

# God's Special Day

**Nisan 17 Odds:  
One in 783,864,876,960,000,000**

The Bible records many miracles occurring on Nisan 17. No other day except Passover is mentioned as many times in the Bible. According to the Torah and traditional Jewish interpretation, other events that occurred on Nisan 17 include the following:

- Nisan 17, Noah's Ark safely rested on Mt. Ararat -(Genesis 8:4) Note that the seventh month was later designated as the first month at the time of the Exodus -(Exodus 12:2).
- Nisan 17, Hebrews entered Egypt -(Exodus 12:40-41) 430 years before deliverance.
- Nisan 17, Moses led the Israelites through the Parting of the Red Sea -(Exodus 3:18, 5:3).
- Nisan 17, Israel entered and ate the first fruit of the Promised Land -(Joshua 5:10-12).
- Nisan 17, The cleansing of the Temple by Hezekiah (eight hundred years after entering the promised land. -(2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 29:1-28).
- Nisan 17, Queen Esther saved the Jews from Elimination -(Esther 3:12, 5:1).
- Nisan 17, The Resurrection of Messiah (think about it).

The odds of just two of these events both happening accidentally on the same day of the Hebrew year (360 days) are one in 129,600.

The odds of these seven events all happening coincidentally on the same day of the Hebrew year are **One in 783 quadrillion, 864 trillion, 876 Billion, 960 Million (783,864,876,960,000,000)**. This number is determined by multiplying the seven major events occurring on the same day of the Hebrew year. In mathematics this is known as compound probability. In the realm of science and advanced mathematics, any number larger than one in 150,000,000,000-billion is considered to be the result of intelligent design and therefore impossible as the result of coincidence or random chance occurrence.

These stats are from *'A Scientific Approach to Biblical Mysteries'* by Robert W. Faid, a former nuclear engineer who holds a Master's degree in theology. Robert Faid was an agnostic in his early life and converted to Christianity after recovery from cancer.

Robert Faid was awarded the Nobel Prize for Mathematics. Robert Faid is listed as the inventor on two 1977 US patents relating to improvements in the construction of concrete structures such as containment buildings for nuclear power plants.

## Notes:

### 1. Noah's Ark

The Hebrew New Year begins in the month of Nisan (March/April of the contemporary calendar). However, there is another calendar used to account for the days of the Flood. This account is documented in an ancient Jewish commentary on the Genesis passage. You can explore the details if you wish, but the net result is an amazing statement of God's engineering of history.

According to this ancient calendar, the ark rested on the mountain on precisely the same day that Jesus was resurrected from the tomb. Yes, that's right. Thousands and thousands of years before the resurrection, God engineered history to point toward the pinnacle event of salvation. Just as the ancient judgment ended on the day the ark touched ground, so the judgment of the restored world ended on the same day of the year when the tomb could not hold Him.

Genesis 8:4 the seventh month was later designated as the first month at the time of the Exodus -(Exodus 12:2). Israel learned of the Nisan-years calendar system by Abraham, who came out of Ur of Chaldees, and used it consistently through the time of Moses and David. However, since David became the king of Judah (the southern two tribes) before he became the king of Israel (the norther ten tribes), and the day of ordination seemed to be Tishri 1, the first day of the seventh month, later the southern kingdom Judah used another calendar system, the Tishri-years. The tradition was still kept by the modern Jews, and they extended it to the time of creation. (Edwin R. Thiele, *'The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings'*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Kregal Publications)

### 2. Entered Egypt

The Hebrews entered Egypt 430 years to the day they excited (see #3 below). The scripture gives us a time-line:

- 14th of Nisan at sunset – Passover begins which officially makes it the 15th as well.

- 15th of Nisan at sunset – Children of Israel flee or go from Egypt.
- 16th of Nisan at sunset – They went from Succoth to Etham -(Numbers 33:6 ***“And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham”***)
- 17th of Nisan at sunset – They went from Etham to Pihahiroth -(Numbers 33:7 ***“And they removed from Etham, and turned again unto Pihahiroth”***)
- 18th of Nisan at sunset – The red sea crossing, note also that this was at NIGHT...that is the night that started the 18th! -(Numbers 33:8 ***“And they departed from before Pihahiroth, and passed through the midst of the sea”***)

We can see clearly, just as Jesus was “3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the earth”, God led the children of Israel to the Red Sea by guiding them by pillar by day, and fire by night!!! So, their journey totaled 3 days!

Israel eats the first fruits of the promised land -(Joshua 5:10-12). Nisan 16 last day God rained Manna. On Nisan 17 Israel ate the first fruits of the promised land.

### 3. Crossing the Red Sea

Moses recorded the fact that Israel crossed over the Red Sea and physically left the land of Egypt on the 17th of Nisan in Numbers 33:1-8:

***<sup>1</sup>These are the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. <sup>2</sup>And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these are their journeys according to their goings out. <sup>3</sup>And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; (Nisan) on the morrow after the Passover (still the 15th) the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians. (Remember, Israel’s days start at sunset) <sup>4</sup>For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments. <sup>5</sup>And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth. (Evening of the 15th) <sup>6</sup>And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham, which is in the edge of the wilderness. (Evening of 16th) <sup>7</sup>And they removed from Etham, and turned again unto Pi-hahiroth, which is before Baal-zephon: and they pitched before Migdol. (Evening of the 17th) <sup>8</sup>And they departed (morning of the 17th) from before Pi-hahiroth, and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, and went three days’ journey in the wilderness of Etham, and pitched in Marah.”***

### 4. Ate Fruit in Promised Land

According to “Timeline of the Bible”, Nisan 17 in 1445 B.C.; on this very same day, Israel makes first camp at Succoth beginning the Exodus and their first day out of Egypt on the evening of Friday Nisan 17 as stated in Exodus 12:37-39. On this same date, 40 years later, Joshua would meet “the Commander of the army of the Lord” which begins Day 1 of the 7 day Battle for Jericho according to Joshua 5:13-6:5.

On Nisan 16 last day God rained Manna. On Nisan 17 Israel ate the first fruits of the Promised Land.

## 5. Hezekiah

Immediately upon becoming king, Hezekiah commenced a great religious reform. In eight days they had re-opened the great Temple of Solomon and cleansed it of defilement (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 29:1-17). The cleansing of the temple was not completed until the sixteenth day of the first month (Nisan).

## 6. Queen Esther

Haman had convinced the king to sign a decree to destroy the Hebrews. -Esther 3:1-12). The decree went out on the 13th Nisan -(Esther 3:12). Esther then proclaimed a three day fast - (Esther 4:16) for the 14th, 15th and 16th. On the 3rd day -(5:1) Esther approached the king saying to herself ***‘If I perish, I perish!’ (an attitude of death or resurrection... it’s in God’s hands!)*** On the 17th Nisan, the tables were turned on the enemy Haman and instead of the Jews being destroyed, his own life was taken!

## 7. Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The resurrection of Jesus is important for several reasons. First, the resurrection witnesses to the immense power of God Himself. To believe in the resurrection is to believe in God. If God exists and if He created the universe and has power over it, then He has power to raise the dead. If He does not have such power, He is not worthy of our faith and worship. Only He who created life can resurrect it after death, only He can reverse the hideousness that is death itself, and only He can remove the sting and gain the victory over the grave -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:54–55). In resurrecting Jesus from the grave, God reminds us of His absolute sovereignty over life and death.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is also important because it validates who Jesus claimed to be, namely, the Son of God and Messiah. According to Jesus, His resurrection was the “sign from heaven” that authenticated His ministry -(Matthew 16:1–4). The resurrection of Jesus Christ, attested to by hundreds of eyewitnesses -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3–8), provides irrefutable proof that He is the Savior of the world.

Another reason the resurrection of Jesus Christ is important is that it proves His sinless character and divine nature. The Scriptures said God's "Holy One" would never see corruption - (Psalm 16:10), and Jesus never saw corruption, even after He died -(see Acts 13:32–37). It was on the basis of the resurrection of Christ that Paul preached, ***"Through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin"*** (Acts 13:38–39).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not only the supreme validation of His deity; it also validates the Old Testament prophecies that foretold of Jesus' suffering and resurrection -(see Acts 17:2–3). Christ's resurrection also authenticated His own claims that He would be raised on the third day -(Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34). If Jesus Christ is not resurrected, then we have no hope that we will be, either. In fact, apart from Christ's resurrection, we have no Savior, no salvation, and no hope of eternal life. As Paul said, our faith would be "useless," the gospel would be altogether powerless, and our sins would remain unforgiven -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:14–19).

Jesus said, ***"I am the resurrection and the life"*** -(John 11:25), and in that statement claimed to be the source of both. There is no resurrection apart from Christ, no eternal life. Jesus does more than give life; He is life, and that's why death has no power over Him. Jesus confers His life on those who trust in Him, so that we can share His triumph over death -(1<sup>st</sup> John 5:11–12). We who believe in Jesus Christ will personally experience resurrection because, having the life Jesus gives, we have overcome death. It is impossible for death to win (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:53–57).

Jesus is ***"the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep"*** -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:20). In other words, Jesus led the way in life after death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is important as a testimony to the resurrection of human beings, which is a basic tenet of the Christian faith. Unlike other religions, Christianity possesses a Founder who transcends death and promises that His followers will do the same. Every other religion was founded by men or prophets whose end was the grave. As Christians, we know that God became man, died for our sins, and was resurrected the third day. The grave could not hold Him. He lives, and He sits today at the right hand of the Father in heaven -(Hebrews 10:12).

The Word of God guarantees the believer's resurrection at the coming of Jesus Christ for His church at the Rapture. Such assurance results in a great song of triumph as Paul writes in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:55, ***"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*** -(cf. Hosea 13:14).

The importance of the resurrection of Christ has an impact on our service to the Lord now. Paul ends his discourse on resurrection with these words: ***"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"*** -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58). Because we know we will be resurrected to new life, we can endure persecution and danger for Christ's sake (verses 30–32), just as our Lord did. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

thousands of Christian martyrs through history have willingly traded their earthly lives for everlasting life and the promise of resurrection.

The resurrection is the triumphant and glorious victory for every believer. Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose the third day according to the Scriptures -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3-4). And He is coming again! The dead in Christ will be raised up, and those who are alive at His coming will be changed and receive new, glorified bodies -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18). Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ important? It proves who Jesus is. It demonstrates that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. It shows that God has the power to raise us from the dead. It guarantees that the bodies of those who believe in Christ will not remain dead but will be resurrected unto eternal life.

**Other known Biblical events that occurred on the 17th of Nisan include:**

- Hag ha-Matza - Third day. -(Exodus 12:17-20)
- The Omer, day 2.
- Water swells on the earth in the days of Noah. Day 107. -(Genesis 7:24)
- Abraham returns to his family in Beer Sheva. -(Genesis 22:19)
- Yocheved hides Moses after a 6 month and one day pregnancy - day 40. -(Artscroll Mesorah on Shavuot, page 61.)
- Moses saw the burning bush in 2447 – Day 3 of 7. -(Exodus 3:2, Bahya, Bo, Midrash Rabbah - Leviticus XI:6)
- Israelites leave Succoth and arrive at Etham. -(Exodus 12:48-51 Our heritage, Eliyahu Kitov)
- Moses collects Joseph's bones. -(Exodus 13:19)
- Joshua and the Israelites march around Jericho – day 3. -(Joshua 6:1ff)
- Haman's plans came to naught. -(Esther 3:12, 4:16, 5:1, 7:2-9)
- Resurrection Sabbath. Yeshua rose from the dead, at the end of the third day. It is a Sabbath. -(Matthew 12:48)
- Yeshua heals the man with a withered hand on the Sabbath after Pesach. -(Luke 6:6-11)

- Peter is arrested and imprisoned by Herod. –(Acts 12:3)
- Torah section is Exodus 13:1-16; Numbers 28:19-25. There is no Haftorah.