

# The Twelve Minor Prophets

The Minor prophets are often neglected because many of their prophecies are unintelligible when taken out of their historic context. The order that the Minor Prophets appear in the Bible unfortunately is not in the order they were written.

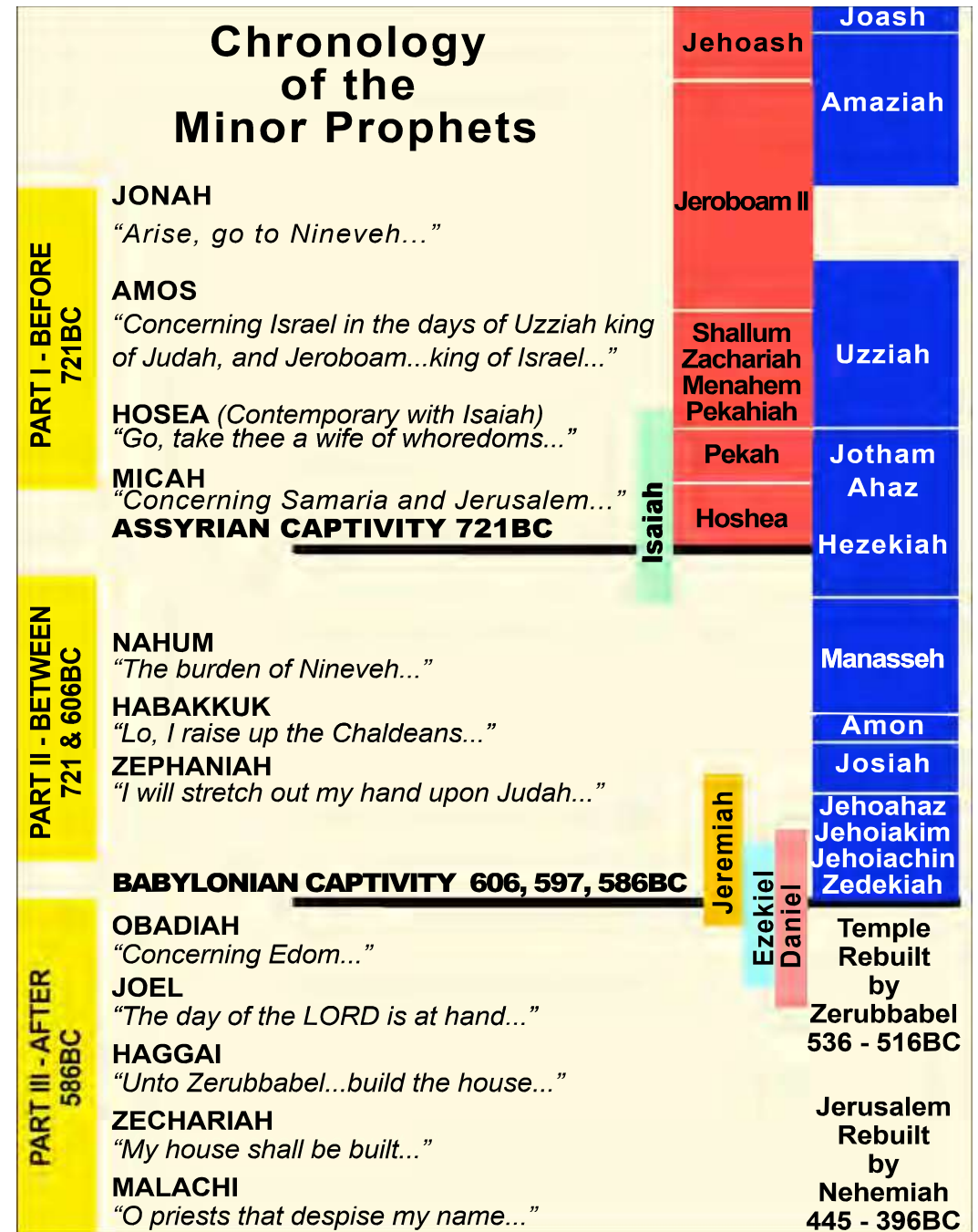
The Minor Prophets primarily dealt with the situation existing in their day but again and again they look through the gloom of declension and apostasy to a future day when God's kingdom will be established on earth and the wayward nation of Israel will be blessed under a new covenant.

It is noteworthy that Gentile nations that hate Israel become the objects of Divine judgment. Zechariah wrote that God was displeased with the Babylonians who had been God's instrument of chastening because, after they took the nation captive, "they helped forward the affliction" (Zech.1:15). Israel is the "apple of God's eye" and God says, "He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye" (Zech.2:8).

Psalms 137 gives us a glimpse of how the Babylonians ridiculed the Jewish captives and mocked them when they sang the songs of Zion. "They that carried us away captive required of us a song: and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion" (Ps.137:3). Also God remembered what the Edomites did as Jerusalem was being ransacked; they joined with the Babylonians crying, "Rase it, rase it!" (Ps.137:7). As a consequence, Obadiah prophesied their total destruction.

Wonderful prophecies in the Minor Prophets, both fulfilled and future, confirm the Divine inspiration of the Bible. The judgments that fell on Samaria and Jerusalem by the Assyrians and the Babylonians, the destruction of Nineveh by the Medes and Babylonians and the expulsion of the Edomites from Mount Seir all have been fulfilled exactly as scripture predicted. After the 70 years of captivity in Babylon the Temple and city were rebuilt under the decree of Cyrus in a time of affliction.

There are prophecies of Christ's first coming (Mic.5:2), of John the Baptist (Mal.3:1) and of God's Shepherd who would be sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech.11:12) and whose hands would be pierced (Zech.13:6). Joel foretold the Great Tribulation; the Russian/ Islamic invasion (Joel 2), Armageddon, the return of Christ and the kingdom blessing (Joel 3). Zechariah looks forward to the day when Christ will come and be King over all the earth (Zech.14). There is a spiritual feast in the Minor Prophets.



## Joel's Prophecy of the Day of the Lord

Joel's prophecy uses a terrible locust plague to illustrate what will happen in the Day of the Lord; the great Tribulation. He describes TWO invasions of the land of Israel; the **first is in chapter 2 and the second is in chapter 3**. The first invasion is a "northern army" (Joel 2:20) but the second involves "all nations" (Joel 3:2). We know that the Russian/Islamic invasion comes from the north in the first half of the Tribulation (Ezek.38:15) and that Antichrist gathers "the kings of the earth and of the whole world" (Rev.16:14) in the second half of the Tribulation. Therefore Joel chapter 2 deals with the first half of the seven-year Tribulation and Joel chapter 3 deals with the second half of the Tribulation.

The outcome of the war in chapter 2 is that the remnant of the invading army escapes to a distant land that is waste between the "east Sea" ( Pacific Ocean) and the utmost North Sea (The Arctic). This cannot be anywhere else other than Siberia.

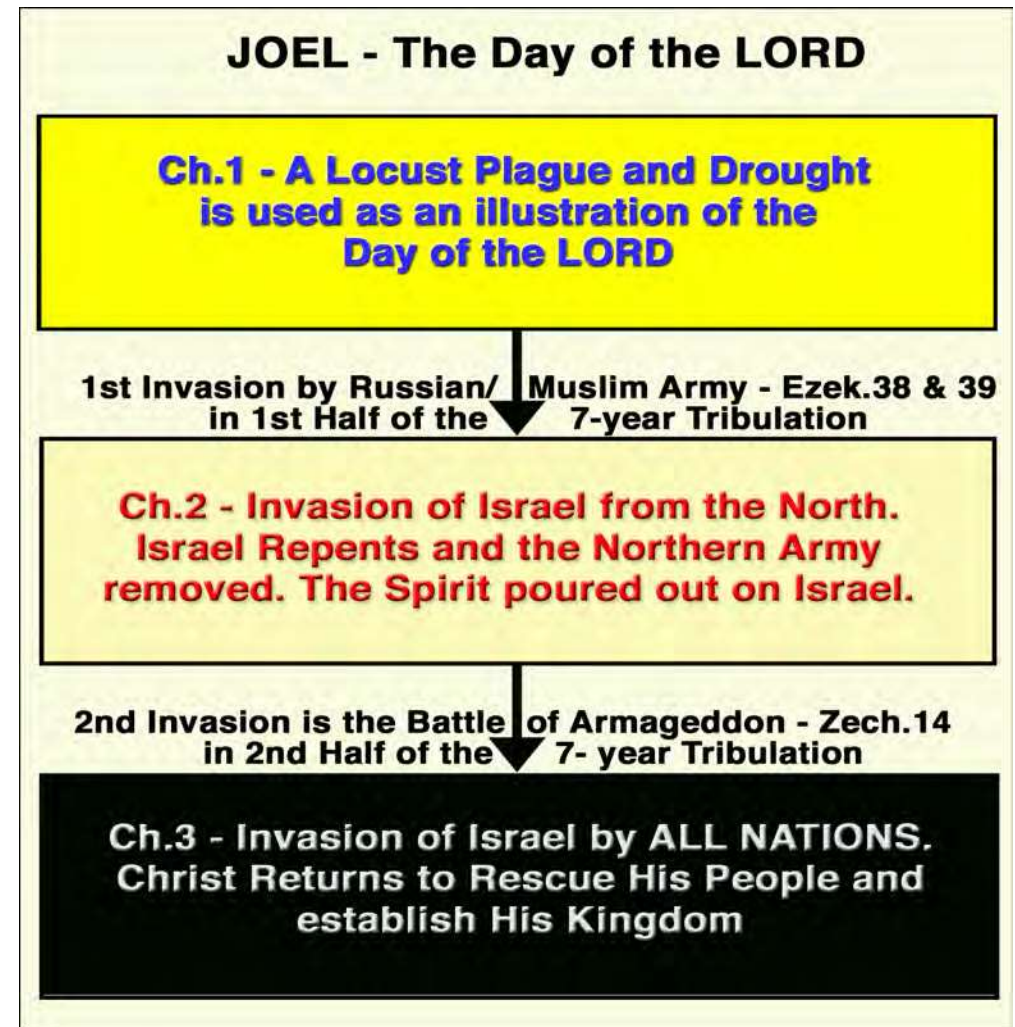
At the same time Ezekiel tells us that the land of Russia (Magog) will be burned (Ezek.39:6). Professor Lance Endersbee AO, former Dean of Engineering at Monash University, has written in his book, *Voyage of Discovery*, of 100 mud volcanoes in the Black Sea that are emitting methane gas into the sea and is saturating the deep layers of water. The Black Sea is very deep but if the toxic water in the lower levels were to be disturbed and come to the surface, the methane gas would be released into the atmosphere. The Bible says that when the "northern army" will be judged, a global earthquake will occur and "the fishes of the sea" shall shake! (Ezek.38:19-20). This is probably the same earthquake as is described in Rev. 6:12-17. Joel also speaks of this earthquake:

*"The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining"* (Joel 2:10).

Joel indicates that the result of the northern invasion will be that Israel will gather the people together and cry out to God. We read:

*"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil"* (Joel 2:12-13).

The Holy Spirit will then be poured out upon Israel under the New Covenant that God will make with Israel (Jer. 31:31-37; Joel 2:21-29).

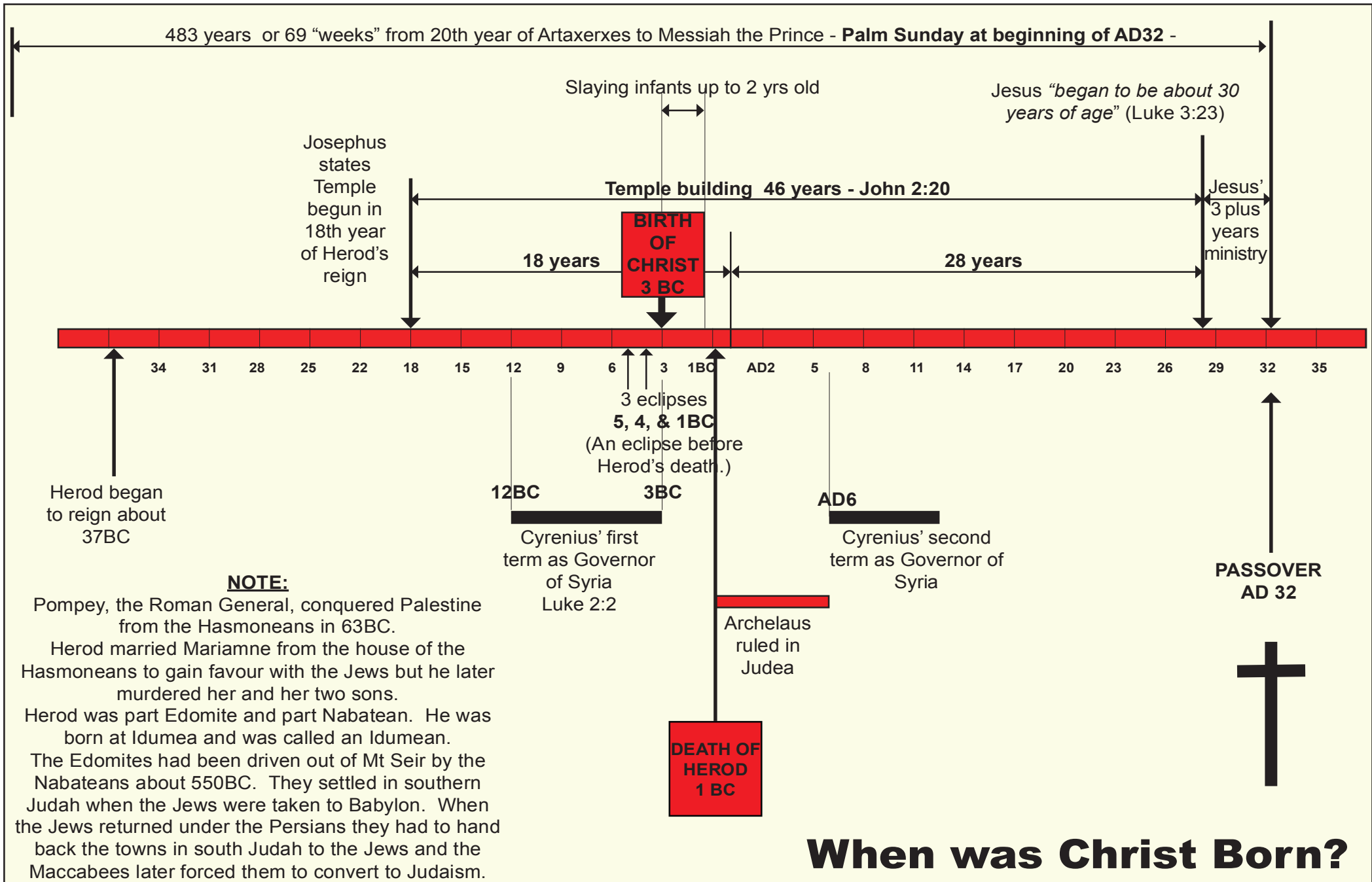


The outcome of the second war described in Joel chapter 3 is that the Lord will return to defend His repentant people:

*"The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel"* (Joel 3:16).

The Lord will then take up His place in Jerusalem and reign for 1,000 years:

*"Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion"* (Joel 3:20-21).



## When was Christ Born?

## The Lord's Ministry in Rejection

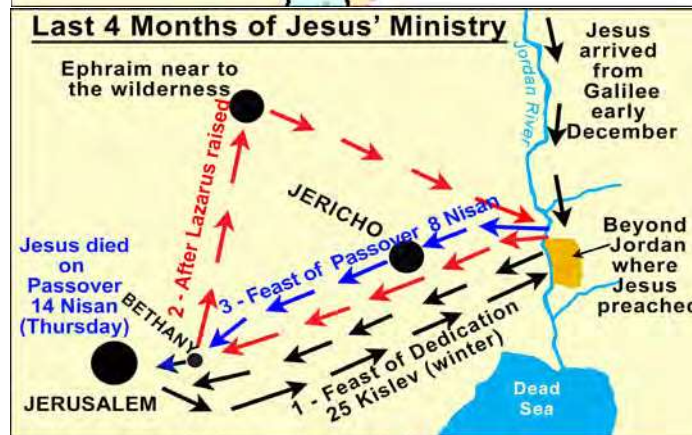
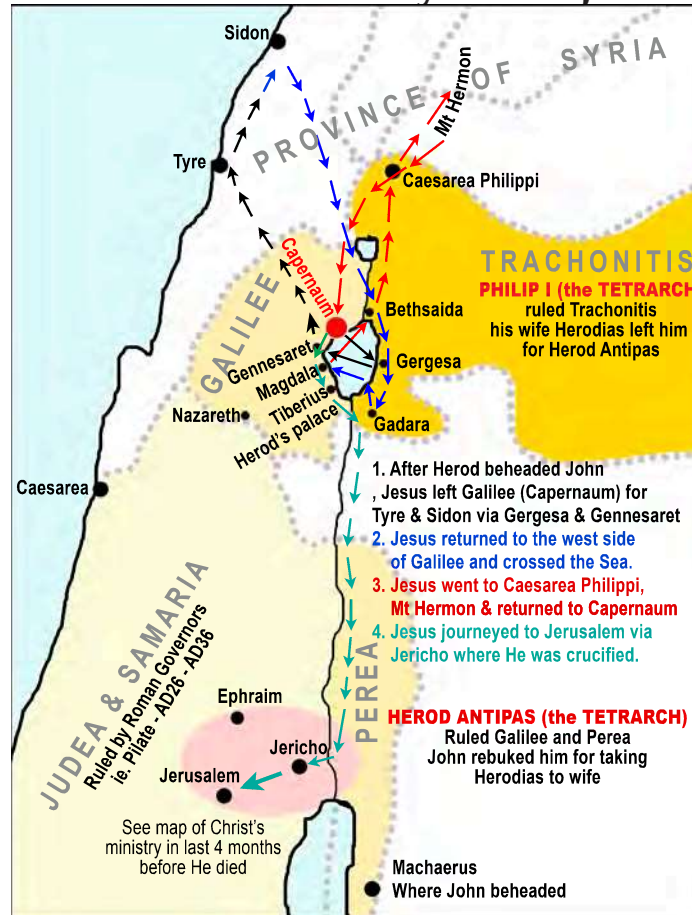
The ministry of Christ was centred in Galilee. He was brought up at Nazareth but at the beginning of His ministry He was baptised by John in Jordan and then returned home to Nazareth where He preached in the synagogue and the Jews would have cast him down a steep hill so He relocated to Capernaum.

The only recorded visits to Jerusalem were to attend feasts of the Jews and finally to die for the sins of the world. The greatest detail of the Lord's ministry in Jerusalem is given by John in his Gospel.

Matthew records the Lord's ministry entirely in Galilee except for His final visit to Jerusalem. In Matthew chapters 11 and 12, Matthew indicates that the nation had rejected Christ and were warned of the danger of committing the unpardonable sin; blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. In chapter 13 Jesus stated that the nation had been **blinded as prophesied in Isaiah 6:9-10** and He began to speak in parables to those who had believing hearts.

When Jesus heard in Galilee that John had been beheaded He withdrew into desert places and into Gentile territory; to the region of Tyre and Sidon (Matt.15:21). He returned to a desert place on the east of Galilee; to Gergesa, Gadara and thence across Galilee to Magdala (Matt.15:39), across the sea to Bethsaida, and north to Caesarea Philippi (Matt.16:13).

From Caesarea Philippi Jesus took Peter, James and John up into Mount Hermon, probably late November or early December before winter set in, and He was transfigured to give them a vision of His **second advent and future kingdom** before He went to the cross (Matt.17:1-13). He then returned to Capernaum where He paid His Roman tax (Matt.17:24-27) and proceeded south along the east side of the Jordan River to where John the Baptist had been baptizing (Matt.19:1).



While ministering "beyond Jordan", multitudes came to Him and when the feast of Dedication came on 25th Kislev (usually in December) it was winter and the Lord went up to Jerusalem (John 10:22).

The Jewish months in order were Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, Adar, and Nisan so the Lord was in Judea near Jordan from sometime early in Kislev for approximately 4 months before He died at Jerusalem on the 14th of Nisan. There were **3 visits** to Jerusalem.

1. The Jews at the **feast of Dedication** would have stoned Him so He returned to "beyond Jordan" (John 10:31).

2. While ministering "beyond Jordan" a message was received from friends of **Lazarus** in Bethany that he was gravely ill. Apparently Lazarus died soon after his friends left Bethany to take the **one-day journey**, and Jesus tarried for **two days** before taking the **one day journey** up to Bethany. When He arrived, Lazarus had been dead **four days**.

The raising of Lazarus stirred the Jews to hatred because many believed on Christ and so Jesus took His disciples north to the city of **Ephraim** (John 11:54) on the edge of the wilderness before returning to where He had been ministering "beyond Jordan".

3. When the **Passover** was near, in the month Nisan, Jesus went up to Jerusalem through Jericho and arrived at Bethany **six days before the Passover** which was Friday evening, and Martha made a supper for Him and Mary anointed the Lord. Jesus rested on the sabbath and on Palm **Sunday** rode into Jerusalem in fulfilment of Zech.9:9. **Monday**, Jesus cursed the fig tree and by **Tuesday** it had withered. Tuesday evening Jesus was in Simon the leper's house and again was anointed. On the Wednesday Jesus rested and Judas made his deal with the priests to betray Him. On **Wednesday** evening the last supper was held and on **Thursday** Jesus died as the Passover lambs were being sacrificed.

# The Passover Week

## ROMAN AND JEWISH DAYS

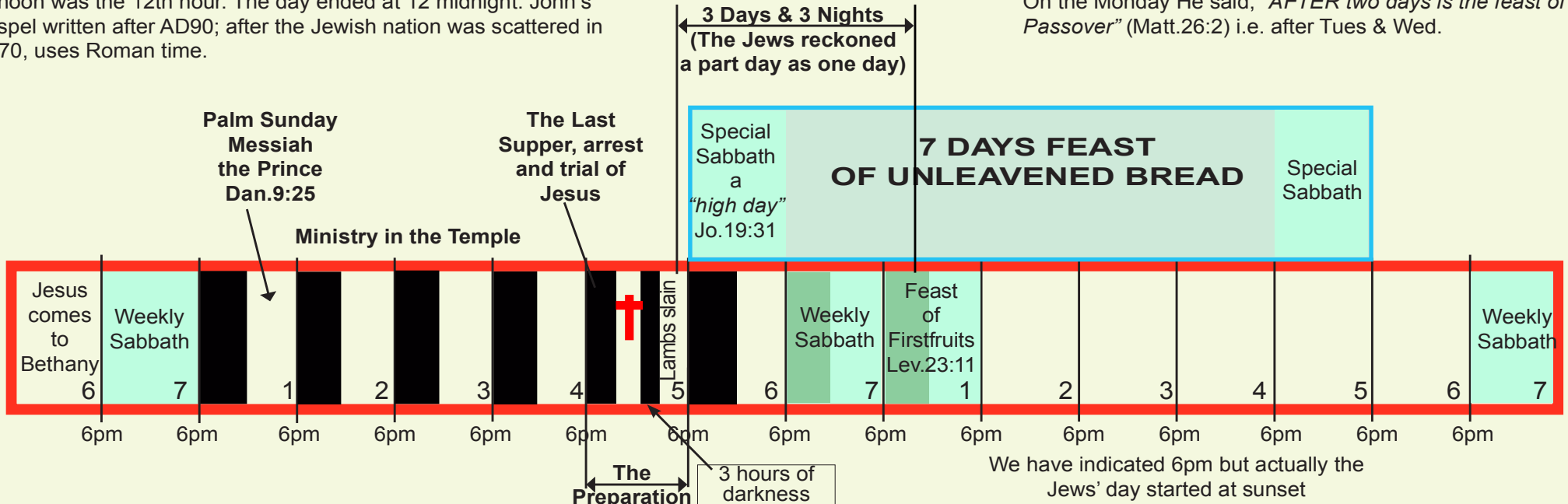
The Jewish day commenced at 6pm and counted two lots of 12 hours so noon was the 6th hour.  
 The Roman day began at midnight and counted two lots of 12 hours so noon was the 12th hour. The day ended at 12 midnight. John's Gospel written after AD90; after the Jewish nation was scattered in AD70, uses Roman time.

**Christ Buried before Sunset**

**Christ Risen before Daybreak**

## CHRIST DIED ON THURSDAY

Christ died on Thursday 14th of Nisan Lev.23:5. He arrived in Bethany on the Friday, **6 days BEFORE** the Passover (counting inclusively) Jo.12:1. On the Monday He said, "AFTER two days is the feast of Passover" (Matt.26:2) i.e. after Tues & Wed.



Frid	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Frid	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Frid	Sat
8th	9th	10th	Jewish lunar calendar			14th	15th								
Nisan	Nisan	Nisan				Nisan	Nisan								

### Note:

The **Prophetic Calendar** has 360 days/year. Jews followed the **Lunar/Solar Calendar** (29/30 day months alternating). About every 3rd year Jews added a second 12th month to agree with the Solar calendar. The **Gregorian, Solar Calendar**, has 365.24 days in the year (4th year a leap year).

### THE PASSOVER LAMB

The Sadducees held the High Priesthood and observed Passover on 15 Nisan which began at 6pm on Thursday. Since they controlled the Temple, lambs were slain after 3pm on 14 Nisan. The Pharisees kept Passover on 14 Nisan (Wednesday night that year) without a lamb. Thus Jesus kept the Passover on Wednesday night and died as the Passover lambs were slain on Thursday afternoon. "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (1Cor.5:7).

69 "Weeks" = 483 y'rs  
 173,880 days exact

**Palm Sunday**  
 Luke 19:42

**From the 20th year of Artaxerxes - 445 B.C. (Neh.2:1,7-8)**