

Revelation Pastor Lou DeVizia

Revelation 14:13-20 Fellowship Bible Church; Woodbridge, NJ

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Introduction: The first section of Chapter 14 (vv.1-5) showed a vision of the triumphant “Lamb” on Mount Zion with His 144,000. This was a vision of the returned, victorious Lord Jesus Christ. Another part of this vision is revealed in the second section of the chapter (vv.6-11): three angels made three proclamations. First proclaimed was God’s judgment (v.7), then the fall of Babylon (v.8), and then the judgment of individuals who had the mark of the beast (v.9). Taken together, this was a prophetic vision of the return of Jesus Christ to bring His righteous judgment to the whole world.

In the final section of the chapter, we see that judgment poured out in the form of God’s fierce wrath. John sees this time the “Son of Man” with a sickle. The earth is reaped, the clusters are gathered and thrown in a winepress, and the wrath of God is trampled out in a literal bloodbath.

1. Verse 13 - “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”

- v.13 - The principle of this verse is sometimes applied to every Christian (that when we **die** we are at **rest** from our labor for the Lord, and our **works follow** us to the Judgment Seat of Christ), and there is some truth to it for certain. But its placement in this context seems to point to “Tribulation saints” who die during the Great Tribulation. Nevertheless, it is a great promise - those who give their lives for the Lord during this time are blessed.

2. Verse 14-16 - “The earth was reaped.”

- v.14 - **Then I looked, and behold...** A second phase of the vision in this chapter starts here. **on a white cloud** - indicative of the triumph, righteousness, and glory of the Lord. **golden crown** - showing the sovereign rule of the Lord. **Son of Man** - the Lord Jesus Christ - He was seen in the first vision in this chapter as a “Lamb” indicative of His sacrifice. Here He is seen as a royal ruler. **sharp sickle** - to reap a harvest, to cut and chop with haste and violence.

- v.15 - **another angel** - the fourth angel in this chapter. **...ripe** - the idea is that the judgment ready to be poured out, ready to burst. The Lord has been very, very patient up to this point. Now He has returned, and the time to reap His justice has come.

NOTE: Some see this reaping as a harvest of saved souls, in contrast to the next sickle. And this is plausible. But the context of the entire chapter seems to be pointing to judgment. Also, many souls have already died and gone to be with the

Lord at this point, so a reaping of saved souls here doesn't seem consistent with that fact. It is, granted, a difficult point.

- v.16 - **thrust his sickle on the earth...** a violent act. The judgment that is coming will be fierce.

3. Verses 17-20 - "The great winepress of the wrath of God."

- v.17 - **the temple which is in heaven...** Where God's throne is.

- v.18 - **from the altar... power over the fire...** The smoke that ascends from heaven's altar represents the prayers and cries of the saints. The cries of God's saints for justice have been heard, and they will be answered. **her grapes are fully ripe...** indicates that the time for this is long due.

- vv.19-20 - **...up to the horses' bridles** About four feet. Carnage like this has never been seen. The Lord will literally fight against the armies of the world and rout them completely. See 19:15b-21.