

The Most Amazing Week
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Two weeks from today we will celebrate Resurrection Sunday, which marks the anniversary of the greatest victory the world has ever known.

The war against man's greatest of all enemies was won, once and for all, when Jesus rose from the dead.

What happened during this week about 2,000 years ago is more important to you personally (whether you know it or not) than any other series of events ever in the history of the world.

This is the week that the God of all creation fulfilled His purpose for mankind which has been foretold since the beginning of time.

One week from today marks the week that God, who took on human flesh, laid down His life to pay for yours, which was lost to sin.

Jesus began this special week with a prophetic triumphant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem on this first day of what many refer to as "Passion Week", beginning with what is referred to by many as "Palm Sunday".

You have all heard of the many things that took place during the days leading up to the Resurrection.

The triumphal entry; Jesus' cleansing of the Temple; Jesus' anointing with Spikenard by Mary Magdalene; the instituting of the Lord's Supper; Jesus' arrest in the Garden; His mock trial; His torture at the hands of the Jews and the Romans; His crucifixion and burial...then the best part of all, His glorious resurrection from the dead!

Today, we're going to read the whole story in order beginning with Jesus' prophetic triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

SUNDAY, Nisan 12:

Matthew 21:1-11

- 1 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,
- 2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose *them*, and bring *them* unto me.
- 3 And if any *man* say aught unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.
- 4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5 Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy king cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

6 And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,

7 And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set *him* thereon.

8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strewed *them* in the way.

9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

John writes:

John 12:12-13

12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed *is* the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

This is also the famous day that Jesus made a scourge of cords and used it to cleanse the temple.

We continue with verse 12:

Matthew 21:12-19

12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

13 And said unto them, **It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,

16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, **Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?**

17 And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

The next morning on MONDAY Nisan 13:

18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward forever.** And presently the fig tree withered away.

Jesus spent much of that day teaching in the Temple; the Pharisees being thoroughly stirred up against Him after the incident in the Temple.

Later that day he left the Temple and walked a few hundred yards across the Kidron valley, through the garden called Gethsemane up to the hilltop known as the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 24:1-3

1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to show him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said unto them, **See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**

[This prophecy was fulfilled 70 years later by Roman Emperor Titus.]

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Jesus taught the disciples all the remainder of that day and then retired to Bethany, to the house of a friend know as Simon the leper.

There Jesus is anointed with expensive spikenard by Mary while the elders back within Jerusalem conspire to kill Him.

Matthew 26:1-16

1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

2 **Ye know that after two days is *the feast of the passover*, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.**

3 Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

4 And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety, and kill *him*.

5 But they said, Not on the feast *day*, lest there be an uproar among the people.

6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat *at meat*.

8 But when his disciples saw *it*, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose *is* this waste?

9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

10 When Jesus understood *it*, he said unto them, **Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.**

11 **For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.**

12 **For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did *it* for my burial.**

13 **Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, *there* shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.**

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

15 And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Judas, being their Treasurer, is so angry at the loss of the money he might have otherwise controlled, he is now ready to betray the Lord.

Now we have come to **TUESDAY Nisan 14:**

To understand the rest of what happened this coming week back in A.D. 33, there are some things you must know about your Bible regarding the Jewish feasts of the Lord.

Leviticus 23:1-8

1 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even these are* my feasts.

3 Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is the sabbath* of rest, **a holy convocation**; ye shall do no work *therein*: *it is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

4 These *are* the feasts of the LORD, **even holy convocations** [Sabbaths], which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

5 In the **fourteenth day** of the first month [Nisan] at even *is* the LORD's passover.

6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

7 In the first day ye shall have a holy convocation [Sabbath]: ye shall do no servile work therein.

8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day *is* a holy convocation [Sabbath]: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

So on that Tuesday, as the scriptures commanded, the story unfolds:

Mark 14:12-26

12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, **Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.**

14 **And wheresoever he shall go say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?**

15 **And he will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us.**

16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

17 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.

18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, **Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.**

19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, *Is it I?* and another *said, Is it I?*

20 And he answered and said unto them, *It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish.*

21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke *it*, and gave to them, and said, *Take, eat: this is my body.*

23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave *it* to them: and they all drank of it.

24 And he said unto them, *This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.*

25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

There in the night, at the foot of the Mount of Olives in the garden called Gethsemane, Jesus prays for us, faces his destiny and then is betrayed and arrested.

John 17:25-26

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 18:1-13

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

2 And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

3 Judas then, having received a band *of men* and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, *Whom seek ye?*

5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, *I am he*. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

6 As soon then as he had said unto them, *I am he*, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

7 Then asked he them again, *Whom seek ye?* And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

8 Jesus answered, *I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:*

9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

12 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him,

13 And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

I believe it is self-evident why Jesus first slammed the band of soldiers to the ground with the very utterance of His Old Testament name I AM.

He was telling them in no uncertain terms that He would allow them to take Him, but no one else. Otherwise they would have arrested them all; certainly Peter, who had just assaulted one of them.

Annas and his soldiers proceed to further abuse Jesus and then send Him to Caiaphas; Peter following along is accused of being one of them and denies the Lord.

John 18:15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so *did* another disciple: that disciple [John] was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.

John 18:24-27

24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

25 And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also *one* of his disciples? He denied *it*, and said, I am not.

26 One of the servants of the high priest, being *his* kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

Jesus, in the middle of the night, is now falsely accused, tried in a mock trial and is severely beaten by the Jewish elders.

Matthew 26:57-68

57 And they that had laid hold on Jesus led *him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

58 But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.

59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

61 And said, this *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what *is it which* these witness against thee?

63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

64 Jesus saith unto him, **Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**

65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

67 Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote *him* with the palms of their hands,

68 Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Tuesday night passes and now we come to WEDNESDAY Nisan 15:

It's about 6:00 am when Jesus is brought before Pilate.

Luke 23:1-25

1 And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate.

2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this *fellow* perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

3 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, **Thou sayest it.**

4 Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.

5 And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.

6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean.

7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long *season*, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

11 And Herod with his men of war set him at naught, and mocked *him*, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

12 And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.

13 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined *him* before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

16 I will therefore chastise him, and release *him*.

17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)

18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this *man*, and release unto us Barabbas:

19 (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)

20 Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them.
21 But they cried, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify him.
22 And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let *him* go.
23 And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.
24 And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required.
25 And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will.

Jesus is mocked and tortured until mid-morning.

Matthew 27:24-31

24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye *to it*.
25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children.
26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *him* to be crucified.
27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band *of soldiers*.
28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.
29 And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!
30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.
31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*.

At 9:00 on Wednesday morning, the day before the high day Sabbath of Unleavened Bread; Jesus is crucified.

Mark 15:24-34

24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.
25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.
26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.
27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.
28 And the Scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.
29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days,
30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.

32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?** which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

For six long hours Jesus hung there on the cross and then He died.

John 19:29-34

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was a high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

32 Then came the soldiers, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they broke not his legs:

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Wednesday, the eve of the High Day Sabbath of Unleavened Bread, Jesus is buried.

John 19:38-42

38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound *weight*.

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulcher was nigh at hand.

The sepulcher was near alright; Google maps says it is about 200 yards from Golgotha, the hill that looks like a skull, where Jesus died.

Matthew 27:62-66

62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

64 Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can.

66 So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

From 6:00 Wednesday evening until 6:00 Saturday evening; three full days and three full nights, Jesus' body lay in that tomb; guarded by soldiers.

Now it's SUNDAY Nisan 19:

Matthew 28:1-8

1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

Will you also go out this week and bring someone word that Jesus is risen from the dead?

In Conclusion:

A week from next Sunday, we are going to come together starting at 7:30 AM and we are going to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead!

We will preach the Word, we will sing, we will teach the Word of God; we will feast as our men cook and serve breakfast to all; we will have games and candy and prizes for our children...and we will do it all without taking any of the attention away from the One this is all about!