

[1] Barbi birthday. Brenton trip update. Pray for Jenn.

[2] Rev 14:14-20 **14** I looked, and there before me was a white cloud¹, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. **15** Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud², “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest³ of the earth is ripe.” **16** So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. **17** Another angel came out of the temple⁴ in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. **18** Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather⁵ the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.” **19** The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath⁶. **20** They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles⁷ for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

[3] Summary. This describes two harvests – one of God’s people; one of those who reject him.

[4] The first angel brings God’s command to Jesus to harvest (**θερίζω**) God’s people. How do we know?

- Jesus is the Reaper “like a son of man” (1:12-20). He returns on the clouds (1:7, Mk 13:26) with a crown to gather his people to himself.
- “Harvest” is a picture of evangelism – Mt 9:37, Jn 4:35
- The “weeds” will also be gathered – Mt 13:30, 39, 41 – by an angel.
- “Ripe” means “completely dried”. The full number of people who will be saved have responded to the gospel. “When the full number of the Gentiles has come in” (Rom. 11:26) is those before the end times; “the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed ... was completed” (6:11) refers to the martyred saints of the Tribulation.

[5] This is no dry truth, but the consummation of our hopes and dreams - being with Jesus. *“2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”* ~ **Jn 14:2-3**. God sets the lonely in families – Ps 68:6

[6] A wine press was a pit in which harvested grapes were trampled, to extract the juice. Below this pit was another, which received the juice. It’s a messy job; the treader’s garment would be splattered with the juice (Is 63:2)

This wine press is symbolic of the harvesting and crushing of the earth’s rebels. So violent is the image that the blood runs red from the first pit to the second, spattering up to four feet high (horse bridle) for 185 or so miles. Although this could be literal in some sense (the water of the Kedron being stained all down the valley), it’s more likely symbolic: God’s judgment is also compared to drinking potent wine (v10) and a supper for birds (19:17-18).

[6] The harvest of the rebellious. The **second angel** is told by the **third** angel to harvest (**τρυνάω**) the earth’s grapes. These are the wild and useless grapes of the rebellious (Isaiah 5:1-7).

Things to Do

- **Examine yourselves** to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ~ **2 Cor 13:5**
- **Let it soak in** – you will be with Jesus forever! *Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ* ~ *Phil 3:20*.
- **Accept God’s judgments** in his time and in his way. Don’t try to help him or guess who is who!
- **Be a faithful, courageous witness** to those around you. There’s still time for them to believe!

¹ At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory ~ Mk 13:26

² An angel tells Jesus it’s time, because even he did not know the day or hour. *“No one knows about that day or hour, not it even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father”* (Mark 13:32).

³ The Gospels & Revelation compare the return of Christ to gather his people to a harvest involving angels.

⁴ Which altar was it? If the altar of burnt offering (6:9; 11:1), we are reminded of the blood of the martyrs, but if the altar of incense (8:3, 5; 9:13; 16:7), then of the prayers of the saints.

⁵ The OT prophets and Revelation compare the judgment of God on sinners to a vintage involving a winepress of wrath.

⁶ For this metaphor of God’s wrath see 14:10; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 19:15, Joel 3:13, Is 63:3

⁷ Cp Isaiah 63:3. Treading the wine press was messy work. See Rev 19:13.

Figure 14.1—Six Angels in Revelation 14

v. 6	“another angel” flying in midair	with the message to fear God
v. 8	“a second angel” following the first	with the message that Babylon has fallen
v. 9	“a third angel” following the second	with the message of eternal torment
v. 15	“another angel” from the temple	with the command to reap the grain
v. 17	“another angel” from the temple	who gathers the grapes with his sickle
v. 18	“another angel” from the altar	with the command to gather the grapes

The other times in his book John refers to “another angel:

Figure 14.2—“Another Angel” in Passages Other than Revelation 14

7:2	“another angel” from the east	who seals the 144,000 on the forehead
8:3	“another angel” at the heavenly altar	who hurls a judgment censer to the earth
18:1	“another angel” from heaven	with the message that Babylon has fallen

Isaiah 5:1-7

1 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. **2** He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. **3** “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. **4** What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? **5** Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. **6** I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” **7** The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Matthew 13:24-30

24 Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. **26** When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. **27** “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ **28** “ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ **29** “ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”