

A GOLDEN CROWN AND A SHARP SICKLE REVELATION 14:14-20

Text: Revelation 14:14

Revelation 14:14

¹⁴ And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Introduction:

I want to remind you again that the Book of Revelation is not written in chronological order.

The first three chapters tell of our Lord's letters to seven actual churches that existed in John's day. Those chapters also paint a clear portrait of the church all the way from Pentecost to the Rapture.

Chapters 4-11 tell us about the chronology of the Tribulation Period. They take us all the way from the beginning to the end of that terrible seven year period of time.

In chapters 12-14, we are taken back to the beginning. These chapters give us the same time period from a different perspective. We are no longer talking about

the chronology of the book, now we are confronted with the characters of the book.

Through a series of seven visions, John takes us once again through the days of the Tribulation.

When this chapter ends, we are going to be thrown back into the heat and the horrors of the final days of the Tribulation. Before we deal with those things, John gives us a vision of our Lord when He comes again in power and glory.

When Jesus came the first time, He came as a Savior. He came to give His life on the cross so that sin might be paid for and sinners might be set free.

When He comes the second time, He is coming as a Judge. He is coming to destroy sin, Satan and all those who stand in defiance to God.

When Jesus returns, He will come in power, glory and judgment and none will be able to withstand Him!

There will be no cross for Jesus the next time He comes. There will be a crown!

There will be no tree for Him to hang on; but there will be a throne for Him to sit on.

Notice in these verses:

1. THE LORD AND HIS RETURNING (VS 14)

Revelation 14:14

¹⁴ And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

The first image we are given is of the Lord Himself, sitting upon a cloud, wearing a crown with a sickle in His hand.

Notice:

- A. His Person
- B. His Position
- C. His Power

2. THE LORD AND HIS REAPING (VSS 15-19)

Revelation 14:15-19

¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. ¹⁶ And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. ¹⁷ And 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, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. ¹⁹ And the angel

thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

These next four verses unfold our Lord's plan to bring judgment to this earth. When He came the first time, He came as the Sower. He moved through this world sowing the seeds of the Gospel of grace. When He returns, He will come as the Reaper. He will separate the saint from the sinner. He will take the saints home to Heaven and the sinner will be cast into hell.

Harvest time in the Bible is often used as a picture of souls coming to God for salvation, John 4:34-35.

John 4:34-35

³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. ³⁵ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

In these verses, the harvest is used as a picture of judgment. Notice what these verses say about the harvests the Lord is going to reap someday.

A. The Reaping of the Grain (15-16)

Revelation 14:15-16

¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. ¹⁶ And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

These two verses describe the Lord Jesus is shown thrusting in His sickle to reap the earth. The world is pictured as a field of wheat that is ready to be harvested. The Lord takes His sickle and He reaps the field.

These verses are the fulfillment of a parable the Lord told in the Gospels.

In **Matthew 13:24-30**, Jesus told the parable of “***The Wheat and the Tares***”.

It is a story of a farmer who sowed a wheat field expecting to reap a bountiful harvest. But, his enemy came and sowed tares among his wheat.

The servants wanted to pull up the tares, but the farmer knew that doing so would destroy the wheat.

His council was for both to grow together until the time of the harvest, then the tares could be gathered and burned and the wheat could be gathered and placed in the farmer’s barn.

B. The Reaping of the Grapes (17-19)

Revelation 14:17-19

¹⁷ And 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, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle,

and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. ¹⁹ And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

In those days, grapes were processed by placing them in a winepress.

A winepress usually consisted of two vats connected by a channel.

The grapes were placed in the upper chamber and people would climb into the winepress and use their feet to crush the grapes, crushing them. The juice would run out of the upper vat through the channel and into the lower vat where it would be collected.

We’re given a picture of a world slated for judgment! This world has rejected Jesus the True Vine, John 15:1-8.

John 15:1-8

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye

will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

This world has rejected God and His Son Jesus Christ, but one day, He'll come and they will face Him in judgment. He'll crush this world system, and all those who hold to it, under His feet like a man crushes a grape.

This is the image Isaiah paints of the coming King in Isa. 63:1-6.

Isaiah 63:1-6

¹Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. ²Wherefore *art thou* red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? ³I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people *there was* none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. ⁴For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. ⁵And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. ⁶And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

Jesus is coming in wrath and judgment and there will be no escape! The enemies of God will be thrown into "the winepress of the wrath of God" and they will be judged!

3. THE LORD AND HIS RECKONING (VSS 20)

Revelation 14:20

²⁰And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

Verse 20 concludes John's vision. It gives us some insight into where this great judgment will take place.

There is coming a day of reckoning and this verse gives some much needed insight into that horrible event.

A. The Place of His Reckoning

This verse tells us that "the winepress was trodden without the city". This does not tell us where this event will take place. However, what we are seeing in these verses are a vision of a coming battle called "Armageddon".

According to Rev. 16:16, a terrible battle will take place here.

Revelation 16:16

¹⁶And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Armageddon means "the hill or city of Megiddo". This location is the site of some famous battles in the Bible.

It was here that Barak and Deborah defeated the Canaanites, Jud. 4-5.

It was here that Gideon defeated the Midianites, Jud. 6-8.

This same valley is the place that both King Saul and his son Jonathan were killed in battle, 1 Sam. 31. King

Josiah also met his death in the valley of Megiddo, 2 Chron. 35.

It is in the same valley where the armies of the earth will come together to destroy the King of Kings. It is here in this place that Napoleon described as “***a natural battlefield***” that the final battle of the earth will be fought.

B. The Pain of His Reckoning

We are told that the winepress will be “*trodden*”. This word means “*to crush with the feet*”.

This is a very vivid description of what Jesus will do to those who have despised and rejected Him. Like a man crushing grapes in a winepress, He will crush the enemies of God under His feet.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

²⁴Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down

all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. ²⁷For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. ²⁸And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Hebrews 10:13

¹³From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

C. The Permanence of His Reckoning

What we are witnessing here is total destruction of the enemies of the Lord. This is not a probation period. This is not a judgment that will be lifted after a while. This is total annihilation as far the physical man is concerned.

The image here is one of violence and death. We are told that the blood will run as high as the horses' bridles. This is between four and five feet deep.

The armies of the world will gather in a final attempt to defy God.

Jesus will return and by His word He will destroy the enemies of God and tread them down in the winepress of His wrath! Hundreds of millions of soldiers will die in this catastrophic battle, Rev. 19:11-21.

Revelation 19:11-21

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; ¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and great. ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The blood of the fallen will fill the valley of Megiddo from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south. Men have rejected the precious, saving, life-changing blood of Jesus, now they will wallow in their own blood!

We read of these events as we cannot comprehend such total devastation. Yet, the Bible says it is coming! In fact, some of the Old Testament prophets wrote about these very events, Zech. 14:1-4; Joel 3:11-14.

Zechariah 14:1-4

¹ Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. ² For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. ⁴ And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Joel 3:11-14

¹¹ Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. ¹² Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. ¹³ Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats 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.

This battle will take place and God will be victorious.