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Jesus Crucifixion

The

Third, Sixth

and

Ninth Hour

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Jesus Crucifixion. (The Third, Sixth and Ninth Hour).

INTRODUCTION: This study is focused on the timetable of Jesus crucifixion and his death, in the hope it removes any confusion some amongst the global body of Christ may have concerning the 3rd 6th and 9th hours. Before we begin, the first hour of the day must be established, following are the two most common views:

1. The 1st hour of the day is 6am Sunrise and then the 3rd 6th and 9th hours are counted from it.
2. The 1st hour of the day is sunset (6pm) and then the 3rd 6th and 9th hours are counted from it.

The 1st hour cannot be counted from sunset (6pm) (as some believe) for the following reasons, if sunset is taken as the 1st hour and the 3rd 6th and 9th hours are counted from it, then the 3rd hour would be 9pm, the 6th hour would be midnight and the 9th hour would be 3am and it would be already dark, therefore when the Scriptures say, "it went dark" it would have no meaning, added to this, if Jesus died at 3am he would have been on the cross on the Jewish Sabbath Day.

Jesus, his crucifixion, and his death: the following verses show that it was the third hour Jesus was crucified, and that it was the sixth hour when darkness fell over the land, and the ninth hour when he breathed his last breath:

- **Mark 15:25:** And it was the third hour when they crucified him (this is the only mention of the 3rd hour).
- **Mark 15:33-34:** when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" NOW GO TO VERSE ---- ³⁷and Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

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In the following verses Matthew Luke and John state it was the sixth hour Jesus was crucified and darkness fell on the land:

- **Matthew 27:45-46:** from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ---- NOW GO TO VERSE ---- ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.
- **Luke 23:44:** it was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour ---- NOW GO TO VERSE ---- ⁴⁶then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.
- **John 19:14-16:** Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "crucify him!" ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Summary: Jesus, the Crucifixion, and his Death

- The 1st hour was 6am (Sunrise).
- The 3rd hour was 9am (Jesus was given over to be crucified).
- The 6th hour was 12 noon (Jesus was crucified and darkness fell over the land).

- The 9th hour was 3pm (Jesus breathed his last and gave up his life).

From the 3rd hour (9am) Jesus was given over to be crucified and the soldiers began to torture and mock him. Then at the 6th hour (12 noon) Jesus was crucified and there was darkness over all the land for 3 hours and then at the 9th hour (3pm) the Lord breathed his last breath and yielded up his life.

Reconciling Mark with Matthew Luke and John: over the years there has been difficulty in reconciling (Mark 15:25) which records that it was the third hour they crucified Jesus with Matthew Luke and John who all state Jesus was crucified at the sixth hour. To reconcile this difficulty the following two scenarios may make the matter clearer:

1. **Scenario one:** it is not necessary to understand "Mark" as saying that it was precisely nine o'clock, because in regards to time the Jews considered it six o'clock until it was seven o'clock and seven o'clock until it was 8 o'clock etc thus it was the third hour until the fourth hour commenced; it was the ninth hour until it was the tenth, they "included" in the "third" hour the whole time from the third to the fourth. Likewise, the Jews adopted this same principal to their day, each day was divided into four equal parts of three hours each as follows:

- The first began at sunrise (6am).
- The second three hours after began at (9am).
- The third began at mid-day (12 noon).
- The fourth three hours after, and continued till sunset (3pm to 6pm).

Christ having been nailed to the cross a little after mid-day, (John 19:14-16) (John 19:17), and having breathed his last breath about three o'clock, (Mark 15:33), the whole horror of the crucifixion was finished within the space of this third division of the day, which Mark refers to as the third hour.

2. **Scenario two:** Calvary was outside the walls of Jerusalem and a considerable distance from the place where Jesus was tried and condemned. For a man who had been cruelly whipped, tortured beaten and bloody to walk from Jerusalem to Mount Calvary some considerable time would have elapsed, which means Mark may well have been speaking of the time when the process for crucifixion commenced (the beginning of the crucifixion) from the time Jesus was condemned to be murdered and they began the process and preparation of the crucifixion whereas John was referring to the time when Jesus was "actually" nailed to the cross and hanging on it.

This idea can be supported by the fact that Mark later states that darkness covered the land in the sixth hour (Mark 15:33) which is in total agreement with Matthew and Luke (Matt 27:45) (Luke 23:44). It appears, one man is speaking of the time when the process for the execution commenced while the other man is referring to the very "act" of the execution.

Both men are speaking of it in general terms, by saying that a man was executed at such and such a time; the circumstantial variation simply "proves" that there was no collusion or conspiring together in collaborating their stories. Mark may simply have been meaning, "And it was the third hour when they began to crucify him" which harmonises with Matthew, Luke and John and his statement darkness fell over the land in the sixth hour.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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