

# Calculating the Times of Salah (Namaaz)

**“When you have performed the prayers, Remember Allah, standing, sitting down, Or lying down on your sides; But when you are free from danger, set up regular prayers : For such prayers are enjoined on believers at stated times.” (Quran 4:103)**

Yassir Hussain  
February 1998

## Superiority of Praying at the Stated Times.

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All Hadith taken from : Sahih Al-Bukhari (The book of the times of the prayers)

505. Narrated Abdullah (RA) :

I asked the Prophet (SAW) " Which deed is the dearest to Allah ? "

He replied, **"To offer the prayer at their early stated fixed times."**

I asked, " What is the next (in goodness)?"

He replied, " To be good and dutiful to your parents".

I again asked, " What is the next (in goodness) ?"

He replied, "To participate in Jihad in Allah's cause"

Abudullah added, " I asked only that much and if I had asked more, the Prophet (SAW) would have told me more"

01

## Fajr Namaaz

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549. Narrated Anas (RA) : Zaid bin Thabit said, " We took the Sehri ( the meal taken before dawn while fasting is observed) with the Prophet (SAW) and asked him how long the interval between the two ( Sehri and prayer) was. He replied "The interval between the two was just sufficient to recite fifty to sixty Ayat"

557b Narrated Ibn Umar (RA):

Allah's Messenger (SAW) said, "If the edge of the sun appears ( above the horizon) delay the prayer till it becomes high, and if the edge of the sun disappears, delay the prayer till it sets ( disappears completely)"

573. Narrated Abu-I-minhal (RA):

My father and I went to Abi Barza Al-Aslami (RA) and my father said to him :  
"Tell us how Allah's Apostle (SAW) used to offer the compulsory congregational prayers ?".  
He said :

.....And he used to return after finishing the morning prayer at such a time when it was possible for one to recognise the person sitting by his side and he ( the Prophet SAW) used to recite 60 to 100 Ayat of the Quran in it".

02

## Definition of Fajr Time

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**Fajr starts with the dawn or morning twilight.  
Fajr ends just before sunrise.**

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**Fajr begins when the redness of the true dawn appears  
and spreads horizontally above the horizon.**

**Fajr ends when the sun is about to rise above the  
horizon.**

03

## Defining Twilight

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- Twilight is the period before sunrise and after sunset when the sky is partially illuminated by scattered sunlight.
- The start of Fajr and the end of Isha depend on twilight.
- In astronomy, the twilight depression angles fall into three groups :
  - Civil Twilight : 6 degrees.
  - Nautical Twilight : 12 degrees.
  - Astronomical Twilight : 18 degrees.
- At extreme Latitudes twilight may persist between sunset and the next sunrise
  - Hence no true night which means no Isha and no Fajr.

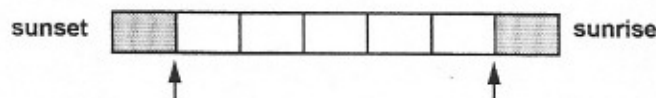
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## Dealing with persisting Twilight.

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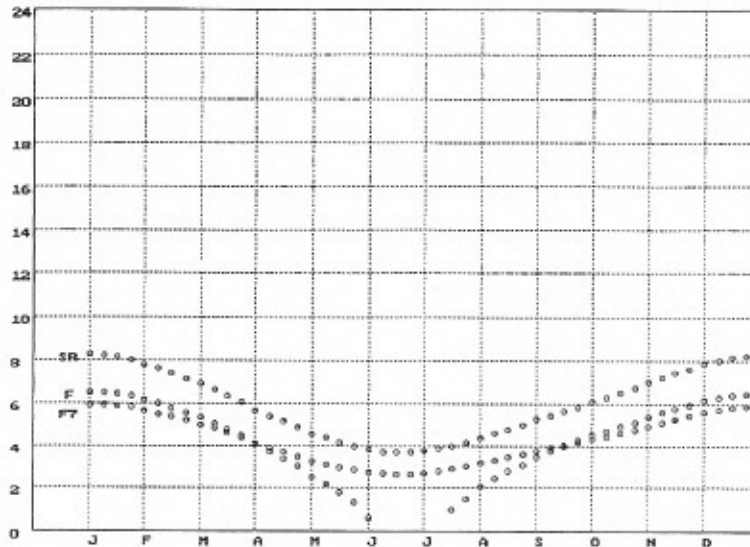
Fajr and Isha times can be calculated using one of four methods :

1. Nearest Latitude ( Aqrab Al-Balad)
2. Nearest Day ( Aqrab Al-Ayyam)
3. Middle of Night ( Nisf Al-Lail)
4. One Seventh of Night (Sube Al-Lail)
  - Split period between Sunset and Sunrise into seven segments
  - Isha is offered at sunset + 1/7th of night
  - Fajr is offered at sunset + 6/7th of night



05

## Fajr



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06

## Zuhr Namaaz

510 Narrated Abu Huraira and Abdullah bin Umar (RA) :

Allah's Apostle ( SAW) said " If it is very hot, then pray the Zuhr prayer when it becomes ( a bit ) cooler, as the severity of the heat is from the raging of the hell-fire"

573. Narrated Abu-I-minhal (RA):

My father and I went to Abi Barza Al-Aslami (RA) and my father said to him :

"Tell us how Allah's Apostle (SAW) used to offer the compulsory congregational prayers".

He said :

He used to pray the Zuhr prayer, which you call the first prayer, as the sun declined at noon, ...

07

## Definition of Zuhr Time

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Zuhr begins after mid-day when the sun has passed the meridian (i.e. after zawal).

Zuhr ends at the start of Asr time.

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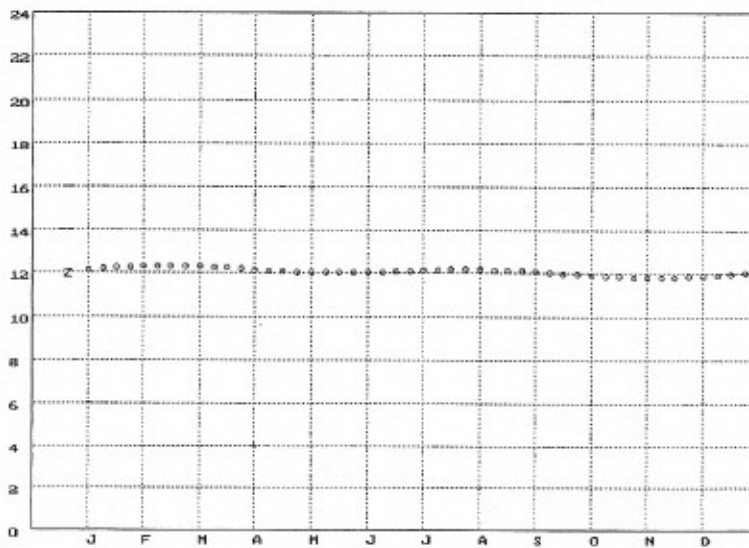
Zuhr begins when the shadow of any object just begins to increase in length.

Zuhr ends when the object has increased upon this length by the length of the object.

08

## Zuhr

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## Asr Namaaz

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519. Narrated Aisha (RA) : Allah's Apostle used to offer the Asr prayer when the sunshine had not disappeared from my chamber.

525. Narrated Anas bin Malik ( RA) : Allah's Apostle ( SAW) used to offer the Asr Prayer at a time when the sun was still hot and high and if a person went to Al-Awali ( A place) of Medina, he would reach there when the sun was still high. Some of Al-Awali of Medina were about four miles or so from the town.

10

## Definition of Asr Time

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The timing of Asr depends on the length of the shadow cast by an object.

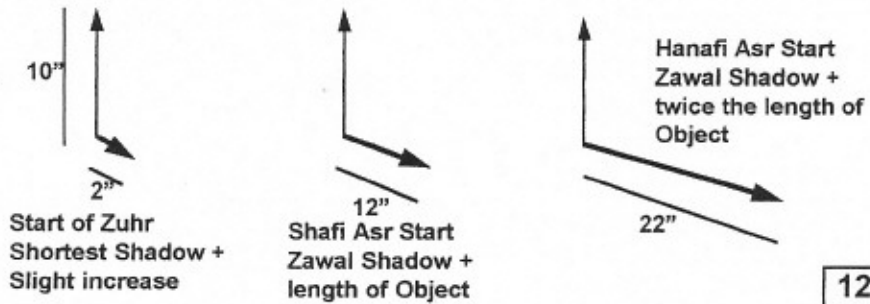
According to the Shafi school of jurisprudence, Asr begins when the length of the shadow of an object exceeds the length of the object.

According to the Hanafi school of jurisprudence, Asr begins when the length of the shadow exceeds TWICE the length of the object. In both cases, the minimum length of shadow (which occurs when the sun passes the meridian) is subtracted from the length of the shadow before comparing it with the length of the object.

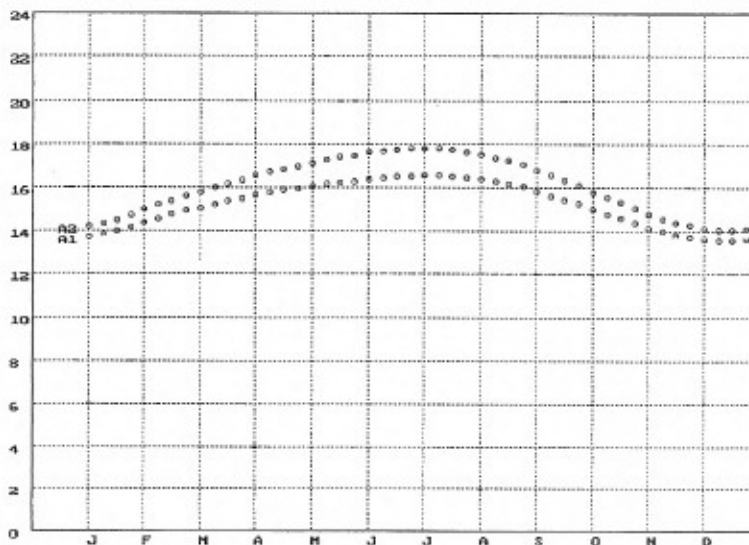
11

## Calculating the Time of Asr

- The length of the shadow for the beginning of Zuhr will vary throughout the year
- The shadow of objects decrease in size during the morning.
- When it reaches a minimum size it is Zawal time
- When it begins to increase it is Zuhr time.



## Asr



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13

## **Magrib Namaaz**

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534. Narrated Rafi bin Khadij ( RA ) : We used to offer the Magrib prayer with the Prophet (SAW) and after finishing the prayer one of us may go away and could still see as far as the spots where one's arrow might reach when shot by a bow.

536. Narrated Salama (RA) : we used to pray the magrib prayer with the Prophet (SAW) when the sun disappeared from the horizon.

14

## **Definition of Magrib Time**

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**Magrib begins at sunset and ends at the start of Isha.**

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**Magrib begins when the sun has set.**

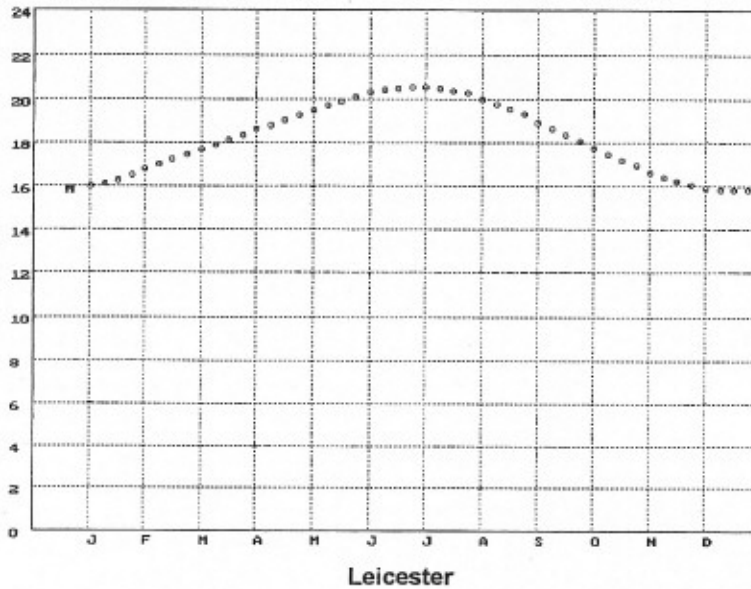
**We know the sun has set when :**

- **Darkness appears in the Eastern sky**
- **Greyness appears above the redness of the sunset.**

15



## Magrib



16

## Isha Namaaz

546. Narrated Anas ( RA ) : The Prophet (SAW) delayed the Isha prayer till midnight and then he offered the prayer and said, " The people prayed and slept but you have been in prayer as long as you have been waiting for it ( the prayer)"

573. Narrated Abu-I-minhal (RA) :

My father and I went to Abi Barza Al-Aslami (RA) and my father said to him :  
"Tell us how Allah's Apostle (SAW) used to offer the compulsory congregational prayers".

He said :

.....and the Prophet (SAW) preferred to pray the Isha late and disliked to sleep before it or talk after it....

17

## Definition of Isha Time

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Isha starts after dusk when the evening twilight disappears.

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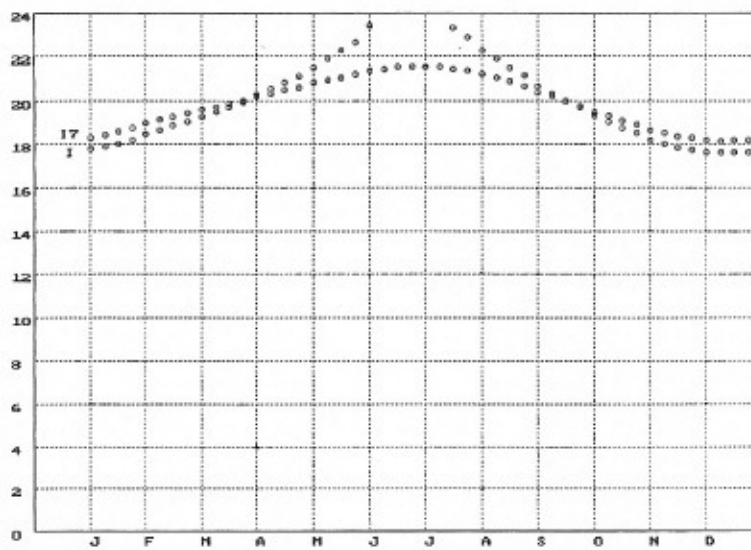
Isha begins when the redness of sunset has disappeared.

Isha ends after half the night has come.  
ie. half-way between magrib and Fajr

18

## Isha

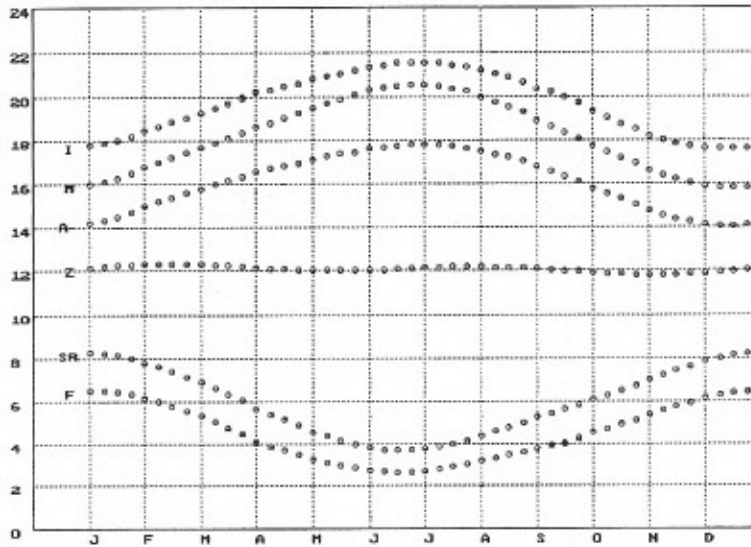
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19

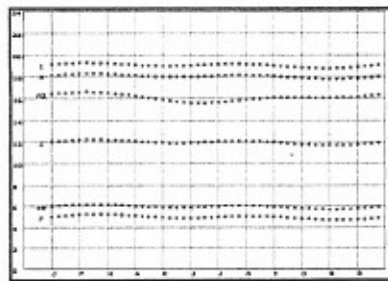
## The Five Namaazs



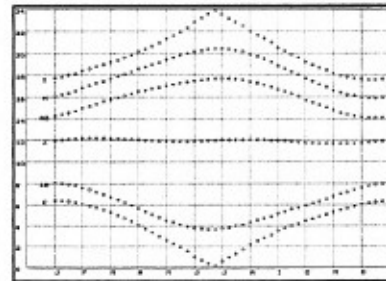
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20

## Salah Times in Other Countries



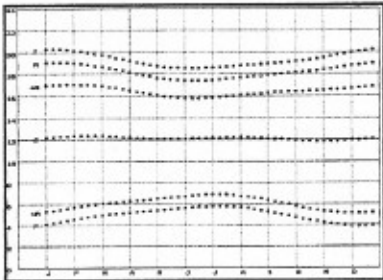
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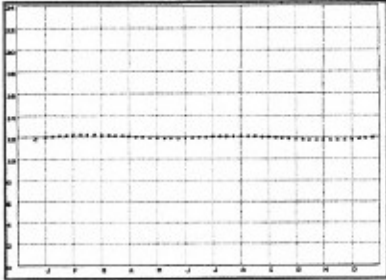
Greenwich

21

# Salah Times in Other Countries



Johannesburg



North Pole