

Stark Road Bi-monthly Bible Reading

March 17, 2001

The Betrayal and Death of Christ -

Introduction: In tracing the events leading up to the death of the Lord Jesus, and remembering how the gospels clearly point to two distinct periods of three hours each in which the Lord Jesus was on the cross, it should not surprise us that the scriptures seem to indicate that the Lord moved according to a Divine timetable punctuated by three hour periods. The following outline is suggesting such a timetable, and does not claim to be beyond dispute, but is given to help us remember the sequence of events leading up to the crucifixion. It also is an impressive reminder of how well the death of our Lord Jesus Christ was documented.

Mark 13:35

35 *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

The Four Watches in the Roman Army

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1, The evening watch | from 6:00 to 9:00pm |
| 2, The midnight watch | from 9:00 to 12:00 midnight |
| 3, The cockcrowing watch | from 12:00 to 3:00am |
| 4, The morning watch | from 3:00 to 6:00am |

The Keeping of the last passover - The Evening Watch

Possibly from 6:00 to 9:00pm - The beginning of the first watch, and the beginning of the Jewish day are coincident.- 6:00pm

Luke 22:14

14 *And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.*

Matt 26:20

20 *Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.*

Mark 14:17

17 *And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.*

The Sequence of Events

- 1, The Passover Feast kept
- 2, Judas leaves to betray the Lord
- 3, The Lord's Supper instituted.

Gethsemane - The Midnight Watch

Possibly from 9:00 to 12:00 midnight

Matt 26:40

40 *And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*

42 *He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*

44 *And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.*

Note: A period of three hours is suggested as the Lord referred to the first prayer being one hour in length, and then the second and third being the same as the first.

The Betrayal - The Cockcrowing Watch

Possibly between 12:00midnight and 3:00am

Mark 14:42-43

42 *Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.*

43 *And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.*

John 18:3

3 *Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.*

Note: The Lord seemed eager to leave the garden before Judas came, and the fact that they came with lanterns and torches agrees with the midnight hour time frame.

The Progression of the Lord's Disclosure of the Betrayal

Mark 8:31 - After Peter's Confession

31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Matt 17:22-23 - After the Transfiguration. - adding the detail of the betrayal

22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:

23 And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Matt 20:18-19 - adding the details of the crucifixion by the Gentiles

18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

John 13:21 - After the Last Passover. Adding the detail of betrayal by a disciple

21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Note: John, the apostle of the heart, tells us in John 13:18-30 of the heart break of the Lord Jesus caused by the betrayal of Judas.

The sequence of events:

- 1, The discovery of His Person, "I AM", and the subsequent prostration on the ground of the band of men and officers from the chief priests and pharisees.
- 2, The care of the Lord for His disciples.
- 3, The action of Peter - cutting off the right ear of the high priest's servant
- 4, The disciples flee.
- 5, The Lord brought to the house of Caiaphas, where the scribes and elders were assembled.
- 6, The Denial of Peter
 - a, The accusations of the false witnesses
 - b, The judgment of the high priest. 'He is guilty of death' (Matt 26:66)
 - c, The spitting, buffeting, blindfolding and mocking in the palace of the high priest.
 - d, The denial of Peter, and the cock crowing. (John 18:27)
 - e, the Lord turned and looked upon Peter. (Luke 22:61)

Gabbatha - The Morning Watch

Possibly between 3:00am and 6:00am

Sequence of events:

- 1, They delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. (Matt 27:1)
- 2, Judas hanged himself. (Matt 27:5)
- 3, The proposal to set free a prisoner, and the choice for Barabbas.
- 4, The intercession of Pilate's wife. -Sleepless because of the dream
- 5, The intensive examination by Pilate concerning his kingship and kingdom. (John 18)
- 6, The examination and mocking by Herod. Luke 23:7-12
- 7, The compromising scourging, the crown of thorns, the robe
- 8, The specific time given:

John 19:14

14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour (6:00am): and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

Note: John gives Roman time since he wrote much later, and principally to gentiles

9, Pilate delivered Him to be crucified.

The Road to Calvary - Golgotha

Possibly from 6:00am to 9:00am

John 19:17

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

The sequence of events:

- 1, The voluntary bearing of His cross
- 2, The compelling of Simon to 'bear it after Jesus' (Luke 23:26)

The Cross - The First Three Hours

Possibly from 9:00am to 12:00 noon

Mark 15:25

25 *And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.*

The Seven Sayings of the Lord on the Cross

1, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" Luke 23:34

2, "Verily... Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43

3, "Woman, behold thy Son" John 19:26

"Behold thy mother" John 19:27

The Cross - The Second Three Hours

Possibly from 12:00 noon to 3:00pm

Matt 27:45

45 *Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.*

4, "My God... Why hast Thou forsaken me" Matt 27:46, Mark 15:34

5, "I thirst" John 19:28

6, "It is finished" John 19:30

7, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit" Luke 23:46

The Tomb - The Last Three Hours

Possibly before 6:00pm

Mark 15:42-43

42 *And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,*

43 *Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.*

46 *And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.*

The Death of Christ in Relation to God the Father of the Lord Jesus

An expression of the Will of God

Acts 2:23

23 *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

Acts 4:27-28

27 *For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,*

28 *For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.*

An expression of the Wisdom of God

1 Cor 1:24

24 *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

1 Cor 1:30

30 *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

An expression of the Love of God

1 Jn 4:9

9 *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

1 Jn 4:10

10 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

The Death of Christ in Relation to the Lord Himself.

It was Voluntary

Typified by the Hebrew Servant - Exodus 21:2-6

An Expression of His Love

Eph 5:25

25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

Eph 5:2

2 *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

Gal 2:20

20 *..... the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

It was Vicarious

Typified by the Scapegoat - Leviticus 16

1 Jn 3:5

5 *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

Heb 9:26

26 *For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

2 Cor 5:14

14 *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

1 Pet 3:18

18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

It was Victorious

Typified by David - 1 Samuel 17

1 Jn 3:8

8 *..... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

Heb 2:14-15

14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

15 *And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

It was a Validation of all God's Promises and Purposes

It provided the legal basis for all the great Gospel Truths such as:

Redemption:

Justification:
Propitiation:
Reconciliation