

# Are You Building on the Sure Foundation?

“Yourselves also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house...” (1 Peter 2:5). When building a structure, the first thing that is laid down is the foundation. The foundation is the most important part of a structure because if the foundation isn’t sound, then the entire structure will be compromised.

“Therefore thus says the LORD GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried [976, *tested, examined*] stone, a precious [3368, *valuable*] corner [6438, *a turning, a chief*] stone, a sure [3245, *firm, established*] foundation...Judgment will I lay to the line [6957, *a measuring cord, metaph. rule, law*], and righteousness to the plummet [4949, *plumb line*]...” (Isaiah 28:16, 17). This is the foundation upon which we must build our spiritual house.

The hours of the crucifixion form a perfect cornerstone, thus forming the sure foundation upon which we are to build. This foundation was laid late on the afternoon of the fourteenth, when Jesus was laid “...in a sepulcher which was hewn out of a rock...” (Mark 15:22). It is an absolute truth that you cannot build on a foundation before it is laid, and that presents a problem for a Passover ceremony that is held early on the fourteenth, long before Jesus was laid in the tomb late on the fourteenth.

In Jesus’ day, Hebraic time was kept according to the position of the sun. The day was divided into twelve equal hours from sunrise to sunset (fig. 1). Jesus asked, “Are there not twelve hours in the day?” (John 11:9). The parable of the laborers in the vineyard is another example of twelve hours from dawn to sunset (Matthew 20:1-8).

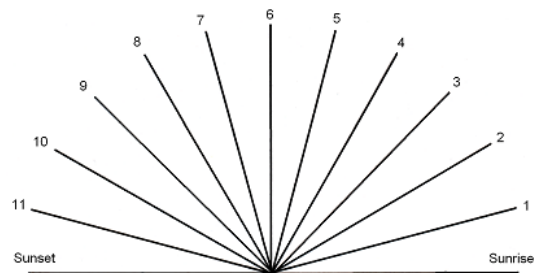


Figure 1

The crucifixion began at the third hour. “And it was the third hour and they crucified Him” (Mark 15:25). Jesus died at the ninth hour. “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice....Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost [4151, *breath, spirit*]” (Matthew 27:46, 50).

The third hour is the midpoint between sunrise and the zenith of the sun (the 6<sup>th</sup> hour). The ninth hour is the midpoint between the zenith of the sun and sunset. The third and ninth hours are each 45° from the horizon, and thus they form a 90° angle at their vertex (fig. 2). This is the line of “judgment” on the cornerstone. The number three in scripture represents

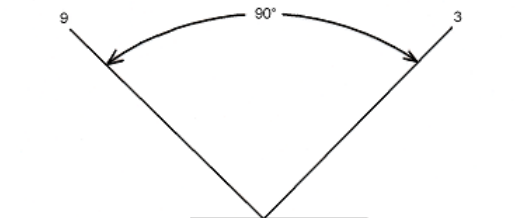
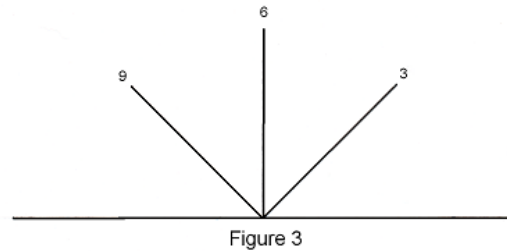


Figure 2

God, and the number nine is judgment. Therefore the line represents God's (3) judgment (9).

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land to the ninth hour" (Matthew 27:45). The sixth hour is the zenith of the sun, which forms a 90° angle with the earth. Darkness symbolizes sin, and the number six represents man, who was created on the sixth day. At the sixth hour the sins of man were placed on the head of Jesus, and at the ninth hour He died for the sins of man.

The sixth hour is the plumb line that forms a vertical 90° angle at the corner. This is the plumb line of righteousness. The third, sixth, and ninth hours form a perfect 90° corner both horizontally and vertically (fig. 3). God's judgment is that man is declared righteous through the blood of Jesus Christ.



"The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was a high day) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that He was dead already, **they broke not His legs**" (John 19:31-33).

The instructions for the Passover sacrifice were, "...neither shall you break a bone thereof" (Exodus 12:46). Therefore, "...that the Scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of Him shall not be broken" (John 19:36). The bones are the foundation of the body, and Jesus is the foundation upon which we are to build; therefore if any of His bones had been broken, He would not have been a "sure foundation."

A foundation is laid in the ground. After Jesus was dead, "...Joseph, a counselor, a good man, and a just....went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that **was hewn in stone**, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on" (Luke 23:52-54).

Late on the fourteenth day, just prior to the beginning of the annual Sabbath day that begins on the fifteenth, is when the "stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation" (Isaiah 28:16) was laid, which was Jesus Christ. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

The first step that we take in building our spiritual house on the foundation that Jesus laid is pictured by the Passover ceremony. "For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, **you do show the Lord's death till He come**" (1 Corinthians 11:26). When Jesus presented the bread

and wine on the eve of His death, He was not dead. Not one drop of His blood had been shed. The symbols pointed to His death that was yet to occur.

The bread and the wine, as symbols of His death, must be partaken of after Jesus' death. "In whom you have redemption [629, *deliverance*] through His blood, the forgiveness [859, *pardon*] of sins" (Colossians 1:14). You cannot have redemption through His blood before His blood was shed.

The correct order of events is crystal clear. You cannot build on a foundation prior to it being laid. However, men have rejected the foundation that Jesus laid. "The stone which the builders [1129, *to erect a house, temple, etc.*] **refused** is become the head stone of the corner" (Psalm 118:22).

Men have chosen to build on their own foundation, and Jesus has become "...a stone of stumbling [4348, *a stumbling block, an occasion of sinning*], and a rock of offense [4625, *an impediment*], even to them which stumble [4350, *take offense at*] **at the word, being disobedient** [544, *to refuse, not to comply with*]: whereunto also they were appointed" (1 Peter 2:8).

**Conclusion:** You cannot build on the foundation that Jesus laid before it was laid. A "Passover" ceremony early on the fourteenth, several hours before Jesus' death and burial, does not "show the Lord's death till He come," nor is it built on the foundation that Jesus laid. A Passover ceremony on the fifteenth is after His death and burial, and is therefore built on the foundation that Jesus laid.

