



THE PASSOVER OF THE LORD

HOLY
TRIDUUM

GOOD
FRIDAY



CRUCIFIXION DATE

**Just how specific can we be with
the death of Jesus?**

Can we determine the exact day?

We can.

And here's how . . .

Clue #1: The High Priesthood of Caiaphas

The gospels indicate that Jesus was crucified at the instigation of the first century high priest named Caiaphas (Matthew 26:3-4, John 11:49-53).

We know from other sources that he served as high priest from A.D. 18 to 36, so that puts Jesus' death in that time frame.

But we can get more specific. Much more.

Clue #2: The Governorship of Pontius Pilate

All four gospels agree that Jesus was crucified on the orders of Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:24-26, Mark 15:15, Luke 23:24, John 19:15-16).

We know from other sources when he served as governor of Judea--A.D. 26 to A.D. 36--so we can narrow down the range by several years.

Clue #3: After "the 15th Year of Tiberius Caesar"

The Gospel of Luke tells us when the ministry of John the Baptist began:

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar . . . the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness." (Luke 3:1-2).

This gives us the specific year of A.D. 29.

Since the ministry of Christ began after that of John the Baptist, the crucifixion had to be in the 7 year range of A.D. 29 and 36.

Clue #4: Crucified on a Friday

All four gospels agree that Jesus was crucified on a Friday (Matt. 27:62, Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:42), just before a Sabbath, which was just before the first day of the week (Mat 28:1, Mark 16:2, Luke 24:1, John 20:1).

We know that it was a Friday because it is referred to as "the day of preparation"--that is, the day on which Jews made the preparations they needed for the Sabbath, since they could not do any work on that day.

Clue #4: Crucified on a Friday

That eliminates six of the days of the week, but there were still quite a few Fridays between A.D. 29 and 36.

Can we figure out which one?

Clue #5: A Friday at Passover

The gospels also agree that Jesus was crucified in conjunction with the annual feast of Passover

(Matthew 26:2, Mark 14:1, Luke 22:1, John 18:39).

Here we encounter a momentary complication, because Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe the Last Supper on Holy Thursday as a Passover meal (Matthew 26:19, Mark 14:14, Luke 22:15). That would suggest that Good Friday was the day after Passover.

Clue #5: A Friday at Passover

However, when describing the morning of Good Friday, John indicates that the Jewish authorities had not yet eaten the Passover meal:

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the Praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them [John 18:28-29a].

That affirms that Passover would have begun at sundown on Friday.

Clue #5: A Friday at Passover

Regardless of what and why Jesus celebrated the Passover the day before his crucifixion, (whether to celebrate as the Essenes, or Advance the date so he could be sacrificed at the same time as the Passover Lamb's were being sacrificed) we can look to John's statement about the Jesus' captors to see that: *They were celebrating a Passover beginning on what we would call Friday evening.*

**Here is a complete list of the days between
A.D. 29 and 36 for when Passover began:**

Monday, April 18, A.D. 29

*** Friday, April 7, A.D. 30**

Tuesday, March 27, A.D. 31

Monday, April 14, A.D. 32

*** Friday, April 3, A.D. 33**

Wednesday, March 24, A.D. 34

Tuesday, April 12, A.D. 35

Saturday, March 31, A.D. 36

Clue #6: John's Three Passovers

The Gospel of John records three different Passovers during the ministry of Jesus:

Passover #1: This is recorded in John 2:13, near the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

Passover #2: This is recorded in John 6:4, in the middle of Jesus' ministry.

Passover #3: This is recorded in John 11:55 (and frequently mentioned afterwards), at the end of Jesus' ministry.

Clue #6: John's Three Passovers

Since the start of possible crucifixion dates begin with AD 29, and there were three Passovers after that date, then Friday, April 7, A.D. 30 is not a possible date.

That leaves:

Friday, April 3, A.D. 33 as the only possible date that fits the testimony of Scripture!

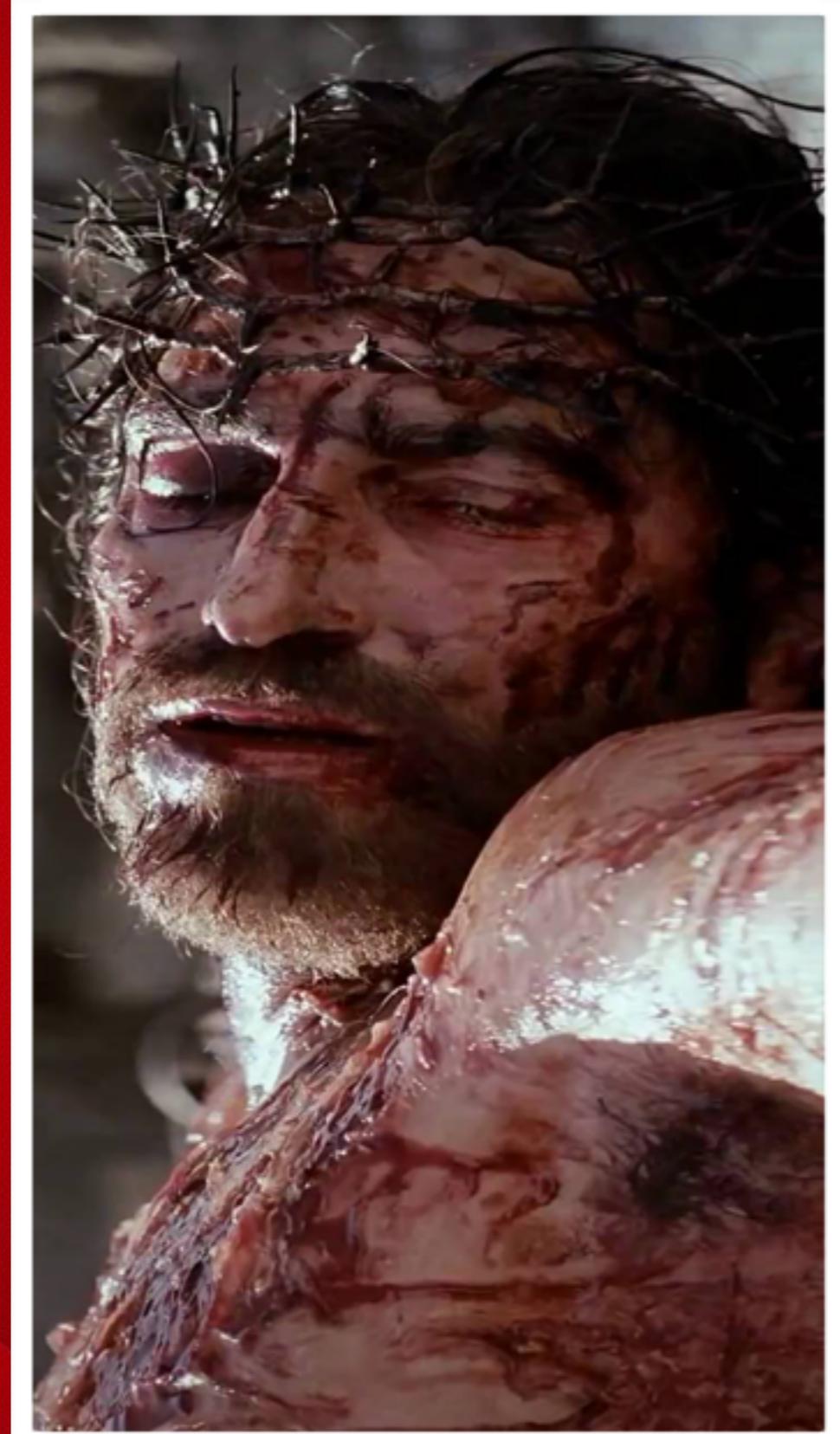
Clue #7: "The Ninth Hour"

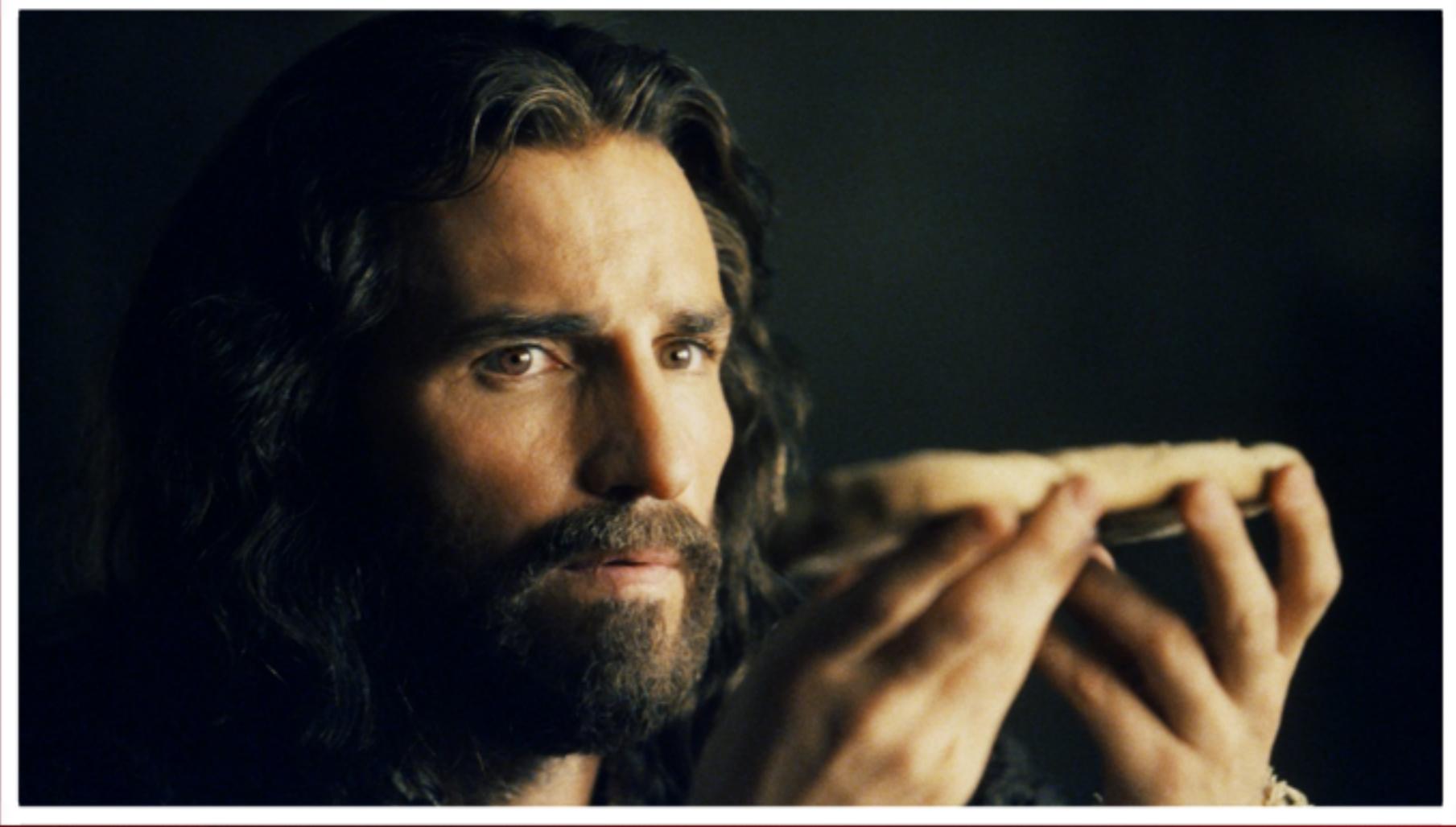
Matthew, Mark, and Luke each record that Jesus died about "the ninth hour" (Mat 27:45-50, Mark 15:34-37, Luke 23:44-46).

"The ninth hour" is what we, today, would refer to as 3 PM
This allows us to narrow down the time of Jesus' death to a very specific point in history: around 3:00 PM on Friday, April 3, A.D. 33.

♦ Jesus was crucified on April 3, 33AD on a Friday, the Preparation Day before the Sabbath, the feast of Passover feast and first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

♦ This week, Good Friday falls on a Friday - April 3, 2015 - same day, same date.





This week, the feast of Passover will be celebrated

by Jews beginning the evening of Friday, April 3.

Lamb preparation day for Jews this year, falls on

Good Friday - as it did in 33 AD!



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