

The Final Call: Part 2

Revelation 14:14-20

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 14:13-20 NKJV] 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." 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. 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.

NOTES

Chapters 12-14 are what many people call parenthetical chapters. God takes a moment from the chronology of events to insert a big-picture message. It's almost as if He's giving us a breather before diving back into the beginning of the final seven bowl judgments.

Chapter 14 - a reminder that Jesus is coming back.

Then I looked (saw) - three times (verses 1,6,14)

- **Verse 1 - I saw the lamb and the 144,000 - The Final Authority**
- **Verse 6 - I saw the angels - The Final Opportunity**
- **Verse 14 - I saw the Son of Man - The Final Victory**

We find ourselves now having crossed the threshold of the final 3 1/2 year mark (times, time, and half a time).

- With the true nature of the beast unveiled, the lines have been drawn, and people have professed their loyalties. The beast has declared himself to be God and defied and defiled the temple.
- The Jews in Jerusalem have fled to a place of divine protection and provision to preserve a remnant.
- The Antichrist has launched a successful campaign against the Jews and followers of Jesus who have refused to submit to his religious and political system.
- God has issued one final gospel call by through His 144,000, tribulation saints, and finally an angelic delivery.

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD

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."

Throughout the Bible, blessings are declared to God's people. The bible speaks a lot about the blessings of life:

- [Psa 1:1-2 NKJV] 1 Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.
- [Mat 5:3-12 NKJV] 3 "Blessed [are] the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed [are] those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed [are] the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed [are] those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. 7 Blessed [are] the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed [are] the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed [are] the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed [are] those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great [is] your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

I think Revelation 14 brings a hidden beatitude.

- How bad are things when the greatest joy to look forward to in life is death?
- Right now, there is a blessing in life. God has given us richly all things to enjoy. Part of the blessing of the age of grace is that God allows us some joy even in a fallen world. But once the final 3 1/2 years of the tribulation period begins, there is nothing left in this life to look forward to for the follower of Jesus. The angel has sent out the final call of repentance to the world, and the forces of the beast are hunting down and warring against all who resist.
- Those who die in Christ will be the happy, blessed ones because they will be comforted, and they will have the testimony and reward of living and dying for Christ in the age of the antichrist. [Turn to Revelation 20](#)

[Rev 20:4-6 NKJV] 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

- Voice from Heaven: The Father
- The Spirit said - The Spirit
- Die in Christ - The Son

NEXT: THE REAPINGS

The chapter closes by recording two harvests that take place, culminating in the return of Christ.

- The language of sowing and reaping in the Bible is familiar. It's used everywhere in the OT and NT and can mean very different things depending on the context.

In the last 3 1/2 years, Heaven takes two final harvests from the earth concerning the souls of men. We can clearly title them but identifying them is a bit more challenging.

These harvest can be called:

1. The Grain Harvest
2. The Grape Harvest

1 The Harvest of Grain

BIBLE PASSAGE

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.

LIKE THE SON OF MAN

An image of Jesus.

The title of Jesus emphasizing his humanity.

Golden crown - the crown of ultimate victory

[Dan 7:13-14 NKJV] 13 "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. 14 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."

Sickle - The instrument used to cut off the ripe fruit

OPTION 1

Option 1 - The harvest of the wicked

This harvest is one of two final harvests that clear out the enemies of God from the earth.

- The Grain harvest represents the coming seven bowls of judgment that take place in chapter 16.
- Jesus separates the chaff, the tares planted by the enemy.

Turn to Matthew 13

[Mat 13:37-43 NKJV] 37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 "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, 42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

OPTION 2

Option 2 - the final harvest of souls

In the Bible, the wheat harvest is usually a positive harvest. Wheat is a good fruit, whereas grapes and wine typically represent the wrath of God.

[Jhn 4:35 NKJV] 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!

Here, we would see Jesus gathering those who have taken the final invitation of the gospel and making the last separation before the final judgment is poured out.

[Mat 24:30-31 NKJV] 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. 31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

2 The Harvest of Grapes

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON - REV 19

[Joe 3:12-14 NKJV] 12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13 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." 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

APPLICATION

Rev 19 records a final battle before the reign of Christ begins. We call it a battle, but there's not much fighting. The antichrist gathers the forces of the world to come against a returning Jesus, but JEsus takes care of them with simply with the brightness of His coming:

[Rev 19:15 NKJV] 15 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.

[2Th 2:8 NKJV] 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

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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.

ILLUSTRATION

When the third day of fighting ended at Gettysburg 57,000 soldiers lay dead. A reporter referred to Gettysburg as "The Harvest of Death." It was one of the bloodiest battles in the bloodiest war in American history. The battlefield was turned into a cemetery.

APPLICATION

Remember the context of the Lamb's last call... It leads to the final battle. At the Battle of Armageddon the blood of evil men will fill up a valley 1600 furlongs, or 200 miles long. Blood will rise to the horse's bridle. By the way, 200 miles is the approximate length of the holy land - from the Golan to the Dead Sea. John foresees the day when the valleys of Israel, and particularly the one outside Jerusalem - perhaps the Kidron - will become a blood-stained battlefield

BIBLE PASSAGE

[2Th 1:6-10 NKJV] 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 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. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

APPLICATION

There is a time when the fruit is ripened:

- There is a time when God says, "Enough is enough."

I will say that one of the more difficult things in life is looking honestly at your fruit or lack thereof. It is something that should strike a bit of the fear of God in our lives.

- There is fruit that leads to blessing and fruit that leads to destruction.

[Gal 6:7-8 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.

There have been many a season in my life where areas of my life clearly show bad fruit.

- The best thing to do when faced with the reality of bad fruit is to respond to the conviction of Christ, humble yourself before Him, call upon His grace and mercy, and hide yourself in Him.
- If you abide in Him, you will bear good fruit, and your fruit will remain.