① THE PREPARATION DAY?

v.31 Therefore, because it was the "Preparation" Day...

- This verse has caused confusion and claims of contradictions.
- The argued contradiction comes from the fact that Matthew, Mark, and Luke each claim that Jesus ate the Passover meal / seder supper with His disciples
- This is true
- The confusion lies in regards to what "Preparation" John is referring to
  - Preparation for Passover (which would be Thursday)

OR

  - Preparation for the Sabbath (which would be Friday)

- It seems best to interpret the Preparation in regards to the Sabbath due to:

1) The other Gospels all agree that Jesus ate the Passover meal w/ His disciples
Matt 26:15 "where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover meal?"

2) John has been trying to help the reader make the connection that Jesus is the Passover Lamb
- The hyssop John 19:29
- NOT a bone is broken - 19:36 Ex 12:46

* Even... "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. 1:29 (John's trying to help the reader make the connection... Jonah's NOT confused)

3) John literally says this is for the Sabbath in this verse?

v.31 that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath
- clearly, the next day (actually, in a few hours at sundown!) was the Sabbath

v.31 for that Sabbath (Saturday) was a high (special) day
- Because that Sabbath was during Passover, unleavened Bread, AND Sunday was the 3rd feast (Firstfruits)
- A very special Sabbath for sure.
  - that Sabbath actually started the 2nd feast
  - on that year... once every 7yrs

② REQUEST FOR THE LEGS TO BE BROKEN

v.31 Therefore, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs may be broken and that they might be taken away
- Ironically, the Jews did not want their "land" defiled w/ a dead corpse
- This would be against Torah

"If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God has given you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged on a tree is accursed of God" Deut 21:22-23

- The irony, of course, is that the Jews are breaking Torah w/ an illegal conviction and killing an innocent man

* Also, notice the cry of the Jews: the one on the tree is accursed
- This was a big objective of the Jews: To have Jesus be "accursed"
  - Their hope was that this title would dissuade followers of Jesus
  - They needed Jesus to be accursed, but not to defile the land
  - They needed Him down asap... the Sabbath was quickly approaching

* Roman culture, however, was to leave the bodies hanging there
  - as a warning to others
  - not sun rotting the bodies
  - and vultures eating the flesh

- Pilate had previously "washed his hands" of this situation and had given / delivered Jesus over to the Jews desires, still under Roman control

"Then he (Pilate) delivered Him (Jesus) to them (the Jews) for their desires to be crucified" John 19:16

"Pilate handed Jesus over to their demands / requests" Luke 23:24

- The result is the Roman soldiers were about to break Jesus' legs

* This would have disqualified Jesus as the Passover Lamb Ex.12:46

v.32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.
- clearly, the soldiers started on the outside and worked inward
- Jesus was said to be in the middle

"they crucified Him and two others with Him, one on each side, and Jesus in the center" John 19:18

- The legs were smashed w/ a heavy, iron mallet, called a crurifragium
  - this would prevent the body from pushing up to breathe
  - they would quickly die from asphyxia

v.33 But when they came to Jesus and saw He was already dead, they did not break His legs
- some wonder why Jesus was "already dead" before the others
  - it was required for all crucifixions to begin w/ a verberatio scourging
  - some believe Jesus had two scourgings (fustigatio + then verberatio)
- most likely due to Jesus being in complete control AND His will was accomplished
  - v. 28

③ JESUS' SIDE IS PIERCED

v.34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear

νυσσω: pierce
- interesting note that John uses another word in 19:37 for its fulfillment

ΕΚΚΕΝΤΕΩ: pierce
- used by John again in Rev. 1:7
- why two different words?
- John seemed to like variation and is describing the event

- The spear λογχῇ: spear, lance w/ (Logchē) metal arrow on the tip
- done with enough force to cause penetration
- soldiers intent was probably to make sure He was dead.

v.34 and immediately blood and water came out.
- Medically, this seems to be the case of a ruptured heart
  - Blood and water coming out does refute any Docetic Teaching (That the body only "appeared/seemed" real... not literal flesh and blood)

ΔΟΚΕΩ: seemed
- this theory / heresy grew and John combated it in 1John
(1John 2:22, 4:1-4, 5:6-9)

- Is there any symbolism in the Blood and water? Maybe
  - Some theories of symbolism seem very far fetched
  - other theories might have value
    - could be symbolic of life (Blood) and cleansing (water)
      - As life is in the blood ✠ AND
    - water symbolizes the Holy Spirit (John 7:38)
    - 2. could be a picture of Ex. 17
      - "Strike the Rock and water will come out (17:6)
      - Jesus/Messiah is the ROCK (Ps. 18:31, 46)

3. could be to verify He was a real human
"The Word (Logos) became flesh and dwelt (tabernacle) among us." John 1:14
"This is He who came by water and blood- Jesus Christ, not only by water, but by blood ... there are three that bear witness on earth: The Spirit, the water, the blood (Different order than 1st time) and these three agree as one" 1John 5: 6,8
  - Spirit and water = tendinal sys?
  - the Spirit in the believer (water / blood)?
  - the Spirit, baptism, the blood of Jesus?

- Either way, looking for "symbolism" aside... John wrote this to
  - emphasize Jesus' humanity 's death
  - this we know, symbolism isn't needed

v.35 And he who has seen has testified and his testimony is true;
- either John is speaking of himself (traditional view)
- OR speaking of another witness that John verifies as trustworthy (2nd part of the verse)
  - could be anyone at the crucifixion
  - could be the soldiers testimony of piercing him and seeing the blood/water

v.35 and he (John?) knows that he (John, soldier, another witness?) is telling the truth
- could be John and John/himself
- John truly tried to hide himself
- not even mentioning Salome (his mom?)

v.35 so that you may believe
- The point of the testimony:
  - so we may believe ΠΙΣΤΕΥΩ
* The whole purpose of writing his Gospel
  - so we come to a saving faith!!
* work of the cross only appropriated to those who believe

④ PASSOVER TYPOLOGY FULFILLED

v.36 For these things were done that the scripture should be fulfilled
- what "things"?
  - Jesus' legs not broken AND
  - Jesus' side being pierced

- Jesus' legs not being broken is the 3rd fulfillment of scripture John mentions so far.

① Jesus garments were divided
- Fulfills Ps. 22:18
- Plus the Robe symbolism

② Jesus said, "I thirst" and drank the sour wine/vinegar
- Fulfills Ps 69:21
- mocking the righteous sufferer

③ Now, Jesus bones were not broken
- fulfilling the Passover lamb requirements... Ex. 12:46

"In one house it shall be eaten, you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break any of its bones" Ex. 12:46

"You shall leave none of it till morning, nor break one of its bones. According to the law of the Passover they shall keep it." Numb. 9:12

- one of the reasons to NOT break any of the bones (even after death)
  - is because "it is to be a symbol of unity of the worshiping family and of the entire covenant community"
Exodus - World Biblical Commentary, Durham, 1987, ps 123
Exodus - Anchor Yale Bible, Propp - 1999, ps 416

- The context of Ex. 12 and the Passover lamb was God's final and most powerful act
  - to free His children from bondage

* Jesus provides the ultimate fulfillment in freeing God's people from spiritual bondage

* When Transfigured on the mount, Jesus spoke of His Exodus
- only Luke records what Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were discussing:

"And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah who appeared in glory and spoke of His departure (ὁ ἔξοδος) which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem." Luke 19:30-31

- The NLT says:

"They were speaking of His exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem." John 9:31

- Interestingly, Peter uses this word ἔξοδος when speaking of his death

"Moreover, I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease/departure/ Exodus
NKJV NASB Greek

* Jesus literally fulfills the Passover lamb requirements AND
- fulfills the True/Greater Exodus
- The ultimate "Deliverer"
- most powerful Passover Lamb

"For indeed, Christ, our Passover, was crucified for us" 1Cor 5:7

"We are redeemed w/ the precious blood of Christ, as a Lamb w/o blemish and w/o spot" 1Pt. 1:19

"in the midst of the throne... stood a lamb as though it had been slain ... He took the scroll... they all sang: worthy is the Lamb, to take the scroll, open its seal, redeem us to God, make us Kings and priests, and we shall reign on earth" Rev. 5: 8-10

- We are Kings and priests because, by and through Jesus
  - Christians have the authority in the spiritual Realm ἐξουσία
- Which is the most important realm

- some christians believe the ruling will be Literal in the future (only one view in Eschatology)

* We can all agree though:
  - The Real Passover occurred
  - The Real Deliverer has come
  - The Real Exodus is available

⑤ ZECHARIA'S PROPHECY FULFILLED