

Revelation 14

The Time of the Harvest

Good morning, church.

I hope your Christmas was amazing.

Well, this morning we are going to continue our study of the Book of Revelation.

We have come to the very busy chapter 14.

John is still in his series of parenthetical sections, and we will have multiple pictures before us this morning.

Revelation Chapters 12-14 make up a portion of Revelation that deals with the development of many of the main characters of the Tribulation period and it explains each character's purpose in this horrible time.

This morning Chapter 14 will present the ultimate triumph of Christ as the Main Actor in this drama.

The chronological timeline will pick up again in the bowl judgments in Chapter 15 and 16.

Now, this morning a great harvest and vintage time will be before us.

Now today a sizable section of the Christian Church is constantly enamored with the Harvesting of converts.

There is an evangelical push and urgency to get people to raise their hands and make a commitment to Jesus, and an even bigger push to count and tally each hand raised.

I don't believe the scriptures teach that the New Testament Church should be concerned with a harvest.

As we will see this morning the harvest is a terrible time, the time of reaping is a dreadful time.

There are heart-wrenching truths about the harvest time that many in the church fail to recognize.

It will be a time of terrorizing separation and punishment.

Today our mission is to sow the Word of God, we sow, and we let the Holy Spirit do the job of converting the soul.

In the past, my hearts desire was to be a great evangelist. To see multitudes of hands raised and commitments made for Christ.

I will tell you this, I have seen hundreds of hands raised, and many confessions made for Christ through persuasion and emotional pleas.

And I can say of the hands tallied a very small percent have any lasting fruit.

I have learned over the years the Word of God is the greatest tool for converting the soul than any other method in the church.

There were nights I have been preaching where I thought for sure the evangelical message I presented would without a doubt stir many hearts to raise their hand in response to what I was saying.

And rarely I would see a hand go up, and discouragement would come over me.

Then the next week I would be teaching some obscure passage, that has no Segway into propositioning people to respond.

And those would be the nights the Holy Spirit would move on the hearts of the unconverted person.

I have learned that when we are faithful to spread the Seed of God's Word, that more lasting fruit is brought forth, more so than any apologist's argument to convince a person to conversion.

Now there is an important place for evangelism and sharing your faith.

However, the most effective tool for evangelism should be the Word of God.

And the appeal for the person to sit under sound Bible teaching should be just as urgent as the appeal for them to turn to Jesus.

Too many respond with great enthusiasm, and leave that moment no different than they were before.

We are instructed to make disciples, that is through the Word, we are not called to simply appeal to people to say the sinners prayer.

People often ask me why I do not ask for people to raise their hands and be counted at every service.

I don't believe my calling is to the harvest, that will be a work of Christ and His angels, my calling as a preacher is to Sow the Word.

The Spirit of God will bring results when we are faithful to Sow.

I will tell you this, people are being saved, they are coming forward to receive Christ, but their prompting is from the Holy Spirit, and we are not taking a tally, we rejoice when one sinner repents, however that is just the starting point of discipleship.

The church today is called to do the work of preparing for the harvest.

Jesus clearly defined for us what the harvest was in the parable of the wheat and tares.

Matt 13:34 the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

We are the sowers.

That is why Jesus instructed us to let the wheat and tares grow next to each other, He will do the separating at the end of the age.

The prophet Joel said this of the final harvest **Joel 3:13-14 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.**

Come, go down; For the winepress is full,

The vats overflow — For their wickedness is great."

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!

For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

And this morning John will receive pictures dealing with this time period.

So let's get into it the next series of images John sees here, all culminating to this terrible harvest.

These events are prophetic and future events.

The Lamb and the 144,000

14:1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before

the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

The chapter opens up here with an assurance that the Lamb of God will stand victorious on Mount Zion or Jerusalem.

John is seeing a vision of the end of the Great Tribulation, when Christ comes to establish His Kingdom.

We just read about this in our daily manna on Friday.

This scene here after the moment the prophet Zechariah describes in great detail.

The moment before Jesus goes to Mt. Zion where Jerusalem sits we see he first descends to the Hill directly across from Zion.

Zech. 14:3-4 Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

Many believe Jesus will enter Zion through the Eastern Gate which the Muslims have sealed up today.

Perhaps the shaking of the earth, opens it up for Jesus.

Now many preachers today try to spiritualize Mt. Zion, but I will simplify things for us this morning.

When you read Mt. Zion, it means Mt. Zion, Jesus will literally come back to the very city that rejected and

crucified Him as His first coming, and their He will rule His Kingdom.

When the scriptures say Israel it means Israel, when it the scriptures say Jerusalem it means Jerusalem, never does it symbolize the church.

Much of the symbolic approaches to Israel came about because for centuries Israel did not exist.

It does today, and Israel today is God's timepiece to prophecy.

Jesus will one day set foot on Mt. Zion and the firstfruits of His New Kingdom will be the 144,000 Jews that God sealed at the beginning of the tribulation as we saw in Chapter 7, every one of them are accounted for, God did not lose one.

They are there on the Mt. Zion to usher in the King of kings.

They have a special role in the Millennial Kingdom, they are the Lamb of God's personal assistants and follow Him wherever He goes.

Now this section of scripture is perplexing for many, because the scene shifts from heaven to earth, and they are working synonymously with one another.

Understand that after the Great Tribulation, when Christ ushers in His Kingdom, Heaven and Earth will no longer be separated by the curse.

The 144,000 Jews are able to join in the heavenly chorus being sung here, it seems as though they are singing with the Martyrs from the Tribulation, as we see the Four Living Creatures and the Church, represented as the Elders are spectators to this worship scene.

And these two groups endured through hell on earth, and they are given this time of praise.

You now right now earth is out of tune with heaven.

Even the most pure worship here on earth is tainted with the fall.

But one day as we see, all will be right between earth and heaven.

Today this world is hostile toward heaven.

For those who hold that we are actually living through the Millennial Kingdom today, they are not looking honestly at the world we live in.

Notice in verse 4 these sealed men are not defiled by women and they are virgins.

This speaks to the time in which they lived on earth.

For these men, in the tribulation the last thing they will want to do is settle down and have a family, the horrible condition of planet earth at this time caused Jesus to say “Woe to those who are pregnant or nursing infants at this time.”

This will be no time for starting a family and pursuing the American Dream.

They will be solely focused on their ministry of preaching the coming Kingdom, and preparing the way for the Messiah.

In our dispensation, today, marriage is honorable, and serves a noble purpose.

Satan hates the picture that your godly marriages portray, in the Church Age; marriage paints a picture of

a future wedding between Christ and His Bride the Church.

This is why Satan hates your marriage, and why he tries to pervert the picture of a marriage between one man and one woman, because he hates the testimony it presents to this lost world.

So these men, have a unique calling in the tribulation, they are called to be focused without the distraction of a family.

They have a short time until Christ comes; their focus must remain clear as they forsake earth's pleasures.

You are not called to this today; you are called to be godly husband.

Some, especially in the cults, try to make claim to these evangelist of the tribulation, and they twist the scriptures into approving of them forsaking the duties of their family.

Today marriage is right and honorable.

Notice these 144,000 are not defiled.

Now, this does not mean they have never sinned; no man has ever been sinless.

If you claim to be undefiled, you have just defiled yourself with lying.

Now these men are pure the same way we are today, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

This undefiled means they have no secret or unconfessed sin. Christ has purified these men.

And they are presented as without fault before the throne of God.

And understand that is your standing here this morning, if you have confessed your sin, and Christ has cleansed you of your unrighteousness.

Today in the Church Era we are exhorted **Eph. 1:4 that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...**

That we **Eph. 5:27 should be holy and without blemish.**

Also we are to be **Col 1:22 holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight**

This is only possible through the continual washing that takes place through confession and repentance.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This is the key to maintaining our holiness before God. You too have access to boldly approach the throne of God.

So we see here heaven and earth are connected, and we will move from this wonderful picture of the 144,000 worshiping on earth with the heavenly choir. To three angels with three proclamations.

The first...

The Proclamations of Three Angels

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people — 7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His

judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Now this makes sense to me here.

God using a mighty angel to preach His Everlasting Gospel.

How much more effective would this be, you know that atheist co-worker that just hates the fact you put your faith in Jesus, he is always mocking you and taunting you.

You hope that one day they will place their faith in Jesus Christ, but every time you try to share you just stumble through your presentation, and you are ridiculed.

How much better would it be, instead of God using bumbling and stumbling mankind to present His Gospel, we could just have a mighty flaming angel present the gospel.

That would be more convincing wouldn't you think?

Yet in our dispensation, for some reason God chooses to use the foolishness of man to bring the gospel to this lost world.

And He uses our stumbling and bumbling very effectively, surprisingly enough.

I remember on the job-site one Friday years ago, as I was listening to Charles Stanley at work, just blaring it. And we were almost done framing this beautiful house right off the golf course there in Havasu.

Because we were almost done, other trades were coming onto the jobsite.

And one particular guy named Matt worked for Salmon's Air-conditioning.

And I caught him listening to the teaching.

And I waited for opportunity to share the gospel with him.

For which I did, the door was wide open as he asked some important questions that the Word of God triggered through Charles Stanley.

Now, I was so nervous, and excited, that I just could not make sense of anything.

I stumbled to present a broken Romans Road to him, and I went home that night just defeated, and frustrated.

On my way home from work, in my head I clearly was telling the gospel, I was just kicking myself, why when I had the chance was I not this clear.

I felt so goofy and foolish, “I will never share again!”

Well the weekend came and went, Monday morning rolled around.

And that same young man was back on the jobsite.

And you know for the whole day, 8 hours we did not say a word to each other, I thought for sure he thought I was crazy.

So we were rolling up all of our tools at the end of the day, and Matt came up to me.

I thought he was going to give me a what for, or tell me how I should not share my faith at work.

But he came up to me, and began to explain, how he could not stop thinking about what I told him last Friday.

He said, “every thought I had this weekend was filled with our discussion,” he told me he could not sleep.

I was lost for words, but I thought about how God didn’t need me to share perfectly the 100 points of evangelism, God just desired my obedience.

God took my mumbled words, my shaky presentation, and He did something supernatural with it.

I have noticed, on mission trips, or even going out street witnessing, it is those who are weak and timid in their presentation, they are used the greatest.

The overconfident evangelist usually steamrolls through each person with his great knowledge.

God will use your obedience, this is how God works in our dispensation.

He does not use angels today, He uses His Church.

But in the Tribulation, a new level of accountability will be presented to humanity.

They will be without excuse.

God in the next dispensation, along with the witness of the 144,000 Hebrew Evangelists, and the multitude of faithful martyrs, and even the Jewish Nation, God will also send this mighty angel to preach the everlasting Gospel to the whole world.

Many today think we need to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth to usher in Jesus' return, because Jesus explained **Mark 13:10 And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.**

Before the Second Coming, and it is important to reach this world for Jesus, however, this angel one day will fulfill what Jesus was talking about.

This ageless gospel, that has been the hope of mankind since the fall of Adam and Eve, and has been carried through into our Church Era, will be presented in the final dispensation as well.

The term gospel means 'good news.'

Today the gospel of God is centered on His Grace, where we come to God, and face His Holiness through the Grace offered through Jesus Blood.

The tribulation's good news will be centered on the other part of the gospel message, being the righteous judgment of God.

This is the final warning here.

Understand as wonderful as the gospel of grace is today, if presented incomplete it is a false gospel, without the truths of God's holiness and His wrath toward disobedience.

This ageless gospel throughout history has divided humanity into two groups.

There are those who receive its message and take by faith as the way God has made for salvation, namely through His Son Jesus Christ.

And there are those who reject His message, and for them their fate is judgement, and for each group this will determine how they will know God in eternity.

Those who respond to this offer presented through the gospel will know God's unmerited favor and His Grace throughout everlasting.

Those who reject, and refuse to respond to God's Gospel will for all eternity relate to God's wrath.

Now I know a great many today do not like to consider this possibility of eternal damnation.

Hell and the reality that it presents is all too much for our offended culture to receive.

But understand I am slave to the Holy Text, and the truths found in the Bible about hell and the outcome for those who refuse to respond to the gospel are horribly dreadful, and for me it is the worst thing for me to ponder, yet it is in part of the Truth of God's Word.

That even some in this room this morning, will choose their sin and rebellion toward a Holy and Just God over the gift of salvation offered to them.

And in every age, man will be accountable to this message, and here this angel preaches for all the world to hear.

This angel presents a stark reality for the earth dwellers, if they do not give the God who created heaven and earth glory, they will only know His judgement.

Next, another angel is sent...

8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Now this proclamation anticipates Revelation 18...

We will forgo any detail teaching of Babylon until then.

But simply know that this is the beast's system, and this political, economic, and religious system that has opposed God since Babel rose to prominence, will finally fall.

Now in our study of Babylon, I will warn you now, it might ruin many of your holiday traditions and celebrations.

We will see this system has been the root of all false and pagan systems out there today.

And you might be surprised at how many of your own traditions find their root in Babylon.

And this second angel proclaims this great city will fall.

Notice the nations of the world are influenced by this powerful city.

The world has been seduced by her, and the beast will use Babylon and her influence over the world to rise to his central role.

Understand it is difficult for me not to spend our time dissecting all Babylon represents, but this morning we will move on to the reality of the announcement of third angel...

For this angel brings a terrible reality before us.

If you are here this morning, and you are of the belief, that Jesus is a gentle lowly God, who loves you regardless of your life choices.

Your theology will be completely confronted by the truth of God's Word this morning.

There are severe consequences for the decisions you make in this life.

And if you choose to remain in your sin, and reject the offer of Grace presented to you, as we will see this morning, you will see another Jesus than the One your heart hopes for.

This is why God's Word is important, for without it, we can make up any old god we want, and decide to put our faith in it.

But here is the One True God now in relation to those who rejected His offer.

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath

of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Now understand whoever receives this mark of the beast will seal their fate, and declare their loyalty to the Antichrist.

Notice, after that mark is taken there is no offer of grace.

And at the end of the tribulation those found with that mark will forever be tormented with fire and brimstone.

"Well, the Jesus I believe in would not send anyone to hell." You might be saying.

Well the One True Jesus is pictured here present with His Holy angels witnessing this event.

The Psalmist declared... **Ps 139:7-8**

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

We relate to Jesus today through His Grace, but if you reject that Grace there is another side, that includes His wrath that you will know Him though.

Hell is not the eternal separation from God; it is the reality of God's Wrath.

Remember at the time of the harvest, at the end of the age Jesus will send His angels to gather those who have chosen the mark of the beast.

Maybe you are thinking, "I would never allow them to put the mark of the beast on my skin, I rather starve to death."

But how many Church goers today, already compromise on what they know is right for the sake of convenience and comfort.

The Beast's system will be the only place to find any comfort or safety in during the tribulation.

I know already so-called Christian businessmen who lie on their payroll, or cheat their taxes, because it is more convenient for them.

I used to work for such a man, who would preach God's truths all day long to you, but I would hear him lie continually to other contractors, I would watch him cheat people out of money, and commit sexual immorality.

How can that be any different of a compromise, the mark of his life represented Lucifer.

How much different will that mentality fair in the tribulation.

If you are compromising on what you now is right before God now, His Word clearly tells you your life style is wrong, to turn to Him away from your sins, yet you cannot let go of your convenience and comfort now, how much more if you find yourself in the midst of the tribulation.

Especially if you see your children starving, if your family is forced to run for their lives, if it means medicine for your dying wife.

How much more difficult will it be not to justify getting the mark of the beast.

Many are already taking a form of it today, even those who call themselves Christians.

Now the reality of choosing the easy road is eternal damnation.

Hell is a real place, the thought of it sends me into the depths of darkness just thinking about perhaps some of my loved ones even today rather go to hell instead of submitting to God's gospel.

Understand that Jesus talked about hell more than anyone else in scriptures did.

The horrors of this place are factual and real.

And here John explains those who go there are not just burnt up quickly and that's it.

He explains...

And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night...

Forever and ever “Literally ‘into the ages of ages,’ the strongest expression of eternity of which the Greek is capable.” Walvoord

Those who take the mark in the tribulation will be tormented without interruption forever.

Listen, this is reality, as harsh as it may seem to you.

It makes it no less a reality by saying, “I don’t believe in that.”

You can choose not believe $2+2=4$, but the fact remains that it is. Your belief does not determine truth, the Word of God does.

This is the reality for anyone who rejects God’s Grace and His free gift of salvation.

Understand the severity of your sins this morning, what the cost of rebellion will be for those who choose a more comfortable life now, and reject their eternal responsibility.

We just read yesterday in our daily manna, the fate of those who choose to remain in their sins in this life... this here is speaking of eternity...

Rev 21:6-8 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Listen, there are only two options, please choose carefully.

Next, the message will go to those who rejected their comfort in this life, and chose a miserable torturous path in the tribulation.

The Word of God comforts them, that they have no threat of misery for all eternity.

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'"

"Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

We see after this stern warning to the beast worshippers, we see encouragement for those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ.

The saints in the tribulation will face martyrdom and even be forced to run from the beast's persecution.

Their lives in this life will be miserable, as they forsake convenience for truth.

They are assured here that their outcome will be far more preferable than that of the earth-dwellers.

Notice death for the saints in the tribulation is far better than to live in the comfort of the beast's favor.

In death, they are spared from the trial that has overwhelmed them, and they will be rewarded for their labor.

Notice their comfort comes from God, the Holy Spirit.

They are assured from heaven to keep the faith, and persevere through this painful time period, their suffering is only temporary.

So next, we will see the realities of the harvest of the last days...

Reaping the Earth's Harvest

14 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. 15 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." 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Now here we have a further revelation regarding the end of the Great Tribulation.

Some describe this first harvest as the harvest of the Saints, some even think it might be speaking to the Rapture, however, we will see that this harvest and the next speak of the same judgment.

This One, described as being like the Son of Man is most likely Jesus Christ Himself now here participating in the divine judgments upon the rebellion on the earth.

The golden crown makes this clear, showing us Jesus here in His glorified state as King of kings.

The sharp sickle indicates this time of terrible harvest, showing us judgement will take place at the second coming of Christ.

Jesus spoke of His future position as judge in **John 5:27** *God has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.*

And we see here in Revelation an angel comes from the temple of God in heaven, and alerts the Son of

Man, who was upon the cloud, possibly the Shekinah Glory.

And the angel explains “it is time to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”

Now, this term ripe is not in the positive sense but in the negative, speaking of over ripe and drying up and referring to something that is overdue.

Fruit Bowl illustration –

There is nothing desirable about fruit that is too ripe...

Here John sees, that it is past do time to reap, it really pictures the extent of God’s Grace, as He waits until the last possible moment to allow the sickle of judgement to cut through the wicked.

But the rotten moral condition of the world will meet a fateful end, and this sharp sickle will spare no one who has the mark of the beast, or has rejected the Savior of the World.

Understand the harvest of the tares will be a dreadful time, as even Jesus explained to His disciples.

Matt 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."""

You see Jesus is responsible for the overdue harvest, again in our dispensation we sow the Seed of the Word of God, do not get too anxious for the harvest.

So, John's vision continues on, and the final two angels of this series of six angel's comes forth, and more detail is given about the judgement of the wicked on earth with a horrifying picture...

This next picture seems to represent the final part of the harvest.

As we get a preview of the description of the battle of Armageddon here.

Reaping the Grapes of Wrath

17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 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." 19 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. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Now we have an angel assisting in this great slaughter of the wicked.

Jesus describes this in detail in [Matt 13:40-43](#)

40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the

sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

You see at the end of the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist will be engaged in a war.

At this point, he will be heading north to engage his enemy, when the King of kings will appear, and began His descent to earth.

John Walvoord suggest Jesus' return will take place over the course of a 24-hour period, and the whole world will be able to see Him coming in the clouds.

Imagine the dread of that day for the wicked of the earth, who believed the deception of the Antichrist.

During this day, the Antichrist will convince the world to turn all its weapons heavenward toward this coming King of kings and Lord of lords.

But Jesus will destroy His enemies with the Sword that comes out of His mouth, the Word of God, the same Word that spoke the stars, the sun, and millions of galaxies into existence.

At His Word, the rebellious army will be destroyed.

And the imagery here at the end of Chapter 14 is terrible.

John Walvoord explains **Fully ripe** “pictures grapes fully grown in the prime almost bursting with juice . . . The spurting of the grape juice from under the bare feet of those treading the grapes in the winepress is compared to the spurting of blood and speaks of the awful human carnage.”

Joseph Seiss explains... “What strength have grapes against the weight and power of a man when he comes to set his feet upon them? And the riper they are, the more helpless . . .”

And here in our text, we have the weight of God’s heel upon His Creation that forsook Him and turned against Him.

The winepress was trampled outside the city, speaking of Jerusalem, and the blood of the millions upon millions of the wicked armies will flow up to the horse’s bridals, around four feet, and 1,600 furlongs which is about 185-200 miles, some suggest this is the

length of Israel, and the bloodshed will be across the whole land.

Chuck Smith suggest this could be 185 square miles, which would make up the whole Valley of Megiddo.

We see this here the very land that was once stained with Christ's own precious blood, will one day be red from the carnage of those who rejected Him in this life.

From this victory, Jesus will establish His 1000-year reign, and Satan will be imprisoned, and the beast and false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire.

Understand after this gory scene, the end of the Great Tribulation, at the Battle of Armageddon, after this terrible picture the best days for this earth lay ahead.

No longer will Satan's curse and his unbalanced system lead the way in this world.

Jesus Christ the Righteous will make all things new.

The glorious Millennial Kingdom will come, and Righteousness will be enforced, all things will be true, fair and noble.

The patience of the hope of the saints will be rewarded and evil will be done away with.

Now, I want to end this morning with a reminder, today God deals with this world through His Grace.

And today mankind for the most part stops up its ears and refuses to listen.

I will warn you, if you have not responded to God's Grace this morning and you are holding out.

Perhaps you have been holding out for a while now, and it gets easier every time to shrug off that Voice calling you to repentance and assured salvation.

I would caution you that this time of Grace is almost up, and in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, Jesus will come for His church, and that will usher in a new dispensation and in that day, God will speak in wrath.

Warren Wiersbe says, "The bitter cup will be drunk, the harvest of sin reaped, and the vine of the earth cut down and cast into the winepress."

It will be a time of dread and terror, and there is no need for you to have to worry about any of it, if you respond to His Grace today.

What a better way to go into the New Year, than to remember 2018 as the year you threw off that old man, repented of your sins, instead of excusing them.

This can be the year you rejoice in the fact that you have been made new, the old things have passed away, behold all things are new.

This new life can be yours, if you just respond to his Grace while it still can be found.

The Elders and Pastors will be up front this morning, they desire to pray with you if that is you this morning, come forward.

Perhaps you are here this morning, and 2017 has been a rough year, you are anxious to put it behind, the hardships abounded.

These guys are here to pray with you and minister to you, come up and get prayer for your 2018.

Whatever your prayer needs are this morning come on up.

We love you all, and we are hoping and praying for a blessed New Year.

May this year be one of continual sowing of the Word of God and may much fruit coming forth to God's Work here in Victorville.

May we have an urgency to sow this Word, because Jesus can come at any moment.

“If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.”

–Charles H. Spurgeon

Amen?