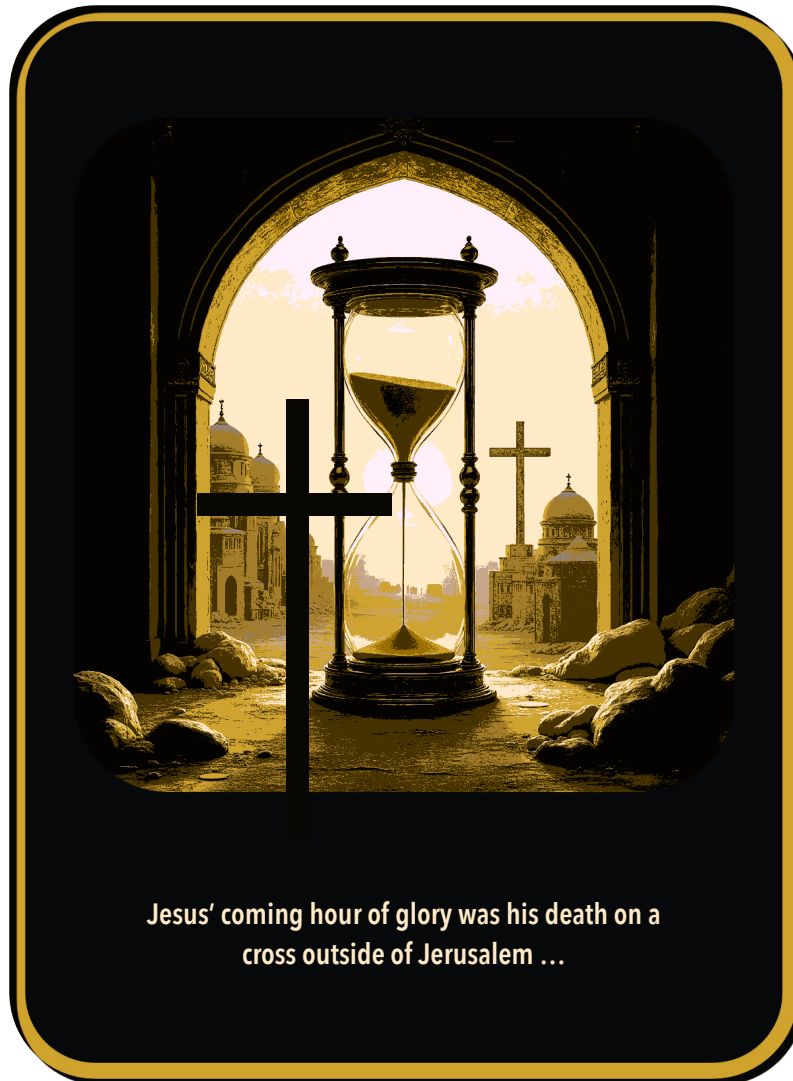


JESUS' HOUR OF GLORY



Jesus' coming hour of glory was his death on a
cross outside of Jerusalem ...

—WAS DEATH ON A CROSS—

Jesus' coming hour of glory was his death on the cross. It was the signature event of his time on earth; his very purpose for coming into our world. This event was the prophesied, providential, long awaited hour in which the glory of God would be manifested in the completion of his sovereign purpose and plan regarding salvation and judgment.

1. Jesus was troubled—his hour had come, 12:27–33.

A. It was time to fulfill his purpose in coming to earth.

B. Jesus verbalized the troubled state of his soul as he faced the most difficult hour of his life—dying on a cross.

- (John 12:27–33 ESV) Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' **But for this purpose I have come to this hour.** 28 **Father, glorify your name.** Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 31 **Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.** 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

C. This hour was **the** hour that would bring glory to God—Father and Son, 12:23.

- (John 12:23 ESV) And Jesus answered them, "**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.**"

D. This hour was affirmed by the Apostle Paul as "of first importance."

- (1 Corinthians 15:3–4 ESV) For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

E. The once-for-all act of Jesus dying on the cross would bring glory to God and judgment on the world.

- (Hebrews 9:26b ESV) But as it is, **he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**

- (Hebrews 10:10 ESV) And by that will **we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

2. As was their pattern from the beginning, the crowd responded with disbelief and denial, 12:34.

- (John 12:34 ESV) So the crowd answered him, "**We have heard** from the Law that the Christ remains forever. **How can you say** that the Son of Man must be lifted up? **Who is this Son of Man?**"

A. They knew **some truth** about the Messiah and probably had favorite Scriptures in mind that supported their limited understanding of Messiah.

- (Isaiah 9:7a ESV) Of the increase of his government and of peace **there will be no end**, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness **from this time forth and forevermore.**
- (Daniel 7:14 ESV) **And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; **his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away**, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Lesson: A partial, curated approach to Scripture that yields only **some truth** about Christ leads to damnation.

B. To their great harm they carelessly paid no attention to the Scriptures that prophesied the suffering Servant who would come before the conquering King.

- (Isaiah 53:3–4 ESV) **He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief**; and as one from whom men hide their faces **he was despised, and we esteemed him not.** 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; **yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God**, and afflicted.

C. They once again denied who he was—mocking Jesus, not inquiring of him ... "Who is this Son of Man?"

Lesson: The person who does not believe the words of Jesus remains blind to the identity of Jesus.

Transition: Jesus, as at other times, does not answer their question. They were not actually asking a question but were mocking. They didn't need more information; they needed to believe his words and his works.

3. Jesus responds to the crowd with an exhortation and a dire warning, 12:35-36a.

- (John 12:35–36a ESV) So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. **Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.** 36 While you **have** the light, **believe in the light, that** you may become sons of light.”

A. Jesus exhorts them to live in obedience to the light while they have the light—follow him while they can.

Jesus, the light of the world, would soon be gone in physical presence as he faces his death on the cross.

B. Jesus gives them a dire warning regarding the treacherous nature of delayed obedience.

Lesson: Respond in obedience to the truth at the moment of recognition or possibly lose the opportunity forever as darkness overtakes your life.

- (Psalm 95:7–8 ESV) For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. **Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts,** as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness.
- (Proverbs 28:14 ESV) **Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.**
- (Isaiah 66:2 ESV) All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. **But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.**
- (Hebrews 3:7–11 ESV) Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “**Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, 9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. 10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’ 11 As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’**”

• (Also in Hebrews 3:15, 4:7.)

C. The person who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going since the only way we know where we are going is to follow Jesus and walk in the light.

D. Jesus lastly states a wonderful principle and a promise—believe the light while you have the light and become sons of light.

- (Ephesians 5:8 ESV) **For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.**

4. His people still did not receive him, 12:36b–43.

A. As stated from the very beginning of the Gospel of John, his people did not receive him.

- (John 1:11 ESV) **He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.**

B. Jesus removed his presence from them because of their continued unbelief.

- (John 12:36b ESV) When Jesus had said these things, **he departed and hid himself from them.**

C. They still did not believe in him.

- John 12:37 ESV) **Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him.**

D. Prophecy fulfilled: They had crossed the line of no return and now could no longer believe in him.

- (John 12:38–40 ESV) **So that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:** “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” 39 **Therefore they could not believe.** For again Isaiah said, 40 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”

5. Yes ... Isaiah was talking about Jesus.

- (John 12:41 ESV) Isaiah said these things **because he saw his glory and spoke of him.**

Wow! Lord [Adonai] and LORD of hosts [Yahweh] in Isaiah 53:1 and Isaiah 6:10 and quoted in John 12:38-40 are references to Jesus.

- (Isaiah 6:1–3 ESV) In the year that King Uzziah died **I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up;** and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: **“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”**

CONCLUSION: Do I know Jesus and love him and keep his words

... OR do I reject him and remain in the darkness?

I. Jesus loudly and passionately describes what happens when a person believes in him, 12:44-46.

- (John 12:44–46 ESV) And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. 45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”

A. Whoever believes in Jesus believes in the Father who sent him and whoever sees him sees the Father who sent him.

B. Jesus came into the world as light so that whoever believes in him may not remain in darkness.

- (Colossians 1:13 ESV) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

C. Whoever does not believe in him remains in darkness because all are in darkness apart from the light.

II. Jesus passionately warns those who hear his words and do not keep his words, 12:47-48..

- (John 12:47–48 ESV) If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

A. Jesus says he does not judge that person because he came not to judge but to save.

B. The one who hears his words and does not keep [to conform one’s action or practice to] his words rejects him.

C. The person who hears his words, does not keep them, rejects Jesus and does not receive his words has a judge.

D. The words that this person heard but neither kept nor received will be judged by those words on the last day.

III. Jesus explains why—he spoke the Father’s words on the Father’s authority, 12:49-50.

- (John 12:49–50 ESV) For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—

what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.

A. Whoever hears the words of Jesus but does not keep them rejects Jesus and rejects the Father.

B. The words that Jesus spoke were the Father’s command for eternal life.

- (1 John 3:23 ESV) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

CONCLUSION TO THE CONCLUSION: The person who loves Jesus keeps his word and is being conformed to the image of Jesus the Son of God.

The person who loves Jesus hears his words and obeys his words. He conforms his actions and life practices to what Jesus says. By this she demonstrates that she is following Jesus and walking in the light as a child of the light, i.e. as one who no longer remains in the darkness.

- (Romans 8:29a ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.
- (1 Peter 1:14 ESV) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance.
- (Colossians 3:10 ESV) And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- (John 14:23–24 ESV) Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.
- (1 John 2:4–5a ESV) Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.
- (Revelation 3:8 ESV) I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.