

The Passion Week

Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday

Lesson One

INTRODUCTION

In these lessons we will study the events from
Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday as recorded in:

Matthew chapters 21-27

Mark chapters 11-15

Luke chapters 19-23

John chapters 12-19

The word *passion* can mean “a strong and barely controllable emotion.”

It can also refer to the suffering and death of Christ.

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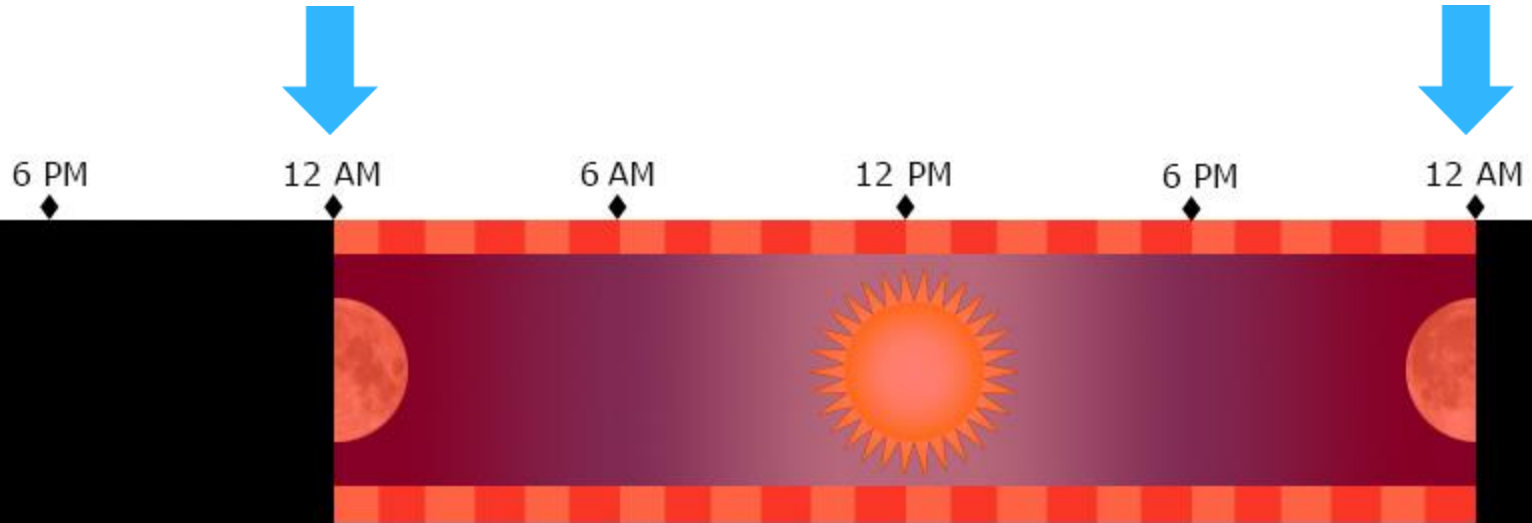
Acts 1:3

To whom also he shewed himself alive **after his passion** by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

In studying the events of the Passion Week of Christ,
we begin by learning how days were measured in biblical times.



Each day on earth lasts 24 hours. But when do we start counting?



In modern times, a new calendar day begins at **midnight** or 12:00 AM.



6 PM



12 AM

6 AM

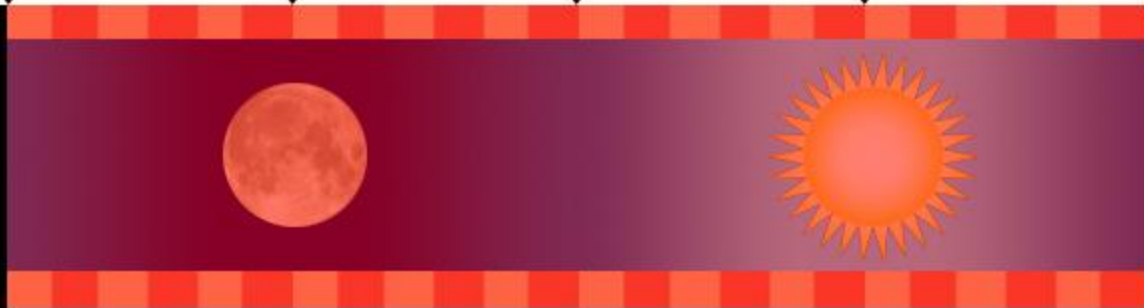
12 PM



6 PM



12 AM



But in the Bible, the day began at **sunset** – about 6 hours earlier.

6 PM

12 AM

6 PM

12 AM

Day 6

SABBATH DAY

Day 1

Friday

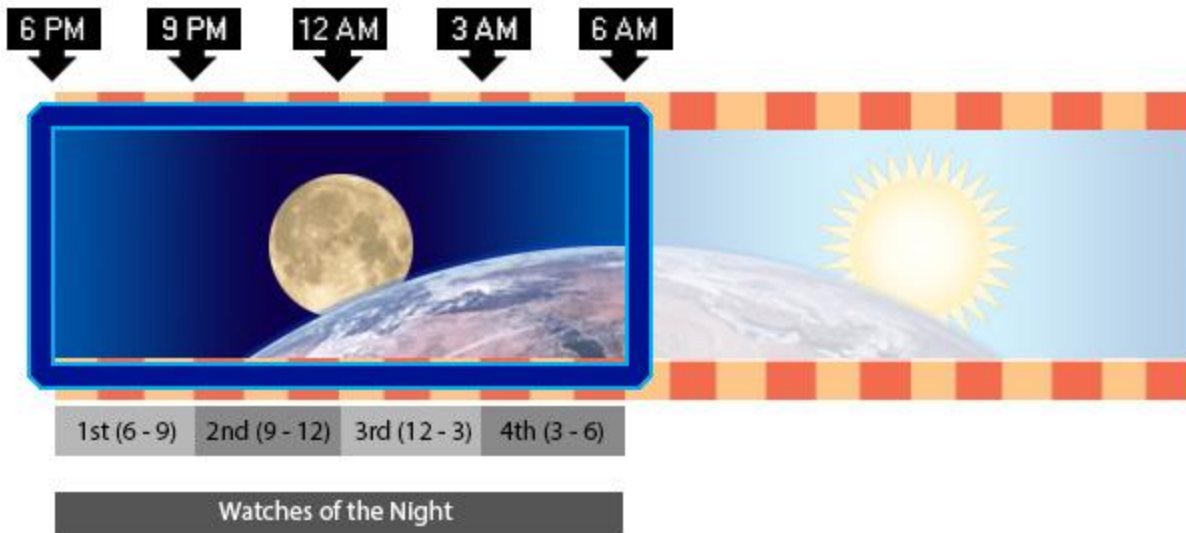
SATURDAY

Sunday

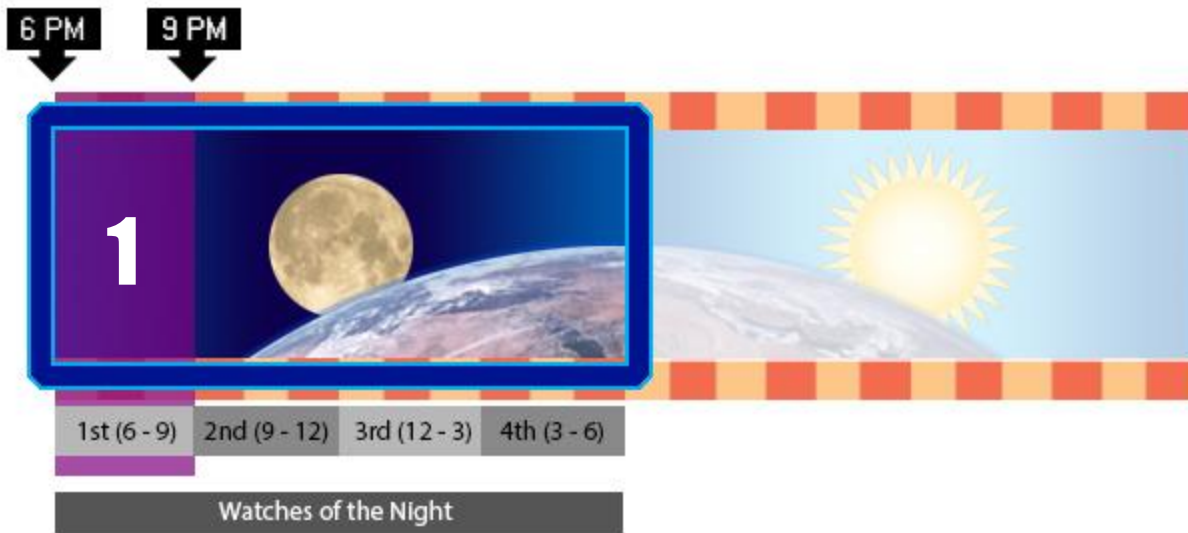
The 7th day of the week, the Sabbath, was from Friday evening to Saturday evening.



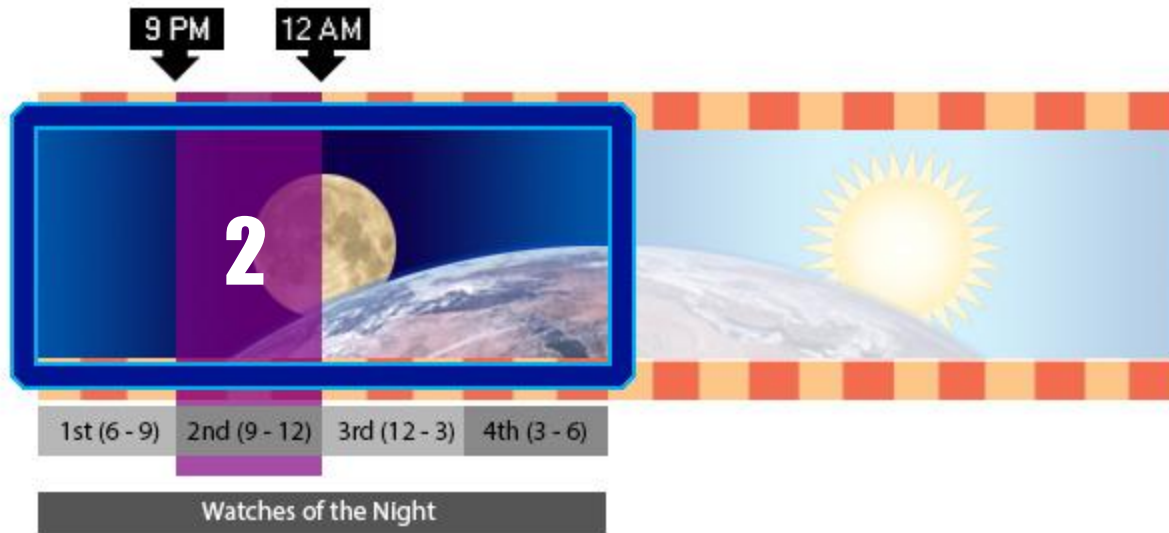
In the Bible, each 24-hour period was divided into 'watches of the night' and 'hours of the day'.



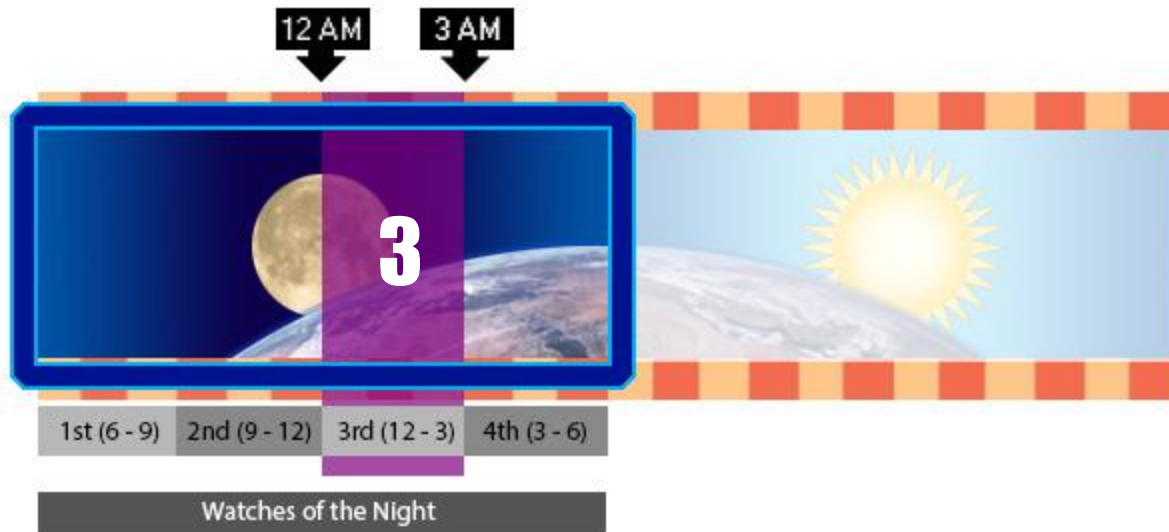
The time from sunset to sunrise was divided into four “watches.”
Each watch was about three hours long.



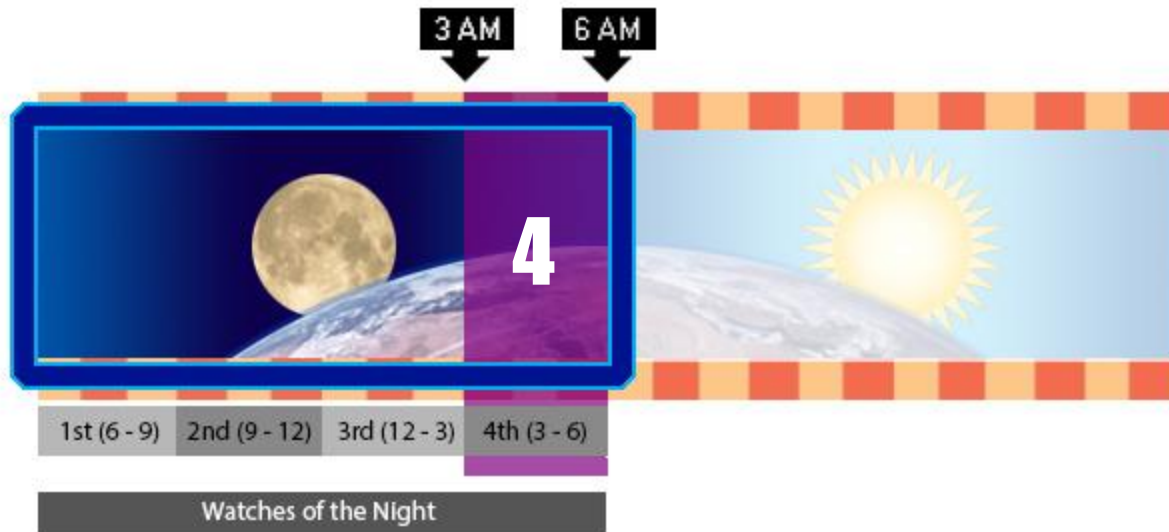
The first watch was from about 6pm to 9pm.



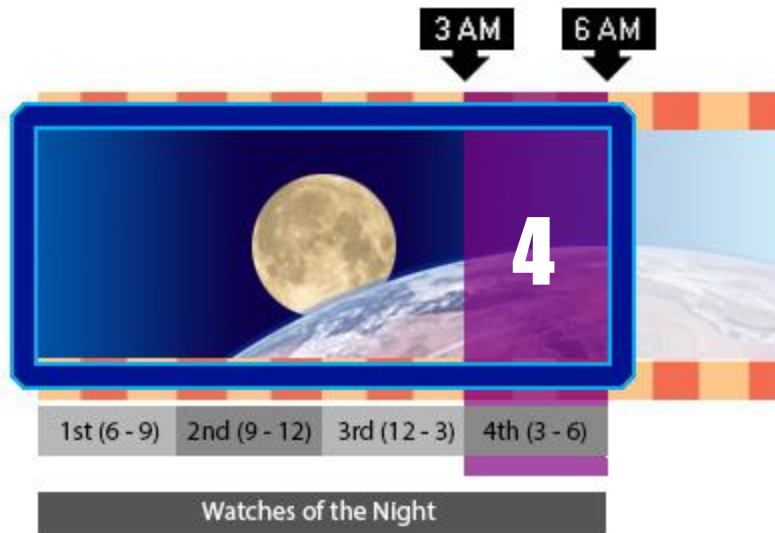
The second was from 9pm to midnight.



The third was from midnight to 3am.

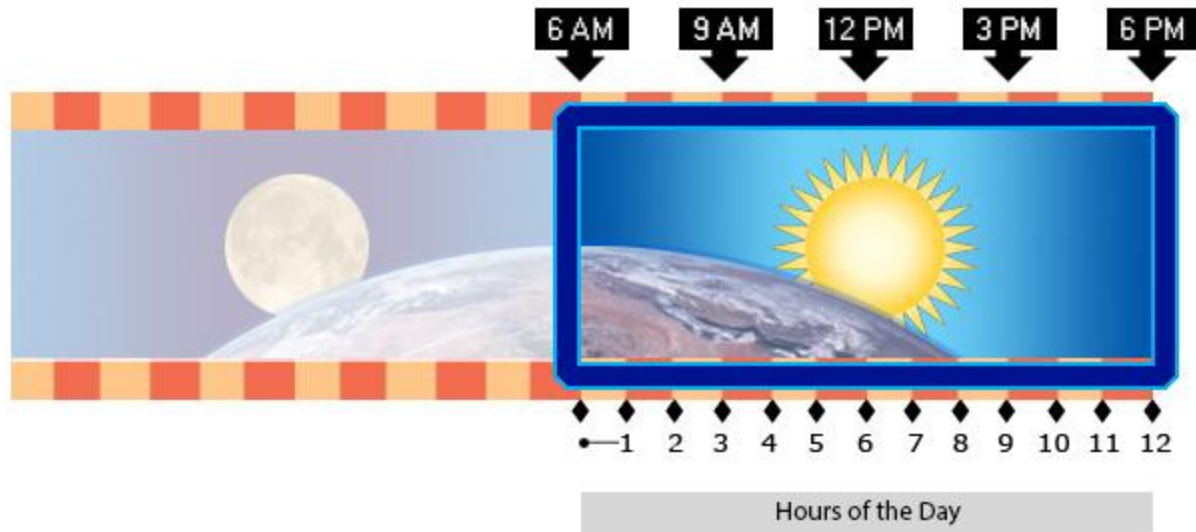


The fourth watch was from 3am to 6am.

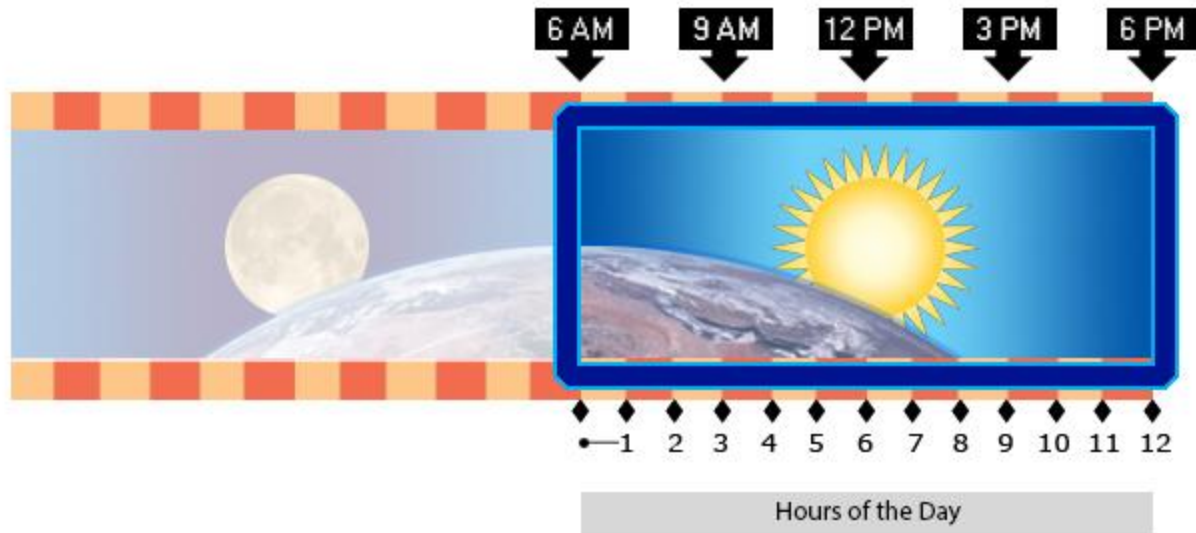


Matthew 14:25

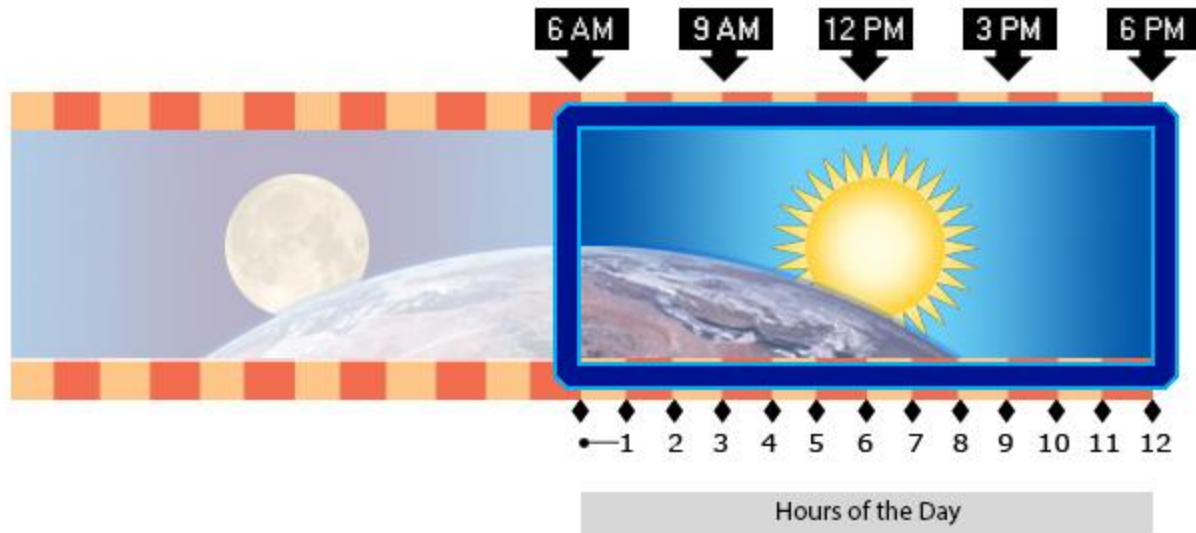
And in **the fourth watch of the night** Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.



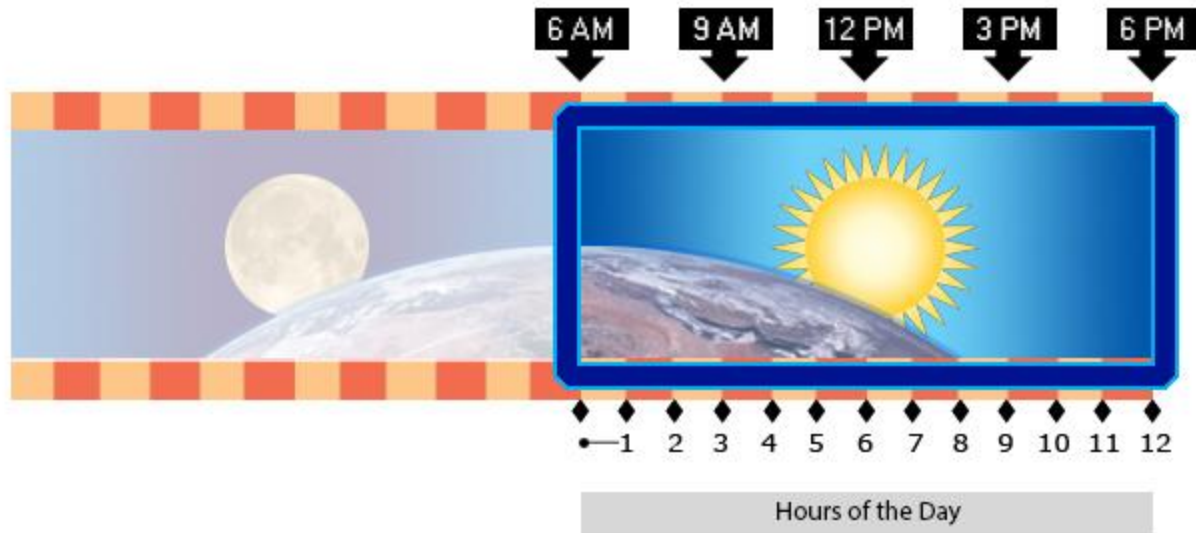
The daytime was divided into 12 hours starting at sunrise.



The daytime was divided into 12 hours starting at sunrise.
“Jesus answered, **Are there not twelve hours in the day?**” (John 11:9a)



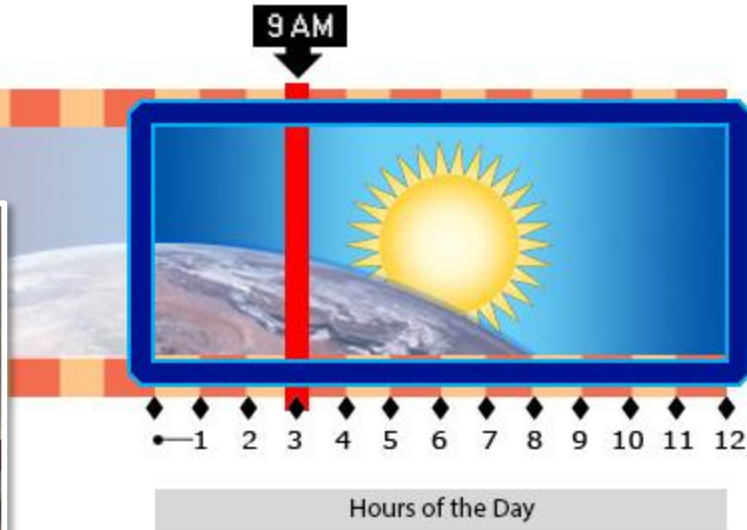
These hours were not precisely 60 minutes long.
The mechanical clock was not invented until the early 14th century.



The first hour of the day was counted from about 6 AM to 7 AM.
The second hour was from about 7 AM to 8 AM, and so forth.

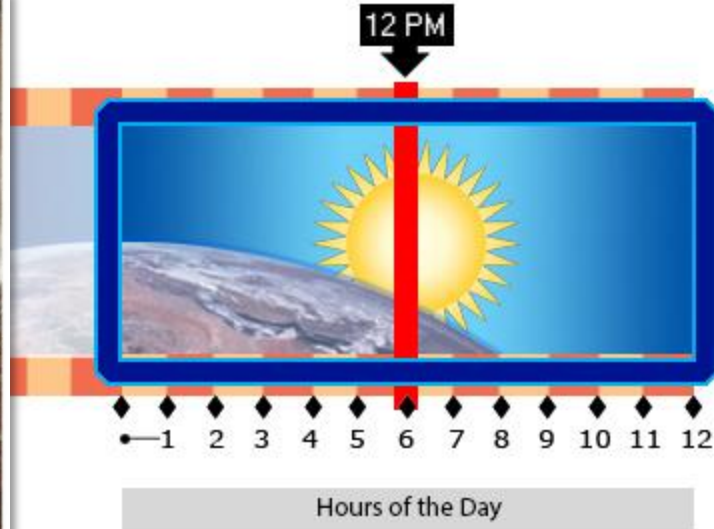
Acts 2:15

[Peter said] For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the **third hour** of the day.



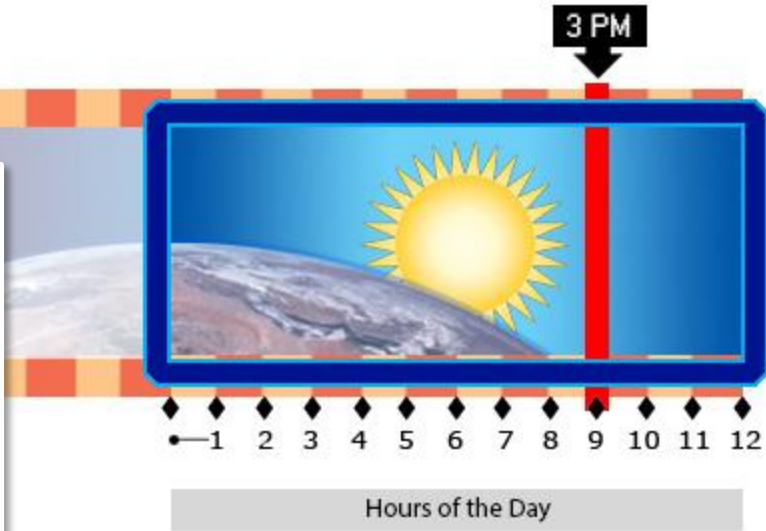
Acts 10:9b

Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about **the sixth hour** ...



Acts 10:3

He [Cornelius] saw in a vision evidently about **the ninth hour** of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

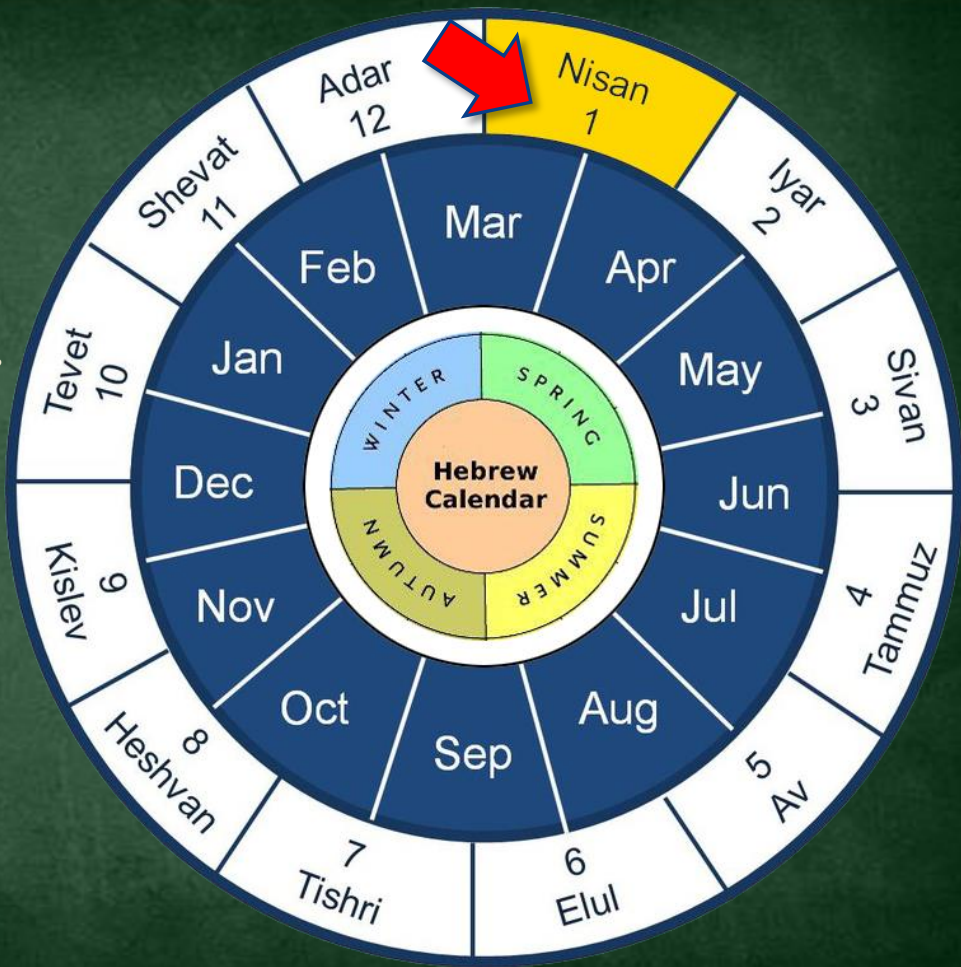


The Annual Calendar

The new year began in Spring.
This was the time of the Passover feasts.

Deuteronomy 16:1

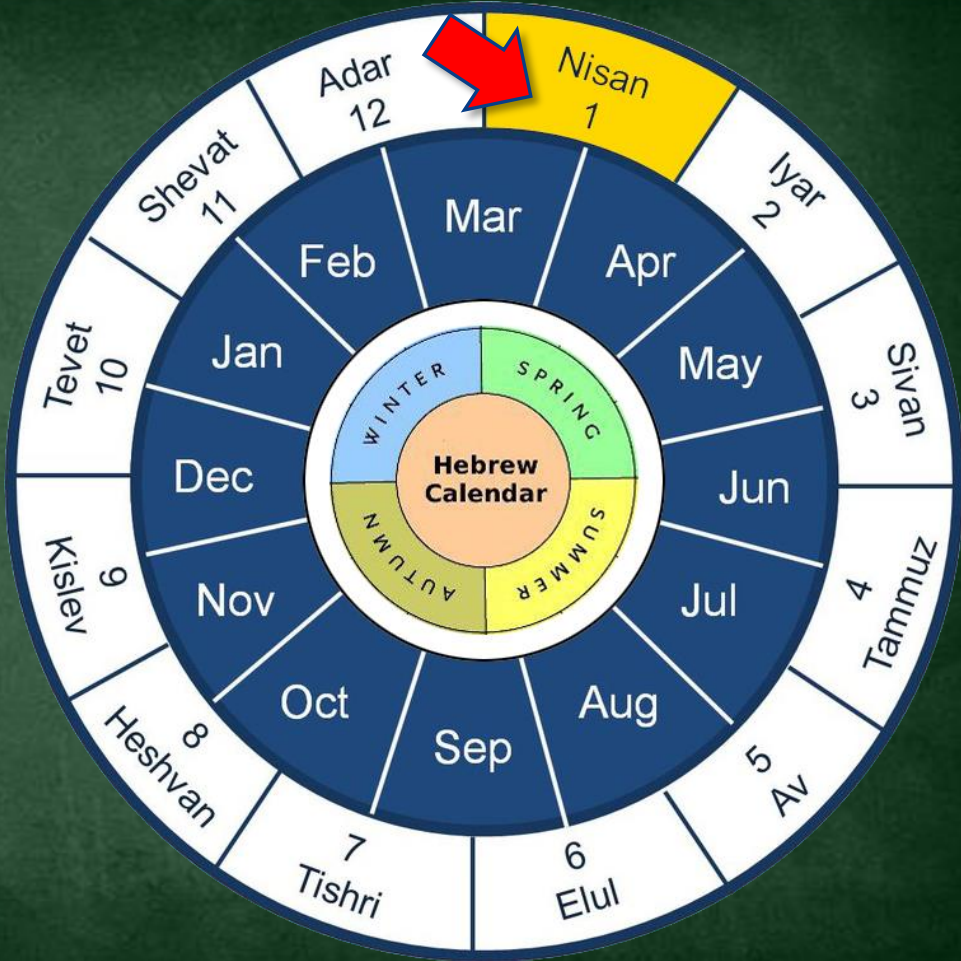
Observe the month of **Abib**, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.



The Annual Calendar

The name *Abib* was changed to *Nisan* after the Babylonian captivity.

Esther 3:7
In the first month,
that is, the month **Nisan**,
in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus,
they cast Pur, that is, the lot ...



1ST DAY
NISAN 10

2ND DAY
NISAN 11

3RD DAY
NISAN 12

4TH DAY
NISAN 13

PASSOVER

6TH DAY
NISAN 15

7TH DAY
NISAN 16

1ST DAY
NISAN 17



In the evening of Nisan 14,
the passover feast was eaten.

Leviticus 23:5

In the fourteenth *day* of the first
month at even is the LORD'S
passover.



1ST DAY
NISAN 10

2ND DAY
NISAN 11

3RD DAY
NISAN 12

4TH DAY
NISAN 13

5TH DAY
NISAN 14

UNLEAVENED
BREAD

7TH DAY
NISAN 16

1ST DAY
NISAN 17

The Feast of Unleavened Bread began the following evening.

Leviticus 23:6

And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.



1ST DAY
NISAN 10

2ND DAY
NISAN 11

3RD DAY
NISAN 12

4TH DAY
NISAN 13

5TH DAY
NISAN 14

6TH DAY
NISAN 15

7TH DAY
NISAN 16

FIRSTFRUITS



On the first day after the weekly Sabbath, the Feast of Firstfruits was celebrated.

Leviticus 23:10b, 11b

¹⁰ ... then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

¹¹ ... on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.



| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|-------------|
| 1ST DAY NISAN 10 | 2ND DAY NISAN 11 | 3RD DAY NISAN 12 | 4TH DAY NISAN 13 | PASSOVER | UNLEAVENED BREAD | SABBATH | FIRSTFRUITS |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |



These special days correspond to our Wednesday evening to Sunday evening.

| | | | | | | | |
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With this information settled, we are now ready to study the most important week in man's history.

1ST DAY
NISAN 10

2ND DAY
NISAN 11

3RD DAY
NISAN 12

4TH DAY
NISAN 13

5TH DAY
NISAN 14

6TH DAY
NISAN 15

7TH DAY
NISAN 16

1ST DAY
NISAN 17

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



UP NEXT:

Palm Sunday and the cleansing of the temple

What did you learn?

1. In biblical times, the day began and ended at:
 - (a) sunrise
 - (b) sunset
 - (c) midnight

b) sunset

What did you learn?

2. To our way of thinking,
the Sabbath Day began
 - (a) Friday at sunset
 - (b) Saturday at sunset
 - (c) Sunday at sunrise

a) Friday at sunset

What did you learn?

3. The night was divided into four _____, each one lasting about _____ hours.

Four watches
Three hours

What did you learn?

4. According to Matthew 14:25, Jesus walked on water in the _____ watch of the night, between _____ and _____ AM.

“And in **the fourth watch** of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.”

Between 3AM and 6AM

What did you learn?

5. In John 11:9, Jesus said there were ____ hours in the day.

“Jesus answered, Are there not **twelve hours** in the day?”

What did you learn?

6. The first hour of the day was
from about ___ to ___.

6AM to 7AM

What did you learn?

7. The first month of the Hebrew calendar was first called _____, but after the Babylon captivity, the name was changed to _____.

Abib, Nisan

What did you learn?

8. According to Leviticus 23:5,
the Passover was on the ____
day of the first month.

“In the **fourteenth** day of the
first month at even is the
LORD'S passover.”

What did you learn?

9. According to Leviticus 23:6,
the Feast of _____ began
the next day.

“And on the fifteenth day of
the same month is **the feast of
unleavened bread** unto the
LORD: seven days ye must eat
unleavened bread.”

What did you learn?

10. According to Leviticus 23:10-11, on the day after the weekly Sabbath, the Feast of _____ was celebrated.

¹⁰ ... When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the **firstfruits** of your harvest unto the priest:

¹¹ And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.



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