

Doctrine of the Hour

1. The term "hour" is used in Scripture as a measurement of time.
2. There are two kinds of hours, the astronomical or equinoctial hour, and the natural hour.
3. The astronomical or equinoctial hour, refers to the twenty-fourth part of a civil day, which, although "known to astronomers, was not used in the affairs of common life till towards the end of the 4th century of the Christian era" (Smith, *Dictionary of Classical Antiquity*).
4. The natural hour refers to the twelfth part of the natural day, or of the time between sunrise and sunset. These are the hours meant in the New Testament (Josephus, Ant.14, 4, 3),
 - *John 11:9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.*
 - *Acts 5:7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.*
5. For the purposes of prayer, the old division of the day into four portions was continued in the Temple service.
 - *Acts 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour (9 AM) of the day.*
 - *Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour (3:00 PM).*
 - *Acts 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour (12 noon):*
6. The stated periods of prayer were the third, sixth, and ninth hours of the day (Josephus, Ant. 4, 4, 3).

The Term "Hour" used with Reference to a Sixty Minute Period

- *Daniel 3:6 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*
- *Daniel 3:15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?*

- *Daniel 4:19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.*
- *Daniel 4:33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.*
- *Daniel 5:5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.*
- *Matthew 20:12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.*

A Specific Hour of Healing

- The healing of a servant. *Matthew 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*
- The personal healing of a woman with an issue of blood. *Matthew 9:22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.*
- The healing of a daughter. *Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*
- The healing of a child from demonic possession. *Matthew 17:18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.*
- The healing of many individuals. *Luke 7:21 And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.*

Other Specific Hours

- A specific hour for the Last Supper. *Luke 22:14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.*
- A specific hour of betrayal. *Matthew 26:45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.*

- A specific hour of arrest. *Matthew 26:55 In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.*
- A specific hour of praise. *Luke 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.*
- A specific hour of hatred and fixed determination. *Luke 20:19 And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them.*
- A specific hour of denial. *Luke 22:59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen. 60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.*
- A specific hour of testifying of the resurrected Christ. *Luke 24:33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, 34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.*
- A specific hour of demonic deliverance. *Acts 16:18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*
- A specific hour for showing mercy. *Acts 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*
- A specific hour for receiving sight. *Acts 22:13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.*

Hour used with Reference to an Indeterminate Period of Time

- A time of betrayal, arrest and crucifixion. *John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.*
- A time of persecution. *Matthew 10:19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.*

- A time of returning. *Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Matthew 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Matthew 24:50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*
- A time of passion and suffering. *Mark 14:35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.*
- A time of prayer. *Matthew 26:40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*
- A time of worship. *John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*
- A time of suffering. *John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come. John 8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.*
- A time of spiritual resurrection of the soul (salvation), the first resurrection. *John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*
- A time of a general resurrection from the grave. *John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,*
- A time of personal glorification. *John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:*
- A time of personal anguish. *John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*
- A time of preparing for departure. *John 13:1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*
- A time of travailing in childbirth. *John 16:21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.*

- A time of being left alone. *John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.*
- A time for personal suffering for Christ. *1 Corinthians 4:11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place;*
- A time for a defiled conscience. *1 Corinthians 8:7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.*
- A time of fearful uncertainty. *1 Corinthians 15:30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?*
- A time for steadfast faithfulness to the gospel. *Galatians 2:5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*
- A time for divine discipline. *Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*
- A time of temptation. *Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation [testing], which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*
- A time of divine judgment. *Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*
- A time of pseudo power. *Revelation 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*
- A time of impending doom. *Revelation 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come.*
- A time of sudden destruction. *Revelation 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. Revelation 18:17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,*

- A time of great sorrow. *Revelation 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! For in one hour is she made desolate.*

The Term “Hour” used with Reference to a Specific Time of the Day

- *John 1:39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth (4 PM) hour.*
- *John 4:6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour (12 noon).*
- *John 4:52 Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour (1 PM) the fever left him. 53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.*
- *Matthew 20:3 And he went out about the third hour (9 AM), and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,*
- *Matthew 20:5 Again he went out about the sixth (12 AM) and ninth hour (3 PM), and did likewise.*
- *Matthew 20:6 And about the eleventh hour (5 PM) he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?*
- *Matthew 20:9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour (5 PM), they received every man a penny.*
- *John 19:14 And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour (12 noon): and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!*
- *Mark 15:25 And it was the third hour (9 AM), and they crucified him.*
- *Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour (12 noon) there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour (3:00 PM).*
- *Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour (3:00 PM) Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*
- *Acts 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour (9:00 AM) of the day.*

- *Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour (3:00 PM).*
- *Acts 10:3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour (3:00 PM) of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.*
- *Acts 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour (12 noon):*
- *Acts 10:30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour (3:00 PM) I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,*
- *Acts 23:23 And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour (9 PM) of the night;*