

God's End-Time Harvests

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*[Matt 13: 24-30] Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not so good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "**First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.**"*

*[Matt 13: 36-43] Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." 37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 **The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!***

1. God's Harvests in End-Times

We have learned much about the coming rapture through the past few studies. The coming Christian rapture will be God's second harvest. Lord Jesus spoke a few times through parables about the end-time harvests of souls. The most important parable is 'the parable of wheat and tares' cited above. Through today's study, let us learn what will happen in God's harvest times so that we may shine like the sun in the kingdom of heaven as grains reaped into God's storehouse.

A. Three harvests planned for end-times

The disciples of Jesus perceived that the parable of wheat and tares might have some serious meaning. So, when they were alone with the Lord away from the crowd, they asked Him to explain the parable to them. Lord Jesus explained the meaning of the parable in an easily understandable manner, and Matthew recorded the details of this dialogue so that we also may gain a proper understanding of what God plans to harvest in the end-times. However, not many theologians and pastors connect this parable with the end-time rapture harvest plan of God. They often speak as if the harvest work Jesus included in this parable as an event that would occur in heaven at an unspecified future time. Upon meditating on this parable for some time and connecting it with other end-time prophecies of the apostle Paul and the descriptions of soul harvesting in the Book of Revelations, mostly in Rev. 14., I came to the conclusion that this parable of wheat and tares speaks about two of the three harvests that God plans to accomplish in the end-times.

Farmers plant seeds in the springtime to reap harvests in the fall. God has likened Himself to a farmer. He has created humans and prepared for them suitable conditions for their survival and thriving. Moreover, God sent His only Son who gave himself as the ransom for the sins of all sinners who come to recognize Him as their savior so that they can be made right before God. Jesus Christ is the only way to God. Lord Jesus, being aware of such a wish of God to harvest souls of men and women who are made righteous through His sacrifice, sent out His disciples to gather in repentant souls to God's kingdom so that they could enjoy eternity with Him in the end-times.

Through this parable, our Savior wants the people of this world to know God's intent and harvest plan. He wants men and women to want to be included in the great harvest plan of God. For this purpose, He has been

sending out faithful servants to take the gospel of salvation to peoples in all areas of this world. Truly, “the field is white to be harvested but the laborers are few [Luke 10:2].” God the Father and Jesus Christ in heaven are earnestly waiting for the right time to bring in His harvests, some to eternal fire and some to eternal glory.

Lord Jesus explained the terms used in this parable as follows:

- 1) He who sows the good seed: the Son of Man, that is, Jesus Christ
- 2) The field: this world
- 3) Good seed: sons of the kingdom of God, that is, the true children of God
- 4) Tares: sons of the evil one, that is, the disciples of Satan
- 5) The one who sows the tares: the devil, who is the enemy of God
- 6) The harvest time: end of the age, that is, end-times
- 7) Workers of the harvest: God’s angels

Then, Lord Jesus explained the two harvests God plans at the end of the present age, that is the age of God’s grace.

The first harvest activity will be the harvesting of the disciples of Satan in the church. The Lord of the harvest will command the angels, “*First, gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to be burned [v. 30].*” Later He explained this command as, “*They will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire [vs 41, 42].*” Tares are not the true objects of harvest in the true sense of the word. This activity of gathering up and burning the evil elements from the kingdom of God is a great cleansing activity. It is the first phase of God’s harvest plan.

The second harvest activity is gathering up of the children of God into God’s storehouse in heaven. Lord Jesus explained this activity as ‘*gathering the wheat into God’s barn [v. 30].*’ This true harvesting of righteous souls will be achieved through the rapture event.

B. The great cleansing of the church in the end-times

I wish to call God’s first harvest activity in the end-times as ‘the Great Purification of the Church.’ I have not read any theological papers that discuss this plan of God to purify His church. I would like to encourage all pastors and Christian teachers to speak on this topic to encourage the believers to pray for this plan to come to pass soon. This great work of cleansing the church of all evil elements will not be the responsibility of the church. Rather, it will be performed by God Himself using His angels.

This cleansing work will not be done throughout the whole world but within the church of God. Lord Jesus spoke about this as, “*gather out of God’s kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire.*” What is God’s kingdom? In this world there coexists the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. The kingdom of God in this world is often termed Christendom. It is the collective term that refers to all denominations/ churches of people who believe in Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord. We live in the era when the two kingdoms collide in conflict quite openly and we see the conflicts every day, in the areas of global politics, national government, both national and local politics, culture, education, arts, business, science/and technology, military, and even community activities.

Furthermore, we see the two kingdoms collide within the church of God so that Satan’s disciples are working hard to bring down God’s authority and supremacy within the church hierarchy and in the lives of His saints. Tares are in full growth within the church, indeed. Many of them are recognized leaders in various churches, senior pastors in large churches, recognized theologians, and renowned religious writers. Many are mid-level church and seminary schools who voice their so-called ‘modern’ theological positions to draw Christians away from God’s principles and truths. Most of them receive financial support from organizations that are under the control of extremely rich and powerful disciples of Satan. They insist that the modern form of worship must be contemporary and embody the present-day youth culture because the church will only stagnate unless we follow

the trend of this world. Satan wins more and more daily and God yields His rightful place in the church to Satan's influences and temptations. They are the enemy and the tares that will be removed in the harvest time of God.

God is watching and is well aware of their motives, activities, and how their pursuits are affecting His church. However, He tells His servants not to clean out the tares until the harvest time lest the faithful saints get wounded and the church be damaged in the process. The responsibility of purifying His church has been set aside as God's share, not the church's. Some churches are bent on categorizing other churches as 'cults' and publicly denounce and humiliate them as such. No, it is not your role to judge other brethren. It is not a responsibility that the Lord has charged His churches to do. Just because a church's theological stands are different from yours, they must not be regarded as your enemies. It is your role to pray for the coming of God's harvest time when God Himself will do the cleansing work. He will destroy all tares from the entire Christendom throughout the world and they will be gone in a short time with hardly any time for them to repent.

We watch the rapidly changing church culture and how the fast propagation of the contemporary waves, which originate from where Satan sits, change the church to an image far removed from the godly, holy church that God expects His church to be. Yet, we must know that it is the tares that are doing this, not the good grains. And God will cleanse them out of His church when the harvest time comes. We need to pray that God hastens His harvest work.

2. Rapture: God's harvest of His church

The second harvest of God in the end-times is the in-gathering of the grains, that is, the New Testament church. This is the harvesting of God's true children from all over the world to the mid-air, where Lord Jesus will come to command God's great harvest work using His angels. We have learned a great deal about this rapture plan through the past few studies. Just as the true hope of a farmer is with the harvest of the ripe grains in the fall, God is looking forward to His day of calling up His church, and so is the hope of all Christians. The apostle John foresaw this harvest event long ago and prophesied how it would occur.

[Revelation 14: 14-16] I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man[b] with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Now that He has cleaned out the tares, what is left in the field are the good ripe grains. These are the objects of the second harvest work of God's angels. These are true souls of men and women who fear and worship God in the true spirit of worship and endeavor to keep the principles of God in their daily lives. Their true hope is the day of rapture when Christ comes in the clouds and takes them away from this earthly life to mid-air where He will be and then march into heaven together with their Lord, whom they have yearned to meet. Before this great harvest work commences, however, the whole Christendom will be shocked to see vacancies in the church. Those church leaders, theologians, professors, and pastors who had been in powerful positions and had been swaying the church doctrines, policies, cultural aspects, and programs toward worldliness and Satan's liking, will be suddenly gone. They will all have been cleaned out by the angels of God unknown to the world. This sudden, unexpected disappearance of the 'tares of the church' will cause bewilderment and shock to the rest of the Christian world.

Then, the true Christians will come to the awareness that God has done His first harvest work and be comforted. They, then, will know that their rapture time is imminent. Joy will fill their hearts to know that their time to join Christ Jesus in the clouds has come very near, just as Noah knew that the great flood of God was now very near when He was told to bring in his family into the ark and when he was told to herd in the animals that arrived in pairs according to God's command.

3. God's Third Harvest: Grapes of Wrath

God's third harvest just before the second coming of Lord Jesus as the King of Kings of this world will be the harvesting of the grapes of His wrath. At this time of the third harvest, the New Testament church will have been raptured into heaven and will not be on the earth. However, those who will come to believe in Jesus upon having witnessed the rapture event will form a new group of believers on the earth. They will have to undergo extreme persecutions by the Antichrist and many will be martyred for refusing to receive the mark of the beast. Those who survive the persecutions and the calamities of God's wrath will be able to witness this third harvest of Lord Jesus treading on the 'winepress of God's wrath.'

The target of the third harvest will be all non-believers, enemies of Israel, and Satan's cohorts including the antichrist and the false religious leaders who work with the antichrist. Apart from the church cleansing, there will be a global killing of such peoples as God unleashes His wrath on them toward the end of the seven-year tribulation period [Isaiah 63:1-6]. All armies of Israel's enemy nations who come to destroy Israel, all people who are against God, and all followers of Satan will be supernaturally collected in the great plains in Israel's central region, and God will annihilate them all within a short time [Zechariah 14:1-3]. This great human annihilation will be the second major demonstration of God's wrath next to the great flood of Noah's era. God will set aside His mercy and grace and the enemies of God will have no time to repent of their evils as He unfurls weapons of His wrath on them that are far superior to any human-developed military weapons. They will only experience God's justice as He punishes evil with wrath without mercy.

[Revelation 14: 17-20] Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." 19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes, and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. 20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

At this time a valley will connect the plains to the Dead Sea via Jerusalem, so that the blood of the slain enemies of God will flow at a depth of four feet or more into the Dead Sea, and then flow down to the Gulf of Aqaba over the total distance of about 304 Kilometers [1,600 stadia]. This influx of a massive volume of human blood will make the waters of the Gulf of Aqaba red so that this bay was called 'The Red Sea,' Which is different from the Red Sea we know in the western part of the Sinai Peninsula. This Red Sea, which is situated between the Sinai Peninsula and the Arabian Peninsula, is the channel of water Moses led the people of Israel to cross over while fleeing from the Egyptian army. The scripture prophetically called this channel 'the Red Sea' [1 Kings 9:26].

4. Our Prayer

God is anxious to harvest the New Testament church, which is the ripe grains in His field. He will perform this harvest work in His due time. However, before He brings in the ripe grains into His storehouse, He will command His angels to bind up the tares from His field and burn them in the eternal furnace prepared for their destruction. We live in the era when the disciples of Satan are actively working to destroy God's true church while propagating Satan's values and evils in the world. All true Christians should live in full awareness of such works of the devil and fight the good fight every day to keep the church, homes, communities, schools, and the nation from their evil works.

We need to pray to God every day that He would suppress and crush the works of Satan's cohorts and to encourage and help the righteous workers of God to triumph over the evil and come out victorious. We need to pray that God's day of harvest is hastened so that the tares of the church are eliminated and that the true church of God be raptured to meet with Lord Jesus in the clouds and together march into heaven where we will shine like the sun.

Amen.