

A MOMENT OF DESTINY



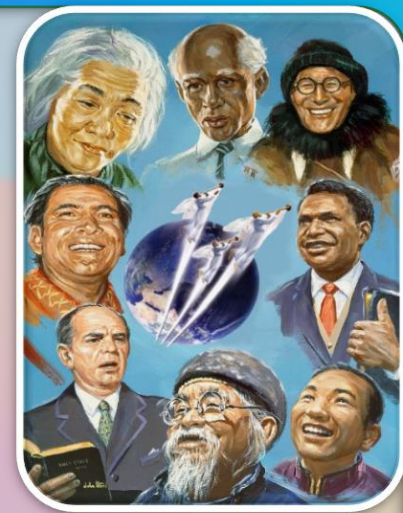
Lesson 2 for
April 8, 2023

"Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe' " (Revelation 14:14, 15)




There's a group of people who will stay faithful to God in the last conflict of our history, as seen in Revelation 14 (Rev. 14:1-5). They are called to share and live a specific message (Rev. 14:6-13). God will execute His judgment according to the acceptance or rejection of that message (Rev. 14:14-20).

The result of the judgment depends on the decisions we make today: life (harvest) or death (grapes).



- It's time to decide (Revelation 14:6-13):
 - ➔ Three cosmic messages: A moment of destiny
- Analyzing the decisions (Revelation 14:14):
 - ➔ The Son of Man
 - ➔ The heavenly judgment
- The result of the decisions (Revelation 14:15-20):
 - ➔ The harvest: The destiny of the righteous
 - ➔ The grapes: The destiny of the wicked



IT'S TIME
TO DECIDE
(REVELATION 14:6-13)

A MOMENT OF DESTINY

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)




Jesus foretold that everyone on Earth will have heard about the Gospel when He returns (Rev. 14:6-7; Mt. 24:14).

Everyone will have to choose between the false teachings of Babylon or the truth that the faithful remnant will keep (Rev. 14:8).

Everyone will have to choose between the mark of the enemy (symbolized by the beast) or the seal of God (Rev. 14:9-11; Mr. 8:35).

When should we make our decision? Now is the time. Our final destiny will depend on what we choose today.



A decorative border with a soft, watercolor-like background in shades of pink and peach. The border consists of several brown, stylized branches with intricate, swirling patterns. These branches are adorned with delicate, five-petaled pink flowers. Small, light-colored dots are scattered throughout the background, adding to the ethereal and artistic feel of the design.

ANALYZING
THE DECISIONS
(REVELATION 14:14)

THE SON OF MAN

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” (Matthew 16:27)



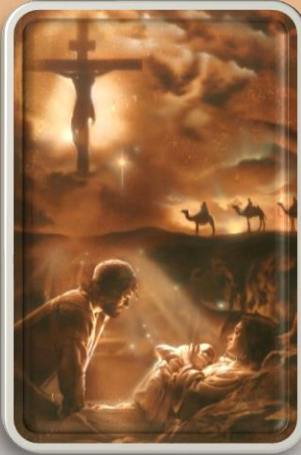
Jesus emphasized His human nature by using the expression “Son of Man” when talking about His suffering and mission to save everyone (Lk. 9:22; Mr. 10:45). He’s the only one source of forgiveness of sin (Mr. 2:10-11) and salvation (Lk. 19:10).

Jesus walked on this Earth as a man. He healed the sick, He was tempted as we are, and He went through the same trials. We can be sure that He understands us. He’s qualified to judge our decisions (Jn. 5:26-27).



Jesus used the same expression to refer to His Second Coming (Mt. 16:27; 24:27, 37, 44; 25:31; Mr. 8:38).

Once everyone has made their decision in the End Time, “this same Jesus” will return (Acts 1:11).



THE HEAVENLY JUDGMENT

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him." (Daniel 7:13)


John saw Jesus seated on a cloud with a sickle in His hand, waiting for the order to go (Rev. 14:14).

John didn't see Jesus coming to Earth in that moment. The Second Coming takes place when Jesus is ordered "Thrust in Your sickle and reap." (Rev. 14:15)

Revelation 14:14 is parallel to Daniel 7:13. Both describe God's judgment prior to the Second Coming.

Once the judgment ends, every case will be resolved (Rev. 22:12). God's character will have been vindicated before the Universe (Ps. 51:4), and Jesus will return to take the redeemed with Him (Mr. 13:26-27).





**THE RESULT
OF THE DECISIONS
(REVELATION 14:15-20)**

THE DESTINY OF THE RIGHTEOUS

"[...] Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." (Revelation 14:15)



Before the harvest, Jesus changes His crown of thorns for a “golden crown” (Jn. 19:5; Rev. 14:14). That is not a king’s crown (*diadēma*), but a victor’s crown (*stephanos*).

Jesus will reap the harvest and give us the victor’s crown (1P. 5:4). How can we be victorious?

The grain must have grown and be ripe in order to be harvested (Mt. 5:48).

We must also be transformed in holiness every day by Him who loved us and has overcome (2Co. 3:18).

THE DESTINY OF THE WICKED

"[...] Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." (Revelation 14:18)

The righteous (the harvest) grow in holiness, and the wicked (the grapes) grow in wickedness.

Rejecting God's will result in wickedness and a "seared" conscience (1Tim. 4:1-2 NIV).

Once everyone has made their decision by the end of the End Time, they will have been either sanctified or rejected according to their decision (Rev. 22:11).

The contrast between the righteous and the wicked will be impressive and obvious. Their words and behavior will testify of their decision. Our final decision will be built on the decisions we make every day.



“The Bible will be opened from house to house, and men and women will find access to these homes, and minds will be opened to receive the word of God; and when the crisis comes, many will be prepared to make right decisions even in the face of the formidable difficulties that will be brought about through the deceptive miracles of Satan [...] There will be an army of steadfast believers who will stand as firm as a rock through the last test [...]

Brethren and sisters, the Lord wants to impart to us increased light. He desires that we shall have distinct revealings of his glory; that ministers and people shall become strong in his strength.”