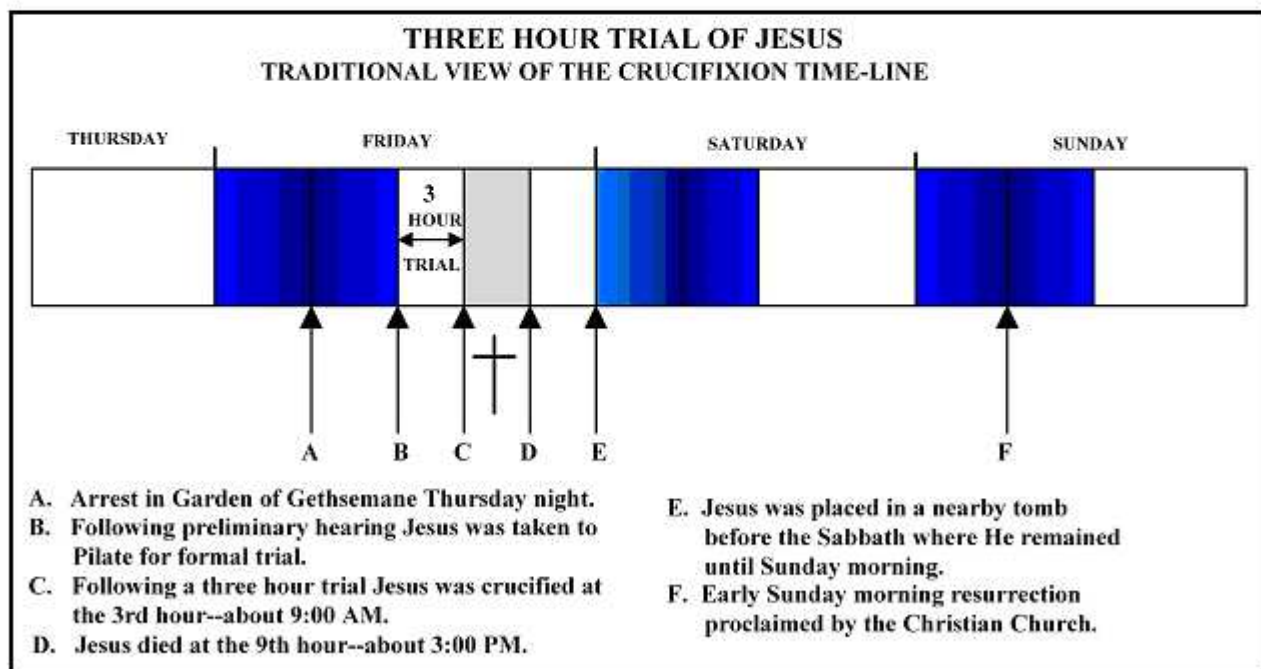


The Trial and the Elapsed Time of Trial Events

Chapter 5

The following is a graphic depiction of the traditional view of the time line occurring in the trial of Jesus:



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Fifty-one separate transaction events have been identified in the trial of Jesus. The above illustration of the Thursday and Friday trial events time line summarizes the identified transaction information: Tradition has allocated three hours, from B to C in the illustration, for the 51 trial transactions to have occurred. The three hours are specified as being from 6:00 AM (appearance before Pilate) in the morning until the time of the crucifixion at approximately 9:00 AM.

In Chapter 4 it was observed that sociological naturalism suggests that the time involved in the 51 events of the trial should be reconsidered. The assumption of a three-hour trial was questioned because an accounting of transaction (events) time spanned suggests a longer trial than the three-hours assigned by tradition.

The author has utilized the time/events matrix that follows as a survey to demonstrate a reasonable elapsed time estimate of these individual trial events. Participants completing this survey responded intuitively and completed the survey in an allocated completion time. Total estimated trial times were recorded and averaged. Both men and women of lay status, as well as trained Christian clergy, participated. Total trial time estimates ranged from a high of 12 hours 15 minutes to a low of 5 hours 45 minutes. The average trial time estimate of all respondents was 9 hours.

The following identification of each of the 51 events of the trial lists each recorded event. In the case of transitions from one trial location to another, estimates have been calculated based on walking times at an average walking rate utilizing a measurement of 27 inches per stride. These estimated transition times have been entered into the matrix. The trial event itemization is intended to demonstrate the reasonability of an extended trial time. It is suggested that the reader complete a personal estimation of the total trial time using the following events matrix as a guide.

Event #	Gospel Reference	Event Description	Elapsed Time Estimate
Trial Before the Jewish Sanhedrin			
1)	Luke 22:66	"When the day ¹ came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council,' and they said, 'If you are the Christ, tell us.'	23-25 Min.
	Note:	Some credence can be claimed for the argument that the Jewish leaders took Jesus from the house of Caiaphas, where a preliminary nighttime interrogation had been completed, to their regular meeting hall near the temple mount, prior to their taking Him to Pilate. (It is possible that the Sanhedrin conducted the trial in the temple complex at the Chamber of Hewn Stone although some records indicate they had left this meeting location for another in 30 AD.) According to the Jewish Encyclopedia the "day" was considered to have begun from ninety minutes to fifty-eight and one-half minutes before sunrise (See footnote #1). The transit of Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the council chamber would probably have occurred during this time. The house of Caiaphas was approximately 3,200 feet from the regular meeting hall and would translate into approximately 1,420 steps at a 27-inch stride. A relatively slow pace of 55-60 steps per minute would require about 23-25 minutes of transit time.	
Jesus is Delivered to Pilate			
2)	Matthew 27:1-2	"When morning came...they bound him and led him away and delivered him to Pilate the governor."	_____

Mark 15:1	"And as soon as it was morning the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate."	_____
Luke 23:1	"Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pilate."	_____
John 18:28	"Then they led Jesus from the house ³ of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early."	
Note:	Herod's Palace ⁴ was located approximately 1,800 feet from the house of Caiaphas and would require a transit time of about 8-10 minutes, depending upon the rate at which the "whole company" moved. A relatively slow transit rate would be posited for the "whole company." If Jesus were taken from the regular Sanhedrin meeting hall to Herod's palace, a distance of approximately 3,400 feet, a transit time of about 25-30 minutes would be involved. ⁵	8-30 Min.
First Appearance Before Pilate		
3) John 18:28-29	Pilate goes out to meet Jesus because the Jews would not go into the Praetorium.	_____

4)	John 18:29-31 Luke 23:2-3 Mark 15:3	And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute (taxes) to Caesar," saying that he himself is Christ a king." ⁷ (Mark's gospel indicates that Jesus was accused of "many things" in this meeting.)	_____
	Note:	How much time was consumed in accusing Jesus of "many things" before Pilate, a Regional Governor? Half an hour, one hour? How many accusations are "many"—two, five, ten, twenty, or more?	
5)	John 18:33-38	Pilate enters the Praetorium and calls Jesus for a private interrogation. A four-step dialog follows as related in John 18:33-38. (Pilate asks Jesus if He is the King of the Jews.)	_____
6)	John 18:38	Pilate leaves the Praetorium. He goes out to the Jews (the chief priests and the multitudes) and announces: "I find no crime in him." ⁸	_____
		[Second of five recorded times that Pilate leaves the Praetorium during the trial.]	
7)	Luke 23:5	But they (the Jews) were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."	_____

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as a sample of this
chapter.**

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