

**THE DAY
CHRIST DIED**

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THE DAY CHRIST DIED

Much confusion and debate regarding the day of the crucifixion of Jesus continues to divide the Christian brethren. There are Christians who maintain that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday, others maintain Thursday, while the great majority maintain that Jesus died on a Friday. One might ask, "What difference does it make?" From a Bible study standpoint it is important in Bible chronology. However, the real importance seems to lie, not so much in the direct effect it has on a detailed Bible study, as in the fact that the subject divides Christians. What brings about this confusion? It is not my desire to lay the blame on someone but rather to explore the subject so thoroughly that this confusion can be brought to an end. There will always be Christians who will refuse to study the Scriptures and others who, either for sensationalism or in order to maintain some pet doctrine, will reject the truth. These persons I'm afraid cannot be helped. I will try to simplify what is really a complex subject.—Christ's death-complex because it is involved with the sacrifice and observance of the passover.

All of the confusion on this subject, of which I have any knowledge, stems from faulty definitions of words and incorrect premises. For example, many Christians declare that the term Sabbath can be applied to the seventh day of the week, OR, to one of the feasts of Israel. This is a false declaration, but once this assumption is made, confusion results. I know you are anxious to get to the conclusion to see what day Jesus was crucified, but please be patient. If I state an opinion it means nothing, but if you come to a conclusion by carefully comparing Scripture with Scripture, you will be satisfied. It is for this reason that little by little I will add Scripture to Scripture until all doubts are eliminated. We will use the American Standard Version (ASV) 1901, as it is the best English version that exists. Let us ask ourselves a question, "Does the Bible mention the day Jesus was crucified?" Notice how the day is identified in the following Scripture.

50 ^c And behold, a man named Joseph, who was a ^a councillor, a good and righteous man 51 (he had not consented to their counsel and deed), *a man* of Arimathæa, a city of the Jews, who was ^e looking for the kingdom of God : 52 this man went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that was hewn in stone, where never man had yet lain. 54 And it was the day of ^a the Preparation, and the sabbath ¹ drew on. Luke 23:50-54

Here, we are clearly told that the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross and “It was the day of the **PREPARATION** and the **SABBATH** drew on.” In clear and simple language the Bible says it was the day before the sabbath called the **PREPARATION**.

42 ^a And when even was now come, because it was ^a the Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, 43 there came Joseph of Arimathæa, a ^a councillor ^b of honorable estate, who also himself was ^c looking for the kingdom of God; and he ^d boldly went in unto Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. Mark 15:42,43

This is very clear, “It was the **PREPARATION, THAT IS**, the day **BEFORE** the **SABBATH**.” Now IF the Sabbath is Saturday, the seventh day of the week, then, the **PREPARATION** must have been **Friday** and so the question of the day on which Jesus died is very simple to answer. It was Friday. It is right here, however, that we begin to get a whole series of questions raised by those who would place the crucifixion of Jesus on Wednesday or Thursday, so we have by no means finally settled the matter to their satisfaction.

