

Time in the New Testament

Explanation

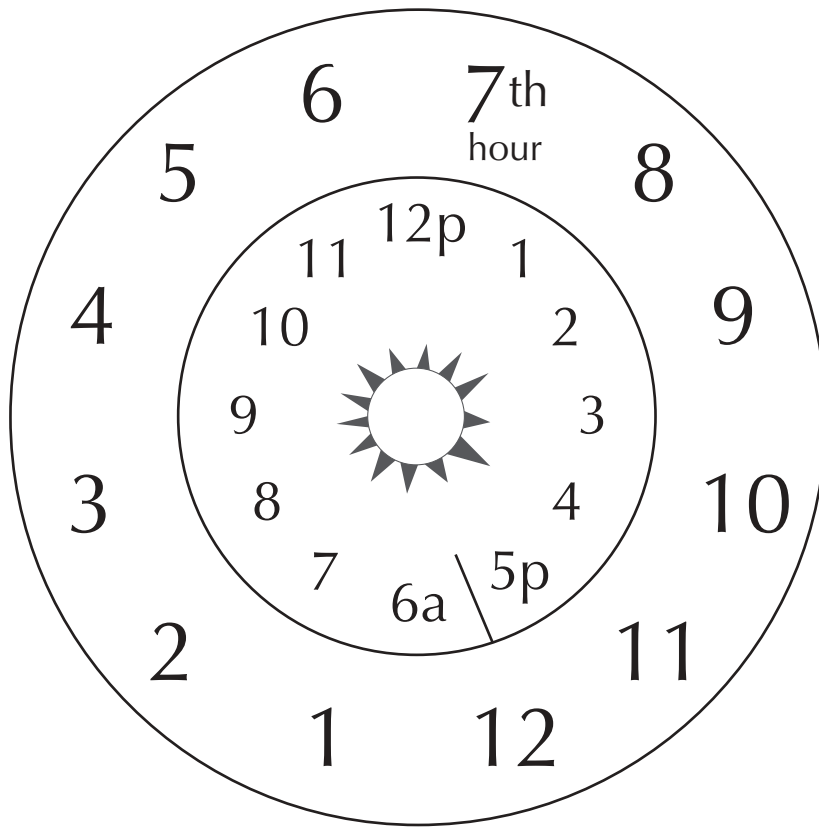
Chart 1-7 helps modern readers understand references to time in the Gospels. The day began in the morning and ended with sundown. The daytime hours are shown at the top of the chart, with the ancient hours on the outside circle and the modern hours on the inside. For example, the first daytime hour corresponded to our hour between 6:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M., the seventh hour to our noon hour, and the day ended with the twelfth hour beginning at our 5:00 A.M. The night was divided into four watches. The second watch went until midnight. The third watch ended with the cock crowing.

Scripture references indicate passages in which these times are mentioned.

Reference

Edward J. Brandt, "Everyday Life in Palestine," *Ensign*, September 1974, 22–24.

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DAYTIME HOURS

Third Hour

Mt 20:3; Mk 15:25

Sixth Hour

Mt 20:5; 27:45;

Mk 15:33; Lk 23:44;

Jn 4:6, 19:14

Seventh Hour

Jn 4:52

Ninth Hour

Mt 20:5; 27:45–56;

Mk 15:33–34;

Lk 23:44

Tenth Hour

Jn 1:39

Eleventh Hour

Mt 20:6, 9

NIGHTTIME WATCHES

First Watch

Mk 13:35

Second Watch (midnight)

Mt 25:6; Lk 11:5

Third Watch (cock crowing)

Mt 26:74; Mk 14:68, 72;

Lk 22:60–61; Jn 18:27

Fourth Watch

Mt 14:25; Mk 6:48

