

ASSURANCE 7: THE TERRIBLE HARVEST OF THE UNGODLY WILL TAKE PLACE

Rev. 14:17-20

Study #33

Introduction: The great day of earth's harvest is coming, the harvest of the ungodly and evil of this world. Jesus is going to judge them in wrath, not in love. The people of this world will be engulfed in idolatry, murder, sorcery, immorality, and stealing. They will be materialistic and worldly, atheistic and God-rejecting. There will be no hope whatsoever that they will ever change and turn to God.

This lesson is the last of the seven assurances God has given to the believer about those terrible days of the great tribulation judgment.

I. THE TERROR OF THE HARVEST OF THE UNGODLY

1. A great angel will be the one who brings the judgment.

- -He comes from the temple of God, from among the martyred who have been praying for God to be vindicated on earth. -He is the instrument by which God's judgment of wrath will be brought.

2. The angel will give a great cry that all the ungodly world will hear and sheer terror will fall upon them.

-He has the power of fire, which represents God's total judgment. -
The ungodly are likened to clusters of grapes ripe to be harvested.

-A person chooses in life upon which branch he/she will hang: Jesus or the world.

3. This will be the time of God's wrath upon the ungodly world. A frightening picture of terror and horror of the coming judgment is described as a "harvest of grapes."

-The winepress was a trough usually made of either stone or brick that was placed over a large vat. The grapes were placed into the trough and people would trample the grapes and the juice would flow through holes in the bottom of the trough into the vat underneath.

-This is a graphic picture of the coming wrath of God. No mercy, no compromise and no grace. Note:

-The trampling was deliberate. The purpose was to get ALL the juice out of the grapes by being trampled underfoot. Thus it will be with the wrath of God on the ungodly world.

-The trampling was thorough, not a *single grape* was left uncrushed. So it will be with God's wrath. He will show no partiality, no favoritism, and no discrimination. It will be PERFECT retribution.

-Every unbeliever will receive EXACTLY proper judgment according to God's wisdom. Each unbeliever will bear his/her own guilt and suffer the wrath of God.

II. THE WRATH OF GOD WILL FALL AT ARMAGEDDON

1. God's "winepress" is outside the city of Jerusalem and the battle is called:

- the great battle of Armageddon (to be studied in detail later)
- the great day of the Lord
- the final battle of human history
- the judgment of God upon the ungodly and evil of this world
- the end of Satan's rule upon earth.

2. This "battle" will be that of all the armed forces of the world gathering outside Jerusalem under the leadership of the antichrist. It will be the quickest defeat in human history of the greatest army ever amassed by man. This great army will be destroyed by the very WORD of the Lord's mouth and by the glory of His appearance. (2 Thes 2:8)

3. Several writers of the Bible give descriptions of that great day:

- Blood will flow horse-bridle deep for some 184 miles. (Rev. 14:20)
- Isaiah writes of judgment of God at Bozrah as God treads the people down. , (63:1-6)
- Joel graphically pictures the scene of the sun and moon being dark and the stars not shining. (3:9-17)
- John gives perhaps the most vivid description of the Lord coming judgment. (Rev. 19:13-21)
- Paul describes the gathering of the ungodly and the coming of the Lord in his Second letter to the Thessalonians (2:8-12).

CONCLUSION

1. Judgment IS coming to the ungodly.
2. NOW is the time to turn to God.
3. God will vindicate His Holy Name.