

## **EXPLANATION OF TABLE OF PLANET VIEWING TIMES**

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The table is specific for an observer at the Hidden Valley Observatory, but should be helpful to observers in Western South Dakota.

The dates and times are given in Mountain Standard Time (MST), but if daylight savings time is in effect, you may add one hour to obtain MDT if desired.

The time for dusk is for the end of civil twilight (sun six degrees below the horizon) on the listed date. A planet, even if above the horizon, might not be visible at dusk or dawn if it is too faint and you aren't using a telescope or binoculars.

The time for "midnight" is the clock time (MST) when local solar time is midnight. This is the time when the night is half spent.

The time for "dawn" is the time when civil twilight begins. A planet, even if above the horizon, might not be visible to the unaided eye if it is too faint and in the eastern sky.

The percent of the Moon's disk that is illuminated is shown under "Moon" and "%".

The elevation of the center of an object, and its azimuth, are shown in degrees.

For the brighter planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn) the planet's brightness (magnitude) is shown and its elevation, if at least 3 degrees, at the listed time. Note: the time of transit is not listed in this table.