



Devotional Timetable

The Longest Week is a book which looks at the history of Jesus' last week. Over the course of eight days we follow the trajectory of this incredible figure, from his triumphant entry on the Sunday, through confrontations with the Temple aristocracy, his arrest, trial and death, and then on to the mysterious and unprecedented events of his resurrection.

Following the chronological framework of the gospels, the book uses history, archaeology and imaginative reconstructions to examine the people and the places, the political and social background of the events.

The Longest Week is not, primarily, a devotional resource, although I think that many Christians will find the book thought-provoking and, indeed, inspirational.

For those who wish to use the book as part of their devotions during Holy Week, therefore, I have prepared a timetable of readings which follows the reconstruction in the book itself. It's designed in A5 format so you can fold it and place it in your Bible should you wish.

How does it work?

Simple. At the time indicated, on the day indicated, read the gospel account. If you want you can read the relevant parts of *The Longest Week*, but that's up to you.

How do you know *when* things took place?

There's quite a bit of supposition involved, but it follows the chronology suggested in Mark's gospel. Other events have been put in at the most likely time they occurred. I'm not arguing that this is definitely what happened – just one idea. If nothing else reading things in this way will give you a picture of how the events built up. The dates given assume Jesus' death took place on April 3rd AD 33.¹ For the arguments supporting this dating see *The Longest Week*, pp. 9–12.

How do you know *where* things took place?

Again, there is some guesswork and tradition involved. Certain locations we know for certain (e.g. the Temple), others are high probabilities (e.g. Pilate having his HQ in Herod's palace), and some are long-standing tradition (e.g. Gethsemane).

¹ And before you say it, I know the Jewish calendar wasn't the same as ours. But since their days (in this case Nisan 9–17) ran from sunset to sunset, it seems more comprehensible to a western audience to stick to our conventions.

Time	Chapter/event	Bible passage	Longest Week ref
THE NIGHT BEFORE			
Now: Saturday before Holy Week		Then: 28 March AD 33 (8/9 Nisan)	
19:00	Jesus at Bethany	Jn 12.1-11	39-47
Day 1: THE ENTRY			
Now: Palm Sunday		Then: 29 March AD 33 (9/10 Nisan)	
08:00	Triumphal entry	Mk 11.1-11	49-79
10:00	Greeks speak with Jesus	Jn 12.20-50	79-80
Day 2: THE TEMPLE			
Now: Monday of Holy Week		Then: 30 March AD 33 (10/11 Nisan)	
07:00	The fig tree is cursed	Mk 11.12-14	82-91
09:00	The temple protest	Mk 11.15-19	91-108
Day 3: THE END TIMES			
Now: Tuesday of Holy Week		Then: 31 March AD 33 (11/12 Nisan)	
07:00	The fig tree part two	Mk 11.20-25	110
09:00	The four questions	Mk 12.1-44	111-122
14:00	The prophecy about the Temple	Mk 13.1-2	123-124
16:00	The prophecy about the future	Mk 13.3-37; Mt 24.3-25.46; 26.1-2	126-132
Day 4: THE PLOT AND THE PERFUME			
Now: Wednesday of Holy Week		Then: 1 April AD 33 (12/13 Nisan)	
10:00	The plot to kill Jesus	Mk 14.1-2	134
19:00	The anointing at Bethany	Mk 14.3-9	134-142
21:00	Judas goes to meet chief priests	Mk 14.10-11	143-145
Day 5: THE ARREST			
Now: Maundy Thursday		Then: 2 April AD 33 (13/14 Nisan)	
07:00	Preparations for the meal	Mk 14.12-16	147-153
19:00	The Last Supper	Mk 14.17-31; Jn 13.1-17.26	153-161
24:00	Gethsemane: the arrest	Mk 14.32-52	161-169

Time	Chapter/event	Bible passage	Longest Week ref
Day 6: THE EXECUTION			
Now: Good Friday		Then: 3 April AD 33 (14/15 Nisan)	
02:00	Interrogation by Annas	Jn 18.12-14, 19-24	172-176
03:00	Night trial	Mk 14.53-65	176-180
05:00	Peter in the courtyard	Mk 14.66-72	180-185
06:00	Morning council meeting	Mk 15.1 Lk. 22.66-23.1	185-187
07:00	The first hearing before Pilate	Lk. 23.1-7	188-199
07:30	Interrogation by Antipas	Lk.23.8-12	199-204
08:00	The death of Judas	Mt. 27.3-5	204-205
08:00	The second hearing before Pilate	Lk 23.13-23	206-214
08:15	The flogging	Mk 15.16-20	214-219
09:00	The crucifixion	Mk. 15.16-32	219-229
12:00	Darkness at noon	Mk 15.33	230-232
15:00	'It is finished'	Mk 15.34-47	233-241
16:00	Joseph of Arimathea	Mk 15.42-47; Jn. 19.38-42	241-249
Day 7: THE SILENCE			
Now: Saturday of Holy Week		Then: 4 April AD 33 (15/16 Nisan)	
08:00	Pilate posts guards	Mt 27.62-66	251-253
19:00	Women prepare for anointing	Mk. 16.1	253
Day 8: THE RETURN			
Now: Easter Day		Then: 5 April AD 33 (16/17 Nisan)	
05:00	The empty tomb	Mk 16.1-8 Lk 24.1-12 Jn 20.3-18 Mt. 28.1-10	255-259
15:00	The Emmaus road	Lk 24.13-35	259-260
20:00	The upper room	Lk 24.36-53; Jn 20.19-23	260-266