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I would also encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of "**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**" This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of *Revelation*, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of *Revelation* in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

EP124 Revelation 14 verse 14-16 P1

In our last podcast we addressed the benefit of patiently enduring and avoiding the slippery slope of apostasy. God promises rest. Those who are willing to let God put to death all that is in them that fights against Him being their I AM, will know what it means to rest from their labors. They will no longer be trying to do for God, but will simply rest, for their deeds follow with them.

Rest is the outcome of our taking **Step-2** where we dig down deep in our soul and choose to become that little child who is innately and wholly dependent upon their heavenly Father. Rest is the result of our letting Jesus lead us down the pathway of dying to what is dead, which ironically is the **ONLY** pathway that is **now** leading to life. This is the path which so few are **now** finding.

Now let's pick up in *Revelation 14:14* with one of the most the most anticipated events ever, and that is the rapture of the church and the judgment of those left behind.

The First Reaping

Revelation 14:14-20

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, **now** having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. And another angel came out of the Sanctuary, **now** crying out with a loud voice to Him **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud, "You are commanded to dispatch your sickle and You are commanded to reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is caused to be ripe." Then He that is **now** choosing to be sitting sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was caused to be reaped.

And another angel came out of the Sanctuary which is in heaven, and he also is **now** having a sharp sickle. Then another angel, the one who is **now** having power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who is **now** having the sharp sickle, **now** saying, "You are commanded to thrust your sharp sickle and you are commanded gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."

So, the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was caused to be

trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of one thousand six hundred furlongs (literally, "stadia") {approximately two hundred miles}.

This passage is the pinnacle of **HOPE** for the Called and Chosen and Faithful of God (the bondservants of Jesus Christ, those who are now overcoming, the 144,000, the two witness, those who are now worshipping in the holy place, the bride of Christ). This is the famed **rapture** of the church. This is one of two places in the **Codex** where we are given a clear view of this monumental gathering in terms of its timing in the **End Time** events.

Somewhat simultaneously, there is also a second gathering, a reaping, of all those who will be thrown into the great wine press of the wrath of God. Once the people of God are removed from the earth, then comes wrath.

Timing

From a timing perspective, we learned some key facts that are important to revisit, all of which are associated with the sounding of the **7th and last trumpet blast**.¹

In the **Transcript**, which you can download for free from threshermediagroup.com, you will find a great illustration which places the timing of all the key events associated with both 3.5 years of the tribulation. Print this off as you study, and it will help you really grasp the timing of these events we have been studying now for 124 episodes. Sometimes just listening to the podcast, it is hard to place events in our minds and it is difficult to remember the sequence. Again, I encourage you to download the transcript, it will enhance your understanding and simply make everything easier to grasp.

1. The two witnesses testify for 1,260 days, or the first 3.5-year period. And when their testimony is complete, the war against them ensues.²
2. The Beast is granted authority to act for 42-months, or 3.5-years, covering the second 3.5-year period of the tribulation.³
3. From the time of the *ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION*, there will be 1,290 days, placing it in the last 30 days of the first 3.5-year period.⁴ This is immediately prior to the Beast being given authority to act.
4. Blessed are those who keep waiting and attain to 1,335 days (those who endure until 75-days into the second 3.5-year period of the tribulation).⁵

¹ **Revelation 11:15-19**

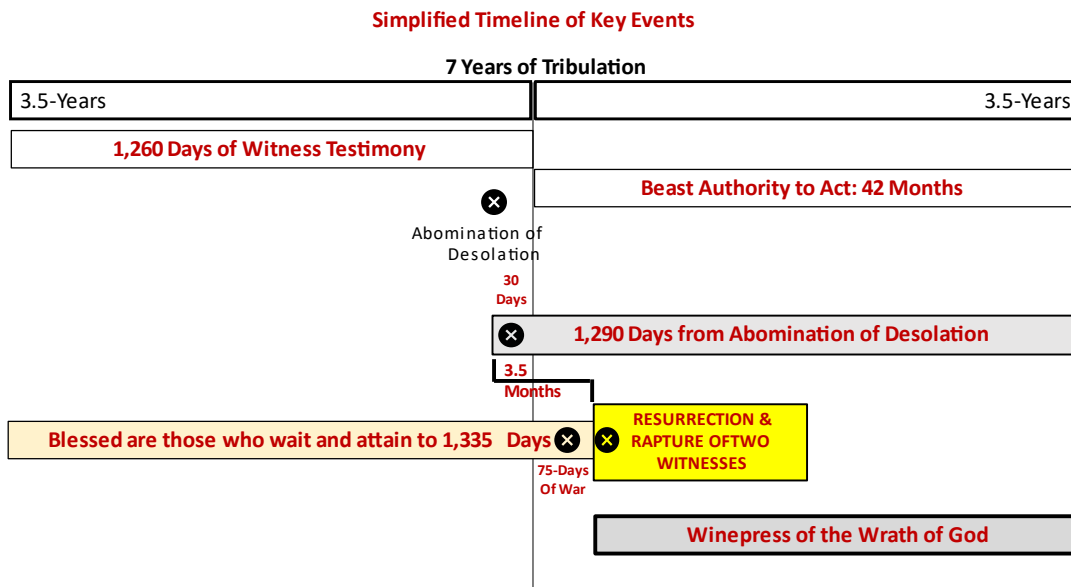
² **Revelation 11:3**

³ **Revelation 13:5**

⁴ **Daniel 12:11**

⁵ **Daniel 12:12**

Illustration



We must not miss the critical overlap of 105 days {another mystical **3.5** measurement of days in months} which span unequally across the two 3.5-year periods. There are 30-days in the first 3.5 tribulation period and 75-days into the second 3.5 period of the Tribulation. During these 105 days there will occur the *ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION* and the war against the saints of God, the end of which culminates in the rapture of the people of God, and the beginning of the time of God’s wrath.

Fiction Alert

Doctrine of Imminence

FICTION ALERT

One of the modern fictions that surrounds the “rapture” of the church is the claim that the “rapture” **MUST** occur before the tribulation. This is known as the “*pre-tribulation*” rapture theory. We have addressed some of the arguments that support this fiction, like categorically calling the two 3.5-year periods of the tribulation the time of wrath. But there is an often cited “doctrine” of man that is being taught as the doctrine of God, and that is what is known as the *doctrine of imminence*.

Though reprised by many in the modern evangelical circles to comfort and to assure people that they will not have to endure any part of the tribulation, this is an old doctrine. Martin Luther wrote: "I believe that all the signs which are to precede the last days have already appeared. Let us not think that the coming of Christ is far off; let us look up with heads lifted up; let us expect our Redeemer’s coming with longing and cheerful mind." John Calvin declared: "Scripture uniformly enjoins us to look with expectation

for the advent of Christ." And the famous reformed theologian John Knox testified: "The Lord Jesus shall return, and that with expedition."

Thus, this *doctrine of imminence* holds we must always be alert, always watching, always waiting, because Jesus' return is imminent, He could come at any time, *like right now!*

The *doctrine of imminence* is based on two notions. First, the scriptures urge us to be ready, alert, sober, and to anxiously (or with great anticipation) wait for our Lord's return. Second, it is built on the idea that there is nothing left on the prophetic timeline that must be fulfilled for the rapture to occur, otherwise with great anticipation, we would be looking for the next event or events to occur, and not for the Lord to return.

Without question, the Spirit urges all believers to be ready, alert, sober, and to anxiously (or with great anticipation) wait for our Lord's return.⁶ That is a given. But these passages first-and-foremost address the hope we are to hold on to knowing that whatever we might suffer now is nothing, or relatively insignificant, compared to what will be revealed when the Lord returns. It's about perspective setting to help believers patiently endure.

But for this *doctrine of imminence* to be a doctrine of God and not just a *fiction* of man, then from the time the first scripture was penned asking us to be ready for the Lord's return, thereby establishing this *doctrine of imminence*, then all the precursors for the return of Christ would need to have been satisfied.

However, that was and is not the case. Jesus predicted the death of Peter, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the obliteration of the nation of Israel, and He spoke of an apostasy that will occur in the Last Days.⁷ The writer of Hebrews predicted the obsolescence of the old covenant that would occur when the Romans wiped the Temple and the Jewish religious system off the face of the map.⁸ The Spirit predicted that a remnant of the Jewish nation would arise who would be grafted back into their own olive tree, and they will be devoted to Jesus on the basis of faith and not works.⁹ And much of the book of *Revelation*, for instance *Chapter 12* with the image of the woman, was premised upon the re-birth of the nation of Israel, an event predicted in the Old Testament which was not fulfilled in 1948.¹⁰

From the perspective of the authors of the **Codex**, each of these events were yet to be, they were on the prophetic timeline, so-to-speak. One cannot take the measurement now in the 21st century and then say this is a Biblical doctrine. These events therefore invalidate the man-made *doctrine of imminence*, at least as it would relate to a pre-tribulation rapture theory.

Forcing this man-made doctrine has sadly led to other presuppositions, or *fictions* built upon *fictions*. For instance, since those who subscribe to *doctrine of imminency* assume that there are no events waiting to happen on the prophetic timeline before the rapture of the church. Therefore, **End Time** events like the *Abomination of Desolation*, the measurement of the Sanctuary, the war on the saints, the death and resurrection of the two witnesses, cannot apply to the church, but that they must apply to some other

⁶ **1 Corinthians 1:7, 16:22** (*Maranatha*: Aramaic: *Mar* (Lord), "*ana*" (our), "*tha*" (come) – our Lord come; **Philippians 3:20, 4:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:6; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28, 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:7; Jude 21; Revelation 22:17, 20**

⁷ **Matthew 23:37-39, 24:1-2, 9-10; Luke 19:41-44; John 21:18-19; 1 Timothy 4:1**

⁸ **Hebrews 8:13**

⁹ **Romans 11:11-32**

¹⁰ **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

group of people that God will “save” during the tribulation; hence, the invention of the *fictitious* “tribulation saints.” We addressed this fiction of the “tribulation saints” in *Revelation 6 verses 9-11 (Episode 58)*.

No One Knows the Day Nor the Hour

In addition, this issue of our not knowing the day nor the hour is a reference specifically to Jesus’ Second Coming and not to the rapture. This phrase about not knowing the day nor the hour is utilized twice in the **Codex**, and it specifically addresses the time “*after the tribulation*” not the time before the tribulation.¹¹

In both passages, Jesus is describing the gathering of His elect (the Righteous Jews and the Righteous Gentiles) who endured the tribulation (those who refused to take the mark of the Beast) and separating the Righteous them from those who are doomed and accursed.

Even a casual reading of the text makes it clear that this phrase about our not knowing the day nor the hour is **NOT** about establishing a pre-tribulation rapture doctrine. Let’s just read the passage in **Mark**, and you will see how obvious this is.

Mark 13:24-37

But in those days, **after that tribulation**, the sun will in the **future** be caused to be darkened and the moon in the **future** will not give its light, and the stars will *choose* in the **future** to **now** be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will in the **future** be caused to be shaken. Then they will *choose* in the **future** to see the Son of Man **now choosing** to be coming in clouds with great power and glory. "And then He will in the **future** send forth the angels and will in the **future** gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

Now you are commanded to learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch may choose to become tender and may **now** put forth its leaves, you **now** know that summer is **now** near.

Even so, you too, when you may see these things now choosing to be happening, you are commanded to **now** recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I **now** say to you, this generation may not pass away until all these things may choose to take place. Heaven and earth will in the **future** choose to pass away, but My words will not in the **future** choose to pass away. But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

"You are commanded to **now** take heed; you are commanded to **now** keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time **now** is. "It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also chose to have commanded the doorkeeper to now, if possible, stay on the alert.

Therefore, you are commanded to **now** be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is **now** chooses to come, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — in case coming suddenly and may find you **now** sleeping. What I **now** say to you I **now** say to all, 'you are commanded to **now** be on the alert!'"

¹¹ **Mark 13:24-31; Matthew 24:29-51 (24:36)**

Therefore, to apply this phrase “*no one knows the day nor the hour*” to the rapture is inaccurate at best and disingenuous at worst. Clearly, “*day*” and “*hour*” are **Code**. “*Day*” speaks of a time, the **End Times**, which is a specific period that is distinguished within the **Last Days**. The “*hour*” speaks of that specific time within the **End Times**, that relates to Jesus’ Second Coming.

Concluding that the rapture must come before the tribulation based on the *doctrine of imminence* is a **fiction** which has been built by layering presupposition upon presupposition upon presupposition and it is not supported by the **Codex**. As such, it is not a doctrine of God, but a doctrine of man, and most of us should know what Jesus feels about man-made doctrines: “*This people now honor me with their lips, but their heart is now far away from me. But in vain do they now choose to worship Me, now teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.*”¹²

The “Sinner’s Prayer”

One final point. This fiction regarding the *doctrine of imminence* is also premised upon the idea that the “church” (everyone who has in effect said the “sinner’s prayer” and asked Jesus into their heart) does not have to be **WARNED** about the *Day* nor the *Hour*, or, if you think about it, about practically anything in the book of **Revelation**, because they will not be around to experience any of it. So, what does any of this matter anyways? All this blah, blah, blah is a bit much and not necessary. They all have their golden ticket to heaven. After all, from before the opening of the first Seal judgment, they will be out of here and settling comfortably in their mansion in heaven.

Without reviewing everything we have studied, by now you should realize how ludicrous this idea is and how it is setting people up for the great apostasy when all that they have been promised does not come to fruition. If the fiction surrounding the “sinner’s prayer” was real, then why would Jesus give us all these commands (and remember, He uses the personal pronoun “you” as He was speaking to His disciples—to those who were believing and not to unbelievers.

- Now you are commanded to learn the parable from the fig tree,
- ... you are commanded to **now** recognize that He is near, right at the door,
- You are commanded to **now** take heed,
- you are commanded to **now** keep on the alert,
- Therefore, you are commanded to **now** be on the alert,
- What I **now** say to you I **now** say to all, 'you are commanded to **now** be on the alert!

Why would Jesus need to give these **WARNINGS**, in the form of commands, to His disciples (or to any of us) if they and we have our golden ticket to heaven? Clearly, He wouldn’t. It is all a fictitious fairy tale created to “build the kingdom,” “fulfill the mission,” “build our churches,” “or some other religious notion.

Going back to the letters to the seven churches, Jesus is obviously concerned that if He comes suddenly, He may find you, me, us, **now** sleeping, which is **Code** meaning completely checked out giving no heed to His **WARNINGS**.

¹² **Matthew 15:8-9**

The Rapture of the Bride

Revelation 14:14-16

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, **now** having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. And another angel came out of the Sanctuary, **now** crying out with a loud voice to Him **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud, "You are commanded to thrust your sickle and You are commanded to reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth has been caused to have been ripened." Then He that is **now** choosing to be sitting sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was caused to be reaped.

A Picture of Jesus

The Cloud

First, this one who is "like a son of man" is **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud.¹³ We previously studied clouds in **Revelation 10:1** and we discovered that the Lord makes the clouds His chariots.¹⁴ He literally rides upon them. And as Jesus ascended into heaven on a cloud, we were promised that in the exact same way He will be coming back with the clouds.¹⁵

With the use of the *present* tense, the message is that Jesus is ready to come receive His people, as even **now** He is choosing to be sitting, His chariot ready, and he is patiently waiting for the final trumpet to blow – for the command from His Father.

The Cloud is White

Second, the Spirit makes sure we know that the cloud is "white." According to the **Code**, "white" is a symbol of purity and righteousness (thank goodness it is not a black storm cloud). Throughout the **Codex**, we find that the extreme brilliance of the glory of the Lord is diffused by the cloud, presumably, it would be too much for us to bear if it were not clouded over.¹⁶

The Son of Man

Third, there is that famed reference to the "**son of man**" used extensively in the **Codex**.¹⁷ Jesus adopted this nickname, and continually referred to Himself as the "son of man" throughout His earthly ministry.¹⁸ Even in the first chapter of **Revelation**, we were introduced to a glorious image of Jesus, and John

¹³ "sitting" and both occurrences of "sat" are rendered in the *present middle participle*. The one like a son of man choose to now be sitting.

¹⁴ See also **Psalm 104:3, Isaiah 19:1**

¹⁵ **Acts 1:9; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7**

¹⁶ **Psalm 104:3, Isaiah 19:1; Exodus 13:21, 16:10, 19:9,16, 20:21, 24:15-18, 33:9 40:34; Leviticus 16:2; 1 Kings 8:10-12; Acts 1:9; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7**

¹⁷ **Daniel 7:13-14; Ezekiel**

¹⁸ In **Matthew** alone, this phrase is used 31 times and it is used 53 other times in the gospels for a total of 84.

describes Him as “one like the son of man.”¹⁹

The Golden Crown

Fourth, He is wearing a gold crown. According to the **Code**, gold is a symbol of deity, and in the Greek this crown is a “*stephanos*”—a crown of victory, not a diadem (a crown of royalty). The picture is that of Jesus who through divine enablement of faith has given His people the ultimate victory over the dragon, the Beast, the False Prophet, and all those who have chosen to make their abode in this earth, a victory proven out in the glorious rescue of His people. “... thanks be to God who is **now** giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” “... and this **now** is the victory that has been overcoming the world – our faith.”²⁰

THE WHITE CLOUD, THE USE OF JESUS’ NICKNAME (THE “SON OF MAN”), THE GOLD CROWN OF VICTORY, ALL POINT TO NONE OTHER THAN JESUS AS THE ONE SITTING ON THE CLOUD, WHOSE VICTORY IS INITIATED WITH THE BLOWING OF THE 7TH TRUMPET—A FINAL (OR LAST) TRUMPET THAT COMPLETES THE MYSTERY OF GOD AND ANNOUNCES TO ALL OF CREATION THAT OUR GOD REIGNS.

Ready to Collect

The Sickle



In addition to a crown symbolizing victory, Jesus has a sharp sickle in His hand. Now a sickle is just a farming tool that is used to harvest grain. It is held in the hand and only needs one person to yield it. The blade is in a semi-circle and sharp on the inside.

If you think about this overall picture, it is an awesome image. Since His ascension into the heavens (since His rapture event), Jesus has been sitting next to His Father, crown of victory on His head, surrounded with a cloud of glory upon which He chooses to sit, sickle in His hand, just waiting, waiting, waiting, waiting, and waiting for the trumpet to blow so He can finally gather up His prize—His bride. He wants to get to the harvest, He wants His bride to be with Him; therefore, He always has this sickle in His hand and is always ready as He listens intently for the command from His Father.

This Spirit also states that this sickle is **sharp**. The picture communicates that it will take only one swing, one thrust, one dispatch of this harvesting device to reap His reward.

Wedding Imagery

This entire scene, with the Son waiting for the Father to give Him permission to reap, is deeply rooted in the 1st century wedding ceremony. Back in the day, a man would become engaged to a woman and would then go away to build a place for them to live. And it was the father who would determine when

¹⁹ **Revelation 1:13**

²⁰ **1 Corinthians 15:57; 1 John 5:4**

his son was ready, when the place was ready, and when the wedding would begin.

In the meantime, the bride and all her attendants prepped, and they were always ready, for no one knew when the time would come. The son worked diligently to prepare his bridal home, while the father watched over his work. And when the time came, the father would tell his son that it was now time. Then came a trumpet blow with a loud pronouncement that it was time. This was announced far and wide throughout the city. Quickly, without hesitation or delay, the man would come and receive his bride who would be ready and waiting for her husband to arrive.

Another Angel

The Spirit communicates that “another” angel came out. The Greek has two words for “another” (“allos” and “heteros”) which are **NOT** interchangeable. The word “allos” means another of the same kind (for instance, a Red Delicious and a Braeburn apple – both apples. Whereas the word, “heteros” means another of a different kind, for instance an apple and an orange. They are both fruits, but of a different kind. In this instance, the Spirit used “allos” – so this angel is another of the same kind.

The question is whether this means that this angel is akin to “one like a son of man” or to the three angels that we were shown immediately prior to this image.

Psalm 86:8-10 makes it clear that among the gods (among the *Elohim*), which is a euphemism for the angelic host, there is none like **Yahweh**.²¹

Therefore, looking to the **Codex**, we can be sure that this another (“allos”) angel is being compared to the three angels we were shown immediately prior to this image, and not to the “one like a son of man.”

The Sanctuary of God

Many of your translations say that this angel came out of the “temple,” but the Spirit specifically said that the angel comes from the “naos” – the Sanctuary, the holy place in the tabernacle of God. As with the other details like the cloud being white, the crown being golden, the sickle being sharp, this detail is very important. He comes forth from the Sanctuary to utter the command to harvest all those who are now worshipping in the Sanctuary, those who were measured off in **Revelation 11:1** as belonging exclusively to the Lord: His Personal Possession.

The Cry vs The Commands

*“And another angel came out of the Sanctuary, **now** crying out with a loud voice to Him **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud, “You are commanded to thrust your sickle and You are commanded to reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth has been caused to have been ripened.”*

It should stop us in our tracks to realize that this angel is even **now** crying out (rendered in the *present active participle*), however, the two commands are **NOT** uttered in the *present* tense, rather, they are rendered in the *aorist* tense.

What this communicates is the intense desire among those in the heavenly realms for believers, for the bride of Christ. This is beautiful. Just like Jesus is sitting there all prepped and ready, just waiting for

²¹ See also **2 Samuel 7:22; 1 Kings 8:23; Jeremiah 10:6**

the command from His Father, so too this angel is so excited and so full of anticipation, that he is even now crying out, with a loud voice, what Jesus has been commanded, by His Father, to do.

The Two Commands

"You are commanded to thrust your sickle..." In other areas of the **Codex**, the word translated *"thrust"* is almost always translated as "send" or "sent." With that said, "thrust" accomplishes the same purpose, but adds a little dramatic flair to this very dramatic scene.

Either way, the imagery communicates that it is by Jesus' own hand that His people will be separated from their connection to this world, their stalks will be cut, and He will gather them to Him.

"You are commanded to reap..." It is not enough for Jesus just to thrust in His sickle and cut the stalks, but the intention is that He will finally reap His reward, and obtain the answer to His prayer for which He has been waiting to be fulfilled:

John 17:22-24

The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may **now** be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may **now** be caused to being perfected in unity, so that the world may **now** know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. *Father, I **now** desire that they also, whom You have given Me, **now** be with Me where I **now** am, so that they may **now** see My glory which You have given Me,* for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Along that line, this reaping will also fulfill a promise He made to those who are now believing:

John 14:18-20

I will not in the future leave you as orphans; I will **now** choose to come to you. After a little while the world will **now** no longer see Me, but you will **now** see Me; because I **now** live, in the future you will live also. In that day you will in the future choose to know that I in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:1-3

You are commanded to not let your heart **now** be caused to be troubled; you are commanded to **now** believe in God, you are commanded to **now** believe also in Me. In My Father's house **now** are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I **now** choose to go to prepare a place for you. If I may be caused to go and may prepare a place for you, I will **now** choose to come again and in the future choose to receive you to Myself, that where I **now** am, there you may **now** be also.

The Hour

It's time. "...for the hour to reap has come..." As we have discovered so often in the book of *Revelation*, "hour" is not talking about a literal 60-minute period (after all, we will soon see that this reaping occurs suddenly, in the blink of an eye); rather, it is **Code** speaking simply of a designated period.

The point the Spirit wants us to understand is that the time has been fixed by the Father, it is set, and it is not a variable. And the time has finally come for Jesus to reap His reward.

The Reason

"... because the harvest of the earth has been caused to have been ripened."

The Harvest is Ripe

Strangely, the word translated as "ripe" is not how we might otherwise picture things. When we read this phrase, we likely think of a fresh, plump, juicy fruit that not only looks amazing, but is ready for picking and eating. But that is not the case.

The word translated as "ripe" means that the fruit is completely **dried up** and withered, some of it shriveled even. The picture is of fruit that has been on the branch way too long. In contrast, in the second harvest that is connected to the time of God's wrath, the word translated "ripe" means "**mature**" denoting it is plump, juicy, and ready for harvest.

This image of dried and withered fruit provides us a picture of the patient endurance of both God and the saints. True believers have been ready to go to be with Him for a long time, and in every generation His people have cried out "Lord Come." But God is patient and does not want to miss out on receiving even one little lamb that has been appointed for salvation.

Mockers have always said, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." The Spirit responds to the heckling and says, "But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."²²

This unbelievable patience from God means that some of His people are overripe, fully ready for His return. Have you ever felt that, felt that your work has been accomplished and you just wish Jesus would come back already.

There are even some believers who are withered, shriveled up even, which might mean that some are dead and buried (or left lying dead in the streets of the *great city* of religious apostasy); but again, that is ok. God is patient to gather all who belong to Him. After all, the **Codex** tells us that the dead in Christ rise before the living.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord Himself will in the **future** choose to descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of

²² **2 Peter 3:3-9**

an archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ *{those who have shriveled}* will in the **future** choose to rise first. Then we **who** are now living and are caused to **now** be remaining *{the ripened fruit}* will in the **future** caused to be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always in the **future** choose to be with the Lord.

Jesus comes for His bride, those who have died and those who are alive. All who belong to Him will meet Him in the air and so shall they always be with the Lord.

The Ripening

With “*ripe*” being rendered in the *passive* voice, we know that the Father (the vinedresser) has been carefully tending to the branches, readying those who are His own for the harvest, ensuring that they bear His fruit of redemption.²³ This confirms that our transformation in this life into the image of Jesus Christ, is the work of God and not something that we can do. It is the responsibility of **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**, who sets us apart for Him. Our job is not even to cooperate with Him, but to be **willing** to let Him cause us to cooperate. A branch is entirely dependent upon the vine and the vinedresser.

The Archangel

Our passage just tells us that it is “*another angel*” that is now crying out the commands; however, given what the Spirit said in **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, this cry, or shout, is the voice of an archangel. Now, we do not know much about archangels, except that the **Codex** tells us that Michael is one of them, which implies that there are others.²⁴ With that said, this archangel just might be Michael, but then again, maybe not.

Either way, Michael is connected to the events associated with the harvest. In fact, there is a fascinating passage in the **Codex**, from the book of **Daniel**, that parallels the events of the great harvest.

Daniel 12:1-3

At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.

Michael, the prince who guards and protects Israel (the true Israel, the people of faith), arises, or steps aside from his protective role, an act which results in the commencement of the Day of the Lord, that time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. We also know this event as the Wrath of the Lamb. But at that very same time, God’s people will be rescued and will rise (they will be harvested),

²³ **John 15:1-8**

²⁴ **Daniel 10:13**. See also **Jude 9**

first the dead and then the those that are then living.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will continue with our study on the rapture of the church.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."