

Mark 14:1-2 - Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread was two days off; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth, and kill Him; 2 for they were saying, "Not during the festival, lest there be a riot of the people."

The narrative now shifts its **focus** from the **Jesus teaching** during Holy Week to the **final events** leading up to the **Cross**. As is Mark's custom, he will briefly record the scenes now in order to give a clear **chronology** of Jesus **last meal** with His disciples, His **betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection**. "**1 Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread was two days off.**" Notice here that Mark mentions the exact day. Passover of course was the annual Jewish commemoration of the **Exodus** from **Egypt**. God had established it as a lasting ordinance to be observed to remind them that God **delivered** them from **slavery** in **Egypt** under **Pharaoh**, by the **plague** of the death of the **firstborn**. As the Israelites were to prepare a meal of an **unblemished lamb** made with **bitter herbs** to be eaten in **haste**, they would then place the **blood** of the **Passover Lamb** above their **doorposts**, the death angel would **see** the **blood** and "**pass over**" that house and **not kill** the **firstborn** within. Thus the Israelites **firstborn** were **preserved** in the plague. This **Passover Feast** that was perpetually celebrated year after year thereafter **pointed** to the **ultimate Passover**, and the ultimate **Passover Lamb**, the Jewish Messiah Himself, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 - 7 Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. **For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the feast**, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. NASB

Mark has here told us that this **ultimate Passover** is only "**two days off.**" And it of course is always followed by the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** which began the next day lasted a **full week**. It was named for the unleavened flat bread that was prepared on the night of the Passover, and used for food to eat as the Israelites fled from Egypt on the **following day**. This was the **Exodus** from **Egypt** as they all left their homes headed for the **Red Sea**. Now what is also remarkable here is that the **divine plan** for the **Son of God** to come and **give His life** as a **sacrificial lamb** is coming to fruition with **pinpoint precision**. MacArthur comments; *The father's redemptive plan was that the Son would die at a precise time on a specific date. Thus, Jesus could tell his disciples, on the night before his death, the son of man is going as it has been determined (Luke 22:22). Nearly 2 months later, Peter echoed those words on the day of Pentecost, telling the crowd that Jesus was "delivered up by the predetermined plan and for knowledge of God" (Acts 2:23, cf 1Peter*

1:19-20). The Lord Jesus went to Calvary as the perfect Passover lamb (1 Cor 5:7), according to the schedule preordained by his Father (1 Peter 1:19-20), just as the Old Testament prophets predicted he would (Acts 3:18). His death was no unplanned accident, and some skeptics claim. Rather, as noted above, it will accomplish the very purpose for which He had been sent (John 3:14-16). **End quote.** Indeed **God** has **appointed** this **exact Passover** for Christ's **time** to be **fulfilled**, 14th of Nisan, AD30, as Daniel the Prophet had predicted the precise arrival of the Messiah in Jerusalem during Holy Week to be **killed** (Dan 9:24-26). Surely **God** was **orchestrating His divine plan** to accomplish salvation through the death of **Jesus the Passover Lamb**, yet the **godless men** who put Him to death committed the most heinous and **unjust act** in human history.

Acts 2:22-24 - 22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 **this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.** 24 "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Acts 4:27-28 - 27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 **to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.** NASB

At the same they were carrying out the greatest **injustice** of killing the **sinless** Son of God, God was performing the most **loving** and **gracious** act in all of history. Imagine the great **irony here**, the **Lord** has suddenly **come** to His own **Temple**, and instead of warmly receiving and celebrating His arrival, the **Jewish** religious **leaders** now **plot to kill** their very own Messiah. "**1 and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth, and kill Him;** Here of course is seen the **conspiracy** of the religious leaders in putting Jesus to death. The "**chief priests**" who are mostly **Sadducees** (caretakers of the Temple) and the "**scribes**" who were mostly **Pharisees** (experts in the Law and tradition), together make up the Jewish leaders who "**were seeking how to seize Him by stealth, and kill Him.**" They were plotting their wicked deeds and wanted to "**seize him by stealth**" because they were afraid they might cause a **riot** during the feast days which would have had a minimum of some **200,000 pilgrims** there to celebrate. John reveals that with **Jesus popularity** they **feared** the **Romans** would come and take away their privileged positions.

John 11:47-48 - 47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing