

# 15 STEPS TO THE RESURRECTION

The Christian faith is unique because of Easter. The founder of every major religion except Christianity is dead and buried.

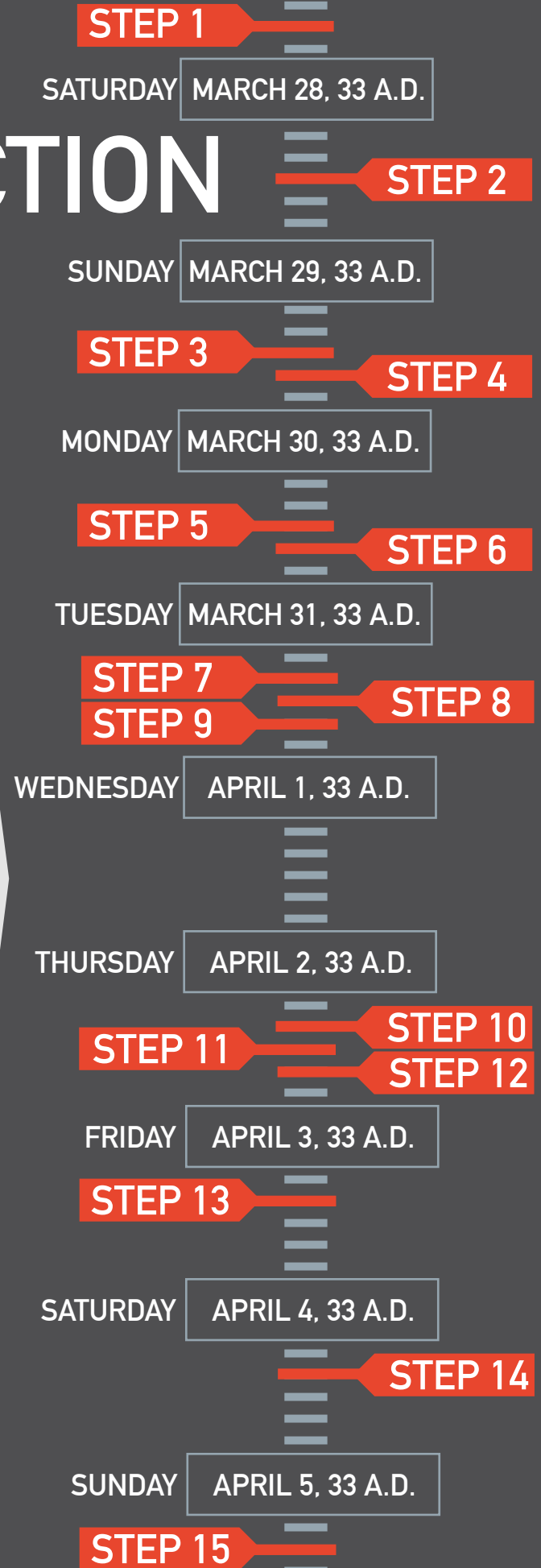
Yes, Jesus Christ died a sacrificial death but he also rose from the dead after three days. True salvation was provided by God himself through the atoning death of his Son. And his resurrection proved, among other things, his deity (John 2:19-22), the guarantee of the believer's resurrection (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12-14, 20; Col. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3; Rev. 1:5), and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and resurrection power (John 14:17; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:4; 8:11-14; Eph 1:13-14, 20; Phil 3:10-16).

The final steps leading up to the most profound and far-reaching event in human history unfolded over eight days. The sequence of events in the last week in the life of our Savior's life that lead to his death, burial, and resurrection are recorded in the four Gospels. In fact 28% of the Gospels deal with the last week of Jesus' life. Matthew's Gospel deals with the least at 9% and John the most at 48%. Mark's record uses 38% of his work to report the events of Holy week and Luke spends 21% of his gospel documenting the final days of the Son of Man's life on earth.

In dating the chronology of Holy Week I used the 33 C.E./A.D. crucifixion date as presented by several Bible scholars. Specifically I follow Harold W. Hoehner (*Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*) and Darrell L. Bock's (*Studying the Historical Jesus: A Guide to Sources and Methods*) timeline regarding a 33 C.E./A.D. crucifixion. Their conclusions are presented in a very helpful chart and article by Pete Smith, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Kingman (Kingman, KS). Ron Minton also wrote an excellent thesis on the chronology of the life of Christ as well.

My desire is for each of us to step alongside our Savior and reflect devotionally on this pivotal week day by day, and journey with our savior as he walks towards the cross! If you have different templates from what I am presenting, then plug in the appropriate event that happened on that particular day. Let's keep the focus on the cross not on being cross with each other over differences in chronology.

Now join me as we spend the next 15 days reflecting on Christ's last week of activities focusing on one step, one event at a time, as a way to prepare us to celebrate the greatest event in human history; Jesus Christ is alive! He has risen from the dead!



## BACKSTORY

STEP 1

The backstory of Jesus journey to the cross was the final showdown between our Lord and the religious leaders. All Palestine was waiting to see if the Lord would, once again, confound the religious leaders as they tried to counter Jesus claims of being Israel's Messiah. The people enjoyed watching the Lord completely frustrate and expose the religious leaders as being full of pride and out of touch. They had about enough of this kind of treatment and were plotting to arrest, convict, and execute Jesus during the feast. They feared that if they waited he would slip from their grip again. The leaders were terrified the entire nation would perish if they accepted Jesus as Messiah, and he established a kingdom that would threaten Rome. They reasoned that one man's death is better than all Israel perishing. The Sanhedrin's plot included killing Lazarus (1) because it proved Christ's claims. Then they would arrest Jesus, put him on trial, and finally execute him (2).

(1)  
John 12:10

(2)  
John 11:57

*Father, help me put the Easter season in its proper perspective. Instead of making it about new clothes, Easter parades, and egg hunts, or dinner with family, may I make Easter a time of worship, praise, and thanksgiving for what Christ accomplished for us on the cross.*

*Lord, we are reminded that the world is broken and does not value the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. They rebel against God and suppress the truth of the Gospel. We pray the lost will discover the true meaning of this holy season.*

## SATURDAY: MARCH 28, 33 A.D.

STEP 2

Today marks the beginning of the passion of our Lord. On Saturday, March 28, 33, Jesus arrived at Bethany (1). He was anointed at Simon the Leper's house and a large crowd gathered knowing Jesus was there (2).

As an act of devotion, Mary poured very expensive perfume, worth a year's wages, over the head of Jesus while he was reclining at supper. She then wiped his feet dry with her hair. The disciples, led by Judas, were furious at her for wasting such a costly resource. Jesus immediately came to Mary's defense and praised her for her selfless act of devotion. He praised her for her spiritual insight and understanding of his ultimate mission — his death on the cross. As a result, Mary will always be remembered for this act of love.

(1)  
John 12:1

(2)  
Matt. 26:6-13  
Mark 14:3-9  
John 12:1-9

*Lord, as we begin this holy season help us to distinguish between the good and the best. May we not become consumed with planning and preparing for all of the Easter activities. Keep us from becoming frustrated and angry over missed deadlines, computer glitches, and overworked edgy people in our family and our church. Help us to pace ourselves and not be consumed with the work of ministry above families, friends, and our walk with the Lord. We want the most important things; to worship our savior for dying in our place, for forgiving us of our sins so we will have credibility when we share the Gospel with our friends, family, and our community. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.*

## SUNDAY: MARCH 29, 33 A.D.

STEP 3

The next day our Lord and His disciples entered Jerusalem. The date of the triumphal entry was Nisan 10 when the Passover lamb was chosen. Jesus was presenting Himself as Israel's Paschal lamb.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem from Bethany through the Sheep gate, he begins to weep for the holy city. His lament over the nation's failure to respond in faith is deep and profound. Our Lord understands the consequences for rejecting Him as Savior and Lord. He sounds like Jeremiah weeping over the exile (1) or Isaiah proclaiming the fall of Jerusalem (2). He wept uncontrollably and violently as he looked out over Jerusalem and contemplated their rejection of him and ultimate destruction by Titus in 70 A.D. There is no hope for any of us outside of Christ (3).

(1)  
Jer. 6:6-21

(2)  
Isa. 29:1-4

(3)  
Luke 19:41-44

*Lord Jesus, we worship and praise you as King over all creation and over our lives. All honor and glory belong to you alone. May we weep over our community knowing that rejecting Christ is a sentence of eternal death.*

## SUNDAY (CONT.): MARCH 29, 33 A.D.

STEP 4

After directing two of His disciples to Bethage to retrieve an unbroken colt, He enters Jerusalem as the crowd shouts “Hosanna to the son of David, Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our Father David! Hosanna in the highest!” The triumphal entry is recorded in all four Gospels indicating the significance of this event in the life of Christ. He was officially presenting himself as the Messiah and King. This was the appointed day that the Prince of Peace would bring peace to the nation (1). Jesus’ claim to be king is verified by four events. First, He proves his claim by exercising his kingly authority by having the disciples bring him a donkey and her foal that has never been ridden. Matthew and John record our Lord fulfilling Zechariah’s prophecy of Israel’s King entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey (2). Second, the crowd proves his claim as King by waving palm branches shouting out parts of Psalm 118:26 — a direct reference to the people’s identification of Jesus as their Messiah. Third, the creation proves Jesus’ claim by being prepared to cry out that he indeed is King if the people did not (3). Finally, Christ’s compassion for Jerusalem and all Israel proved his claim as King (4).

(1)  
Dan. 9:24-27

(2)  
Zech. 9:9

(3)  
Luke 19:39-40

(4)  
Matt. 21:1-9  
Mark 11:1-10  
Luke 19:28-40  
John 12:12-19

*Lord, your Kingdom is not just for a particular political brand. Renew the church’s vision to aggressively extend the rule and reign of the Kingdom of God throughout the world until you come again or we enter into your presence. Keep the church from focusing on programs and projects that will take away from sharing the Gospel with all people groups. Compel each of us to remain faithful to our main mission which is missions. In Jesus name, Amen.*

## MONDAY: MARCH 30, 33 A.D.

STEP 5

Early the next day, Jesus and His disciples left Bethany and proceeded to Jerusalem. On the way to the temple complex He became hungry. Seeing a mature fig tree with healthy leaves and sturdy limbs He decided to pick some fruit. Finding no fruit on the tree He cursed it (1). In cursing the fig tree Jesus was pronouncing judgment on the generation of Jews who refused to produce “fruits of repentance”(2). Like the fig tree, they were outwardly religious but inwardly barren of any good works.

(1)  
Matt. 21:18-19  
Mark 11:12-14

(2)  
Matt. 3:8

*Lord, search our hearts so we may exhibit fruits of repentance, examine and test our motives for serving you. Judge us based on our relationship to Jesus Christ not our good works. Our good works are not the basis of our salvation but the result of our changed lives, and our desire to serve you out of love and devotion.*

## MONDAY (CONT.): MARCH 30, 33 A.D.

STEP 6

Arriving at the temple complex that same day, Jesus immediately drove out the money changers, sat down, and began to teach the people. Three years earlier he had cleansed the temple (1) for its corruption and now he finds God’s house has become a place of merchandise once again. He immediately drove out the moneychangers and overturned the benches of those selling doves. This house cleaning was in the area reserved for all nations, where the gentiles who wanted to worship the Lord (2) could come and declare their devotion to the God of Israel. He immediately sat down, staying at the temple on guard to prevent further abuses, and began to teach the people that the temple was not the place for commercial activities. Yes, Jesus has the authority not only to purge, but to provide security and safety in the Father’s house. The religious leaders were furious but could not do anything because they feared those who were listening and agreeing with Jesus’ teaching (3). After a long day, Jesus and the apostles returned to Bethany for the night (4).

(1)  
John 2:13-16

(2)  
Isa. 56:7

(3)  
Mark 11:18  
Matt. 21:10-17  
Mark 11:11

(4)  
Matt. 21:17  
Mark 11:11  
Luke 21:37

*Lord, may we never lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Restore our passion for meeting people’s spiritual needs. Keep the church from using God’s people as a tool to become wealthy. We know we are stewards of the Gospel message. It is our duty to have integrity, the right motives, and a humble spirit. Keep us from serving the Lord for personal or professional gain. May we continue to be faithful stewards of the Gospel message by guarding it and protecting it from becoming distorted.*

## TUESDAY: MARCH 31, 33 A.D.

STEP 7

Today is the longest and most challenging day for our Savior leading up to his crucifixion. The Gospel records no fewer than 30 separate exchanges by our Lord with His detractors and disciples. In a word, the theme of the day is judgment. There are five movements in which Jesus weaves this subject matter into the conversation with friend and foe alike.

Early in the morning Jesus and the disciples returned to Jerusalem. The disciples saw the withered fig tree (1) and remembered Jesus cursing it as a lesson that Israel was under divine judgment for their unbelief. Peter could not reconcile Israel's judgment with the unconditional covenant given to Abraham, so Jesus encouraged him to have faith in God that the promises given to the nation would come to pass (2). Our Lord taught the disciples that faith grows through the power of prayer (3).

(1)  
Matt. 21:20-22  
Mark 11:20-26

(2)  
Mark 11:22

(3)  
Mark 11:23-25

*Father in heaven, remind us that every person must face divine judgment. Thank you that our sins were judged at the cross of Jesus Christ. We are justified freely by God's grace through the redemption of Jesus Christ because we have trusted him as our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

## TUESDAY (CONT): MARCH 31, 33 A.D.

STEP 8

Upon entering the temple, Jesus spent the day debating with the religious leaders (1). He taught the priests and the elders truths concerning the Kingdom program through three parables. Later he turned the tables on the Pharisees' and Herodians' attempt to trap him politically with regard to taxes (2). Then the Sadducees tried to undo him with regard to the resurrection, and our Lord turned the tables on them as well (3). The Pharisees take one final shot by asking Christ which law was the greatest (4). Jesus' answer of loving God and loving your neighbor silenced them (5). Our Lord overcame the priests' and elders' trap about authority, the Herodians' political snare, the Sadducees' theological objections, and the Pharisees' concerns about the law. Next, Jesus challenges the religious leaders by asking the Pharisees who the Messiah was (6). If they answered honestly and correctly they would have to recognize Him as the Messiah and King. Realizing their dilemma they remained silent.

After these discussions, Jesus pronounced judgment on their generation — specifically, condemned the Pharisees' misinterpretation of the law and the Scriptures, their hypocrisy, and their external observances that made people appear righteous but within they were full of wickedness and rebellion (7). Finally, Jesus teaches the disciples a lesson concerning wealth and money brought to the temple by the wealthy and a widow. Spiritual giving is based on worship not wealth (8).

(1)  
Matt. 21:23-23:39  
Mark 11:27-12:44  
Luke 20:1-21:4

(2)  
Matt. 22:15-22  
Mark 12:13-17  
Luke 20:20-26

(3)  
Matt. 22:23-33  
Mark 12:18-27  
Luke 20:27-40

(4)  
Matt. 22:34-40  
Mark 12:28-34

(5)  
Matt. 22:37-39

(6)  
Matt. 22:41-46  
Mark 12:35-37  
Luke 20:41-44

(7)  
Matt. 23:1-39  
Mark 12:38-40  
Luke 20:45-47

(8)  
Mark 12:41-44  
Lu. 21:1-4

*Father, the world has rejected the Lord Jesus. The result is that every person who rejects Christ remains under the wrath of God. May we be bold and share the good news that those who believe in the Son have eternal life and will never face the Father's wrath. Amen.*

## TUESDAY (CONT): MARCH 31, 33 A.D.

STEP 9

In the afternoon, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and preached on the judgment of the world and the future millennial age; the Olivet Discourse (1). Our Lord's announcement of coming judgment on the city and the nation caused the disciples tremendous angst, so he revealed God's future plans. This message was focused on the eschatological program for Jerusalem, Israel, and the people of Israel.

(1)  
Matt. 24:1-25:46;  
Mark 13:1-37;  
Lu. 21:5-36

*Lord Jesus, teach us to pray in faith believing that you will fulfill all your promises to your people in spite of opposition, conflict, and controversy.*

*Help us to emphasize the heart over habits, a holy life over law, and a commitment to grace living and giving.*

*Help us to always remember that our future is secure because we will rule with Christ in the Kingdom to come. Come quickly Lord Jesus. Amen.*

## THURSDAY: APRIL 2, 33 A.D.

## STEP 10

The next day, the Gospel writers record 29 separate incidents and exchanges of our Lord on the way to Golgotha. This day seems like it never ends for our precious Savior as the mantle of sin begins to wrap itself around the one who will ultimately bear all our transgressions and drink the cup of death and perdition bearing it on the cross in less than a day's time.

On April 2, 33, Jesus and his disciples prepare for the Passover meal. They make preparations (3:00-5:00 p.m. slaying of lamb) (1) and Jesus then washes the disciples' feet as a reminder that we are to serve one another (sunset/during supper) (2). Jesus then explains that one of them will betray him (3) and Peter wants to know who that person will be (4) and Jesus obliges him (5) and then pronounces judgment on Judas (6). Judas then responds to Jesus and the others (7).

Jesus then shares the Passover meal in the upper room (8). Judas leaves (9) and our Lord shares the new commandment of love (10), predicts Peter's denial (11), and tells His disciples that the sword they will wield in the future church age is the Word of God not physical violence (12).

(1)  
Matt. 26:17-20  
Mark 14:12-17  
Luke 22:7-14

(2)  
Luke 22:24-30  
John 13:1-20

(3)  
Matt. 26:21-22  
Mark 14:18-19  
Luke 22:21-23  
John 13:21-22

(4)  
John 13:23-25

(5)  
Matt. 26:23  
Mark 20  
Luke 22:21  
John 13:26

(6)  
Matt. 26:24  
Mark 14:21  
Luke 22:22

*Lord, deepen our love and devotion to you as we remember your broken body and shed blood so we may experience the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.*

*Deliver us from the fear of evil men who may intimidate or persecute us for sharing the Gospel and declaring Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord.*

*Discourage us from using the weapons of the world to fight spiritual battles and give us courage to stand on the Word of God. We pray in Jesus name, amen.*

(7)  
Matt. 26:25  
Luke 22:23

(10)  
Luke 22:24-30  
John 13:31-35

(8)  
Matt. 26:26-29  
Mark 14:22-25  
Luke 22:15-20  
1 Cor. 11:23-25

(11)  
Matt. 26:30-35  
Mark 14:26-31  
Luke 22:31-34  
John 13:36-38

(9)  
John 13:26-30

(12)  
Luke 22:35-38

## THURSDAY (CONT.): APRIL 2, 33 A.D.

## STEP 11

Jesus moves on to comfort the disciples by leaving them with a helper and encourager in the farewell/upper room discourse. He tells them, "Let not your hearts be troubled (1). A helper is coming (2) and He gives them the gift of peace (3).

On the way to the garden, he continues with the teaching on the true vine (4), they should remain in His love (5), the world will hate them (6), the Holy Spirit is their helper (7), they will face persecution (8), the Holy Spirit will help (9) and their sorrow is turned to joy (10). They are to pray in Jesus' name as well (11). He predicts their flight (12) and then He prays an intercessory prayer (13).

(1) John 14:1-14  
(2) John 14:15-26  
(3) John 14:27-31  
(4) John 15:1-8  
(5) John 15:9-17  
(6) John 15:18-25  
(7) John 15:26-27  
(8) John 16:1-4  
(9) John 16:5-15  
(10) John 16:16-22  
(11) John 16:23-28  
(12) John 16:29-33  
(13) John 17:1-26

*Holy Spirit, be our comforter, guide, teacher. Show us the things of Christ and unite them to our souls. Lead us to the cross and show us the depth of the love the Savior has for us. Help us comprehend the reality of His love. Help us open up the Word of God so that we might remain in you and bear much fruit, overcome persecution by the evil one, and love one another.*

## THURSDAY (CONT.): APRIL 2, 33 A.D.

## STEP 12

Arriving at the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus instructs the disciples to wait while he agonizes in prayer that He would be victorious over death's hold on him (1). Jesus is betrayed, and arrested (2), Peter cuts off Malchus's ear (3), and the disciples run away (4).

(1)  
Matt. 26:36-46  
Mark 14:32-42  
Luke 22:39-46  
John 18:1

(2)  
Matt. 26:47-50  
Mark 14:43-46  
Luke 22:47-48  
John 18:2-9

(3)  
Matt. 26:51-55  
Mark 14:47-49  
Luke 22:49-53  
John 18:10-12

(4)  
Matt 26:56  
Mark 14:50-52

*Lord, teach us to pray. Let us know that prayer brings our will to yours. We can only succeed when we pray according to your divine will. Help us to have a holy boldness to pray for big things for your people and for ourselves. Draw us close to you through prayer and keep us from the evil one, sanctify us in your truth, and send us into a lost world to declare the love of God in Christ,*

There are 71 separate descriptions of the events leading up to the death and burial of Jesus Christ. The Gospel writers used three movements to record the day our Savior died for the sins of the world; the trials, the crucifixion, and the burial of our Savior.

The day started after midnight on 3 April, 33, with the first of several trials. A preliminary hearing before Annas (1) then Peter's first denial (2). They then took Him before Caiaphas (3) and Peter denied our Lord the second time (4). Finally Jesus is taken before the entire Sanhedrin and is sentenced to death (5). Immediately Peter denies the Lord the final time, the rooster crows, and he goes out and weeps bitterly (6).

Jesus is then taken before Pilate (7) while, outside the city, Judas, full of remorse, kills himself (8). Jesus does not answer Pilate's questions (9) who sends Jesus to Herod when he learns Jesus is a Galilean (Galilee was part of Herod's jurisdiction). Herod sends Jesus back after mocking and beating Him (10). Pilate declares Jesus innocent (11) offering the people a choice between sparing the life of Jesus or Barabbas. The crowd cries out for Jesus to die and Barabbas to live (12). Pilate's wife is terribly afraid for her husband and his decision to condemn Jesus (13) and Barabbas is released (14).

The second movement is Jesus' crucifixion. He is condemned and sentenced to death (15). He is stripped, beaten, and mocked, then led away for execution (16). His cross has the title "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews" (17) and the soldiers mock Him mercilessly (18). The journey to the place of the skull, Golgotha, begins (19). Simon of Cyrene carries our Lord's cross when he stumbled (20). Many people followed the condemned (21) and they arrived at the place of execution (22).

Jesus is crucified at 9:00 a.m. (23), rejecting wine and myrrh (24) between two thieves (25). He utters the first of seven sayings "Father forgive them..." (26). His clothes are divided (27), and the guards posted the charges that Jesus died claiming He was the King of the Jews (28). The religious leaders are furious (29) as the crowd (30) and they (31) mock our Lord along with the soldiers (32). Jesus is offered wine and vinegar (33) while the criminals mock Him as well (34). One thief repents and the Lord promises that the thief will be in paradise with Him (35). Jesus designates His mother's provision (36) and darkness covers the land from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. (37). In agony Christ cries out for the fourth and fifth time, "My God, my God..." 3:00 p.m. (38) and, "I am thirsty" (39). The crowd reacts (40) and He is again offered a narcotic for the pain (41). The crowd is looking to see if Elijah will save Him (42) while He receives the wine and vinegar (43). Jesus cries out (44) with, "Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit" (45) and finally, "It is finished" (46).

(continued on page 19)

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|--|---|--|
| (1)<br>John 18:13-14, 19-24  | (16)<br>Matt. 27:24-26<br>Mark 15:15<br>Luke 23:24-25<br>John 19:16     | (29)<br>John 19:21-22  |
| (2)<br>Matt. 26:69-70<br>Mark 14:54, 66-68<br>Luke 22:54-57<br>John 18:15-18 | (17)<br>Matt. 27:28-31a<br>Mark 15:17-20a<br>John 19:1-15               | (30)<br>Matt. 27:39-40<br>Mark 15:29-30<br>Luke 23:35                  |
| (3)<br>Matt. 26:57-68<br>Mark 14:53-65<br>Luke 22:54, 63-65<br>John 18:24    | (18)<br>Matt. 27:27-31a<br>Mark 15:16-20a<br>John 19:2-3                | (31)<br>Matt. 27:41-43<br>Mark 15:31-32a<br>Luke 23:35                 |
| (4)<br>Matt. 26:71-72<br>Mark 14:69-70a<br>Luke 22:58<br>John 18:25          | (19)<br>Matt. 27:31-32<br>Mark 15:20-21<br>Luke 23:26-32<br>John 19:17a | (32)<br>Luke 23:36-37  |
| (5)<br>Matt. 27:1<br>Mark 15:1<br>Luke 22:66-71                              | (20)<br>Matt. 27:32<br>Mark 15:21<br>Luke 23:2                          | 33<br>Luke 23:36   |
| (6)<br>Matt. 26:73-75<br>Mark 14:70-72<br>Luke 22:59-62<br>John 18:26-27     | (21)<br>Luke 23:27-32   | 34<br>Matt. 27:44<br>Mark 15:32b<br>Luke 23:39(35)<br>Luke 23:40-42-43 |
| (7)<br>Matt. 27:1-2<br>Mark 15:1<br>Luke 23:1<br>John 18:28-38               | (22)<br>Matt. 27:33<br>Mark 15:22<br>Luke 23:33a<br>John 19:17b         | (36)<br>John 19:25-27  |
| (8)<br>Matt. 27:3-10   | (23)<br>Matt. 27:35a<br>Mark 15:24-25<br>Luke 23:33b<br>John 19:18a     | (37)<br>Matt. 27:45<br>Mark 15:33<br>Luke 23:44-45a                    |
| (9)<br>Matt. 27:11-14<br>Mark 15:2-5<br>Luke 23:2-5<br>John 18:28-38         | (24)<br>Matt. 27:34<br>Mark 15:23                                       | (38)<br>Matt. 27:46<br>Mark 15:34                                      |
| (10)<br>Luke 23:6-12   | (25)<br>Matt. 27:38<br>Mark 15:27<br>Luke 23:33b<br>John 19:18b         | (39)<br>John 19:28   |
| (11)<br>Luke 23:13-16  | (26)<br>Luke 23:34a   | (40)<br>Matt. 27:47<br>Mark 34:35                                      |
| (12)<br>Matt. 27:15-23<br>Mark 15:6-14<br>Luke 23:17-23<br>John 18:39-40     | (27)<br>Matt. 27:35b<br>Mark 15:24b<br>Luke 23:34b<br>John 19:23-24     | (41)<br>Matt. 27:48<br>Mark 15:36a<br>John 19:29                       |
| (13)<br>Matt. 27:19  | (28)<br>Matt. 27:36-37<br>Mark 15:26<br>Luke 23:38<br>John 19:19-20     | (42)<br>Matt. 27:49<br>Mark 15:36b                                     |
| (14)<br>Matt. 27:24-26   | (29)<br>Matt. 27:24-26<br>Mark 15:15<br>Luke 23:24-25<br>John 19:16     | (43)<br>John 19:30a  |
| (15)<br>Matt. 27:24  | (30)<br>Matt. 27:39-40<br>Mark 15:29-30<br>Luke 23:35                   | (44)<br>Matt. 27:50a<br>Mark 15:37a<br>Luke 23:46a                     |

Jesus dies for the sins of the entire world (47), the temple curtain is torn (48), an earthquake shakes the city (49) and the dead are resurrected (50). The centurion laments the Savior's death (51). The Jews want the bodies down due to Sabbath regulations (52) so the soldiers break the legs of the criminals (53) but only pierce the side of Jesus with a spear (54) as the witnesses watch (55).

Jesus is taken down from the cross and Joseph of Arimathea requests His body (56). Pilate is surprised at Jesus' quick death (57) but released His body to Joseph of Arimathea for burial (58). He buys linen cloth (59) while Nicodemus brings a supply of myrrh and aloes (60). Joseph removes Jesus' body from the cross (61) and His body is wrapped in linen cloth and spices (62). Nicodemus and Joseph place Jesus in the tomb (63). The women witnessed Jesus' body laid in the tomb (64). A stone is rolled in front of the entrance (65) and Joseph of Arimathea leaves (66) as the women go to prepare the spices (67).

(47)  
Matt. 27:50b  
Mark 15:37b  
Luke 23:46c  
John 19:30c

(48)  
Matt. 27:51a  
Mark 15:38  
Luke 23:45b

(49)  
Matt. 27:51b

(50)  
Matt. 27:52-53

(51)  
Matt. 27:54  
Mark 15:39  
Luke 23:47-48

*Lord, as we kneel before your cross we see the horror of our sins. Our transgressions have made you a curse.*

*Show us our guilt by your crown of thorns, wounds of hands and feet, your bruised body, and cries of agony.*

(52)  
John 19:31

(53)  
John 19:32

(54)  
John 19:33-34

(55)  
Matt. 27:55-56  
Mark 15:40-41  
Luke 23:49  
John 19:35-37

(56)  
Matt. 27:57-58a  
Mark 15:42-43  
Luke 23:50-52  
John 19:38a

(57)  
Mark 15:44-45a

(58)  
Matt. 27:58b  
Mark 15:45b  
John 19:38b

(59)  
Mark 15:46a

(60)  
John 19:39

(61)  
Mark 15:46b  
Luke 23:53a

(62)  
Matt. 27:59  
Mark 15:46c  
Luke 23:53b  
John 19:40

(63)  
Matt. 27:60a  
Mark 15:46d  
Luke 23:53c  
John 19:41-42

(64)  
Matt. 27:61  
Mark 15:47  
Luke 23:55

(65)  
Matt. 27:60b  
Mark 15:46e

(66)  
Matt. 27:60c

(67)  
Luke 23:56a

**BUT THAT IS  
NOT THE END.  
THERE IS AN  
AFTERWORDS...**

**SATURDAY: APRIL 4, 33 A.D.****STEP 14**

The day after our Savior was brutally tied, beaten, and executed was the Sabbath. His followers, mostly women, feeling traumatized and numb, try to rest and make sense of what they experienced (1). Their grief was deep and profound.

All is quiet; the kind of quiet that follows a raging storm, a horrible hurtful family fight, or the end of a bloody battle between two powerful armies. The shroud of death hung over the city, the nation, and the earth like a thick dark cloud. Jesus' body lay in repose still bearing the open wounds, bruises, and dried blood from the beatings and trauma of being nailed to a cross for hours and dying an excruciating death. His tomb was sealed and guarded.

The Sanhedrin meet and request guards from Pilate for the tomb (2) but Pilate refuses and the leaders use their own guards for security (3). The leaders were desperately afraid the disciples would come steal the body of the Lord. They believed Jesus deceived the people about his Messiahship and about rising from the dead. The truth was, they deceived themselves and were trying to deceive others. The tomb is sealed and the guard posted (4).

- (1) Luke 23:56b
- (2) Matt. 27:62-64
- (3) Matt. 27:65
- (4) Matt. 27:66a

*Lord, today it would seem the enemy has won. Jesus is dead and there is no hope.*

*Teach us to wait in faith when it seems we are beat down and defeated, when our faith is weak, when people desert us and forsake us, when no one cares for our souls, or when we cannot make sense of our calling. Wait ...*

*Sunday is coming! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

**SUNDAY: APRIL 4, 33 A.D.****STEP 15**

On April 4, 33, our Lord rose from the dead. He is risen! The women at the tomb are met by an angel (1). Jesus appears to the women (2) and the guards report to the Sanhedrin what took place (3). Jesus appears to Simon Peter (4), two followers on the Emmaus Road (5) and finally His disciples, less Thomas (6).

On the first Lord's day there was an earthquake, followed by the appearing of an angel, the opening of the tomb, and the resurrection (7). The group of women came together and started for the tomb just before dawn while it was still dark. Mary Magdalene, being a young woman, ran ahead and arrived first at the tomb, finding it open. Immediately she ran back by the nearest way to inform Peter and John of this fact (8).

The other women completed their two-mile walk from Bethany to the grave site arriving just after sunrise (9). An angel suddenly appeared to them and gave them an urgent message for the disciples (10). Another party of women come a little later and saw "two young men" dressed in white at the tomb, and receive words of comfort and instruction (11). About 6:30 a.m. Peter and John arrive, John getting there first (12). Mary Magdalene coming a little later saw two angels (13). The other women had returned to bear the message to the other apostles (14).

About 7:00 a.m. Jesus first revealed Himself to Mary of Magdala (15). A little later, He appeared to the company of women returning to the sepulcher, and sent them with the charge to the brethren to go to Galilee (16). About 4:00 p.m. he appeared to Simon Peter (17), and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to Cleophas and his companion on the way to Emmaus. Finally, in the evening, probably around 8:00 p.m., he appeared to the eleven and others in the room with barred doors (18).

- (1) Matt. 28:1-8  
Mark 16:1-8  
Luke 24:1-12  
John 20:1-13
- (2) Matt. 28:9-10  
Luke 24:10-11  
John 20:14-18
- (3) Matt. 28:11-15
- (4) 1 Cor. 15:5  
Luke 24:34
- (5) Luke 24:13-35
- (6) Luke 24:36-43  
John 20:19-23
- (7) Matt. 28:2-4
- (8) John 20:1
- (9) Mark 16:2
- (10) Matt. 28:5  
Mark 16:5f
- (11) Luke 24:4
- (12) John 20:3-10
- (13) John 20:11-13
- (14) Luke 24:10
- (15) John 20:14-18  
Mark 16:9
- (16) Matt. 9f
- (17) Luke 24:34  
1 Cor. 15:5
- (18) Luke 24:36f  
Mark 16:14  
John 29:19f

**The resurrection is true. It confirms Jesus to be Lord of all. It is proof God's demand for justice is satisfied, and it frees us from the power of sin. The resurrection ultimately provides for our physical resurrection as well. Praise God our Savior is alive! He is risen. He has risen indeed Halleluiah!**