

“THE PANORAMIC VIEW OF REVELATION”

Revelation 14: 16 – 20

And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped (v. 16). And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle (v. 17). And another came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, thrust in thy sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe (v. 18). And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God (v. 19). And the winepress was trodden [trampled] without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs (v. 20).

INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

Now last week we talk about the harvest of the end times. We talked about the person and judge of the harvest, his position, and his power during the reaping of the harvest of the earth. We also discovered that the Son of man in **(v. 14)** is a reference to Jesus Christ, the Messiah and that he is the Judge of the Harvest coming to judge as king, because he wore a golden crown.

- 1. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped (v. 16).** So, in verses **14 – 16**, the Son of man is Christ, the Messiah which is a messianic title from **Daniel 7: 13**, that was used quite often by Jesus to refer to Himself. The cloud relates to Christ’s second coming “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and grate glory” **(Reader, Matthew 24: 31 – 35)**. As stated, the crown pictures Jesus Christ as the ruler of the earth, and the sickle symbolize an instrument of judgment for the harvest, because the time is come to complete the judgment of the earth.

Therefore, whereas, verses **14 – 16** picture Christ’s judgment as a grain harvest, the closing verses **17 – 20** symbolize the wrath of God as a grape harvest with the treading of the grape clusters in a huge wine press.

2. **And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle (v. 17).** Again, the sharp sickle depicts judgment in terms of the winepress.
3. **And another came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, thrust in thy sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe (v. 18).** The clusters of the vine of the earth represents the unbelievers of the earth, those who have followed and worshiped the beast (**Rev. 14: 8 – 11**).

A. THE ANGEL HAD POWER OVER FIRE:

The fire was a common figure for purifying things by fire (**Reader, Isaiah 6: 1 – 8; Reader Matthew 3: 9 – 11**) or as a means of judgment, as the lake of fire (**Rev. 20: 10, 15**). God in his purity is liken to a consuming fire (**Hebrews 12: 29**).

B. THE ANGEL CRY TO THRUST IN THE SICKLE:

This time the angel conveys the message to him that had the sharp sickle to begin the work of judgment; only this time it is not the reaping of a harvest [**of the tribulation saved**], but the gathering of the vintage into the winepress of the wrath of God. Men have rejected the true vine and they would not accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior, instead they reached out to the world for deliverance (**Reader, Isaiah 30: 1 – 7**).

4. **And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God (v. 19).**

A. THE VINE OF THE EARTH:

Now, just as the harvest was ripe (**in v. 15**), so is the vine (**in v.19**). You see the judgment in the chapter includes both Jews and Gentiles verse 20 indicates where the center of the events will be. However, it goes without question, that there are two reapers at work here. The one like unto the Son of Man, depicts the risen Savior in victory reaping the harvest of his

people, while the angel with the sharp sickle reaps the harvest of those destined for judgment.

B. THE WINEPRESS OF GOD'S WRATH:

Is meant to indicate the violence and intensity of God's coming judgment on the earth (**Reader, Isaiah 63: 2 – 6; Reader, Joel 3: 12 – 14; Reader, Revelation 19: 11 – 16**). The judgment of the winepress, is of an upper and lower trough connected by a channel. The troughs are hollowed out from a solid rock or they may be built out of brick. The grapes were put into the upper trough which was on a slightly higher level than the lower level and trampled under feet. Often in the Old Testament writings, God's judgment was likened to the trampling of grapes (Lam. 1: 15).

5. **And the winepress was trodden [trampled] without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs (v. 20).** This is believed to be a picture and reference of the battle that will take place in Armageddon (**Reader, Revelation 16: 12 – 16**). The blood may even be the red juice of the grapes as prophesied in (**Genesis 49: 10 – 11; Deut. 32: 14**) or literal blood resulting from the final battle. The height of the blood is believed to rise at least **4ft high** for about **184 miles wide**, being the full length of Palestine. The amount of the blood from the winepress symbolizes the severity of the judgment.

INCONCLUSION

At that time, it shall be said, "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

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