



The Final Reaping: Preparation for the Final Harvest





- The Redeemer of the world generally chose the open air in which to give his lessons of instruction, rather than to be enclosed in walls. He could make His teachings more impressive when surrounded with the beauties of nature.....that He might illustrate important truths of the kingdom of God, by the works of God in nature.
- *The Review and Herald, July 25th, 1871*
- There is much to be learnt about the plan of salvation for mankind as seen in the workings of nature.



Foundation

- Throughout the Scriptures, the concept of a harvest is many times repeated because the lifestyle of the various Patriarchs of old as well as of the nation of Israel revolved around **sowing and reaping; planting & harvesting**.
- Consequently, our Saviour used the principle of a harvest of crops, to teach His disciples, both then and now, important spiritual truths.
- For the purpose of this study, we will be looking at **the coming final harvest**: both of the righteous and the wicked; as well as the language that Christ uses to teach these important truths.
- Beloved, **a harvest is coming**, and whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. **Galatians 6:7**



Preparation for the Reaping

- “Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like **the Son of Man**, having on His head **a golden crown**, and in His hand **a sharp sickle**. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “**Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe**.” So, He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.”
- *Revelation 14:14-17*
- Prior to the proclamation of this decree that John records in Revelation 14, **3 final messages** are giving to “*every nation, kindred, tongue and people*.”
- Read Revelation 14:6-12



Preparation for the Reaping

- These messages prepare God's Remnant believers in these last days **to stand**.
- Stand how you might ask?
- To stand in the midst of a **great time of trouble** such as never was, since there was a nation upon the earth and **to stand before Christ** in the fulness of His glory when He shall come the Second Time.
- **Read Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21-22; Revelation 13:16-17**
- "For the great day of his wrath is come; and **who shall be able to stand?**" **Revelation 6:17**
- These final three messages recorded in **Revelation 14**, prepare the world to accept a side: the side of Christ or the side of the serpent. **All Must Choose!**



Preparation for the Reaping

- Immediately after these messages have been proclaimed, and the final warning to all humanity has been given by **God's faithful elect**, then shall the end come.
- **The Final Harvest of The Wheat & the Tares (aka Grapes)**
- "...The harvest is the end of the world..." **Matthew 13:39**
- "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is come..." **Joel 3:13**



Preparation for the Reaping

- **Matthew 13:24-30**
- Christ teaches His disciples important spiritual truths regarding the Kingdom of God.
- He likens His Kingdom to a field where **a man** sowed **good seed of wheat**. However, **an enemy** comes in and sows **tares** amongst the wheat **while the people were sleeping**.
- These tares grow up together and they **look almost identical** during the **growing stage**, however, Christ bids the workers to allow the wheat and the tares to **grow up together until the time of the harvest** and not to try to uproot the tares, lest the wheat be destroyed in the process.
- **At the time of the harvest**, the wheat shall be separated and gathered into the barn, and the tares gathered to be burnt, for they serve no purpose.



Preparation for the Reaping

- In **Matthew 13:36-43**, Christ goes on to explain this parable.
- He tells us what each symbol represents that we may know without a doubt the meaning of the parable.
- The field is the world
- Christ is the Sower
- Good Seed/Tares- Righteous & the Wicked
- Harvest is the end of the world
- The enemy is the devil.
- The Righteous receive eternal life and the Wicked receive eternal death.
- However, Christ goes even further and teaches us more regarding the harvest, that we may have even more understanding.
- **The Early & the Latter Rain.**



The Falling of the Rain

- “As in the natural, so in the spiritual world...” Acts of the Apostles, pg. 284.2
- As the natural crop cannot grow without the rain, likewise, the spiritual crop upon this earth cannot grow.
- “Under the figure of the early and the latter rain, that falls in Eastern lands at seedtime and harvest, the Hebrew prophets foretold the bestowal of spiritual grace in extraordinary measure upon God’s church. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.
- But near the close of earth’s harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest “in the time of the latter rain.”
- Acts of the Apostles pg. 54-55



The Falling of the Rain

- Christ sowed the seed of the gospel in the hearts of His disciples for 3 ½ years and it was upon Pentecost, **50 days after His resurrection**, that the **early rain** was poured out.
- This early rain, **in the form of the Holy Spirit**, caused the seed to spring forth, and the Christian Church had sprung forth in its beginning stage, proclaiming the gospel with power. –**Acts 2:41,46; Acts 4:4**
- **Rain-Isaiah 44:3-4; John 7:37-39; Deut. 11:13-14**
- This outpouring of God's Spirit as it was seen at Pentecost will again be seen just before Christ comes again, in the form of **the latter or final rain**, so that the Church can be **ripened**, fully reflecting the character of Christ and **then shall the harvest come**.



The Falling of the Rain

- This final rain, which will cause the Loud Cry, will cause the three angel's messages to go forth with great power and might throughout all the earth, and by this final warning message, all the earth will be "*lightened with*" the glory of God. **Revelation 18:1**
- "Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming."
- **Great Controversy pg.464**
- It is during this time that God will work miraculously through His Remnant to give the final warning message to all humanity.
- By this movement many shall be called out of Babylon to join themselves with God's elect. **Revelation 18:4**



The Falling of the Rain

- It is this **latter rain** that ripens God's Church and prepares it for the harvest. By this outpouring, God's people "*shall be able to stand.*"
- "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7-8
- But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." Mark 4:29 NKJV
- "Christ is waiting [patiently] with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own." Christ's Object Lessons pg. 69.1
- It is the **Latter Rain** that causes the reproducing of the character of Christ in His people. They have overcome and gained the victory over sin and have received the seal of the living God; the Father's Name. Revelation 7:3; Revelation 14:1; Revelation 3:5



The Grapes Are Fully Ripe

- Not only does the final rain ripen “**the wheat**”, but it also ripens “**the grapes**” (tares). They are ripened for destruction.
- “Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a **sharp sickle**. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather **the clusters of the vine of the earth**, for her grapes are fully ripe.” So, the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth and threw it into **the great winepress of the wrath of God.**” Revelation 14:17-19
- During this time, the people of God are sealed and ready to meet Jesus, however, the wicked reject the mercies of God in the 3 Angel’s Messages. They wonder after the beast, and they receive **its mark of authority.** Revelation 13:8,16; Revelation 14:9-10
- They reveal to the entire universe, that they will stand with the Papal power and as a result, they are bundled together to be thrown into the winepress of God’s wrath.



The Grapes Are Fully Ripe

“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? **I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.** Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winepress? **I have trodden the winepress alone;** and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and **the year of my redeemed is come.** And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore, mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. **And I will tread down the people in mine anger,** and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.”

Isaiah 63:1-6



The Grapes Are Fully Ripe

- It is Christ Himself that shall tread down the wicked in the fury of His wrath.
- They have fully rejected so great a salvation and thus their names are forever written in **the Book of Death**, to be sentenced into the lake of fire, "*which is the Second Death*".
- "And the slain of the **LORD** shall be at that Day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." **Jeremiah 25:33**
- The great day of the **LORD** is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the **LORD**: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the **LORD**: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. **Zephaniah 1:14-17**



The Grapes Are Fully Ripe

- “When the storm of God’s wrath breaks upon the world, it will be a terrible revelation for souls to find that their house is being swept away because it is built upon the sand. Let the warning be given them before it is too late. We should now feel the responsibility of labouring with intense earnestness to impart to others the truths that God has given for this time. We cannot be too much in earnest. Now is the time for the last warning to be given.... If there was ever a crisis, it is now. All are now deciding their eternal destiny. Men need to be aroused to realize the solemnity of the time, the nearness of the day when human probation shall be ended. Decided efforts should be made to **bring the message for this time prominently before the people.** The third angel is to go forth with great power. Let none ignore this work or treat it as of little importance.”
- 6T pg. 16



Closing

- Friends, a harvest is coming. Whether we are ready or not, it is coming. **The time is at hand**, soon all shall be fulfilled; examine yourselves and awake from your **spiritual slumber**.
- “The “time of trouble such as never was,” is soon to open upon us; and **we shall need an experience which we do not now possess**, and which many are too indolent to obtain.” **Last Day Events, page 254**
- When the harvest of the earth shall be fully ripe and Christ shall put in the sickle to reap, which side will you be on? Which side will I be on? **The Wheat or the Grapes?**
- What shall our reply be?
- “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” **Jeremiah 8:20**
- “And it shall be said in that Day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” **Isaiah 25:9**

THANK YOU

