

Lesson 43

Up To Jerusalem

Introduction:

Jesus knows that His time is short and begins to prepare the disciples for the days ahead. They will be going to Jerusalem where He will suffer, die and be raised from the dead as the Scriptures have foretold. He commands His disciples to “**Behold**”. The word, “behold” means “to see with understanding”. In other words Jesus is telling them that they should gain full understanding of the events that they are about to observe in Jerusalem. Like the disciples we will take a closer look at the events as they transpired before studying the specific instructions that Jesus gave His disciples during this period of time.

Reading The Scripture:

Up To Jerusalem

Jesus Prepares to Go to Passover

Matthew 20:17-19, Mark 10:32-34, Luke 18:31-34, and John 11:55-57

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible, authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: “Follow Me: A Message from God”, a journey with Jesus)

31 AD, April 17, Thursday Morning (Abib/Nisan 8)¹ [5th day of the week]

Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover, to purify themselves. Therefore they were seeking for Jesus, and were saying to one another, as they stood in the temple, "What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?" Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him. And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up." And they understood none of these things, and this saying was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

The Command:

1. Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem.

The Lesson:

In this lesson we will focus on the timing of and historical significance of the events leading to and surrounding Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. The first issue we need to deal with is time.

¹ **Abib/Nisan 8.** The Biblical name of this month is Abib, which means “green ears.” The Jewish people now call this month “Nisan” It is the first month of God’s sacred calendar which includes the seven “appointed times of the Lord.” The primary reference for this sacred calendar is Leviticus 23.

Abib/Nisan 8 is the Jewish calendar date which corresponded to our Gregorian calendar date of April 17, AD 31. The Jewish dates have been included from this point forward in order to give the reader a better understanding of when, according to the way we reckon time, the rapidly occurring events of Jesus’ last days took place.

NOTE: In understanding the dating used in this book you must be aware that every Jewish day begins with the evening first: at about 6:00 PM. Therefore, Abib/Nisan 8, actually started at 6:00 PM Wednesday night.

We in Western cultures base our time on the Gregorian calendar. This calendar was derived from the Julian calendar developed by Julius Caesar in 46 BC and modified by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 AD. The Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar, basing its calculations on the earth's movement around the sun, which makes a complete cycle about every 365 days. The calendar consists of twelve months: 7 of 31 days, 4 of 30 days and 1 of 28 days. An extra day is added to the 28-day month every 4th year and every 100th year to keep it accurate. The Gregorian calendar does not have a recurring cycle of dates.

The Hebrew or Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar. It is based on the movement of the moon around the earth, which makes a complete cycle about every 29-1/2 days. This calendar also consists of twelve months, but the beginning of each month is determined by visual observation of a new moon. In order to maintain accuracy with the solar year, an extra (13th) month is added seven times within a nineteen-year period. This extra month follows the twelfth month, Adar and is called Ve Adar or "second" Adar. The Hebrew or Jewish calendar has a recurring cycle of dates every nineteen years.

January 1st is New Years Day on the Gregorian calendar but the Hebrew year contains two New Years Days. In Exodus 12:2, God ordained that the first month of the year for Israelites would be Abib. The name Abib means "green ears" and was used to indicate the time of year when the corn of grain first appears in the head of wheat and barley. It is from the new moon of Abib that all the Feasts of the Lord ("appointed times of Jesus Christ") as ordained by God in Leviticus 23, are determined. The Jewish people currently call this month **Nisan** and it corresponds to our March/April time frame.

The Jewish people also have a civil calendar, which begins at the new moon of Ethanim, the supposed birth date of Adam. We know this date as Rosh Hashanah meaning "Head of the Year". They use this New Year's date to mark the beginning of the year for kings, childbirth and contracts. The name Ethanim means "permanent" and is the seventh month of the God ordained year. The Jewish people currently call this month **Tishri** and it corresponds to our September/October time frame.

In Western cultures our day begins at 12:00 am or midnight. In Hebrew or Jewish culture the day begins with the appearance of three stars in the evening (about 6:00 pm), which is six hours earlier than ours.

The days of the week on the Gregorian calendar are named after various gods. The Hebrews simply numbered their days ... 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. The 7th day of the week is the Sabbath ("Rest"); it begins at approximately 6:00 pm on Friday night and ends at approximately 6:00 pm on Saturday night.

In addition to the weekly Sabbath ("Rest") there are seven other annual Sabbath ("Rest") days located in the seven Feasts of the Lord ("appointed times of Jesus Christ").

1. First day of Unleavened Bread – **Pesach/Passover** (Aviv 15)
2. Seventh day of **Unleavened Bread** (Aviv 21)
3. Feast of Pentecost – **Shavuot/Seven Sevens (Weeks)** – (50 days from Aviv 21)
4. Day of Blowing (Trumpets) – **Rosh Hashanah** (Ethanim/Tishrei 1)
5. Day of Atonement – **Yom Kippur** (Ethanim/Tishrei 10)
6. First day of Tabernacles – **Sukkot** (Ethanim/Tishrei 15)
7. The **Eighth day** – **Simchat Atzeret** (Ethanim/Tishrei 22)