

JEWISH TIME DIVISIONS IN THE 1ST CENTURY AD

Jesus replied, 'Are there not 12 hours in a day?' John 11:9

12 hour daylight division: The Hours of Prayer for the Old Covenant Church

The sacrificial system was at the heart of the Temple ritual. Public and private offerings were made daily. A public sacrifice was brought each morning and afternoon..”

The Jewish Book of Why, volume I, page 148

The hours are seasonal so the length of the daylight hours varied with the season of the year. The Jewish daytime hours began with dawn and ended with sundown, which began the next day. The Romans began their day with the first hour at midnight and counted 12 hours to high 12 noon and then 12 more hours from noon to the next midnight. We keep Roman time.

SCHEDULE OF THE HOURS OF PRAYER AND THE TEMPLE LITURGICAL SERVICE	
JEWISH TIME	ROMAN TIME
<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST HOUR</p> <p>After the high priest prepares the altar, [Exodus 29:38-42; Leviticus 6:1-6; <i>Mishnah: Tamid</i> 1:2] the first male lamb of the Tamid sacrifice is brought out and tied to the altar at dawn <i>Mishnah: Tamid</i> 3:2-3:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAWN -8AM</p> <p>The Scripture reference for the Tamid sacrifice is Exodus 29:38-42. It is the only sacrifice that requires a male lamb, for other sacrifices [i.e. the Passover] a kid may be sacrificed as well as a lamb.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SECOND HOUR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIRD HOUR</p> <p>The first Tamid lamb is sacrificed [<i>Mishnah: Tamid</i> 3:7; Edersheim, <i>The Temple</i>, chapter 7, p. 108]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8-9AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9-10AM</p> <p>The Temple gates open for the communal “<i>Shacharit</i>” (morning) prayer service [Acts 2:15] at the start of the 3rd hour. Individual morning prayer may be recited until noon [<i>Mishnah</i> 4:1]</p>

FOURTH HOUR	10-11AM
FIFTH HOUR	11-12PM
SIXTH HOUR	NOON -1PM
The second lamb is brought out and tied to the altar at high noon. [<i>Mishnah: Tamid</i> 4:1]	The second Tamid lamb is given a drink from a gold cup and is tied to the altar until the time of sacrifice.
SEVENTH HOUR	1-2PM
EIGHTH HOUR	2-3PM
NINTH HOUR The second Tamid lamb is sacrificed [<i>Antiquities of the Jews</i> 14.4.3 (14:65); Philo <i>Special Laws</i> I, XXXV (169)]	3-4PM 3PM is the second hour of prayer [Acts 3:1; 10:9] “ <i>Minchah</i> ” (gift-offering); also called the hour of confession.
TENTH HOUR	4-5PM
ELEVENTH HOUR	5-6PM
TWELVETH HOUR	6PM-SUNDOWN

Notice that according to St. Mark, Jesus went to the cross at the third hour, which in Jewish time corresponds to our 9AM [Mark 15:25], and according to the Gospel accounts He gave up His life at the ninth hour, our 3PM.

The Jewish day began at sundown. The daytime was divided into 12 seasonal hours, but the day division of hours was focused on the schedule of the Tamid sacrifice.

“Ma’ariv” or evening prayer began at sundown [hours of prayer see *Mishnah Berakhot*]. According to the *Jewish Book of Why*, volume I the *Ma’ariv* is a later addition, instituted after the destruction of the Temple in 70AD. The Jewish Talmud records the late addition of the Ma’ariv service which is not connected with the sacrificial system. [*Jewish Book of Why, volume I, page 148*].

12 hour night time division (Roman night watch division was adopted after Roman occupation began in 63BC)

THE NIGHT WATACH IN THE 1ST CENTURY AD	
Sundown to 9PM	First watch
9PM to midnight	Second watch
Midnight to 3AM	Third watch*
3AM to sun rise	Fourth watch

*A trumpet call, known as the “cockcrow” signaled the end of the 3rd and beginning of the 4th watch.

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