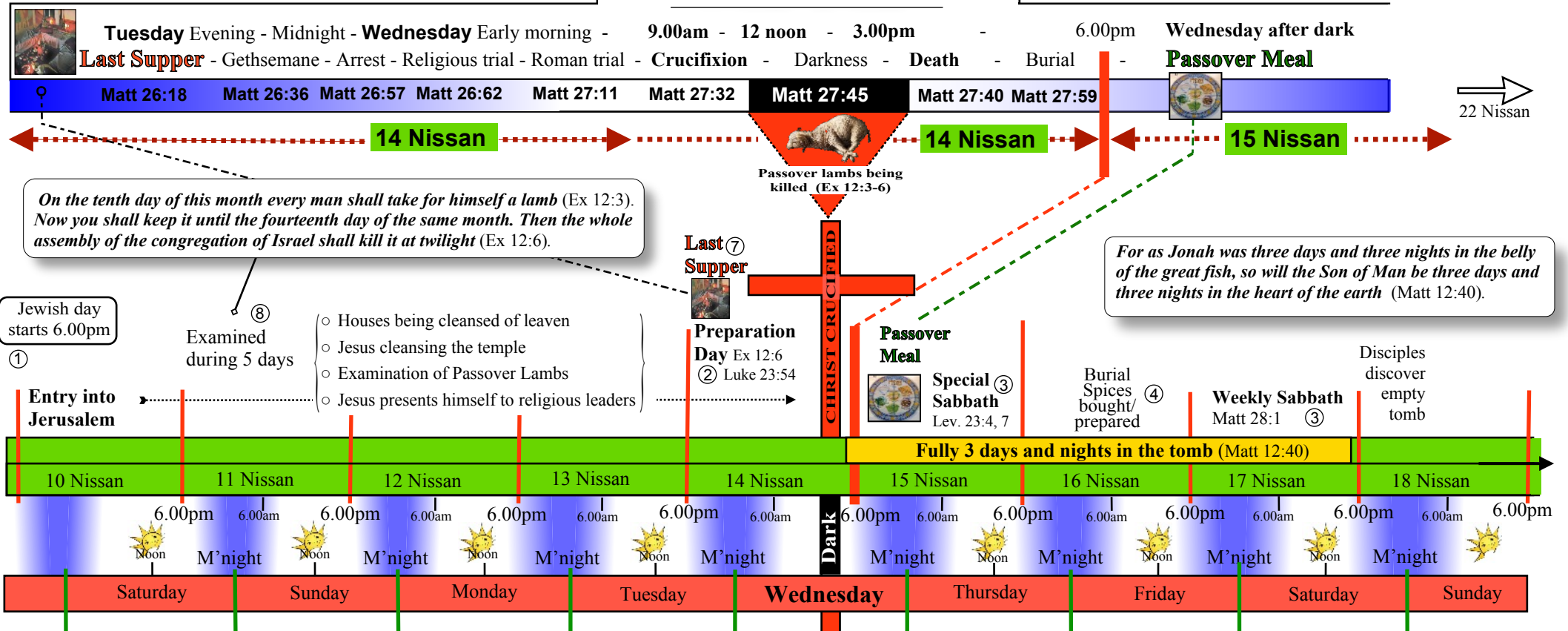


Day Night

Roman Calendar

14 Nissan - 22 Nissan



Key points

1. The **Jewish day** commences at 6.00pm (twilight).
2. The sacrificial lambs (1-year-old sheep) were sacrificed on **Preparation Day** (Mark 15:42) which preceded the Passover meal that evening (i.e. the start of the following Jewish day). **So just at the time the lambs were being slaughtered, Jesus was dying on the cross** (John 19:30-31).
3. In the Jewish year there are both **weekly Sabbaths** (Fri/Sat) and **special Sabbaths** which are associated with the 'Feasts' and **fixed by the calendar date and not the day of the week**.
4. One Gospel account (Luke 23:56) tells of the spices and oils being bought **before the sabbath** and another (Mk. 16:1) **after the sabbath**. This apparent contradiction is explained by the fact that **there were two Sabbaths that week – the special (Passover) sabbath** when the passover was eaten, and the **weekly sabbath** commencing 6.00pm on Friday.
5. It should be remembered when reading the Bible accounts that the term '**Passover**' sometimes refers to the '**day**' (a special sabbath) when the actual Passover meal was eaten and sometimes to the '**season**' covering the period of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Mark 14:1; Luke 22:1). It's similar to *Christmas* which can refer to both a day and a season.
6. The term '**first day of the week**' refers to a period **commencing at twilight on Saturday/Sunday** i.e. it includes the Saturday night hours and will often actually denote this period.
7. **The Last Supper was a full meal**. The 'table' was a Triclinium (see illustration) and not a long refectory/banqueting table as depicted in Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting.
8. The Passover Lambs were presented **five days up to the day of Preparation** so that they could be judged as being free of any defects (Ex. 12:3,6). During this period Christ 'presented himself' to the religious leaders.

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Triclinium ⑦