

WHEN GOD HARVESTS THE EARTH
REV. 14:14-20, 15,18

Introduction:

- A. There is always a harvest.
 - 1. There is the harvest of flesh. Gal. 6:7-9.
 - 2. The harvest of evil. (text).

- B. There will be a harvest of this world system. Two are mentioned here.

For the church. A harvest of religious evil.

- Likened to wheat. 14-16.
- Parable of tares. Matt. 13:36-43.

For Israel. A harvest of political evil.

- Likened to grapes. v17-20.
- Prophecy of Joel. Joel 3:9-17. [824 B.C.]

- C. God will be in charge.
 - 1. Isa. 63:1-6. [679 B.C.]
 - 2. Isa. 34:1-8. [656 B.C.]

I. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF FALSE RELIGION. V14-16.
THE GRAIN HARVEST.

- A. "And I looked and behold a White Cloud and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle."
 - 1. Jesus went away on a White Cloud. Acts 1:9-
 - 2. This is "the like manner."
 - 3. The golden crown is that ornament worn by a victor and this designates Christ as the Victor and thus He has earned the right to judge.
 - 4. He was rejected and despised by Israel, He is rejected and despised by this world system.

- B. "And another angel came out of the temple crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud. Thrust in thy sickle and reap for the time is come for thee to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

1. temple = naos - temple, sanctuary, This angel is one of the "fire" angels that follows the commands of God. v18, Rev. 8:5.
2. thrust = pempo - to stand, start at once.
3. reap = therizo - the summer harvest, to mow and to reap and gather the summer harvest.
 - a. Jer. 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."
4. time = hora - a portion of time, season, a definite, limited, determined time.
5. ripe = kseraino = to be dried up, become fully dry, more than to become ripe, Mark 4:29, "But when the fruit is brought forth (ripe) immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

C. "And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."

1. thrust = ballo = to throw, to cast.
2. reaped = therizo [above].

II. THE JUDGMENT OF EARTH'S EVIL POLITICAL SYSTEM. V17-20 THE GRAPE HARVEST.

A. "And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle."

1. sharp = oksus - keen, having a sharp edge.
2. sickle = drepanon - a crooked knife, or a sickle.

B. "And another angel 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 sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe."

1. power = eksousia - delegated authority.
2. over fire = Rev. 8:5.
3. ripe = akmazo - to flourish, to be in the prime.
Here the word indicates perfect ripeness.
4. This describes a ripe vineyard.

C. "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."

1. thrust = ballo - to throw, to cast.
2. gather = trugao - to gather in ripe fruits.
3. cast = ballow - to throw at or hit.

III. GOD'S WINEPRESS. V20

A. "And the winepress was trodden without the city and blood came out of the winepress."

1. trodden = pateo - to walk on, tramp. Grapes were trampled by foot in a trough which had a duct leading to a lower basin where the juice was collected.
2. This occurs, "without" the city, the city of Jerusalem, in the Valley of Meggiddo. This will be Armageddon or "hill of megiddo."
3. Zech. 14:1-3. [854 B.C.]

B. "even unto the horse bridles by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs."

1. horse bridles = four to four and one half feet.
2. furlong = 220 yards == 660 ft == 160 miles.
3. J.A. Seiss, THE APOCALYPSE.

"And blood came forth out of the wine-press up to the bits of the horses for a distance of 1,600 stadia!" A river of human blood 160 miles in length, and up to the bridles of the horses in depth, tells an awful story. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, so great was the bloodshed that Josephus says the whole city was quenched with the blood to such a degree that the fires of many of the houses were quenched by it. When Sylla took Athens, Plutarch says the blood that was shed in the market-place alone covered all the ceramicus as far as Dipylus, and some testify that it ran through the gates and overflowed very definite description of what John here saw as the consequence of the treading of this wine-press. It is "the great wine press of the wrath of God." It is the last great consummate act of destruction which is to end this present world. The masses on whom it is executed are "the kings of the earth and of the whole world, and their armies." (Rev. 16:14; 19:19), stationed in a line from Bozrah in Edon to Esdraelon in Galilee. They are to be utterly consumed, so as to "leave them neither root nor branch." (Mal. 4:1). It is "the great and dreadful day of the Lord" about which all the prophets of all the ages have prophesied. It is the result of the resentment and anger of Him who is Faithful and True, who in righteousness doth judge and make war, whose eyes are as fire, on whose head are the many crowns, whom all the armies of Heaven follow upon white horses, out of whose mouth goeth a sharp sword, and who "treadeth the wine press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." And it must needs be all that John here states, a belt of blood from Bozrah to Esdraelon up to the horses' bridles in depth! Isaiah says: "The land shall be drunk with blood, and its dust made fat with fatness, for it is the day of Jehovah's vengeance, the year of recompenses for the controversy against Zion." (Isa. 34:7,8).

