



**Sermon Series: Revelation - Jesus Revealed**

**Sermon Title: The Final Harvest**

**Scripture: Revelation 14:14-20**

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Sunday, February 18, 2024

## INTRODUCTION

Galatians 4:4-5; Ecclesiastes 8:11-12a; 12:13-14; 2 Peter 3:9

## I. TWO DISTINCT PICTURES OF THE HARVEST

Question: Are verses 14-16 describing judgment or a gathering (a harvest) of God's people?

Note: Wherever you "land" on the first half of this passage, we can and should agree that all God's people will be gathered to Him, and all who oppose Christ will face the destructive consequences of their sin. (2nd Timothy 4:1)

### A. The Reaping of the Fully Ripe Harvest (verses 14-16)

John 5:26-27; Daniel 7:13-14; John 14:1-3

Note: Jesus is wearing a golden crown (a "stephanos", a victor's crown), and He has a sharp sickle in His hand, which means that Jesus is ready to harvest; He is ready for action!

Note: This angel (in verse 15) comes from the temple, with a message from the Father, declaring and affirming the timing and the rightness of ALL that Jesus is about to do!

Note: Those who see these verses as another picture of judgment make a strong and compelling argument: The overall tone of the passage seems to be one of judgment, and the two pictures work together to strengthen and emphasize the horror of facing God's judgment. In addition to this, the text doesn't specifically mention God's people in these verses.

Note: In Mark 4:26-29, Jesus uses a picture of harvesting with a sickle in a positive way, as a way to bring in a good harvest. In Matthew 13:24-43, Jesus speaks a parable about sowing, reaping, and harvesting, and He says that the "harvest" pictures the end of the age where believers and unbelievers will be separated from one another. In John 4:34-38, Jesus uses the imagery of harvesting and reaping to describe the fruit of evangelism, of bringing people to Himself.

## B. The Gathering of the Grapes of Wrath (verses 17-20)

Note: The first angel (from verse 17) comes out of the temple, from the presence of God, and he also has a sharp sickle. The second angel (from verse 18) comes from the altar (the place where we've seen saints/martyrs crying out for justice); this second angel has "authority over the fire" and he commands the angel with the sickle to gather "the grapes" for judgment.

*"O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, HOW LONG before You will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"  
(Revelation 6:10)*

Note: Many believers see this "gathering" (in verse 19) as the gathering that leads to The Battle of Armageddon, the battle described in Revelation 16:16 and Revelation 19:11-16. However, it's wrong to call it "the battle" of Armageddon; it's not a battle; it's a slaughter.

Joel 3:12-16

Note: God is not embarrassed or ashamed to talk about and describe His righteousness, His hatred of evil, His holiness, and His willingness to judge.

Isaiah 63:1-6 and Hebrews 10:31

Ephesians 1:7; 1st John 1:7; Romans 5:9; Matthew 11:28-30

### Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What pictures and images are used here in Revelation 14:14-20? What do they mean?
2. How many angels are present in these verses? Where do they come from? Why does it matter?
3. How is Jesus described in verses 14? What does this teach us about Him?
4. How do these verses "fit" with the overall theme and purpose of chapters 12, 13, and 14?
5. Is there anything that God wants you to do or to change in response to this passage?