

**BULLSEYE!  
ACCURATE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE!  
"BEFORE THE COCK CROWS .... ONCE OR TWICE?"**

**QUESTION:**

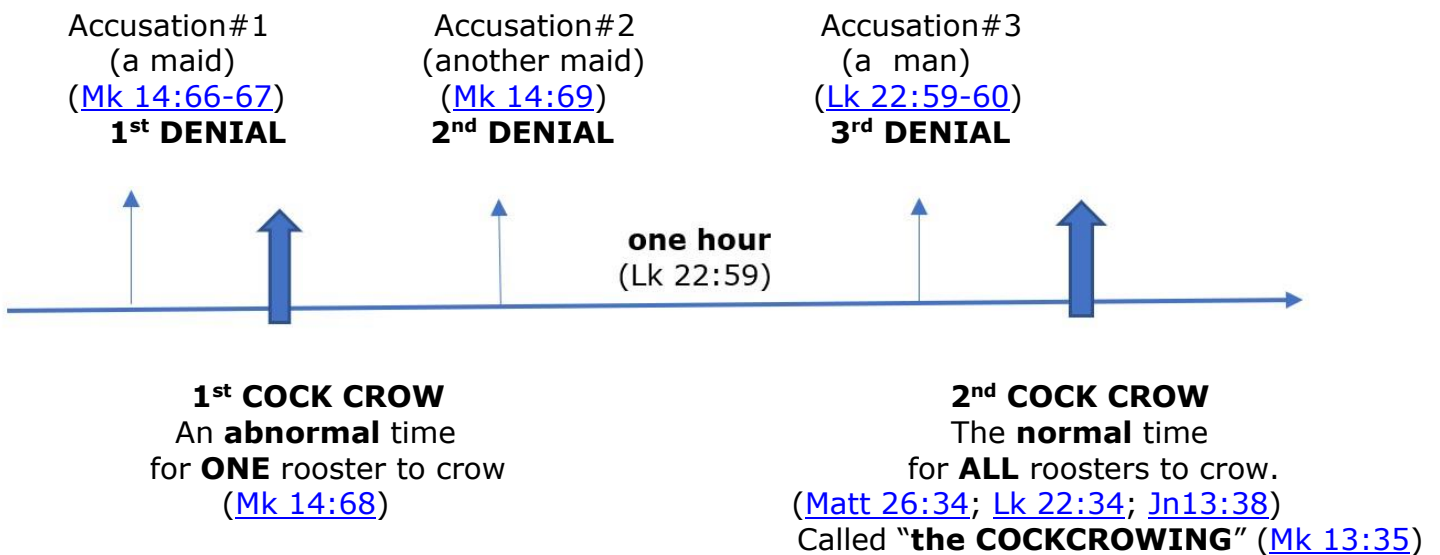
**Matthew** has Peter denying the Lord three times before the cock crow **once**. It says "... *before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.*" ([Matt 26:34](#)). Luke and John both agree ([Lk 22:34](#); [Jn 13:38](#)).

**Mark's gospel** has Peter denying the Lord three times before the cock crow **twice** - "... *before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.*" ([Mk 14:30](#)). **IS THERE A CONTRADICTION?**

**ANSWER: No.**

**EXPLANATION:**

The following diagram and explanation, clearly shows what happened:



On that morning there were **two** episodes of **roosters crowing**:

1. The **1<sup>st</sup> cock crow** – only **one** rooster crows ([Mk 16:68](#))
2. The **2<sup>nd</sup> cock crow** ([Matt 26:34](#); [Lk 22:34](#); [Jn 13:38](#)). This second time was called "**the COCKCROWING**" ([Mk 13:35](#)). This was the **NORMAL** time for **ALL** roosters to crow.

Although we don't know the time lapse between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> denials, Luke says there was "the space of one hour" between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> denials.

What happened that morning was something unique. God made a rooster to crow **much earlier**

than the normal “cockcrowing” that would come later.

## REMINDER AND WARNING

The 1<sup>st</sup> cock crow ([Mk 14:68](#)) was a **reminder** and **warning** to Peter, in that, Christ had said Peter would deny him three times **before two** cock crows. Peter still had the time to stop before two more denials. This was God’s **grace** to Peter. There is **NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN ALL ACCOUNTS**.

## WHY DO THE GOSPELS APPEAR TO DISAGREE WITH EACH OTHER?

If before a **judge** in the civil courts, **four witnesses** appear with exactly the same story, and **all agreeing** with each other down to the **last detail**, then the judge will throw the case out of court. Why? He knows that the witnesses are lying and have got together and **manufactured** their evidence, to win their case.

An example is a car crash that is seen by **four** different witnesses.

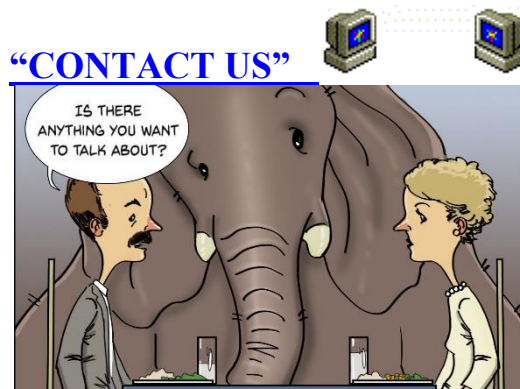
All will tell the truth as they see it, but inevitably, they will have different accounts, but when pieced together, make up the one true account. People that lie guard against the appearance of differences.

So it is with the four gospels, as we piece their evidence together, we find that although there may appear errors and/or discrepancies between their stories, they all combine to make one perfect truth. God **deliberately** gives the four gospel witnesses only certain details that they will bring to memory, but like a jig saw puzzle, the pieces all fit **perfectly** together.

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