

# *The FINAL HARVEST!*

## **Revelation 14:14-20**

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction

- October is “Harvest Time” among grain farmers in Illinois
- The Seventh Trumpet announces the beginning of the FINAL ACT
  - Revelation 11:15-- *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”*
- Before the outpouring of His wrath, God issues a FINAL CALL for earth-dwellers to repent of their sins, to give up their allegiance to the Antichrist, and to embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Before the outpouring of His wrath, God issues a FINAL PEP TALK to beleaguered tribulation saints experiencing a severe test of their faith and allegiance.
  - God tells them to *“hang in there. Don’t give up or give in, but persevere”*
  - God promises both REST from their work, and REWARDS for their faithfulness to Him. Their unbelieving friends will experience NO REST.
    - Revelation 14:9-10-- *“be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb and will have no rest day or night”*
- Now, before the actual outpouring of His wrath, God announces the beginning of the FINAL HARVEST.

### ***The FINAL HARVEST***

- 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. 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.” So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 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.” 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. 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. The FINAL HARVEST FORETOLD in Scripture.**

#### **1. The Final Harvest revealed through the Prophets Isaiah and Joel**

- Isaiah 13:11-13-- *“I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, a man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger.”*
- Isaiah 24:21-23-- *“It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously.”*
- Joel 3:12-13-- *“Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 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.”*

## 2 Jesus Christ speaks of a Final Judgment in terms of a Final Harvest.

- Matthew 13:24-30-- *"Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, "Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?" He said to them, "An enemy has done this." The servants said to him, "Do you want us then to go and gather them up?" But he said, "No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 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." ' ' "*
- Matthew 13:37-43-- *"He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 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, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

## 3. Paul and the writer to the Hebrews speak of a final judgment.

- Romans 1:18; 2:5-6-- *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness... But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds"*
- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9-- *"since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."*
- Hebrews 10:26-27-- *"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries."*

## B. The FINAL HARVEST UNFOLDED in Revelation 14

### 1. The GRAIN HARVEST

- Revelation 14:14-16-- *"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. 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." So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped."*
- a. Identity of the "Reaper"-- Revelation 14:14
- 1) The "white cloud and on the cloud sat one like the Son of man"
    - Daniel 7:13-14-- *"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."*
  - 2) The "Son of man" is Jesus Christ
  - 3) He is wearing a crown. Not a "diadem" or kingly crown, but rather a "stephanos", a victor's crown.
  - 4) The "sharp sickle" as the instrument of judgment.

- b. The **“Ripeness”** of the grain-- Revelation 14:15
- 1) The time is now for Jesus Christ to judge the world. No more delay.
    - John 5:27-- *“has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.”*
  - 2) The grain is **“ripe”**, literally *“dried up, withered, over-ripe, rotten”*
  - 3) This is not the only time the world was **“ripe”** for judgment.
    - Genesis 6:5-7-- *“the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”*
    - Genesis 6:11-12-- *“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.”*
    - Matthew 24:37-- *“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”*
- c. The **“Reaping”**: The **Bowl Judgments** of Revelation 16 --Revelation 14:16

## 2. The GRAPE HARVEST

- Revelation 14:17-20-- *“Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 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. 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.”*
- a. Identity of the **“Reapers”**-- *“another angel”*
- Matthew 13:39-- *“enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is at the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.”*
- b. The **“Ripeness”** of the Grapes.-- Revelation 14:18
- 1) Another angel who was given *“power over fire.. came from the altar”*
    - a) The **“altar”** is the heavenly altar of incense where the prayers of the martyrs ascend to God.
      - Revelation 6:9-11-- *“saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 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?” 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.”*
    - b) The **“altar and fire”** is the place from where God’s wrath is poured out.
      - Revelation 8:3-5-- *“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. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. 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.”*
  - 2) The *“grapes are fully ripe”!* The wicked are bursting with the juice of their wickedness, ready to be harvested and pressed.
- c. The **“Reaping”**: The **Battle of Armageddon** of Revelation 19-- Revelation 14:19-20
- 1) The construction of a **“wine press”** in Biblical times.
  - 2) An angel will harvest the wicked men.
  - 3) Jesus Christ Himself will be the One who will trample out the grapes of men.

- 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.” Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “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. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. 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. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.”*
- 4) The winepress will be trodden outside the city of Jerusalem, in the Plain of Esdraelon near Mount Megiddo.
  - 5) The staggering bloodshed. Armageddon will be more of a slaughter than a battle, for the blood will run deep up to the horses bridle (4 feet) for 200 miles.

### C. **The FINAL HARVEST APPLIED: The Spiritual Law of “Sowing and Reaping”--**

- Galatians 6:7-8-- *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”*
1. **The unbeliever, wicked person** will reap what they have sown when God pours out his wrath upon the unbelieving world.
  2. **As believers, we have a choice.**
    - a. **We can “sow to the flesh”**
      - 1) The “flesh” is the old sinful nature, the evil desires within, relying on our own thinking, doing it our way apart from God.
      - 2) It produces all manner of selfish, fleshly desires and expresses itself in everything from blatant immorality to cold indifference to the things of God.
      - 3) Ultimately, it produces “corruption”-- “degeneration”, going from better to worse. Decay.
    - b. **We can “sow to the Spirit”.**
      - 1) Same as “walking in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16), “being led by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:18) and being “filled with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-23). It is the same as “abiding in Christ and His word abiding in us” (John 15). It is setting our minds on things above and presenting our bodies as living sacrifices.
        - Colossians 3:1-2-- *“seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God... set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”*
        - Romans 12:1-2-- *“present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

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      - 2) When we “sow to the Spirit” we will “reap everlasting life”
        - a) Not “duration” as eternal life is a gift from God, received at salvation and promised to all who believe.
        - b) But “quality” of life for we will be producing...
          - (1) The fruit of the Spirit
          - (2) The works of the Spirit
          - (3) The character of Christ
        - c) We will experience the abundant life Jesus promised to those who follow Him.