

## Dating of Jesus' Death

Nisan 14 (i.e. Passover), fell on a Friday in both A.D. 30 & 33

Evidence for A.D. 30:

1. Jesus was about 30 when his ministry began (Lk 3:23). If Herod died at 4 B.C., that would make Jesus born around 5 B.C. and 31 or 32 in A.D. 26 when he began his ministry. However, "about 30" is a loose designation. After all, his enemies figured him to be less than 50 (Jn 8:57).
2. According to Dan 9:24-27, the Messiah would begin his ministry 483 years after the declaration to rebuild Jerusalem. That was made in 457 B.C. Hence, the Messiah should come in A.D. 27. A three year ministry would put Jesus' death at 30 A.D.
3. Herod's temple was 46 years in the making when Jesus cleansed it (Jn 2:20). It was started in 19 B.C., hence, cleansed in A.D. 27. Some argue, however, that the 46 years is from its completion in 17 B.C. which would push the cleansing back to A.D. 29.

Evidence for A.D. 33:

1. The 15<sup>th</sup> year of Tiberias, when John began his ministry (Lk 3:1), was August 19, 28 A.D. – August 18, 29 A.D. However, some argue that he was co-regent three years earlier, pushing back John's ministry to 26 A.D.  
Sejanus, Pilate's mentor, was executed on October 18, A.D. 31. That would explain why the Jews' threats to expose him to Rome were so effective during Jesus' trial, and why he suddenly dropped his anti-Semitism.