

Revelation 14:14-20

Verse 14

And I looked, and behold, a white cloud – Often in the Bible a cloud represents the glory of God, the shekinah.

- God leads Israel in a pillar of cloud – Exodus 13
- God inhabits the temple in a cloud – 2 Chronicles 5:13
- The Day of the Lord will be a day of clouds – Ezekiel 30:2-3, Joel 2:2, Zephaniah 1:15
- Believers will be *caught up in the clouds* – 1 Thess. 4
- Jesus will come on a cloud:

-With the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming... Daniel 7:13

-They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky... Matthew 24:30

-God speaks from a cloud – Mark 9:7

-The disciples *entered the cloud* – Luke 9:34

Seven times in Revelation a cloud(s) is mentioned:

1:7 – *He is coming with the clouds...*

10:1 – *A strong angel...clothed with a cloud...*

11:12 – The two witnesses *went up into heaven in the cloud...*

14:14 – *A white cloud and sitting on the cloud was one like the son of man...*

14:15 – 16 – *Him/He who sat on the cloud...*

Sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man – Note Daniel 7:13-14

Having a golden crown on His head – The word for crown is *stephanon*, the victor's crown.

And a sharp sickle in His hand – The sickle is mentioned seven times in this chapter. It is sharp so the reapers can do their work swiftly and completely.

Verse 15

And another angel... Six angels are mentioned in this chapter:

1 – *An angel flying in midheaven preaching an eternal gospel* (6)

2 – *An angel crying, "Fallen is Babylon..."* (8)

3 – *An angel proclaiming wrath to the beast followers* (9)

4 – *An angel crying, "Put in your sickle and reap..."*

5 – *An angel with a sharp sickle...*

6 – *An angel with power over fire...*

Put in Your sickle and reap because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe – Joel 2:13-4, Jer. 51:33

Verse 16

And the earth was reaped – Jesus refers to this judgment in Matthew 13 in the parable of the tares.

Verse 17

And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle - The word angel (*angelos*) means "messenger or envoy, one who is sent." For believers they are called "*ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation*" (Heb. 1:14). For unbelievers they are God's ministers of wrath and judgment.

Verse 18

And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar – Perhaps this angel ministers in response to the prayers of the saints underneath the heavenly altar in 6:9-10.

And he called...put in your sickle, and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe – Ripe in verse 15 means "dried up or withered." This is a different word and means, "fully ripe or mature."

Verse 19-20

And the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth – Some see the crop in this verse as different from the crop of verse 15. Verse 15 may be referring to the Gentiles and this verse to Jews. Israel is often referred to as a vine in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 6:9, Hosea 10:1, Nahum 2:2).

And threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God – Revelation 19:15-21 describes this event.

The wine press was trodden outside the city – The city is Jerusalem. The Old Testament predicted a final battle that would take place near Jerusalem (Joel 3:12-14, Zechariah 14:1-4).

And the blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles – There is much debate about how literally this description should be taken. The idea is that there will be bloodshed all around Jerusalem as there has never been before. This is a reference to the battle of Armageddon (16:6). Note Isaiah 63:1-6.