

Mark 15:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

It was the third hour, and they crucified him (ἦν ὥρα τρίτη καὶ ἐσταύρωσαν αὐτόν)—Mark's precise time notation: the *hōra tritē* (ὥρα τρίτη, third hour) equals 9:00 AM by Jewish timekeeping (counting from sunrise ~6 AM). The aorist tense of *stauroō* (σταυρόω, crucify) marks the decisive, completed action: 'they crucified' (past definite). This stark six-word sentence in Greek captures the moment heaven's King was nailed to wood.

The timing is theologically significant: 9 AM was the hour of the morning tamid sacrifice in the Temple, when the first lamb was offered (Exodus 29:38-39). As priests slaughtered the lamb, soldiers nailed the Lamb of God to the cross. The synchronicity is divine: Jesus is both High Priest and sacrifice. The apparent discrepancy with John 19:14 ('sixth hour') likely reflects different time-reckoning systems (Roman vs. Jewish) or John's theological emphasis on Jesus as the Passover Lamb slaughtered at preparation-time.

Historical Context

Crucifixion typically began at dawn to maximize public exposure and the victim's suffering duration. The 'third hour' (9 AM) timing meant Jesus would hang for six hours before death (Mark 15:34 notes the ninth hour, 3 PM). Roman crucifixion involved nailing or binding victims to crossbeams; nails through wrists (not palms, which couldn't support body weight) and ankles. Death came through asphyxiation as the victim weakened and could no longer push up to breathe.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the synchronicity of Jesus' crucifixion with the morning sacrifice deepen your understanding of atonement?
2. What does Jesus enduring six hours of crucifixion agony reveal about the price of your redemption?
3. In what ways should the historical reality of Christ's physical suffering inform your worship and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

ἦν	δὲ	ὥρα	τρίτη	καὶ	ἐσταύρωσαν	αὐτόν
it was	And	hour	the third	and	they crucified	him
G2258	G1161	G5610	G5154	G2532	G4717	G846

Additional Cross-References

Mark 15:33 (Parallel theme): And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

John 19:14 (Parallel theme): And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

Acts 2:15 (Parallel theme): For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

Matthew 27:45 (Parallel theme): Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Luke 23:44 (Parallel theme): And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

