

“THE GRAPES OF WRATH”

Revelation 14:14-20

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INTRODUCTION

The tiny nation of Israel is surrounded by enemy nations which hate her and desire to annihilate her. The animosity toward Israel grows stronger by the day and her enemies multiply in number around the world. In recent weeks anti-Semitism has been on the increase even in Europe – Spain and France have had people calling for another Holocaust. Israel has few friends remaining in the world, and even under our current president the friendship of the United States has sometimes been called into question. What hope does Israel have?

The text before us shows us a preview of the ultimate outcome of worldwide enmity toward Israel. We see some parallel passages to this one in **Joel 3:11-16** and **Zechariah 14:2-3**.

However, there is a God in heaven who keeps track of all the wickedness of mankind, and He also keeps track of his people with whom he has entered into a relationship by covenant.

GOD WILL DEFEND AND DELIVER HIS PEOPLE AND WILL JUDGE THE WICKED.

- I. THE HARVEST (14-16)
 - A. The Reaper (14)
 1. His Throne: white cloud
 2. His Identity: Son of Man (cf. Daniel 7:13)
 3. His Crown: Golden wreath
 4. His Scepter: sharp sickle (used for grain and grapes)
 - B. The Marching Order (15)
 - cf. “The day and the hour” is in the Father’s hand.
 - The command issues from God.
 1. Source: the Temple – based on God’s holiness and righteousness
 2. Urgency (loud voice)
 - C. The Time
 - God’s sovereign appointment – “the hour has come.”
 - “The harvest is ripe” – overdue.
 - God has been patient; man has been extremely sinful.
 - D. The Accomplishment (16)
 - Here we see two separate harvests – the saved and the unsaved.
 - Compare the parable of the wheat and the tares.
- II. THE VINTAGE (17-20)
 - A. The Reaper (17)
 1. His Nature – an Angel-- cf. “He shall send forth His angels.”

2. His source – the temple in heaven; so was v. 15.
 3. His sickle (17)
- B. The Marching Order (18)
1. The source – “the Angel of fire” (cf. 8:3-5) who is “from the altar”
 - Righteousness
 - Restitution of Believers
 2. His order
 - “Cast your sickle.”
 - Gather the clusters of the “vine of the earth” – not Yahweh’s true vine!
 - The grapes are ripe
- C. The Fulfillment (19-20)
1. Thrown into the wine press of God’s wrath (19b)
cf. 19:15; Isaiah 63:2-3
 2. The press is trodden.
 - “Outside the city” — the earthly Jerusalem
 - The blood out of the press comes up to the horses’ bridles
 - The effects of the war may be seen for 200 miles – 1600 stadia – i.e. 184 miles.
 - This corresponds with the approximate length of Palestine.

CONCLUSION

The great day is coming!

The press will be trodden.

Israel and all of God’s people will be delivered.

Are you ready?

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