

Questions About Whether it is more correct to say hour judgment “has” come or “is” come in Revelation 14:7. Does it matter? What does original Greek say?

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Is it more correct to say hour judgment “has” come or “is” come in revelation 14:7?
Does it matter? What does original Greek say?

Answer:

Great question. The phrase in **Revelation 14:7** — “*the hour of His judgment is come*” (KJV) — has generated much discussion, especially among students of prophecy. Let’s explore the translation, grammar, and significance of the **Greek** phrase to answer your question:

English Translations: “Has Come” vs. “Is Come”

Here are a few major Bible versions:

- KJV: “*the hour of his judgment **is come***”
- NKJV / ESV / NIV / NASB: “*the hour of His judgment **has come***”
- NLT: “*the time of his judgment **has come!***”

The older KJV phrase “**is come**” is an archaic English way of saying “**has come**” — they are essentially the **same meaning**, just different grammar for different eras.

The Original Greek Phrase

Here is the key phrase in **Greek**:

ἦλθεν ἡ ὥρα τῆς κρίσεως αὐτοῦ
(*ēlthen hē hōra tēs kriseōs autou*)

→ “has come the hour of His judgment”

- ἦλθεν (*ēlthen*) is **aorist indicative active**, 3rd person singular of ἔρχομαι (*erchomai*) — “*to come*”.
- It literally means “**came**” or “**has come**” (depending on context).
- Aorist tense often indicates **completed action**.

So the **most accurate rendering** in modern English would be:

“The hour of His judgment has come.”

Does It Matter?

Yes — **especially prophetically**. Here’s why:

1. Prophetic Timing

- The phrase “**has come**” (past/completed sense) supports the idea that **judgment is already underway** at the time the first angel is proclaiming this message.
- This aligns with the **Biblical understanding** of the **pre-advent investigative judgment**, which began in **1844** based on Daniel 8:14 and Daniel 7:9–10, 13.

2. Urgency of the Message

- This angel is not warning that judgment *will come*.
- He is proclaiming that it **has arrived** — and thus people must **respond now** by fearing God and giving Him glory.

3. Theological Precision

- Saying “*will come*” would suggest a **future event**.
- Saying “*has come*” (or even “*is come*”, in old English) stresses that it is **already taking place**, reinforcing the **present reality** of God’s judgment.

Summary

Phrase	Greek	Meaning
“Is come” (KJV)	ἦλθεν (<i>ēlthen</i>)	Archaic English; now means “has come”
“Has come”	ἦλθεν (aorist verb)	Completed action — judgment has already begun

Final Reflection

Yes, it **does matter** — not just for grammar but for **prophetic truth**. Revelation 14:7 isn't a warning about something to prepare for **later** — it's a declaration that we are **already living in the hour of judgment**.

The Dilemma:

If Revelation was written around 70 A.D., how could the angel in Revelation 14:7 say “the hour of His judgment has come” — as if it already began?

This leads us to ask:

- **When was Revelation written?**
- **Was it a future prophecy or a message for that time?**
- **What kind of judgment is being described?**
- **How do different views understand this timeline?**

1. When Was Revelation Written — 70 A.D. or 95 A.D.?

This is **key** to this question.

- **Traditional View** (supported by early church fathers like Irenaeus): Revelation was written during the **reign of Emperor Domitian**, around **95–96 A.D.**, long after Jerusalem's destruction in 70 A.D.
- **Preterist View**: Some scholars argue Revelation was written **before 70 A.D.**, and that it **predicted** the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the Old Covenant age. This is where 70 A.D. date comes from.

Most historicist and futurist interpretations accept the **95 A.D. date**, placing Revelation's fulfillment in the **future**, not in John's time.

2. What Judgment Is Revelation 14:7 Referring To?

Revelation 14:7:

“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come.”

If Revelation is prophetic (written around 95 A.D.), then:

- This points to a **future, global judgment**.
- Biblical interpretation sees this as referring to the **investigative judgment**, which began in **1844** based on Daniel 8:14 and Daniel 7:9–10.

If Revelation was written pre-70 A.D. (preterist view):

- Then some claim this “judgment” was fulfilled in the **destruction of Jerusalem** (judgment on apostate Israel).
- However, this doesn’t fit the **global scope** of Revelation 14, where “every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” are warned.

3. How Does the Book of Revelation Use Time Language?

Even though **aorist tense** (Greek past tense) is used — as in “*the hour of His judgment has come*” — Revelation often **proclaims future events in a present or completed form** to emphasize certainty.

Just like Isaiah prophesied:

“*Unto us a child is born...*” (Isaiah 9:6) — even though Jesus wasn’t born for 700 years.

The prophets often used **prophetic perfect tense** — speaking of future things as already done because they are **guaranteed by God**.

So in Revelation 14:7, the angel isn’t saying judgment **already happened** in John’s time — he is announcing that **judgment has now begun**, at the **time of fulfillment of this vision**, not the time of writing.

4. What Does This Mean for Us Today?

- If Revelation is a **prophetic book**, then chapter 14 is part of a **last-days warning** — not just a 1st-century message.
- The **first angel’s message** in Revelation 14:6–7 is global and relevant to **our time** — announcing that we are living in the final **hour of judgment**.
- It harmonizes with Daniel’s time prophecy pointing to **1844** — not 70 A.D.

Conclusion: Revelation Is Forward-Looking

Claim	Evaluation
Revelation was written in 70 A.D.	Not widely supported by early church history. Majority date it to 95–96 A.D.
Revelation 14:7 speaks of a past event	No — the language is prophetic, not historical. The angel proclaims judgment as just beginning at a specific time in history, not at the time of writing.
The judgment in Rev. 14:7 fits 70 A.D.?	Unlikely. It fits a worldwide, end-time warning far better.