

The Revelation Chronologically Arranged

The Harvest and the Vintage — Chapter 14

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The Harvest and the Vintage of Chapter 14

At this juncture in connection with "the fierceness of His wrath" (16:19 and 19:15), we would notice also 14:19, God's judging the apostate Jews, "the vine of the earth."

In verses 14-16 this same "sharp sickle" is seen to be in the hand of "the Son of Man" to reap "the harvest of the earth." The language as to both the harvest and the vine-reaping of the sickle is unmistakably that of Joel 3:13, "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe; come get you down for the press is full."

This "harvest of the earth" has nothing to do with the heavenly harvest of "the first resurrection," "Gather the wheat into My barn" (Matt. 13:30) which takes place at the rapture (1 Thes. 4:17), and later the martyred saints of the seventieth week will join this heavenly company (Lev. 23:22; Rev. 20:4). Three parties are found in this very important verse (see N.T.)

In Matthew 13 "the Son of Man" is the Sower, but in our chapter under consideration He is the Reaper with the golden crown, which speaks of His reigning and judging in righteousness. "The harvest of the earth is dried" (verse 15 N.T.), "Dried up" (Matt. 13:6 N.T.), "Dried up" (Mark 11:20), "Dried up" (Luke 8:6 N.T.), "The dry" (Luke 23:31), "Dried up" (John 15:6 N.T.) The heavenly wheat had previously been taken; the tares were left to be burned. In principle "all things that offend" must be removed, "shall be taken" in judgment. "Sever the wicked from among the just." "The wicked shall be cut off from the land" (Prov. 2:22 N.T.) in order that "His throne be established in righteousness" (Prov. 25:5). This is true both of the wicked Jews of the vintage as well as these left-overs of Christendom in the dried harvest. Instead of having had a heart for Christ as their heavenly portion (2 Thes. 2:10-12), they minded earthly things (Phil. 2:21; 3:18,19), "dwell on the earth" (Rev. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8,12,14;

14:6; 17:2,8). Here they are overtaken in judgment. Instead of being with "them that dwell in heaven" (13:6) they "shall dwell with everlasting burnings" (Isa. 33:14). Oh! what a solemn truth!