



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Revelation 55 Reaping Earth's Harvest Revelation 14:14-20

**Revelation 14:14-20**, *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. <sup>15</sup> 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 for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." <sup>16</sup> So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.*

#### **Reaping the Grapes of Wrath**

*<sup>17</sup> Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> 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." <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.*

## **Introduction: Two Comings of Christ**

As we continue our study of the apocalypse—the revelation of Jesus Christ—we come to Revelation 14, which deals with the final harvest of the earth.

- ✓ The contrast between Christ's first coming and His second coming is stark and essential to understanding this passage:
- ✓ The first time Jesus came to earth as a servant
- ✓ The next time He will come as the sovereign King.
  
- ✓ The first time He came in humility.
- ✓ The next time He will come in glorious majesty and splendor.
  
- ✓ The first time He came to seek and to save the lost.
- ✓ The next time He will come to judge and sentence the lost.
  
- ✓ The first time Jesus came as the sower.
- ✓ The next time He will come as the reaper.

- ✓ He came in grace.
- ✓ He comes in wrath.

The Book of Revelation is written to give us a clear understanding of Christ's coming that yet awaits human history. The revelation of Jesus Christ is near.

### **Jesus is coming in sovereign glory!**

The very same Jesus the world crucified and rejected—no longer like the first time, but to judge the ungodly.

We are in the book of Revelation understand the flow of truth.

- The seven seals have been opened.
- The seven trumpets have blown.
- The abomination of desolations by the Antichrist in the temple of Jerusalem has taken place.
- The persecution of Israel has escalated to a fever pitch.
- The execution and martyrdom of Christians all over the earth is going on.
- The whole earth and sky is devastated by divine judgment, divine vengeance.
- Satan is ruling the earth with the iron fist of Antichrist, aided by the false prophet.
- The whole remaining world is deceived into worshiping the Antichrist as if he were God and blaspheming the true God and Jesus Christ.

It is the worst time in the world's history.

We have been seeing the details of that period to come known as the tribulation in the latter half of that seven-year period known as the great tribulation.

We are now toward the end of the great tribulation and people across the earth are hoping things are going to get better.

Times will become worse, rapidly so and finally so.

The judgment that ultimately sweeps away Satan, Antichrist, the false prophet, the demons, and all ungodly people is about to hit.

Here it is described under the final reaping of the earth. Here is the unprecedented final holocaust that gives the world its greatest bloodbath ever, the fury of Christ released in final and devastating judgment.

Now such a promise of judgment is not new in Scripture.

In fact, in the New Testament at the very outset of the work of Jesus Christ, His forerunner John the Baptist came along.

**Matthew 3:7**, *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"*

From the very beginning, before the Messiah even began to preach the gospel, here was one talking about future wrath.

John said Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. In fact, He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

**Apostle Paul** also gave several warnings about the coming of wrath.

In 2 **Peter** speaks very explicitly about the earth melting with fervent heat, the elements being burned up in the terrible judgment of the day of the Lord that is going to fall.

Paul wrote in **Romans 1:18 about the wrath of God.**

When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Even the Lord Jesus Himself who clearly predicted the coming judgment on few occasions in **Matthew 13, 24, and 25.**

There are several New Testament passages that speak of God's coming wrath, not just the book of Revelation.

**Isaiah 13:13**, *“Therefore I shall make the heavens tremble and the earth will be shaken from its place at the fury of the Lord of hosts in the day of His burning anger.”*

**Isaiah 63:1-6**, *Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”* <sup>2</sup>*Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?* <sup>3</sup>*“I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.* <sup>4</sup>*For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.* <sup>5</sup>*I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me.* <sup>6</sup>*I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth.”*

There is a fascinating monologue on the part of the Messiah as He speaks about coming into the world for final devastating blood-letting judgment that splatters blood all over His garments and trampling out the grapes of wrath is certainly also a parallel to chapter 14.

Joel was written in a time when the land of Israel was being devastated by locusts. We aren't exactly able to be positive about the date of the writing of Joel, but we know it was a time of devastation. Locusts, draught and fire had come.

The prophet uses those devastating temporal judgments to warn of a greater more extensive and more severe judgment to come.

We may think it's been bad with the locusts and the draught and the fire, but we haven't seen anything yet.

The prophet moves from that temporal judgment to the doom of the nation's when the Lord unfolds His wrath and treads the winepress of His furious anger.

The prophecy is also at the same time an appeal from God to the people to seek Him through repentance so He can bless them before this judgment comes.

**Joel 3:9-17**, *Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. <sup>10</sup> Beat your ploughshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.' "* <sup>11</sup> *Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord. <sup>12</sup> "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. <sup>13</sup> Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow— For their wickedness is great." <sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. <sup>15</sup> The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish*

*their brightness. <sup>16</sup> The Lord also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel. <sup>17</sup> “So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again.”*

The **prophecies of Isaiah**, as well as this **prophecy in the book of Joel** provide a very similar imagery to prophetic understanding, as does **Revelation chapter 14**.

The image of wrath, the image of vengeance, and the image of the stamping out of grapes in a winepress as symbolic of God crushing out the life of the ungodly.

The Lord Jesus Himself spoke directly of this harvest of wrath.

**Matthew 13:30**, *Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ’*

Same harvest kind of picture for judgment.

**Matthew 13:39-42**, *The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. <sup>40</sup> Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will*

*send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, <sup>42</sup> and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

**Matthew 13:49-50**, *So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, <sup>50</sup> and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”*

Our Lord talked about a harvest of wrath.

Joel and Isaiah talked about God coming in the form of Messiah as the judge and stamping out the grapes of wrath in final judgment.

Precisely this is what we see described in Revelation chapter 14.

**The harvest here is pictured in two different motifs.**

- The grain harvest in verses 14 to 16.
- The grape harvest in V 17-20.

In both there is a sickle and a reaping.

**Why two visions of the same event?**

There are two great aspects of judgment yet to come.

The Holy Spirit has ordained two visions.

There are two significant final judgments to come.

First, we are going to see in chapter 16 the seven-bowl judgments. They come at the very end of the time of tribulation, a rapid-fire sequence of frightening, worldwide judgments that destroy the whole world system of Babylon, destroying the Antichrist's empire.

There is a second aspect to final judgment, and that is the battle of Armageddon when Jesus Christ actually returns to the earth.

We still are going to see two phases of this final wrath.

- One will take the form of seven bowls, and
- Other will be the very direct intervention of Jesus Christ when He returns.
  
- One is described in **chapter 16**
- Another is described in **chapter 19**.

## **The Grain Harvest (Revelation 14:14-16)**

### **1. The Reaper: Christ in His Victorious Glory.**

*V 14, "I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a Son of Man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand"*

This imagery is drawn directly from **Daniel 7:13**, which is prophesy of the Messiah.

**Daniel 7:13**, *"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming".*

The white cloud demonstrates Christ's magnificent majesty and heavenly origin.

Unlike the beast, who sits upon many waters representing earthly peoples and multitudes.

**Revelation 17:15**, *Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

Christ is heavenly and supreme.

Notice the crown: it is a **Stephanos** (victor's crown), not a diadema (royal crown).

This pictures the Son of Man coming to conquer and prevail over His enemies. It is the runner's crown, the triumphal wreath—depicting His victorious posture as He rides out of heaven to execute judgment.

Remarkably, **this is the last time the Lord is called "Son of Man"** in Scripture.

The first time He bore this title, He had nowhere to lay His head. **Matthew 8:20**, *And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

We know referring to Christ where He is moving in the church in the majestic vision of chapter 1 and **He is called one like a Son of Man.**

**Revelation 1:13**, *and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.*

The last time, Jesus comes to take everything and execute final judgment.

**Matthew 24:30**, *Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

**Acts 1:11**, *who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

## 2. The Ripeness: The Hour Has Come

**V 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 for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe'"*

This angel comes from the temple—the dwelling place of God in heaven. His loud voice demonstrates authority from God, urgency, and power.

Another angel came out of the temple. The temple refers to the dwelling place of God, the place where God dwells.

**V 17**, *"Another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven."*

That tells us that this is not the earthly temple, this is not the temple of the tribulation in Jerusalem, **this is heaven**, the dwelling place of God, the sanctuary, the place of holy presence.

**Matthew 13**, we see the angels are the instruments of judgement and it all through the book of Revelation.

Here is the fourth active angel in this chapter. We have already met three of them earlier in the chapter.

The fourth angel with a very specific task. He comes right out of the throne room, right out of the sanctuary, right out of the temple where God dwells.

For obvious reasons he is coming to tell the Son of Man that God wants Him now to move in judgment.

**John 5:27**, *and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.*

A delegated authority and the Son sits on the battlements of heaven waiting to have His right to judge delegated to Him so that He can act.

The Son can now exercise His right and judge and execute. Wrath has come.

God's anger has reached its limit. He is sending vengeance by the Man with whom He will judge the world, namely the Lord Jesus Christ.

This angel comes out of the temple in heaven, the dwelling place of God, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud.

The message is clear: "No more delay, no more grace—it is time for the harvest."

The word "ripe" (Greek: **Thelō**) actually means overripe—withered, dried, and useless.

The swift sharp sickle shows the completeness of this judgment and its speed, and its severity.

It's time to reap because the harvest of the earth is ripe. The word means to be overripe, to have passed the point of any usefulness, to become dry, withered, overripe, or rotten.

In other words, the grain, the earth has passed the point of any use at all. No purpose for it at all, it is overripe and very late.

The grain has passed the point of any usefulness. What grace God has shown!

He has waited so long that the world is even past ripeness for judgment. Yet the implication is also sobering: the world is absolutely useless. It might also be hacked down, bundled, and thrown into the fire.

This over ripeness stands in contrast to the gospel that has been preached throughout **chapter 14 by the 144,000**, the two witnesses, and the angel (**Revelation 14:6-7**).

But the rotten world will now be dealt with because of its hardened state.

**Hebrews 10:26-27**, *For if we sin wilfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,<sup>27</sup> but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.*

**2 Peter 3:10-12**, *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be <sup>[d]</sup>burned up.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,<sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?*

### **3. The Reaping: The Judgment Executed**

**V 16**, *"So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped"*

It is done. The goats are destroyed.

**Matthew 25:32-46.**

The tares are destroyed.

**Matthew 13:40-42**, *Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.<sup>41</sup> The Son*

*of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, <sup>42</sup>and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

- The good are kept.
- The bad are destroyed.

This encompasses the seven-bowl judgments described in Revelation 16—a rapid-fire sequence of frightening, worldwide judgments that destroy the world system and the Antichrist's empire.

The seven bowls include:

1. Loathsome sores upon men,
2. The sea turning to blood,
3. Rivers turning to blood,
4. The sun scorching men with fierce heat,
5. The beast's kingdom darkened,
6. The gathering of kings for Armageddon, and
7. A catastrophic earthquake that splits the great city into three parts.

### **Revelation 16:2-19.**

**Revelation 16:17-19,** *Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" <sup>18</sup>And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great*

*earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. <sup>19</sup> Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.*

All of that is rapid fire at the end and all of that speaks of the details of the harvest.

## **The Grape Harvest (Revelation 14:17-20)**

Immediately following the grain harvest vision, another vision appears. While the grain harvest focuses on the seven-bowl judgments, the grape harvest depicts the direct return of Christ at Armageddon, the final and most devastating judgment.

### **1. The Reapers: Angels and Divine Authority.**

**V 17**, *"another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle"*

This is the fifth angel in the chapter's visions—an agent of God's judgment.

Both the Lord Jesus Christ in the first vision and this angel in the second vision have instruments of judgment.

Angels, you know, have played very prominent roles already in Revelation.

- The four horsemen that we saw in chapter 6 were called by angels,
- the seven trumpets were blown by angels,
- Satan and demons were defeated by angels,
- the seven bowls will be poured out by angels,
- Armageddon is announced by an angel,
- Satan and demons are bound by an angel.

This angel comes out of the temple in heaven, and he also has a sharp sickle.

Then comes the sixth angel.

**V 18**, *"who has power over fire, came out from the altar"*.

This is significant. This angel is the one who has power over fire. And he comes out from the altar.

When the fifth seal was broken describing the judgment of God in the time of the tribulation.

The altar in heaven is the place where the prayers of the saints have been rising before God:

**Revelation 6:9-11**, *When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. <sup>10</sup> And they*

*cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."*

They are praying for God to send His wrath. They have been martyred and they are praying to God to stop this martyrdom, to send His wrath, to crush the ungodly, to give victory to the saints, to vindicate the saints, to send Christ triumphantly to establish His Kingdom.

The angel comes from this altar—the place of answered prayer. He comes to see that the cries of the martyrs are answered. It is finally time for God to avenge His people and execute final wrath upon the ungodly.

**Revelation 8:3-5**, *Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.*

**Jewish background:**

Twice a day, whether at the tabernacle or later on in the temple, at the time of morning sacrifice and the time of evening sacrifice, the priest would go into the brazen altar and he would get fire. The fire was always going there symbolizing the ascending prayers.

But the priest would go and he would get some fire, and he would put it in the censer. Then he would go into the holy place, and he would wave the censer in the holy place which was like the presence of God—not the Holy of Holies but still a place where God would be present—and the incense would rise symbolizing the prayers of the people.

At that very moment outside, the people would be praying. He was symbolizing at the time of morning prayer and evening prayer exactly what the people were doing.

He would stand right in front of the veil to the Holy of Holies, and he would wave the censer. He would then ignite the altar of incense to its fullest flame. Brazen altar and then the altar of incense. The incense arose and it symbolized the prayers of the people.

The fire on the altar symbolizes prayer rising to God. It represents all the prayers of all the true saints who pleaded for God to send Christ, who pleaded for God to judge, all the

saints whoever said, *"Your kingdom come even so, come Lord Jesus."*

**V 18**, *"who has power over fire, came out from the altar"*.

Here comes an angel who has been dealing with the heavenly counterpart to the altar of incense, the fire angel.

## **2. The Ripeness of the Grapes: Fully Ripe in Wickedness**

He is coming out and he called with a loud voice to Him who had the sharp sickle saying,

**V 18**, *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."*

The world's rebellion against God has reached its fullest expression. There can be no more delay.

This angel comes from a place where the saints have been praying. Now time to answer their prayers.

It is time for the grape harvest, just as it was time for the grain harvest.

These two different pictures of the same great scene.

The bowl judgments and then the final great cataclysmic return of Jesus Christ.

We can see how this one emphasizes the winepress and thus the splattering of blood and the gushing of blood and the deadliness that is characteristic of the return of Christ.

**V 18**, *“Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth.”*

Cut them off, sever them from the earth vine, sever them from earthly existence.

### **Why?**

Because her grapes are ripe.

A different word for ripe is used here, it means fully ripe, they are in their prime, they are bursting with juice, the juice of wickedness.

Here, a different word for "ripe" is used (Greek: *akmazo*), meaning "fully ripe" or "in their prime"—bursting with juice.

The juice, symbolically, is the juice of wickedness.

### 3. The Reaping: The Winepress of Wrath.

The vision becomes graphic and apocalyptic.

**V 19-20**, *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.<sup>20</sup> 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.*

A winepress was a large stone basin with a lower basin below it, connected by a trough.

Grapes were thrown in and trampled underfoot. As the grapes burst, their juice flowed downward like a river.

Here, the imagery shifts from juice to blood—the symbolic representation of the crushing of all enemies of God.

The winepress is trampled "outside the city" outside Jerusalem.

The prophets indicate that while Armageddon's final battle rages across the land of Palestine—from the Plain of Esdraelon in the north to Bozrah in the south—the city itself finds protection. Yet the bloodshed is catastrophic.

The blood rises "up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs" (1,600 stadia—roughly 200 miles).

This is not an exaggeration but a stark warning of the unprecedented death toll when the Lord Jesus returns to judge. Millions will be engaged in this final battle, and all who oppose Christ will be utterly destroyed.

The prophets, **Zechariah in chapter 14**, **Daniel in chapter 11**, **Joel in chapter 3** says the battle will be around Jerusalem.

But apparently the city will be spared without the bloody carnage that will go on all over the land.

Blood will come out from the winepress, the juice now, the imagery turns to blood, up to the horses' bridles. There are two possibilities here. If that's just running blood, it's four feet deep.

### **How many people are going to be engaged in the battle of Armageddon?**

It's not unrealistic to assume there will be millions. When all those millions that still remain and have survived up to this last moment are fighting their battle against God and against His Christ, and Jesus comes in the great final act of judgment, it's not beyond assumption that there could be millions.

We don't know how many millions who would be caught in this bloodbath. But even millions of people in a bloodbath would make it very difficult to understand how that the blood could be four feet deep for two hundred miles.

Assume that there is this **200-mile-long lake of four feet deep** blood.

We can assume is one of two things.

The implication here is that the blood will splatter to the height of the horses' bridles, which would be four feet, blood-splattered horses or blood splattered to that height.

Or better yet, there may well be a trough running right down the central valley of Israel that is four-feet deep in blood.

If the battle takes place in those areas that are near the central valley, it's possible that at some points that blood could run that deep as it troughs its way down the centre of the land of Palestine.

But certainly, the idea here is that blood is going to splatter to the horses' bridles all over a two-hundred-mile area.

If you stretch this thing all the way from Armageddon in the north, all the way down to Edom in the south, and go forty miles beyond, you would have ample space to fill up those 180 miles.

The battle will range from beyond the borders of one end of that land to beyond the borders of the other end of that land because of the millions of people that will be flooding in there to engage themselves in this final great Armageddon.

At that point the Lord will come.

That description of the Lord's return is given in **Revelation chapter 19**.

**Revelation 19:11-21**, *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.* <sup>12</sup> *His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.* <sup>13</sup> *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.* <sup>14</sup> *And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.* <sup>15</sup> *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.* <sup>16</sup> *And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

<sup>17</sup> *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,* <sup>18</sup> *that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."*

<sup>19</sup> *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.* <sup>20</sup> *Then the beast was captured, and*

*with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

That is the final note on the grape harvest. The grain harvest is describing those final bowls that lead up the grape harvest, when the Lord Himself comes and treads the winepress of the fierce wrath of God the Almighty.

### **The Old Testament Foundation: Prophetic Parallels**

The imagery in Revelation 14 is not new. The Old Testament prophets spoke of this final judgment in vivid terms.

#### **Isaiah: The Messiah Treading the Winepress.**

Isaiah 63 contains a remarkable prophecy of the returning Messiah:

**Isaiah 63:1-4**, *Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” <sup>2</sup> Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? <sup>3</sup> “I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And*

*trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. <sup>4</sup>For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.*

Isaiah depicts the Messiah's garments splattered with blood as He treads down the nations in His wrath. This is a direct parallel to Revelation 14, where the grapes are trampled in the winepress of God's wrath.

### **Joel: The Nations Gathered for Judgment**

The prophet Joel also speaks of this harvest. Writing during a time of locust plague, Joel used that temporal judgment as a warning of a greater judgment to come:

**Joel 3:13-16**, *Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow— For their wickedness is great.” <sup>14</sup>Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. <sup>15</sup>The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. <sup>16</sup>The Lord also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.*

Joel brings together the sickle, the winepress, and the nations gathered for judgment—all elements present in Revelation 14.

The valley of decision becomes the valley of Jehoshaphat, where the final reckoning will take place.

### **Jesus' Teaching on the Harvest**

The Lord Jesus Himself spoke of this harvest of judgment. In the Parable of the Wheat and Tares, He explained:

**Matthew 13:39-42**, *"The harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. Therefore, just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"*

The harvest motif is consistent throughout Scripture. Whether spoken by John the Baptist, Jesus, Peter, Paul, or the Old Testament prophets, all point to a coming day of final and devastating judgment.

## **Conclusion:**

### **The Reality of Coming Judgment.**

The Scripture says, *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God"* (**Hebrews 10:31**).

No wonder the psalmist declares, *"Kiss the Son, lest He be angry"* (**Psalms 2:12**).

## ***What a fearful future awaits the world!***

Yet the world does not know. But we know.

- We have been given information that the world desperately needs.
- We know where history is headed.
- We know that Jesus Christ is returning.
- We know that judgment is coming.
- We know the house is on fire.

The world searches for hope, looking to politics, technology, and human achievement.

But the world does not understand that things will not get better, they will get worse.

Rapidly and finally, judgment will sweep away Satan, the Antichrist, the false prophet, the demons, and all who have rejected God and His Christ.

## **We have a sacred responsibility.**

We must warn this generation of the wrath to come. We must proclaim the gospel with urgency and clarity. Like **John the Baptist, Jesus, Peter and Paul, and every faithful believer** throughout the ages, we must sound the alarm.

The harvest is ripe.

The hour of judgment is at hand.

Christ is coming to reap the earth in wrath.

The time to seek Him in repentance and faith is now—while there is still time, while grace is still extended, before the sickle is thrust in and the winepress of wrath is trodden.

*"Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20, NKJV)*