

Vision of The Final Judgment

Revelation 14:12-20

I. Introduction:

A. The final judgment

1. The Bible is replete with passages that warn of God's wrath against sin.
2. The Bible warns of judgment for sin yet most people live as if it will never happen.
3. Most people live as if they will never have to answer for the things they choose to do.
4. Consider just a few verses that speak of coming judgment:
 - a. – Ezekiel speaking to Israel concerning their sin (Ezekiel 7:3)
 - b. – Daniel's vision of the end times (Daniel 7:9-10)
 - c. – John the Baptist said of Jesus: (Matthew 3:12)
 - d. – The apostle Paul warned:(Romans 14:12)
5. In John's vision is a description of the final judgment in the tribulation when Jesus brings judgment upon all who have rejected Him and choose to live in rebellion and sin.

II. A word of encouragement (Revelation 14:12-13)

A. Patience of the saints.

1. The word for "patience" is *hypomone* which means endurance or perseverance.
2. The greatest persecution the world has ever seen will take place during the tribulation.
3. Those saved during tribulation will endure being hunted, tortured, & murdered by antichrist & his regime. To follow Jesus during the tribulation will mean a death sentence.
4. Perseverance: Genuineness of faith in Jesus will be seen in perseverance unto death.
5. Evidence of their faith will be demonstrated by their obedience to God's commands.
6. Application: Evidence of our relationship with Jesus is likewise demonstrated by our obedience to God's commands, our continuing life and service for Jesus.
7. God will never allow us to suffer more than we're able to endure. **(1 Cor. 10:13)**
8. Those Who Depart: Those who walk away from their profession of faith in Jesus, the Bible tells us, they were never saved in the first place. **(1 John 2:19)**

B. Blessed are they who die in the Lord.

1. – No more suffering
 - a. Once antichrist has killed their mortal bodies, he can do them no more harm.
 - b. Death will actually be a deliverance from the extreme evil of that coming day.
2. – In the presence of Jesus
 - a. When a child of God leaves this life through physical death they are immediately in the presence of our Lord. They have immediate conscious existence with Jesus.
 - b. Their Works Follow Them: meaning there are rewards for their faithfulness in life.

III. Vision of the final judgment (Revelation 14:14-16)

A. Jesus as the Reaper

1. Today Jesus is almost always referred to as being our Savior or our Lord & King, but in John's vision he sees Jesus as the reaper!
2. This is a vision of Jesus as He is prepared to reap the earth in judgment. (three reasons)
 - (1.) – Cloud of glory
 - a. This is the same description given by the prophet Daniel when he saw Jesus returning in power and glory. (**Daniel 7:13-14**)
 - (2.) – Title
 - a. Jesus used the title “Son of Man” to describe Himself more than any other.
 - b. We just saw that Daniel used the same term.
 - c. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary and took upon Himself humanity.
 - d. He was God and man at the same time.
 - e. When He came the first time, He was meek and humble, He didn't even have a place to lay His head at night.
 - f. The next time He comes to this earth it will be with all the glory and majesty that are His as God the creator!
 - (3.) – Crown of gold
 - a. This is the victor's crown because Jesus has defeated the enemy.
 - b. Jesus conquered sin, death, and the grave.
 - c. Jesus will judge the antichrist, the false prophet, and all their followers.

B. Time to reap

1. An angel comes from the presence of God the Father, the temple in heaven, and informs Jesus it is time to reap the earth.
2. It's not like Jesus doesn't know that for He is God, but the Father's will is being faithfully executed by the Son.

C. Jesus reaps the earth.

1. Jesus reaping earth aligns with the bowl judgments that bring the tribulation to a close.
2. Word “ripe” comes from a Greek word meaning to be past ripe, or dried out & useless.
3. The world is past ripe for judgment being fully & completely corrupted by sin.
4. Jesus will judge all who have rejected and opposed Him.

IV. Wine Press (Revelation 14:17-20)

- *The reaping of the earth will be completed with the gathering of the grapes.*

A. The battle of Armageddon

1. This is a description of the final battle when Jesus returns.
2. The armies of antichrist will be gathered in the valley of Megiddo where Jesus will destroy them.
3. As the antichrist and the armies of sinful man align against God and His remnant, Jesus will return from heaven and slaughter them all.
4. This event is described later. **See Revelation 19:11-21**
5. The blood of millions and millions of soldiers will fill the valley.
6. The blood will spatter as if one were stomping on grapes in a wine press.

B. What to do?

1. In light of what is to come, what should we do now?
2. Perhaps we should heed the warning of the Psalmist. (**Psalm 2:12**)
3. There will be a final judgment one day.