



Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION

14:14-20

OUTLINE

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MAIN POINT

- 📍 Here we have a synopsis of the judgments yet to come
 - 📍 Specifically focused on the death of people
 - 📍 Most likely we only have the unjust in view here, though other viewpoints are defensible
 - 📍 God gave time and warnings to repent, but now the time has come for judgment
- 📍 The patience of God
 - 📍 God is patient and does not like to judge (c.f. **Isaiah 28:21**; **Ezekiel 33:11**)
 - 📍 But a time does come when the only thing left is judgment
 - 📍 If we love the grace, mercy, and long-suffering of God, then we must also acknowledge His judgment
- 📍 We must love all of God, not a single attribute of Him
 - 📍 How we view God affects our whole lives and witness
 - 📍 Do we only view God through a lens of love and forget that judgment is the other side of love?
 - 📍 Do we only study the easy parts of the Bible, or do we study the whole thing?

THE VISION






A VISION OF THE SON (V. 14)




- After giving a warning to the unfaithful and comfort to the faithful, the scene shifts to what is about to happen
 - We see the End times judgment of God likened to a harvest
 - Seen also in **Joel 3:13**
 - We are getting an overall summary of the events of Chapters 15-20
- The white cloud is often associated with Jesus and His Second Coming
 - Daniel 7:13-14**
 - Matthew 24:30**
 - Acts 1:9**
- An angel or Jesus?
 - A more literal translation is “upon the cloud sitting like the Son of Man” (Thomas V2, p. 217)
 - Gets around the issue of “like”
 - Jesus sits like Jesus; an angel does not
 - Some point out that in this passage it appears that the He is taking orders from an angel, which would not make sense for Jesus
 - However, God uses angels to communicate from God to men, so it would not be unusual for God to use it to communicate to Jesus (see also **Mark 1:13**)
 - The instruction comes from the Father, and Jesus is obeying the Father, even if the intermediary is an angel
- The crown here is a *stephanos* not a *diadem*
 - The *diadem* comes later in **Revelation 19:12**
 - Here, there *stephanos* is a sign of His strength, power, and victory

REAPING THE HARVEST (V. 15-16)









Who or what is about to be harvested?

-  **Hypothesis 1:** The Elect. Supported by **Matthew 9:37-38**, **Luke 10:2**, and **John 4:35-38**. However, in the previous passage the comfort given to the Elect was not that they would be removed, but that they had a reward in Heaven. Having this meaning right after the previous would seem to invalidate this interpretation.
-  **Hypothesis 2:** A Mix of the Elect and the Unsaved. Could be similar to **Matthew 13:30, 39**. This would also explain the two harvests, one of the Earth's harvest, and one of grapes. However. The context of what comes does not mention the elect and seems focused on judgment.
-  **Hypothesis 3:** The Unjust. This best fits the overall context of **Revelation** and the judgments that are to come. But does not explain why Jesus does one and an angel the other, or why one has wrath and the other does not.

The sharp sickle

-  This will be a sever judgment
-  No one will escape who is destined for punishment
-  The sharp sickle easily cuts through whatever the harvester wants

Ripe for harvest



-  Unclear from the text if the harvest is ripe or overripe
 -  Does not matter from a practical perspective
 -  Personal opinion is that it is simply ripe as God does things exactly how and when he wants to
 -  Exact times before judgment have also been given (c.f. **Genesis 15:16**)
-  The time has come and plenty of time has been given
 -  Time before the Tribulation and even during the Tribulation
 -  Warning after warning has been given and ignored
 -  At a certain point the only thing that remains is judgment

REAPING THE GRAPES (V. 17-18)





- 👤 Here we have an angel which is executing judgment instead of Jesus as we previously saw
 - 👤 Angels do this in **Matthew 13:41-42; 49-50**
- 👤 The alter here is likely the Golden Alter (c.f. **Revelation 8:3**)
 - 👤 Some debate on if there are multiple alters in Heaven
 - 👤 Personal thought is that there is only the Golden alter
 - 👤 Only other alter would be the Brazen alter, and there would be no need for that as Christ's sacrifice was "once and for all" (**Hebrews 7:27; 9:12; 10:10**)
- 👤 Fully ripe
 - 👤 Another indication of the "perfect ripeness"
 - 👤 God did not wait too long or too short
 - 👤 We may often think that God is waiting too long (I know I do), but that is our perspective, and not His
- 👤 Why does God wait so long?
 - 👤 Give time for repentance
 - 👤 No further option once judgment comes (c.f. **Ezekiel 33:11**)
 - 👤 Especially true here when everything is getting wrapped up

THE WINEPRESS OF WRATH (V. 19)






Imagery used also in **Isaiah 63:1-6**, **Lamentations 1:15**, and **Joel 3:13**

-  Can be used in relation to Israel (e.g. **Isaiah 1:8**), but is not exclusive to her
-  Here it seems that the scope is the whole earth, not a subset of it

The judging of “fruits”

-  We all bear fruits (**Galatians 5:19-23**)
-  We will all be judged someday
-  What will we have to show for our life?
-  What will we have to show for our suffering?

The wrath of God

-  We do not like to think about this, but there is a wrath of God
-  Not something that is wild and out of control
-  The wrath of God is just, measured, specific, and controlled
-  The only option left is judgment after Man has knowingly, willfully, and repeatedly chosen to go against Him
-  God calls judgment his “strange work” (**Isaiah 28:21**), but at some point it must be done

BLOOD OUTSIDE THE CITY (V. 20)

🗺️ Which city is spoken of?

- 🗺️ **Hypothesis 1:** Babylon. Babylon is a common feature in the Book of Revelation. However, one of the points is the judgment against Babylon, and this would leave Babylon excluded, which does not align with what was just proclaimed (**Revelation 14:8**) or what we know is coming (**Revelation 17-18**)
- 🗺️ **Hypothesis 2:** Jerusalem. The only other likely candidate is Jerusalem as she is the only other major city discussed in Revelation, and God wanting to exclude her from judgment in this context makes some sense. This also aligns with **Joel 3:12-14** and **Zechariah 14:4** for the battle of Armageddon.
 - 🗺️ However, the Battle of Armageddon does not take place geographically near Jerusalem. But this problem is minor given the distributed nature of modern warfare. Either way, it is clear that these event would take place outside Jerusalem.

🗺️ Blood all around

- 🗺️ Is this literal or figurative?
- 🗺️ Nothing here indicates that it is figurative
- 🗺️ Could be accomplished by the coming slaughter in of those in **Revelation 16:16**
 - 🗺️ Remember that this is the last shot the Earth-dwellers have of defeating God
 - 🗺️ They will put everything and everyone there that they can
- 🗺️ Even if taken as a figure, it is clear that God is serious in His judgment and nothing (and no one) will be left out
- 🗺️ Remember, all of these people that die are, in fact, real people living real lives, but they really rejected Jesus
 - 🗺️ This is justice, even if we do not think so or understand it
 - 🗺️ **Romans 12:19** is a terrifying verse if we truly understand it

LESSONS FOR US

Need to ensure we have a complete understanding of God

 Yes, God is love, but He also judges

 Importance of **Matthew 18:1-6**

 We either love God, all of Him, as He is, or we do not love Him, we love an imagined version of Him

 His justice can seem cruel because our notion of justice is imperfect and, at times, cruel

 We should not measure God by our standards, but rather measure ourselves by God's standards

A new world and new kingdom will come, but only after terrible death and suffering

 Everyone wants the end, but few like to think about how we get there

 There is a single, contiguous path

 The Tribulation and the establishment of the Kingdom are part of the same series

Questions to ponder

 Why do people reject God, even knowing who He is?

 Why is sin so attractive that we will do anything to get it?

 The measure of our maturity how much we hate sin?