

Morning Sermon January 2, 2022
“The Great Harvest” Revelation 14:14-20

Throughout Scripture, God uses agriculture to teach us about ourselves. We are to break up our fallow ground. We are to bear fruit to God! Fruit of the Spirit! The passages I have included in this introduction are just a small sample among many ...

³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. Psalm 1:3 (NKJV)

¹² Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For *it is* time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you. Hosea 10:12 (NKJV)

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?” ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Matthew 3:7–10 (NKJV)

³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:38 (NKJV)

¹³ And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. Mark 4:13-14 (NKJV)

²⁰ But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” Mark 4:20 (NKJV)

⁵ Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God’s fellow

workers; you are God’s field, *you are* God’s building. 1 Corinthians 3:5–9 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:19–23 (NKJV)

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ 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. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Galatians 6:7–9 (NKJV)

Here in the Book of Revelation the final judgment is compared to a harvest –

I. The harvest of God’s people by Jesus Christ –

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 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)

1. “One like the Son of Man” *is a reference to our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a reference to His humanity / compassion –*

¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

2. “having on His head a golden crown” *is a reference to the FACT that Jesus Christ is sovereign in all of our circumstances, even*

in the circumstance of our death. In the context of Revelation 13 – 14, the death of God’s people in one sense is in the hand(s) of wicked men –

⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Revelation 13:7 A (NKJV)

Yet, it is Christ Who grants or allows such things, and as He endured hardship and persecution in this world, we should not expect to escape such things ...

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “*My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.*” Hebrews 12:1–6 (NKJV)

3. *The sharp sickle, the angel speaking of the time to reap, tells us even our deaths, even if violent are in the hand of Christ – ... 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 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 B–16 (NKJV) His reaping us means taking us to glory -*

II. The harvest of the wicked is a dreadful thing –

¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 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. 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 14:17–20 (NKJV)

1. “**fully ripe**” – means ripe with sin! They had murdered God’s people, and / or rejoiced in it.

2. **and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.**

A. *What do you do with grapes in a winepress? You stomp on them, crush them! Trample them - ²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city... Revelation 14:20 A*

B. *That we may be certain human beings are referred to here, blood is mentioned –*

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)

- *No such thing as fierce grapes, Grapes have no power to fight back*
- *A single furlong is a bit more than the length of two football fields, 1,600 of these is a lot of blood!*
- *What is pictured here is great wrath, as shown before in Revelation 14:9-11!*

III. How motivated we should be –

1. *To keep God’s commandments and the faith of Jesus -*

¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12 (NKJV)

2. *To share our faith –*

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! ³⁶ And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.” John 4:34-38 (NKJV)

3. *To die in the Lord -*

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” Revelation 14:13 (NKJV)

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