

Book of Revelation

Chapter 14:14-20

Reaping Earth's Harvest & Grapes of Wrath

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Revelation 14:14-20

- Revelation 14 is packed with a profound message on God's *judgment, mercy, and grace*.
- In the last portion of this chapter, we see
 - the saints rewarded for their faithfulness with a “great harvest of souls” being gathered, and
 - the grapes of wrath being reaped from the wicked.
- From an evangelical perspective, let's look at what we can learn from Revelation 14 about God's plan for judgment and salvation and what it means for us today.

Revelation 14

- ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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 ^[1]for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. – Revelation 14:14-16 (NKJV)

Revelation 14:14-16

- John sees an angel flying in mid-heaven with “the everlasting gospel”:
- From this passage we learn that God is gathering a great harvest of souls.
 - a harvest of the righteous who have eternal life, and
 - a harvest of the wicked, who will experience eternal death.
 - both harvests are done out of great love and justice for those who bear the likeness of Jesus himself
 - and those who do not

Revelation 14:18-19

- ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” ¹⁹ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Revelation 14:18-19

- What we are seeing here is a judgment of UNBELIEVERS
- Earth is ripe for judgment and God is going to do that
- The whole tone of these verses is Jesus the Judge preparing to judge the wicked
- Two angels have the job of reaping the earth
- Verse 19: The earth produced a crop of unbelievers, which now, at the end of the Tribulation, would come into judgment.
- The angel gathered them from the earth to undergo judgment in God’s great wine press (cf. Isa. 63:1-6; Lam. 1:15; Joel 3:13).

Revelation 14:18-19

- "The harvest is an OT figure used for divine judgment (Hos 6:11; Joel 3:13), especially on Babylon (Jer 51:33).
- Jesus also likens the final judgment to the harvest of the earth (Matt 13:30, 39)."
- Harvest is used of the wicked
- This judgment occurs at end of the Tribulation
- "Following the pattern of Joel 3:13, the scene furnishes two pictures of the same judgment for the same reason that Joel does, i.e., to emphasize the terror of it." (Thomas)

Revelation 14:20

- ²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs. – Revelation 14:20 (NKJV)
- This is likely NOT Babylon but Jerusalem ("outside the city")
- The Old Testament predicted a final battle near Jerusalem in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (i.e., the Kidron Valley just to the east of Jerusalem; Joel 3:12-14; Zech. 14:4; cf. Rev. 11:2)
- It seems probable that blood will literally flow up to the height of the horses' bridles (about four and a half feet) in some places in that valley.
- Obviously many people will have to die for this amount of blood to flow.

Revelation 14:20

- one thousand six hundred furlongs = approximately 180 miles
- the blood is pictured draining out of the Jezreel Valley for 180 miles
- probably flowing eastward down the Harod Valley to...
- the Jordan Valley, and south all the way to the Dead Sea.
- *“When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, so great was the bloodshed that Josephus says the whole city ran down 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 [ceramic objects] as far as Dipylus, and some testify that it ran through the gates and overflowed the suburbs.” (Seiss)*

Application

- Okay, so God is telling us there will be a harvest in the future
 - A gathering of believers for eternal life, and
 - A gathering of unbelievers for judgment
- In light of this, how does this information apply to us now, today?
 - We must be faithful to God and live in accordance with His will
 - God’s judgment is just and His wrath will be felt by those who do not accept His message of salvation
 - It should move us to become better evangelists, spreading His Gospel to the lost

Revelation 15 – Beginning of the End

- Revelation 15 contains 8 verses featuring the prelude to the pouring out of the final 7 bowl judgments from God's throne
- Revelation 15 shows us the preparatory pageantry that occurs in God's throne room as He commissions 7 angels to purify the earth with the final 7 judgments