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The commonly accepted reading of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) indicates that the Crucifixion of Jesus occurred on Nisan 15. This is based on the assumption that the Last Supper was a Passover meal on the evening that began Nisan 15. In the Gospel of John, however, the Crucifixion seems to be on Nisan 14, the Day of Preparation, at the time of the offering of the Passover lambs. This is consistent with the Talmud, which records the Crucifixion of Yeshua was on the eve of Passover. All four Gospels agree that the event occurred on the day before the Jewish Sabbath, i.e., before nightfall on a Friday. None of the sources specifies the year, though they agree that Pontius Pilate was Prefect of Judaea. He governed Judea in the period 26-36 AD/ CE (on our calendar).

Passover moves with the full moon and therefore falls on different days each year. The problem seems simple: find a Nisan 14 that ended on a Friday evening during the period Of Pontius Pilate. Unfortunately, the Hebrew calendar of the first century is not adequately documented; it must be reconstructed from fragmentary evidence.

In the Hebrew calendar of that era, months began with the first sighting of the crescent Moon following astronomical New Moon, with the evening of the sighting beginning day 1 of the month. Sightings of the lunar crescent are subject to local weather conditions and the ability of the observer. Because of these problems, a special committee of the Sanhedrin made official decisions about when to begin each month. If there was a stretch of bad weather, they might have ordered the month to begin 30 days following the previous beginning of the month. An occasional error of a day was likely. The calendar committee also had to decide when to add (intercalate) a thirteenth month into the calendar year, from time to time. Since lunar months (from New Moon to New Moon) last approximately 29.5 days, a lunar

year of 12 lunar months is about 354 days, which is 11 days shorter than the cycle of the seasons. From the scriptures and the Talmud we learn that the state of animal and plant life was considered, since lambs had to be mature enough for slaughter on the Day of Preparation (Nisan 14) and fruit had to be ripe enough for presentation on Nisan 16. We do not know how accurately the calendar was maintained in the first century. The two most commonly proposed dates for the Crucifixion are April 7, 30, or April 3, 33 AD/CE. I now conclude that the latter date is correct:

- Jesus was born before 4 BCE (when Herod the Great died in March) He was about 2 years old when Joseph took his family to Egypt - born 6/7 BCE.
- Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist according to Luke 3:1-2 began in the "15th year of Tiberius" (28/29 AD/CE) and was approximately 30 years old.
- Jesus' ministry lasted at least four years according to John's account of Passovers
- Jesus was executed by Pontius Pilate, before 36 AD/CE - when Pilate was recalled to Rome.
- Joseph Caiaphas was High Priest from 19-36 AD/CE - Tiberius was emperor of Rome from 14 to 37 AD/CE.
- The use of astronomical evidence to estimate the year of the Crucifixion of Jesus has led to 33 AD/CE by two different groups, and originally as 34 by Isaac Newton via the differences between the Biblical and Julian calendars and the crescent of the moon. Newton's reasoning was effectively sound, but he miscalculated the year. In 1990 astronomer Bradley Schaefer arrived at the same date, Friday April 3, 33 AD/CE using strict computations and computers. A third method, using a completely different astronomical approach based on a lunar Crucifixion darkness and eclipse model (consistent with Apostle Peter's reference to a "moon of blood" in Acts 2:20) arrives at the same date, namely Friday April 3, 33.
- Scholars look to the Daniel's Prophecy of Seventy Weeks, (Daniel 9) to find the year of the crucifixion [a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem is in 457-9 BCE setting a date after of-33CE.
- An eclipse occurs on that Friday afternoon which fulfills the "Moon of Blood" prophecy but is scientifically impossible - the moon cannot eclipse in full moon position. - Joel 2:27-32
- For two thousand years believers (followers of The Way) have recited his last words:
- *7 B.C. (late in the year) or 6 B.C. (early in the year) = birth of Christ*
- *4 B.C. (after Nisan 1 - March) = death of Herod the Great*
- *A.D. 12 = beginning of Tiberius Caesar's rule*
- *A.D. 26 (early in the year) = beginning of John's ministry*
- *A.D. 26 (middle or late in the year) = beginning of ministry as a disciple of John the Baptist*
- *A.D. 27 (Nisan 14) = first Passover in Christ's ministry - cleanses Temple -*
- *A.D. 28 (Nisan 14) = second Passover in Christ's ministry*
- *A.D.32 (Nisan 14) = third Passover in Christ's ministry - spent in Galilee*
- *A.D. 33 (Nisan 14/Thursday evening, April 3, 33 A.D.) = fourth Passover*
- *A.D. 33 (Nisan 14/Friday afternoon, April 3, 33 A.D.) = crucifixion of Christ*

