



The Final Harvest

Rev 14

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." Rev 14.13-15

The Point: The harvest is a future reality for all of Adam's race.

The Question: What is my part in the harvest?

A partnership between the Creator and the created.

To have a harvest, one has to sow seed.

A partnership between the Savior and the saved.

There is a daily harvest as people pass from this life to the next

There is a final harvest at the resurrection.

Thanksgiving in America has always been about the harvest, a time to thank God for the fields' produce. The cornucopia is overflowing with freshly harvested vegetables and fruit—God's plenty. It is a partnership between the Creator and the created. God provides the soil, sun, clouds, rain, and natural fertilizer. We provide the labor of planting, cultivation, and harvest. We thank him for the bounty. Even in times of want, we thank him for his provision. "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing."

God created and planted the first two seeds, and from them, every nation sprouted. Acts 17.26-28. Each soul departs the body, set aside for the final harvest. This specific future event is a mixture of sadness and joy, fear and confidence. We must sound the warning. The harvest is as certain as the life one lives.

One hundred fifty-one thousand six hundred people die each day. Six thousand three hundred sixteen people die each hour. One hundred and five people die each minute. So, ultimately, the death rate is 1:1.

Believers have a twofold responsibility to grow and to produce. To grow, a believer needs to cultivate their soul—check and get rid of weeds. Fertilize the soul with the word and stay watered with the Holy Spirit. We produce by showing the works of an active faith to people outside the faith, living faith that shines and is multiplied with the light of the gospel.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matt 9.36-38

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" Rev 14.13