

THE HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS: The Three Temple Cleansings

The Gospel of John charts Jesus' ministry within three Passovers. The first was the first year of His ministry in AD 28 (Jn 2:13). The second was the next year, AD 29, when He fed the 5,000 men and later gave His Bread of Life Discourse (Jn 6:1-15, 22-71), and the third Passover was during the last week of His life in AD 30 (Jn 12:1).

<p style="text-align: center;">The Gospel of John</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The first Temple cleansing in the first year of Jesus' ministry after the wedding at Cana</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Gospel of Matthew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The second Temple cleansing in the third year of Jesus' ministry (as the ancients counted*) and his last week in Jerusalem</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Gospel of Luke</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The second Temple cleansing in the third year of Jesus' ministry (as the ancients counted*) and his last week in Jerusalem</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Gospel of Mark</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The third Temple cleansing in the third year of Jesus' ministry (as the ancients counted*) and his last week in Jerusalem</p>
<p><u>Near Passover in AD 28:</u> <i>Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house</i></p>	<p><u>Palm Sunday, Nisan 10th, 5 days before the Passover in AD 30:</u> <i>The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David ..." (Mt 21:9). Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all those engaged in selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and seats of those who were selling doves. And he said to them, "It is written: 'My house shall be a</i></p>	<p><u>Palm Sunday, Nisan 10th, 5 days before the Passover in AD 30:</u></p>	<p><u>Palm Sunday, Nisan 10th, 5 days before the Passover in AD 30:</u></p>

<p><i>a marketplace.” Jn 2:13-16</i></p>	<p><i>house of prayer, but you are making it a den of thieves” (Mt 21:12-13). And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany, and there he spent the night (Mt 21:17).</i></p>		
	<p><u>Monday, Nisan 11th:</u> <i>When he was going back to the city in the morning, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went over to it but found nothing on it except leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again.” And immediately the fig tree withered (Mt 21:18-19).</i></p>	<p><u>Monday, Nisan 11th:</u></p>	<p><u>Monday, Nisan 11th:</u></p>

* In ancient times, the people did not count with the concept of a zero place-value, therefore, hours, days, weeks, and months were counted like objects, with the first in any series counting as #1. This is why Scripture records that Jesus was in the grave three days from Friday to Sunday before His Resurrection and why Wisdom 7:1-2 records that a child became flesh in the mother’s womb for 10 months.