

**Message #37****Revelation 14:14-20**

There is an opening statement in the book of Nahum about God that says this in Nahum 1:2-3:  
 “A jealous and avenging God is the LORD;  
 The LORD is avenging and wrathful.  
 The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries.  
 And He reserves wrath for His enemies.  
 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power  
 And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...”

What we learn from this is that God is a very patient God. He has all power and He is very slow to get angry, but He will eventually become so angry that He will pour out His wrath on His enemies.

There is no question that when we come to this section in Revelation, God is going to pour out His wrath on this world (**Rev. 14:19**). His sole goal will be to kill and destroy to the point that the blood of humans will be horsehead high for a distance of 200 miles (**Rev. 14:20**).

We need to very carefully observe how **verse 14** begins. **Verse 14** begins with John saying, “then I looked and behold.” This indicates two things:

- 1) There is a chronology to these events in the Tribulation - things precede “then” this happens.
- 2) John actually saw this. People like to allegorize and symbolize the book of Revelation but they are making a fatal mistake when they do not take it literally. John saw these things; John heard these things and when he records things, that is what it literally was.

In these verses there are two main Heavenly harvests that take place in these verses:

**(Heavenly Harvest #1)** - The heavenly harvest of the earth. **14:14-16\***

**(Heavenly Harvest #2)** - The heavenly harvest of the vine. **14:17-19(18\*)**

### **HEAVENLY HARVEST #1 – The harvest of the earth. 14:14-16**

There are three observations we want to make about what John saw and what John heard:

**Observation #1** - The first person John sees is someone who is “like the Son of man.” **14:14**

This title “Son of man” is critical to Biblical prophecy. Daniel used this very title to refer to the Divine Person who would one day be given by God total authority to rule and reign over all peoples and nations in a worldwide Kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14). So this is a key prophetic moment in which Jesus Christ is nearing the point of taking over the world.

In the chronology of these events, this activity here precedes that happening. Jesus Christ is nearing the actual moment when He will take over the world and John is in heaven watching this. Before this happens, a final wrath judgment will be unleashed from heaven.

Now there are those who believe this one who is “like” the Son of man is, in fact, Jesus Christ Himself. But we think, along with many others, that this is a very high ranked angel who is “like” the Son of man.

We think this for six reasons:

**Reason #1** - The adverb “like” is a comparative Greek word, meaning this angel had a likeness to the Son of man, but was not necessarily the Son of man.

**Reason #2** - There is no article “the” before the noun “Son,” which lends itself to the possibility that this is not “the” specific Son of man, but the character and quality of one like Him.

**Reason #3** - The words “another angel” of **verse 15** seems to describe the same kind of being that was in **verse 14**.

**Reason #4** - The angel of **verse 15** tells the being of **verse 14** what to do and there is no place in Scripture where Jesus Christ ever gets an order or takes an order from any angel. Jesus Christ gives the orders.

**Reason #5** - The context is filled with angelic beings who are very active in this final judgment. **14:15, 17, 18, 19**

**Reason #6** - The “golden crown” in **verse 14** is a crown of victory (stephanos) and not a crown of royalty (didamata) which crowns the head of Jesus Christ (**Rev. 19:12**).

Our conclusion is at this point in the Great Tribulation, as a prelude to Jesus Christ taking over the world, a very high ranked angel appears in a Son of man form to show that the wrath of God being poured out on this earth is closely connected to Jesus Christ and fully authorized by Jesus Christ.

We suspect that this may be visible to those on earth. Keep in mind that Satan and his demons are confined to this earth so they would see this as well. Time is just about up.

When some key political person is about to appear, there are those who precede him who set the stage for his appearance. In this case, we have an angel who not only precedes Jesus Christ, he is an angel who manifests the characteristics and look of Jesus Christ.

There are four main descriptions we get about this heavenly person:

**(Description #1)** - He was one “like” the Son of man. **14:14a**

We learn from John 5:26-27 that God the Father has turned over all life, death and judgment to God the Son because He is the Son of man.

What happens here is that the Son of man authorizes an angel to appear in a prelude likeness to His final judgment. The world is about to experience the full and final wrath of God and this is a key prelude moment to that happening.

**(Description #2)** - He was sitting on a white cloud. **14:14b**

To actually sit on a cloud and not plummet to the earth, would mean one is a heavenly being. This idea of coming on the cloud and sitting on the cloud is clearly a moment predicted concerning the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was here on earth, He spoke of a moment after the Tribulation when those on earth would actually see the Son of man coming on the clouds and in the clouds (Matthew 24:30; Luke 21:27). But in this case, this being is not coming, but sitting. The fact that this being is sitting on the cloud seems to suggest that we are not quite to this point in time. However, it is obviously very near.

**(Description #3)** - He was wearing a golden crown. **14:14c**

As we pointed out, the crown (stefanos) is a crown of victory and not royalty. The noun “crown” is singular and not plural. So this is not the final royal victory, but it is a key moment of victory. The fact that the crown is “golden” means it is a pure victory. These are pure judgments of God. Also Satan and his demons would look up and see that a statement is being made that Jesus Christ is the victor, they are not.

**(Description #4)** - He had a sharp sickle in his hand. **14:14d**

One commentator observed that the noun “sickle” occurs only twelve times in the Bible and seven of those times are right here in these verses.

The adjective “sharp” occurs seven times in Revelation and four of those times are also right here in these verses.

A sharp sickle is used at harvest time and it makes a swift, clean cut. It doesn't take long for a sharp sickle to cut things down. That is precisely the point; this finale of judgment will be a clean cut and it will not take long.

**Observation #2** - Another angel commands the first to reap in view of a ripe harvest. **14:15**

What is interesting to observe in this context is the word “ripe.” The word “ripe” used here in **verse 15** is different than the word “ripe” in **verse 18**.

The word “ripe” used here in **verse 15** describes something that is dry and withered. The fresh fruit is gone and it is a rotten, bad harvest. The word “ripe” in **verse 18** describes a ripeness that is at its prime and peak. It is fresh and lush.

Now here is the point. The whole world has finally reached its most rotten level. It is lifeless, bad, dry, withered and full of evil. There is no good fruit left. God is going to bring His final sickle of wrath into this world and it will be ripe for this wrath and deserve it.

**Observation #3** - This judgment is a sickle judgment on the earth. **14:16**

Keep in mind that Satan and his demons are confined to this earth along with humans. The entire earth will experience this sickle judgment.

Jesus specifically spoke of this harvest judgment in connection with Him establishing His kingdom for Israel (Matt. 13:36-42).

This specific “sickle harvest” has often been used to promote a Grace Age witnessing, evangelistic outreach. Usually it is connected to John 4:34-38 which speaks of sowing, reaping and harvesting.

But this text is not designed to be a missionary slogan for witnessing and harvesting souls. This is a passage about a very severe, pending wrath judgment that God is pouring out on this world.

This harvest is specifically connected to God’s judgment just prior to Israel receiving her Kingdom (Matt. 9:37-38; 10:6, 15; 13:37-43). Our responsibility is always to “sow seed” of the word of God (Matt. 13:3).

**HEAVENLY HARVEST #2** – The harvest of the vine. **14:17-20**

The “wine press” judgment is referred to in many O.T. passages (Is. 63:1-6; Joel 3:12-14). Joel seems to emphasize the utter terror of this judgment.

People do not like the concept of other people being crushed and squashed like grapes, but that is exactly what God will do whether people like it or not.

At this moment in the Great Tribulation, another angel surfaces at the wrath time of harvest and this harvest is specifically designed to kill and crush and execute an incredible number of people on earth.

This angel’s specific job will be to destroy humans and kill humans because their evil has reached such a horrible level.

Typically people would get into a wine press and trample the grapes and the juice would spurt out because the grapes were being crushed. This is exactly what God is going to do.

There are three observations we want to make concerning this harvest:

**Observation #1** - This judgment comes “out of the Temple of the heaven.” **14:17-18**

This is a very sacred judgment that is coming directly from the Throne of God. It is more sacred in view of the fact that the Son of man is near the point of taking over the whole world.

It is no coincidence that this judgment comes out of the altar. Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself for the sins of the people and took their wrath. They did not want Jesus Christ so the wrath is not on the altar; it is coming against them.

**Observation #2** - This judgment is “outside the city.” **14:20a**

This specific sickle judgment will take place outside Jerusalem. This may mean that it will be primarily a Gentile massacre or it may mean that it will be a massacre that is near the city.

It has been calculated that the actual radius around Jerusalem is a length of about 200 miles.

Many believe that this is a preliminary prelude to the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-20). Those who survive this terrible judgment will be those left to go into the millennium (Matt. 24:40-41).

**Observation #3** - This judgment is ferocious. **14:20b**

When it comes to prophecy, no prophecy is of private interpretation, which means there will be other prophecies that will agree with every true prophecy. What is described here in Revelation is graphically predicted by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 34:1-3, 6.

The judgment is so ferocious here that the blood of humans will cover an area of 200 miles and be 4-5 feet deep. To put this in some perspective, we are looking at a blood level that is 4-5 feet deep from here to Traverse City.

There has never been anything like this anywhere in history. This will be a massive slaughter that will take place in the heavenly harvest of the vine.

Keep in mind that just prior to this judgment, one last invitation of grace has been offered to the world. God uses an angel to fly in mid-heaven to communicate to people that they need to believe on Jesus Christ to be saved because His wrath is on the way.