

“The Harvesting of the Earth”
Revelation 14:13-20

Two Sundays Ago: Three Messages from the Three Angels

Today: The Harvesting of the Earth

OUTLINE

- 14:13, Blessed Are the Dead
- 14:14-16, The Reaping of the Grain
- 14:17-19, The Gathering of the Grapes
- 14:20, 1600 Stadia?

Harvest: When the farm produce is ripe, the crops are gathered. How is the term used in the Bible?

- 1) Winning the lost to Christ (Jn. 4:34-38)
- 2) A picture of the final judgment (Mt. 3:7, 12)

14:13/ “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on...”

What does the phrase “from now on” mean?

1. Noting the NT view of death as compared to the primary OT view of death
2. Noting that death brings a relief from suffering for the believer
3. Noting that there is blessing for dying for Christ during the Great Tribulation

“Their deeds follow them.” – 2 Cor. 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil (φαῦλος - evil, worthless).”

14:15/ “Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”

Could this be a depiction of the gathering of the saints into the barn **before** the judgment falls?

- Hos. 6:11, “O Judah, a harvest is appointed. When I restore the fortunes of my people...”
- Mt. 3:12, “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his *wheat* into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
- Mk. 4:26-29, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full *grain* in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”
- Lk. 10:2, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

14:20/ “The winepress was trodden outside the city...”

Is. 63:2-3, “Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like his who treads in the winepress? ‘I’ve trodden the winepress alone and from the peoples no one was with Me; I trod them in My anger and trampled them in My wrath; their lifeblood (**lit**: juice) spattered on My garments, and stained all My apparel.’”

What ***exactly*** are these two harvests of the earth?

1. Preterist (**past**): The fall of Jerusalem in the first century describing two events (saving of the righteous Jews and destroying the wicked Jews).
 - a. 1.1 million Jews killed by the Romans in AD 70 in the Jerusalem destruction.
2. Historicist (**timeline**): God’s people are saved, and the enemies of the church are cut off.
 - a. The breadth of Italy (Roman Empire) or 40 (number of judgment); $40 \times 40 = 1600$
3. Idealist (**spiritual**): The final judgment at Christ’s coming OR a symbol of God continually separating out His people from the unrighteous and saving them
4. Futurist (**future**): Describing two judgments—believers and unbelievers
 - a. The second harvest seems to be describing Armageddon.