

Matthew 26:1-2

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-26/matthew-261-2/>

Jesus informs His disciples that He will be crucified in two days during Passover.

The parallel gospel accounts of this event are found in Mark 14:1 and Luke 22:1.

After Matthew recorded *Jesus's words to His disciples* on the Mount of Olives, the gospel writer returned to narrating what happened next. This is indicated by Matthew's phrase: *When Jesus had finished all these words...*

What Matthew meant by *all these words* was *all* the things *Jesus* had just explained to *His disciples* about the sign of the end of the age (Matthew 24:4-14), the sign of *His* return (Matthew 24:15-31), and when these things will take place (Matthew 24:32-34), as well as the final judgements of all the nations by *the Son of Man* (Matthew 25:31-46).

When Jesus had finished explaining *all these* still distant-future events, *He* then shifted to explaining more imminent-future events.

He said to His disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion."

Jesus began with what the *disciples* already knew.

You know that after two days the Passover is coming.

The *disciples* knew about *Passover*. *Passover* was the Jewish holiday commemorating the liberation of the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. The first Passover took place when God passed over the houses that had lamb's blood painted on the doorpost (Exodus 11-13). *Passover* was the Jews founding holiday, somewhat like "the Fourth of July" is the founding holiday of the United States or "Bastille Day" is celebrated as the founding holiday of France. God commanded Israel to observe this event forever (Exodus 12:24). *Jesus* came to Jerusalem to celebrate the *Passover* with His disciples (Luke 22:7-8).

As practicing Jews, the *disciples* would have been very much aware that *Passover* was only *two days* away.

Previously the *disciples* had been told by *Jesus* that He would be murdered. *He* had alluded to *His* death through prophetic riddles (Matthew 10:38; 12:39-40; 16:4; 21:37-40). And *He* had told them directly that *He* would be killed by the religious authorities (Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23) And *He* had told them that *His* murder would take place when they went to Jerusalem (20:18-19). When *Jesus said* that *He* will be *handed over for crucifixion*, *He* also implicated the participation of Rome, since only the Roman authorities had the power to sentence anyone to capital punishment.

Now *Jesus* was reminding *His* disciples of *His* murder and was telling them that it would happen very soon. *He* was prophesying that it would take place around *Passover*. And *He* confirmed that *He* would be executed by Roman *crucifixion*.

Jesus referred to Himself with the messianic phrase *Son of Man*.

This phrase, *Son of Man*, was an expression with multiple meanings that *Jesus* frequently used to describe Himself. It was an Aramaic expression that meant “Someone.” *Son of Man* could also be used as a synonym for “man” or “mankind.” It was a way for *Jesus* to express His humanity and frailty by identifying as a human. But perhaps most potent of all, *Son of Man* was a political term latent with Messianic overtones. The prophet Daniel said the Son of Man will be given dominion, glory, and an everlasting kingdom, ruling the entire earth (Daniel 7:13-14).

[To learn more about the expression, “*Son of Man*”, see The Bible Says article: “The Son of Man”.](#)

Biblical Text

¹ When *Jesus* had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, ² “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion.”