

Hear Prophecy

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REVELATION
PART 18

THE GRAPES
OF WRATH



*“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**” (Revelation 14:19).*

The last half of chapter 14 introduces a term that has been intuitively understood throughout history, *but not so much lately*.

The “*Grapes of Wrath*” reminds earthlings that God will eventually purge the world of evil. The picture is God reaping the “*harvest*” (unrepentant evil-doers) from the earth, with a “*sharp sickle*”, and “*smashing to smithereens*” those who continue to shake their fists in the face of Almighty God.

God’s “wrath” against rebellious and haughty mankind, laughing at and ridiculing God’s offer of redemption, will be satisfied!

Unbelievably, the “*grapes of wrath*” attribute of God has escaped from the hard-hearts of modern society.

*Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;*

*He is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;*

*He has loosed the fateful lightning
of His terrible swift sword;*

His truth is marching on

Most of us would not know what a “sharp sickle” is, but we can understand that it was a cutting tool used by farmers to gather the wheat at harvest time.

In this case, the sickle is used to harvest grapes from the vine. In the wine making process, farmers would cut down the grapes from the vine, and put them in a large “winepress” (or pot), to “press” out the juice from the grapes.

Let’s see how God described the “*harvest*” process to John. “*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*” (verse 14).

Jesus is seen floating in on a “*white cloud*”, carrying a “*sharp sickle*”. Oh, and by the way, he has a “*golden crown*” on his head. This is, after all, the Son of God and he is on a mission to purge the earth.

Verses 15 and 16 describe a “*harvest*”, but the people he rescued from earth, at this time, were not put into the “*winepress of the wrath of God*”. The people “*harvested*” in verse 19 would, however, experience the “*wrath of God*”.

What is the difference in these two “*harvests*”?

From my research, the first harvest is to extract the people from the earth who have become followers of Jesus during the Tribulation period, but were tragically martyred for their beliefs. Their souls had been taken to heaven upon death, to be reunited with their bodies at this future point in prophetic-time.

The second harvest is to extract unrepentant evil-doers from the earth for eternal judgement in the “*great winepress of the wrath of God*”.

Verse 16 describes the first harvest. “*So he who sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth and the earth was reaped*”.

Verse 19 describes the second harvest. “*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*”.

An alternate view of the two harvests in these verses can be seen in the parable of *The Wheat and the Tares* (Matthew 13). Jesus told the story

of good wheat growing in the field, but weeds (tares) were growing up in the same field, in the midst of the wheat, indistinguishable from the wheat. The farmer allows both to grow until harvest. The entire crop would be harvested, and the wheat would be gathered into the barn. But the tares would be thrown into the fire for destruction.

In verse 20, we see what happens to the “grapes” in the second harvest (or to the wheat in the parable). They are thrown into the “*great winepress of the wrath of God*” (or into the fire for destruction).

At this point in prophetic events, we discover the enormity of this great harvest. “*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*” (verse 20). As a point of reference, 1600 furlongs is 200 miles. Can you imagine blood so deep (“*up to the horses’ bridles*”), running for 200 miles?

This entire section of chapter 14 seems to be a preliminary prophecy about what will happen when Jesus returns to earth, at the end of the Tribulation period. The description of the blood running for 200 miles is certainly talking about the battle of Armageddon.

And, certainly, the extraction of the dead believers would not take place until the end of all judgement events (the time at which all believers would have been martyred).

Chapter 14 is strategically placed in the prophetic time-table just before the 7th trumpet judgement (which expands into the 7 bowl judgements). The book of Revelation sometimes gives a preliminary summary of what will take place in future chapters, then follows with the details of those prophetic events.

The main take-away from the last half of chapter 14 is that “*God is not mocked*”. His judgement will be exacted, and will be final!

Chapter 15 will begin to describe events that will immediately precede the bowl judgements. Stay tuned.

