

The Harvest of Souls

Rev. 14:8-20

"Taken as a whole, chapter 14 of Revelation emphasizes first that the 144,000 of Israel seen at the beginning of the great tribulation will be preserved triumphantly through it. Second, the rest of the chapter is devoted to various pronouncements of divine judgment upon a wicked world, reassuring the saints of that day that, though they may suffer and even be martyred, God's ultimate justice will triumph, and the wicked will be judged, and the saints will be rewarded... The implications of the message for today are only too plain. Today is a day of grace, but what is true of the tribulation is also true today, namely, that God will ultimately judge all men. Today, however, the invitation is still open to those who will trust in Christ and who thereby can avail themselves of the grace of God and be saved from entering this awful period which may be impending for this present generation." Walvoord

Ezek. 38: 1-2; 39:8-10

- I. There are two opposing spiritual forces at work in the world today that vie for the souls of men and women. Both are unseen and either bear the noticeable fruit of righteousness or the noticeable fruit of godlessness. The one force, whose source is Satan, is hyperactive in drawing as many souls as possible to worship him and the idols he entices them with. His followers drink of the maddening influence of his evil world system because they love it. The other force, whose source is God Almighty, is also hyperactive in drawing as many souls as possible to worship Him alone. His followers drink of the fruit of righteousness because they love His ways more than the world's ways. How deeply we drink speaks volumes of how seriously we take our faith.

Rev. 14:8

porneia, figuratively it means, idolatry and fornication with the world.

James 3:11-12 Does a spring send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, bear olives, or a vine bear figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

1 Jn. 2:17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

- II. During the tribulation, the choice a person makes to either follow Christ or Satan, implies that the person who makes the choice is acutely aware of the reasons behind their decision. Those who choose to follow Christ have heard the gospel and respond knowing the eternal consequences of their decision. Those who choose to follow Satan have also heard the gospel, but for some inexplicable reason disregard what their choice means for them eternally. Perhaps one of the reasons the Lord gives us insight into what it will like in those days for the saved and unsaved, is to move us to take our faith seriously as those who will be spared from the horror of the coming tribulation.

Rev. 14:9-13

Dan. 12:1-2

John 3:36

Isa. 51:17

Luke 12:8-9

2 Peter 3:9

- III. You've often heard it said that two things are certain in this life: death and taxes. It can also be said that in the afterlife one thing is certain, and it is the just judgment of Jesus Christ toward those who have refused his offer of salvation through belief in the gospel. Jesus' sovereign authority to **harvest** the souls of the unjust leaves no other option for them concerning their eternal destination. The day is coming when *"Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt"* (Dan. 12:2).

Rev 14:14-20

Matt 13:36-43

Mark 10:45

Daniel 7:13-14

Matt. 9:37-38

Matt. 7:18-20

Joel 3:12-14

*"The Greek word for ripe means **Over Ripe.**" [It] denotes "to dry up, wither," translated in Rev 14:15, "over-ripe," ... said figuratively of the harvest of the earth, symbolizing the condition of the world, political, especially connected with Israel (Joel 3:9,14), and religious, comprehensive of the whole scene of Christendom (Mat 13:38)."* Vine's

Eph. 5:15-17 15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 [b]making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.