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ASSURANCES FIVE AND SIX
The Dead In Christ Will Be At Rest And Rewarded
The Glorious Harvest of the Godly Will Take Place

Rev. 14:13 - 16

INTRODUCTION:

Believers know that there is a day coming when there will no longer be an earth as it is known today. For that reason believers are willing to give up all for Christ for He alone can give eternal life. Only believers have the most glorious hope and believers know that the dead in Christ shall be at rest and be rewarded by the Lord Jesus.

Believers also know that Jesus Christ is going to be victorious over all the ungodly and evil of this world. They know that He is going to judge the ungodly and evil. All the world shall see and know that Christ is truly the Son of God and He is going to harvest His own people - believers.

I. THE DEAD IN CHRIST ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD

1. To "die" in the Lord means to have lived in the Lord while alive on this earth.
 - When a person believes in Christ, God places that person "in" Christ.
 - To be "in" Christ means that a believer walks and lives in Christ every day.
 - To be "in" the Lord means that a believer never tastes nor experiences death but simply moves on into the place God has prepared for him/her.
 - To be "in" the Lord means that that believer is blessed
2. The believer has cast his/her life and destiny into the hands of Jesus Christ, not into the hands of the antichrist and his government and will escape God's judgment.

II. THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL BE REWARDED

1. The dead in Christ will rest from all earthly labor. No more pressure of being a christian. No more having to stand up against persecution. No more living as an outcast.
 - The believer will be refreshed.
 - The believer will be free of all temptations and trials.
 - The believer will be perfected in body.
 - The believer will live in a perfect society of godliness and righteousness forever.
2. The believer will be rewarded with heavenly work to do.
 - Believers will not sit around on clouds playing a harp.
 - Believers will not stand around singing praises all the time.
 - Heaven is going to be full of both worship and service.
 - Heaven is a real place
 - Believers will be made Kings and Priests in Heaven.
 - Believers will be rewarded with work to do.

III. GOD'S DAY OF HARVEST WILL COME

1. Jesus will return to take away His believers and all the world will know.
2. The remaining ungodly and evil will be judged and shut out from God's presence.
3. God is going to create a new heaven and a new earth and believers will have the privilege of living there with God forever.

IV. JESUS CHRIST WILL DO THE HARVESTING HIMSELF

1. Jesus is the **ONLY** one qualified to bring believers to heaven. He came to make the way for all people to go to heaven.
2. Most people do not believe that God sent Jesus into the world to save them. They reject Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus is coming Himself to show the unbelieving world that He is who believers say He is.
 - He shall come in a white cloud...pure and Godly.
 - He shall come wearing a gold crown.
 - He shall come with a sharp sickle in His hand.

V. JESUS CHRIST WILL SEPARATE BELIEVERS FROM UNBELIEVERS

1. The time will come for the Son of Man to gather His family from among the ungodly.
 - God delays this return as long as people want to believe.
 - God will reach a point when He declares "ENOUGH."
2. Jesus will thrust His sickle on earth and believers will be harvested.
 - Believers delivered and freed from all earth troubles.
 - Believers will never again suffer mistreatment, hunger, disease, accident, exhaustion, temptation, trials, sin, ungodliness treatment, evil, death, cold , heat or a single tear.
3. Jesus will take believers to their real home - heaven where they are citizens of the new heavens and earth. Servants of God and Jesus Christ who oversee the operation of the universe for God.

CONCLUSION

1. There will come a time when believers will be at rest from all worldly trials
2. Believers will be welcomed and blessed when they leave this world
3. Now is the time for the church to be busy telling the world of the coming judgment.