

Ἐλήλυθεν ἡ ὥρα

The hour has come

Die Stunde ist gekommen

by

Gary Heartsill

25. Dezember 2019



One commentator¹ claims the Gospel of John “is in many ways the crown of the Scriptures. It is the simplest and at the same time the most profound book in the New Testament” (p. 437). The four verses of the incarnation in 1:14-18 “crown the Logos doctrine of the prologue and contain the essential message of the entire Gospel” (p. 472). The words in verse 14 say “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” And then the “secret is out” the Logos is named Jesus, Jesus the Christ.

If the Fourth Gospel is the crown book of the Bible and verse 14 is the crown verse for the entire book, then the words “The hour has come” are the crown mantra.

The title page shows the mantra in three languages and here are three more:

Sufficit: venit hora

Ha llegado la hora

L'heure est venue

Some examples in the Gospel for “**the hour**” are shown below:

2 ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? **My hour has not yet come.**”

4 ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, **the hour is coming** when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...²³But **the hour is coming, and is now here**, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...”

5 ²⁵“Very truly, I tell you, **the hour is coming, and is now here**, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

8 ³⁰Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because **his hour**

¹ Wilbert F. Howard (1952). *The Gospel of St. John, The Interpreter's Bible, VII*. New York, NY: Abingdon Press.

had not yet come.

12 ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

12 ²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

13 ¹ Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father.

16 ³² The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone.

17:1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come.

This mantra is so special for holding the Word together in St. John I have placed it on my Challenge Banner – see orange line in the picture on page one. For some of us who don't have a banner to tout perhaps a tattoo would work? This is what it would look like in Greek and what would make a good imprint:

Ἐλήλυθεν ἡ ὥρα

Not being one who gets into tats I would be curious as to exactly where one would have it tattooed. It should go on the forehead where everybody can see it but that may be a distraction. Well, of course, I am dreaming. Some people put their mantras on shirts, bill boards, or maybe pulling a banner with an airplane.

[Where will your banner fly?](#)