

## Book of Revelation

### 21. The Harvest: Main Harvest



#### Revelation 14

#### Introduction

We are seeing an increase of wickedness in the world, and yet at the same time we are hearing of God moving in wonderful ways. Jesus said this would happen – that the good and the bad would grow together until the end of the age, and then both will be harvested.

Whenever there was a harvest in Israel, the priests would offer the first-fruits of that harvest to the Lord. In our study we learnt about the group of 144,000 who are described as the first-fruits. Now the Apostle John goes on to describe the vision he had of the main harvest.

**Scripture Reading:** Revelation 14:6-20

#### 1. THE ANOUNCEMENT V6-13

The period of 3½ years is coming to a close and the gathering in of the final harvest is at hand. During this time the False Prophet has forced multitudes to worship the Beast and many have been martyred for their faith in Jesus. There are still those who are undecided and God in His love and mercy gives them a final opportunity to repent.



What is the message of the first angel and why is it important at this time? v7 cf. v9

*(Men are being pressured to worship the Beast, and if they do they will face God's judgment. This angel urges them to worship God instead. It is a matter of eternal life or eternal separation from God.)*



The second and third angels now announce the coming harvest and judgment. On whom or what will this judgment fall? V8, 9-10

*(1. On Babylon the Great (we will discuss this next time)  
2. On those who have taken the 'mark of the beast'.)*

As we come to Revelation 15 onwards we will learn more about this, but before that John shares another vision, a vision of this final harvest.

#### 2. THE MAIN HARVEST V14-20



Who is the one who gathers in this harvest? V14-16, Daniel 7:13-14, Matthew 13:39-41.

*(We see clearly that Jesus is the 'Son of Man' and He will send out His angels to harvest.)*



What does it mean when it says 'the harvest of the earth is ripe'? v15, Joel 3:13, Genesis 6:5

*(God does not bring judgment until the wickedness of man gives Him no other choice – it is just like a fruit that has become too ripe and is ready to fall. At the end of age the fruit of good and evil will be ready to harvest.)*

Some believe that v14-16 is speaking about the 'good' harvest, while v17-20 is speaking about the 'bad'. Others think it is all referring to judgment, but we know that both will take place.



The harvest of 'bad' is likened to gathering ripened grapes. Discuss the imagery used here. What is v20 referring to? See v18-20, Isaiah 63:3-6, Joel 3:11-14, Revelation 16:14, 16

*(Many times in the Old Testament God's judgment on wickedness is described as gathering ripened grapes into a wine press, where they are trodden underfoot. This picture is linked to an event that will take place in the Valley of Jehoshaphat called the Battle of Armageddon.)*



It's easy to discuss these things as if they don't apply to us! However in each of our lives seeds are growing and will be harvested too. What warning and encouragement are we given in Galatians 6:7-10?



Share with one another how you have found this principle of sowing and reaping true in your own life. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

## **Conclusion**

When we think of harvest some of us may imagine a wheat harvest, others a rice harvest, or maize, depending on where we live in the world. However God's Word says that we are continually planting seeds, by what we do and say, or by what we give. These seeds will grow into a harvest, either good or bad, depending on what we have done. Let's make sure we are planting the right kinds of seeds in our lives now!