

5. THE ANGELS REAP THE HARVEST

THE NEXT FEATURE COMING AFTER THE TRIBULATION

MATTHEW 24 v 29 – 30

Immediately after the tribulation of those days.....he shall send his angels

It is always a little difficult to know whether to consider the angels reaping the HARVEST or the last (seventh) trumpet in chronological sequence. As our Lord Jesus refers to the angels first, we will do the same. One thing we can be very sure of is that they both occur among the events that the Lord Jesus tells us take place IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION. There are a number of relevant scriptures which, taken together, enable us to get a full and composite picture of this aspect of the events that follow the tribulation.

JOEL'S VISION OF THE HARVEST

We know that at sundry times and in diverse manners God has spoken by prophets (HEBREWS 1 v 1), and in many other ways too, of course. The Lord has been gathering together a faithful people, and building His true church through 2000 years of human history. A good seed being sown that is now ripe for HARVEST.

JOEL 3 v 13

Put ye in the sickle for the HARVEST is ripe;...

Between verses 12 – 17 of Chapter Three, Joel sees in vision so much of end-time events and even to the millennial glory to follow.

LORD JESUS REFERS TO THE HARVEST

It is worthy of note and emphasis from the reference of the Lord Jesus to the HARVEST, the confirmation of when the harvest comes. *MATTHEW 13 v 39 THE HARVEST IS THE END OF THE WORLD.*

This dates the HARVEST as one of the final climatic acts of the end-time, pre-millennial events. The rest of the verse says, *and the reapers are the angels*, refers to the angel reapers who are soon to be considered.

JOHN'S PATMOS VISION OF THE HARVEST

The reaping of the HARVEST is orchestrated by the Lord Jesus Himself assisted by angels specifically designated for this glorious task. Before we move to our consideration of these angel reapers, just one more scripture depicting our beloved Lord Jesus reaping His ripened HARVEST, the fruit of two millennia of heavenly grace.

REVELATION 14 v 14 – 15

And I looked, and behold a WHITE CLOUD, and UPON THE CLOUD ONE SAT like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for THE HARVEST of the earth is ripe.

The Lord Jesus is seen wearing His crown depicting universal dominion, for it is the prelude to the destruction of all that is evil (the Antichrist and his Kingdom et al) and reigning in millennial glory as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. However, the Lord Jesus is not alone in reaping the HARVEST at the end of the world.

THE ANGEL REAPERS

As we have seen, the Lord Jesus orchestrates the entire HARVEST event. The Angels are his dedicated co-workers.

MATTHEW 13 v 39

...The HARVEST is the end of the world and the reapers are the ANGELS.

Here is another scripture confirming the Angelic aspect of the HARVEST.

MATTHEW 24 v 30 – 31

...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

There will be more on this later, but we introduce the thought that the HARVEST is reaped from the clouds and to the heavens, as there are things to happen in that sphere before the Lord returns to set up His millennial Kingdom.

MORE ON THE ANGELIC MINISTRY AND OURS

Although not directly part of this study, mention should be made of the angels reaping the evil vine of the tares of the earth, with equal dedication (do read Matthew 13 v 24 – 30, REVELATION 14 v 17 – 20, 15 v 6 – 7 and 16 v 1 – 12) where the vials of the wrath of God are depicted.

One last thought. It could be considered that the two angelic duties so utterly diverse in their composition would be approached quite differently. The one being the consummation of all the Divine plans of God for His people, His elect since time began, would surely be a task of absolute joy for the angelic beings commissioned to perform it and so it is. However, the other task of ministry is so utterly different, as they are the instruments under God of the consigning of a blasphemous, idolatrous, blood-guilty world into the winepress of the wrath of God. However, these are angelic beings who have never known the depths and depravity of a fallen world or its nature. They share in the utter righteousness and justice of a thrice holy God. This being the case, the second task is also an honour performed in complete and joyful acquiescence to their adored Master the Lord of Hosts. We expand the thought for the consideration of God's believers, His saints who, after rapture and resurrection (soon to be considered) return with our Lord, King Jesus and will share in that angelic honour of judgment as described in that glorious penultimate Psalm.

PSALM 149 v 5 - 9

Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;

*To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints.
Praise ye the LORD.*

GOLDEN RULE OF PROPHETIC STUDY

A little appendage applicable to all our studies in this series, in fact, applicable to all studies of Biblical doctrine. So now to the golden rule:

1. GOLDEN RULE OF PROPHETIC STUDY
START WITH THE WORD OF GOD AND BUILD ALL DOCTRINE UPON THAT WORD.
2. DARK ERROR OF PROPHETIC STUDY
START WITH A HELD DOCTRINE AND MASSAGE THE WORD OF GOD TO FIT THAT DOCTRINE.