

New Testament Accounts of the Day Of Preparation

Let's delve into the intriguing concept of the 'Preparation Day' surrounding the death of the Messiah. Interestingly, there are not one but two 'Preparation Days' that coincide, leading to some confusion. Remember that on the night that the Master was betrayed, it was the eve of the Passover (Pesach), and the day before is "Preparation Day."

Then there was the regular Shabbat, which also has a "Preparation Day." All four (4) of the Gospels pinpoint the days and times of the Messiah's death and entombment. They describe this "timing" by saying it was "the day of preparation" or "Preparation Day."

Matthew's Gospel clarifies this by saying, "Now on the next day, the day after the preparation," but some English versions mistranslate this phrase, causing confusion.

Matthew 27:62

62 Now, on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, 63 said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.'

Mark 15:42 (NASB)

42 When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,

Luke 23:52-56 (NASB)

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 cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain.

54 It was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

55 Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. 56 Then they

*returned and prepared spices and perfumes.
And on the Sabbath, they rested according to the commandment.*

The Accounts of The Master's Burial According to John

John 19:13-15 (NASB)

13 Therefore, when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.¹ 14 Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" 15 So they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

John 19:31-37 (NASB)

31 Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; 33 but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. 36 For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN." 37 And again another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED."

¹ See this article: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabbatha>
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John 19:38-42 (NASB)

38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate granted permission. So, he came and took away His body. 39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where He was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 Therefore, because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The Sixth Day of Creation is “Preparation Day.” In Jerusalem, it is typically an exciting family day as all look forward to the day of rest, laughter, feasting, and fun.

I found this interesting article by a Jewish Immah that describes Shabbat Preparation Day:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/preparing-for-shabbat/>