

Revelation 14.14-20

Grim Reaper

Reading Revelation // Climbing a Spiral Staircase // Each Step > New Perspective
Vista > FAMILIAR GROUND > From 1st Coming of Jesus to His Glorious Return

“The book of Revelation reveals the exalted Jesus in magnificent symbols for the blessing of His Church in all eras through a repeated message of hope that reinforces and reinterprets the ancient prophecies of Scripture.” Yours Truly

Seven Seals: 4.1 – 8.1

Begins in Glory: “a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it...” Revelation 4.2

Ends in Glory: “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7.17

Seven Trumpets: 8.2 – 11.19

Begins in Glory: “seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets” Revelation 8.2

Ends in Glory: “Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.” Revelation 11.19

Seven Scenes : 12.1 – 14.20

Begins in Glory: “A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head...She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.”

Revelation 12.1,5

Ends in Glory: “there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one ‘like a son of man’ with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand”

Revelation 14.14

Seven Bowls: 15.1 – 19.10

Begins in Glory: “I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues” Revelation 15.1

Ends in Glory: “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” Revelation 19.9

Last Week > “Another Chance” >> Today > No More Chances > End of Scene
Some Day > Our Era of Gospel Opportunity will End > Jesus Returns as Judge

1. Last Days Harvest 2. Lord of the Harvest 3. Longing for the Harvest

1. Last Days Harvest

“The harvest of the earth is ripe and is reaped. This vivid way of speaking about the end of the world would come home with great force in an age when people were more familiar with the agricultural processes than they are now. *The harvest is the climax...* There is drama and finality about the action.” Leon Morris

a. Old Testament – Distant Expectation of Harvest / Judgment

Ch 14 LAST Ref in Scripture to HARVEST > Many Ref's > Genesis to Revelation
God is the FAITHFUL Lord of Harvest > His People are to be FRUITFUL

PROPHECY seems to have CONTROLLING INFLUENCE on Today's Text
`Let the nations be roused...I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow-- so great is their wickedness!` Joel 3.12,13

2nd Angel ANNOUNCED “Fallen, Fallen is BABYLON the GREAT!”
The land trembles and writhes, for the LORD's purposes against Babylon stand
..This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "The Daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time it is trampled; *the time to harvest her will soon come.*" Jeremiah 51.29,33

OT PERSPECTIVE > Messiah Comes IMMEDIATE END > Judgment will FALL

ENEMIES of Israel will be JUDGED > PROMISE LAND > Restored & Cleansed
v. 20 “blood flowed...as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia”
300 Km = North to South length of Palestine > ENEMIES EXTINGUISHED

MESSIAH: Captain Army of God's Vengeance > Eternal Kingdom Established

b. Jesus First Coming - Gospel Modification > MERCY precedes Judgment

Last OT Prophet > John the Baptist > Struggles to UNDERSTAND this Change
“The ax is *already* at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire...*He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*” Matthew 3.10,11

Strange Scene > John in Prison DOUBTING > Is Jesus REALLY Messiah??
How could John DOUBT? Half Cousins? Baptized Him ? Was Faithful Witness?

“What did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? *A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.*”
Matthew 11.8,9

Were HARSH CONDITIONS of Prison making John Doubt > No! Used to That
John NEVER wore FINE CLOTHING or lived in KING’S PALACES

DOUBTING because he was a PROPHET > OT EXPECTATION
Jesus Curing ROMANS and not Cursing Them > Healing not sending to Hell

Jesus: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat..."The servants asked him, `Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "'No,' he answered, `because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. *Let both grow together until the harvest.* At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"^
Matthew 13.24-30

Period of WAITING > Day of GRACE, MERCY, OPPORTUNITY for Salvation

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”
John 3.17

“Today, God is speaking to the world in grace, and men will not listen. One day hence, He must speak in wrath. The bitter cup will be drunk, the harvest of sin reaped, and the vine of the earth cut down and cast into the winepress.”
Warren Wiersbe

c. Jesus Second Coming – Solemn Anticipation of Harvest / Judgment

Jesus said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. *As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.*"
Mark 6.26-29

Jesus: Master’s VINEYARD > Tenants > Servants Sent to Collect Fruit > Beaten

"He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.' "But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? *He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.*"

Mark 12.6-9

"At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens."

Mark 13.26,27

Harvest DELAYED does NOT mean that GOD'S JUSTICE will be DENIED
In Vision of Revelation: John sees Ultimate Reality of these Prophecies

d. Church – Time of Preparation > Today is the Day of Salvation

"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and *look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.* Even now the reaper draws his wages, *even now he harvests the crop for eternal life*"

John 4.35,36

Gospel Harvest in SAMARIA > CENTRAL ASIA > ENDS OF EARTH

Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*"

Matthew 9.37,38

May we be WISE for GOD'S KINGDOM SERVICE > Serve Faithfully

"He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son."

Proverbs 10.5

Pastor Svendsen > Began one Summer with Challenge to Church from Jeremiah

"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved." Jeremiah 8.20

Spoke with FERVENT PASSION > Wondered Why at Time > Feel it More Now
LIFE is SHORT > Strategic Kingdom OPPORTUNITIES FEW > TAKE Them!

Whenever the church forgets that the Gospel is for the world, it forgets its primary purpose in the world. The church is not only the proclaimer of the Good News, it is also called to be the incarnator of the Good News....If we "worship the beast," adopt its "image," live by its perspectives, we send an unclear signal to the world.

The temptation to make accommodation with the world is powerful. Won't the world appreciate the church more if it "fits in" more readily with the world's values ("worships the beast")? Won't the world be more open to the church and its influence if the church operates more by the world's methods ("worship the image")? Won't the world be able to hear the Gospel better if the church adopts the world's way of looking at things ("take the mark of the beast")? The answer is a resounding, "No!" What happens is that the world simply comes to believe that its mode of existence is all there is because it is confirmed by the church.

M. Robert Mulholland, Jr

2. Lord of the Harvest

a. Seated > You can only Afford to SIT when your WORK is OVER

v. 14 *seated on the cloud* was one "like a son of man"

v. 15 him who was *sitting on the cloud*

v. 16 he who was *seated on the cloud* > TRUTH Emphasized in TRIPLICATE!

"Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But *when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down* at the right hand of God."
Hebrews 10.11,12

Pieces of FURNITURE in Temple > Altars, Tables, Lampstands > NO CHAIRS
CHAIR = Work is Finished > OT Priest's Work Never Finished
Blood of BULLS and GOATS can Never Take Away Sin

Jesus our High Priest > Stretched Out Arms on Cross > "It is FINISHED!"
Work of SALVATION Accomplished > Redemption Complete > SAT DOWN

b. Sovereign v. 14 one "like a son of man" : Incarnate Son in his Exaltation

VISION which BEGAN BOOK > John FELL at His Feet as though DEAD
"I saw... *someone 'like a son of man,'* dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest."
Revelation 1.12,13

Title 'Son of Man' > Self-Designation most often used by Christ > Only by Him

ORIGIN in Daniel > Teaches DEITY of KING JESUS > Son of Man is DIVINE

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. *He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him.* His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

Daniel 7.13,14

1) Cloud v. 14 "a white cloud, and seated on the cloud" > Luminous & Glorious

AFTER Israelites CROSSED RED SEA "...the whole Israelite community looked toward the desert, and there was *the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud*"

Exodus 16.10

COMPLETION of TEMPLE: "...*the glory of the LORD filled his temple.* Then Solomon said, "The *LORD* has said that he would *dwell in a dark cloud*"

1 Kings 8.11,12

Important People RIDE a STRETCH OUT > God's Limo Stretches across SKIES
 "See, *the LORD rides on a swift cloud* and is coming to Egypt." Isaiah 19.1

Jesus replied. "In the future you will see the *Son of Man* sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and *coming on the clouds of heaven.*" Matthew 26.64

2) Crown v. 14 "one 'like a son of man' with a crown of gold on his head"

Glorified Redeemer > Golden Crown on Head > Royal Supremacy
 Golden Wreath > the Messiah > Conquered: Won the Right to Act in Judgment

No LONGER wearing a Crown of THORNS > NOW a Crown of GOLD
 "on his head are many crowns" Revelation 19.12

3) Collection v. 14 "a sharp sickle in his hand"

"The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son" John 5.22

Son, with Sickle > Chiefly in Charge of Reaping
 Sickle > Time for reaping Harvest of Mankind has Arrived
 Angels are his Agents > exemplified by Angel with sharp Sickle

c. Servant 4th Angel > from Sanctuary > calls Son of Man to Start Reaping

v. 15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

COMMAND of Angel > Some Question: 'Is this Jesus?' > TAKING Commands??
As Lord of Lords and King of Kings > He SHOULD BE GIVING Commands

Angel > Messenger from God > not to reveal Time of End, but deliver Command

FINAL Assignment of EARTHLY MISSION > Concludes Work of Salvation

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."
Mark 13.32

NOT that Jesus is SUBORDINATE > No Less than God in Human Flesh
ROLE of a Servant > Man, Lived, Suffered, Died > HUMBLE OBEDIENCE
// MARRIAGE > Full EQUALITY of Husband & Wife > Diversity of ROLE

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to *do the will of him who sent me*. And this is the will of him who sent me, *that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day*. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."
John 6.38-40

d. Stained

Angel of Fire calls Angel with Sickle to Gather the Grapes > JUDGMENT

v. 18 "Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, 'Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe.'"

"Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake."
Revelation 8.3-5

7th Seal Filled Golden Censer with Fire from Altar of Incense & threw on Earth

SON of MAN's ROLE Not Mentioned here > Emphasis: With HIS PEOPLE?
BUT His JUDGMENT is CLEARLY TERRIBLE and AWESOME

“Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from *the wrath of the Lamb!*” Revelation 6.15,16

“John is not squeamish about the Son entering into the execution of judgment.”
Robert H. Mounce

“He is dressed in a *robe dipped in blood*, and his name is the Word of God...*He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty*” Revelation 19.13-16

Quoting > Passage of Graphic Intensity > BLOOD on Robe from His ENEMIES

“Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? *“I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground.”*
Isaiah 63.1-6

2 Different Symbols of Wine Judgment

v. 10. “he (anyone who worships the beast) will *drink of the wine of God's fury*, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath”

vs. 19,20 “threw them into the *great winepress of God's wrath*. They were trampled in the winepress”

“The end of history will bring not only a great grain harvest, as the saving sweep of Christ's sickle gathers his faithful followers, but also a great grape harvest, as

Christ's enemies are gathered to be crushed in the winepress of God's wrath...
When the sweep of God's sickle brings final harvest to the earth, separating grain from grapes, the present system of power and prestige will be reversed."

Dennis E. Johnson

3. Longing for the Harvest

Time for Harvest > Grain turned Golden > Grapes fully Ripe > Judgment is Now!
v 17 Another *angel came out of the temple in heaven*, and he too had a sharp sickle

TEMPLE > Overarching Image of this Section of John's Vision

BEGAN "God's temple in heaven was opened" Revelation 11.19

ENDS "In heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened"
Revelation 15.5

Series of Judgments began from TEMPLE SCENE

"I saw *under the altar* the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "*How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?*"
Revelation 6.9,10

Prayers of Faithful play a Definite Part in bringing God's Judgment on Wicked
SPEED THE KINGDOM JUDGMENT when we Pray "Thy Kingdom Come!"

"The judgment of the wicked is God's final answer to their prayers."

William Hendriksen

John the BAPTIST was RIGHT > Either Baptized in HOLY SPIRIT or FIRE

a. Judgment of Rebellious - Judgment on Sin > Necessary part of Righteousness

1) Full > EVIL is FULLY EVIL > Beyond POINT of NO RETURN

v. 18 "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because *its grapes are ripe.*"

God Judged Nations who were FULL of Sin – Prophecy of Judgment to Abraham:
"...for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure" Genesis 15.16

God's Commentary amidst Levitical Laws: "Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. *Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.* " Leviticus 18.24-25

2) Furious > Harvest of Ungodly, like Grapes for Winepress of Divine Judgment

vs. 19,20 "The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia"

Winepress: Grapes trampled by foot in trough w/ Duct leading to Basin for Juice
Reaping of Vintage Harvest > Casting of Grapes into Winepress to be Trodden

Awesome picture of Righteous Judgment of God
Executed on those who Defy his Authority and Spurn his Gospel

Flowing from Great Winepress of Wrath of God > Deep Tide of Blood
Reaching up to Horses' Bridles > 1600 Stadia > # Symbolical Significance

Winepress > Red Juice of Grape // Judgment of God > Torrential Blood Bath
"the horse shall walk up to the breast in the blood of sinners" 1 Enoch 100:3

4 times 4 / 10 times 10 / 4 = EARTH / 10 = COMPLETE

Number of Earth: "four corners of the earth"	Revelation 20.8
"four winds of the earth"	Revelation 7.1

Ten: Number of Completeness: "many angels, numbering <i>thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand</i> "	Revelation 5.11
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"they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for <i>a thousand years</i> "	Revelation 20.6
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"1600 Stadia' signifies completeness as regards the created world, and the inability of anyone to escape God's judgment." A. Plummer

Jesus EXPLANATION of the Parable of the SOWER - "The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the

fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”
Matthew 13.37-43

b. Justification of the Righteous > Tantalizingly Brief Statement

v. 16 “So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.”

SANCTIFIED IMAGINATION > RIGHTEOUS are Received by Jesus
Just like Coach stands beside Field to CONGRATULATE his Victorious Players

So Jesus STOOD at Right Hand of God > OPEN ARMS! or a HIGH FIVE!
WELCOMED Stephen the FAITHFUL WITNESS and FIRST MARTYR

We have seen that “earth” is an image for the rebellious realm, Fallen Babylon. The redeemed are no longer part of Fallen Babylon, they have become citizens of New Jerusalem. What the image seems to be portraying in the action of the Son of Man’s sickle is that the citizens of New Jerusalem are not “in” the earth, but “upon” it.
M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

ONE MORE PICTURE OF GRACE

v. 20 “They were trampled in the winepress outside the city”

OF COURSE > BY THEIR DEEDS THEY WERE EXCLUDED FROM CITY

“Nothing impure will ever enter it, (God’s City) nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”
Revelation 21.27

THEN – OBVIOUSLY – HOW CAN WE GET IN? No Less Guilty, Maybe More!

“Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.”
Hebrews 13.12

“It was outside the city - ‘outside the gate’ - that Jesus, unjustly condemned, was treated as unclean and abominable and was put to death, the Innocent for the

guilty. It was there that he gave himself to be trodden in the great winepress of the wrath of God, bearing our sins and absorbing their punishment, so that we might be clothed with his pure and holy righteousness.” Philip E. Hughes

JESUS went OUTSIDE so that WE the UNWORTHY can come INSIDE

BUT LET HASTEN TO LIVE IN HIS WORTHINESS > Christ living in Us

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for *at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*” Galatians 6.7-9

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the *land will yield its harvest*, and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us, and *all the ends of the earth will fear him.* Psalm 67.5-7

Revelation 14

14. I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

15. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

16. So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

17. Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

18. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."

19. The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.

20. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.