



## LESSON #24 - THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH IS RIPE

### Bird's eye view of Revelation 14

- The three angels' message (**Revelation 14:6-12**) will polarize the world into two groups: Those who [1] worship God and obey His law and those who [2] worship the beast and disobey God's law.
- Notice that the messages go to every nation, kindred, tongue and people to gather them on God's side and they harden the others on the side of Satan. Receiving or rejecting them is a matter of life or death.
- The righteous have the [1] seal of God and the wicked have the [2] mark of the beast.
- The righteous are described as the [1] harvest and the wicked as the [2] grapes.
- These messages will be accompanied by the unlimited power of the latter rain (the Holy Spirit) because the latter rain in Israel ripened the grain for the harvest.
- After the judgment has ended and all humanity has been divided into two camps probation will close and Satan will be in full control of the finally impenitent.
- The righteous living are gathered in [1] spiritual worldwide Jerusalem (**Revelation 14:1-5**) and the wicked (Babylon) are gathered in the [2] spiritual worldwide winepress of the wrath of God

### The principle of literal and spiritual

God's people are depicted as gathered in Jerusalem—spiritually. Though they are on earth, their citizenship is in heaven. The wicked, on the other hand, are described as the those who dwell on the earth and their interests are focused on the earth

### Law of Literal and Spiritual Explained

- **Literal light** symbolic of **righteousness**
- **Literal nakedness** symbolic of **unrighteousness**
- We wear the symbolic robe of Christ's righteousness now
- We will wear the literal robe of light later

**Galatians 3:26, 27** (spiritually covered): *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*

**Romans 13:14** (spiritually clothed): “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

**Revelation 16:15** (spiritually naked) “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

**Revelation 7:9, 10** (literally clothed) “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,<sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, saying: “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

**Hebrews 12:22-24**: “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,<sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,<sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”

**Galatians 4:26**: “. . . but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.”

**Philippians 3:20-21**: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

**Before the millennium** the worldwide spiritual Babylon is gathered around worldwide spiritual Jerusalem

**After the 1000 years** the gathering will be around the literal Jerusalem where all the spiritual citizens are present personally. The wicked will come to this location from all corners of the earth (**Revelation 20:7-9**).

**Revelation 14:14-16: The judgment of the righteous concludes**

“Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man [**John 5:27; Leviticus 16:2**], having on His head a golden crown [stefanos], and in His hand a sharp sickle.<sup>15</sup> And another angel came out of the temple [naos], crying with a loud voice [loud cry] 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.”<sup>16</sup> So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

These are God’s people who keep the commandments of God. They are gathered inside the city of Jerusalem spiritually by the three angels’ message].

**Daniel 7:13-14:** "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.<sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."

### **Revelation 14:17-19: The wicked harvested and cast into the winepress of God's wrath**

<sup>17</sup> Then another angel came out of the temple [naos; Most holy place Revelation 11:19; 15:5-8] which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.<sup>18</sup> And another angel came out from the altar who had power over fire [because the enemies of God's people will be punished with fire and brimstone; This is the throwing down of the censer in Revelation 8:5 and Ezekiel 10, 11], 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."<sup>19</sup> 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 [notice that those who worship the beast and his image and receive the mark will suffer the wrath of God according to the third angel's message]

### **The Perspective of Joel 3**

**Joel 3:9-20:** "Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up."<sup>10</sup> Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, 'I am strong.'" <sup>11</sup> Assemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord.<sup>12</sup> "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat [in Revelation this valley is universalized because we are told that the earth is involved]; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.<sup>13</sup> 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."<sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.<sup>15</sup> The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness.<sup>16</sup> The Lord also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the Lord will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.<sup>17</sup> "So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."<sup>18</sup> And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip with new wine, the hills shall flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; a fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Acacias.<sup>19</sup> "Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom a desolate wilderness, because of violence against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land."<sup>20</sup> But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation."

### **The winepress outside the City**

**Revelation 14:20:** 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.

**Which is the city** and **who is riding** on the horses that trample the winepress?

### **The Perspective of Revelation 19:11-16, 19-21**

Revelation 19 speaks of the **threefold union**: **Beast**, **false prophet** and **kings**.

**Revelation 19:11-16, 19-21:** “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a **white horse**. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True and in righteousness He **judges** and **makes war** [Armageddon]. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were **many crowns** [diademata]. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a **robe dipped in blood** [Isaiah 63:1-4], and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on **white horses** [now we know who was riding the white horses in **Revelation 14:20**]. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a **sharp sword**, that with it He should **strike the nations**. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself **treads the winepress** of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God [the same as in the third angel’s message and also in **Revelation 14:20**. These passages all explain one another]. <sup>16</sup> And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.... <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army [explain the scene at the edge of the Red Sea and how fighting against God’s people is fighting against God]. <sup>20</sup> Then the **beast** was captured, and with him the **false prophet** who worked signs in his presence, by which he **deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image**. These two were cast alive into the **lake of fire burning with brimstone** [exactly the punishment announced in the third angel’s message]. <sup>21</sup> And the **rest** were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

**Isaiah 63:1-4:** “Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?—“I who speak in righteousness, **mighty to save**.” <sup>2</sup> Why is Your apparel red, and Your **garments** like one who **treads in the winepress**? <sup>3</sup> “I have trodden the **winepress alone**, and from the peoples no one was with Me [in Jerusalem at His first coming]. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. <sup>4</sup> For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of **My redeemed** has come.”

This geographical location **cannot be literal** because Jesus did not tread the winepress alone in **Bozrah** or in **Edom** but rather in Jerusalem. Besides, Jesus trampled the winepress for the whole world.

**Bozrah** was notorious for its **dyed garments** and its **grapes** and **Edom** means **red**. So we are dealing with a **symbolic place** here so the **1600 stadia** outside the city where Jesus treads the winepress must also be symbolic and worldwide.

The three angels' message goes to the every nation, kindred, tongue and people to gather God's faithful children into **God's camp**.

The three evil spirits like frogs go to the kings of the earth and the whole world to gather them in **Satan's camp**. If the **gathering** of the three angels' message is **global** then the **city** and the **winepress** must be **global** as well!

If the valley of Jehoshaphat is the **entire earth** where the winepress is, then Jerusalem must be also **worldwide**

**Jeremiah 25:30-38:** *"Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The Lord will roar from on and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.'<sup>31</sup> A noise will come to the ends of the earth—for the Lord has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword," says the Lord."<sup>32</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth."<sup>33</sup> "And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground."<sup>34</sup> "Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, you leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; you shall fall like a precious vessel."<sup>35</sup> And the shepherds will have no way to flee, nor the leaders of the flock to escape."<sup>36</sup> A voice of the cry of the shepherds and a wailing of the leaders to the flock will be heard. For the Lord has plundered their pasture,<sup>37</sup> and the peaceful dwellings are cut down because of the fierce anger of the Lord."<sup>38</sup> He has left His lair like the lion; for their land is desolate because of the fierceness of the Oppressor, and because of His fierce anger."*

**I Enoch 100:3** indicates that this was a **common hyperbolic** expression among the Jews at that time:

*"The horse shall walk through the blood of sinners up to his chest; and the chariot shall sink down up to its top. In those days, the angels shall descend into the secret places. They shall gather together into one place all those who gave aid to sin. And the Most High will arise on that day of judgment in order to execute a great judgment upon all the sinners."*

**4 x 4 x 100** is a symbol of **universality**. It is an enlarged and universalized # 4

Just like the 144,000 are 12 x 12 x 1000 to represent all the worldwide living saints that are victorious over the beast, his image and his mark.

**Jemison, Fausset and Brown commentary on Revelation 14:20:**

*"1,600—a square number: 4 by 4 by 100. The four quarters -- -north, south, east, and west-of the Holy Land, or else of the world (the universality of the worldwide destruction being indicated)."*



## The Sequence of Events in Ezekiel 9-11

**Ezekiel 8:16-18:** Abominations being practiced among God's own professed people who are described as a harlot (chapters 16, 23), even the leaders were practicing sun worship

*"<sup>16</sup> So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.<sup>17</sup> And He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose.<sup>18</sup> Therefore I also will act in  fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."*

**Ezekiel 9:4:** The sealing of those who were not practicing the abominations. This happens before God pours out His wrath upon the city. The separation is accomplished before the desolation of the city actually takes place

*"... and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."*

**Ezekiel 9:5, 6:** After the sealing God says that He will pour out His wrath upon the city  
*"To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.<sup>6</sup> Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple."*

**Ezekiel 10:2:** The man clothed in linen goes in to receive coals of fire to pour out upon Jerusalem. These coals are taken from the altar of incense where the prayers of those who sigh and cry are received. Now the censer is going to be cast down, that is to say, the prayers of the saints will no longer be received in the sanctuary (Revelation 8:5) and there will be the thunder, lightning, earthquake and voices of the seventh plague (Revelation 16:17-18)

*"Then He spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, "Go in among the wheels, under the cherub, fill your hands with coals of fire from among the cherubim, and scatter them over the city." And he went in as I watched."*

**Ezekiel 10:3-5:** The temple is filled with the glory of God and the voice of the Almighty is heard speaking:

*"Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and the cloud filled the inner court.<sup>4</sup> Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full*

of the **brightness of the Lord's glory**.<sup>5</sup> And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, like the **voice of Almighty God** when He speaks.”

**Ezekiel 10:7:** The man clothed in linen **comes out with the coals** from the altar to cast them **upon the city**

“And the cherub stretched out his hand from among the cherubim to **the fire** that was among the cherubim, and took some of it and put it into the hands of the man clothed with linen who took it and **went out**. ”

**Ezekiel 10: 18, 19:** The **glory** of God **departs from the temple** and now **God's wrath** will be **poured out** upon the city

“Then the glory of the Lord **departed from the threshold of the temple** and stood over the cherubim.<sup>19</sup> And the cherubim **lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth** in my sight [the four angels cease to hold the four winds of strife and they now forsake the city]. When they **went out**, the wheels were beside them; and they **stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord's house** [they are about to leave the temple], and the glory of the God of Israel **was above them**. ”

**Ezekiel 11:8-10:** God promises a punishment of the **sword upon the religious leaders**. These are the **same 25 men** who led in the **worshiping of the sun** (verse 1-3)

**Ezekiel 11:22, 23:** The glory of God **departs by way of the Mount of Olives**.

This entire scene was repeated with Jesus in **Matthew**. He **came to His temple** and **preached for the last time**, said that their house was desolate, He **left the house** and then spoke about the **destruction of the temple and the city on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem**. And these were His professed people.

**Ezekiel 11:8-10:** “You have feared the **sword**; and I will **bring a sword upon you**,” says the Lord God.<sup>9</sup> “And I will bring you out of its midst, and deliver you into the **hands of strangers**, and **execute judgments on you**.<sup>10</sup> You shall **fall by the sword**. I will judge you at the border of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.”

#### **A Parallel from the days of Noah and other periods**

- The **righteous were already gathered** into the ark **before the wrath of God** was poured out at the flood
- In **Sodom**, the **door closed** before the wrath of God was poured out.
- The **close of probation** for the **Jewish nation** came to an end in the **year 34** but the execution of God's wrath was not poured out until the **year 70**

- Also remember the coming of **the thief and its two stages** --- Stage 1 is when the thief comes into the house; stage 2 is when the home owner awakens and discovers the thief in the house.
- **Revelation 22:10-13** and the **sequence** of events. A message comes from the book, a declaration is made and then Jesus comes:

*“And he said to me, **“Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book,** for the time is at hand.<sup>11</sup> He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”<sup>12</sup> “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.<sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”*

**Zechariah 14:12, 13:** *“And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: ;Their flesh shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.<sup>13</sup> It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from the Lord will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, and raise his hand against his neighbor’s hand.’*

The plague is against those who fought **against Jerusalem**. When God sent the plagues on the Egyptians, His people (Israel) were safe in the land of Goshen and were not touched by any of them. Also, when the Israelites were at the **Red Sea** and thought they would be annihilated by Pharaoh and his armies, God had the protecting cloud over them and enabled them to cross over on dry land. They watched as God no longer held back the waters of the Red Sea and saw the destruction of the Egyptians. **The Israelites were safe under God’s care and rejoiced with singing and praise to their God!!!** This experience at the edge of the **Red Sea** was a demonstration of how the battle was **against God** in the person of His people. The plagues that are to come during the time of trouble will be poured out because the enemy wants to **slay God’s people**. The fight is not over **oil** or over **ethnicity** or **political persuasion**. The battle is purely **religious**, the wicked intend to **annihilate the righteous** which have the **patience** of the saints, **keep the commandments** of God, have **faith in Jesus** and have the **testimony of Jesus Christ**.