

REVELATION

The Harvest of the Earth
(Revelation 14:14~20)

*Joel 3:13: Put in the sickle, for **the harvest is ripe.**
Go in, tread, for **the winepress is full.** The vats
overflow, for their evil is great.*



Isaiah 63:1-3: Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel."



Revelation 14:14-20: Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

Christ will come in judgment. But
in His judgment, God is always
just.

We must trust the justice of God in
our lives.

1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

A. John sees one like the Son of Man.

❖ Revelation 14:14-15: Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”

1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

A. John sees one like the Son of Man.

1. Some say that Christ is on the cloud.

❖ Daniel 7: Christ is the Son of Man who comes with the clouds to receive an everlasting kingdom from the Father.

❖ Christ often called Himself the Son of Man.

❖ This one wears a victor's crown (*stephanos*).

1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

A. John sees one like the Son of Man.

2. Some say that an angel is on the cloud.

❖ An angel from the temple in heaven gives a command to the one on the cloud.

❖ It seems odd that an angel could give a command to Christ.

1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

A. John sees one like the Son of Man.

❖ If it is Christ, then the angel is simply passing on a message from God the Father.

❖ Either way, the *main* point is that the hour of harvest has come.

1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

B. What is being harvested?

❖ Is it a harvest of believers or a harvest of judgment?



1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

B. What is being harvested?

1. Some see it as a harvest of believers.

- ❖ Mark 4: The kingdom of God is like a grain harvest that will be harvested when ripe.
- ❖ Matthew 13: The parable of the weeds has a gathering of unbelievers for judgment and believers in the kingdom.
- ❖ Matthew 24: Christ spoke of the angels gathering believers from around the world.

1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

B. What is being harvested?

2. Some see it as a harvest of judgment.

❖ Joel 3 combined a grain harvest and a grape harvest as two consecutive pictures of judgment.

❖ Revelation 14:7: And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because **the hour of his judgment has come**, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

B. What is being harvested?

2. Some see it as a harvest of judgment.

❖ “. . .the harvest of the earth is *fully ripe*.”

❖ There is a delay in the harvest.

❖ God is slow to anger, patient, and long-suffering.

❖ God *could* judge sooner, but He often gives more opportunities to repent than people deserve.

1. The first harvest John sees is a grain harvest.

C. The distinction in the harvests

- ❖ Similar to Joel 3, two harvests could point to the seriousness and severity of the judgment.
- ❖ Perhaps the grain harvest specifically refers to the seven bowl judgments (Rev 15-16) and the grape harvest refers to Armageddon at Christ's Second Coming (Rev 19).

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

- ❖ Revelation 14:17-18: Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. **And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire,** and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.”

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

A. The angel with authority over fire gives this call for reaping.

- ❖ What altar was inside the temple?
- ❖ Where else has this altar of incense been seen in Revelation?
- ❖ Where else have we seen the prayers of the saints in Revelation?

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

A. The angel with authority over fire gives this call for reaping.

- ❖ The angel with authority over fire is probably the one who offered the incense at the altar.
- ❖ If God is just, He will judge sin. He would be unjust to overlook sin.
- ❖ Those who are persecuted often pray for justice/vindication.

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

B. The judgment of God is compared to the winepress of God's wrath.

❖ Revelation 14:19-20: So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

B. The judgment of God is compared to the winepress of God's wrath.

❖ Revelation 19:15: From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. **He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.**



The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

C. The treading of the winepress takes place outside the city.

- ❖ Most assume “the city” refers to Jerusalem, since the Battle of Armageddon is in Israel.
- ❖ Old Testament prophecies such as Zechariah 14 point to the significance of Israel in the future.

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

C. The treading of the winepress takes place outside the city.

- ❖ The Messiah will return to defend Israel and defeat its enemies.
- ❖ Zechariah 14:2a: For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle . . .

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

C. The treading of the winepress takes place outside the city.

❖ Zechariah 14:3-4: Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. **On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east,** and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

C. The treading of the winepress takes place outside the city.

❖ Zechariah 14:11: And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

2. The second harvest John sees is a grape harvest.

D. The judgment of God at Armageddon clearly demonstrates God's justice.

- ❖ We must always remember that God is just in His judgment.
- ❖ Revelation 16:5-6: And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!”

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- We see two harvests in Revelation, and the main emphasis is God's judgment.
- We must trust in God's justice.
 - We can want vindication and be like Jonah when he looked at Nineveh.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Romans 12:17-19: Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
- We must trust the justice of God in our lives.

NEXT TIME:
REVELATION 15:1-8

- Seven Angels with
Seven Plagues