

MYSTERIES OF THE HARVEST

“This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the MYSTERIES God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful”; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2.

The HARVEST is called the “end of the age”; Matthew 13:39

The Rapture / Resurrection of the Church is called a MYSTERY; 1 Corinthians 15:23, 51-58; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16.

There Is A Biblical Pattern In Gathering The Harvest

God reveals His purposes in “3’s”: 3 heavens; God is a Triune Being; man is a 3-part being; the Ark had 3 levels; the Tabernacle of Moses is revealed in 3 degrees of glory; there are 3 major Feasts in Israel; Deut. 16:16; there are 3 that bear record in heaven, and 3 that bear witness in earth; 1 John 5:7-8.

The Biblical Harvest Occurs In **3 Phases**:

1. There is a small amount of grain collected from the field and brought into the Temple, prior to gathering the main harvest, called the FIRST FRUITS; Leviticus 23:10-11; James 1:18; Revelation 14:4.
2. After the first fruits are collected, then the MAIN HARVEST is gathered from the field; Revelation 7:9, 13-14
3. There are also GLEANINGS left in the field after the reapers have gathered the main harvest; Mark 13:27; Ruth 2:15-16

The Parable Of The Sower - is a harvest parable. It is significant because it gives understanding in how to interpret all parables: “And he (Jesus) said unto them, Know ye not this parable? And how then will ye know all parables?”; Mark 4:13. It describes the Gospel message, and the Kingdom of God being introduced into the hearts of men; Matt. 13:1-9; Mark 4:1-20.

A. The “sower” is Christ; the “seed” is the Word of God; the “field” is the world.

B. Men are born again by the incorruptible “seed”, the Word of God; 1 Peter 1:23.

C. The “farmer” (the LORD) waits expectantly for the harvest of the land; James 5:7-8.

D. Four different kinds of “soil” are described in this parable. “Four” points to the world-wide human race, the different responses and classes of hearers represented within it.

1. soil by the wayside – The hard heart is “wayside” soil; it may have been soft at one time, but now it is hardened. It is not receptive or responsive to the “seed” (Word of God); the soil must be stirred up, plowed and broken. The seed lies on the surface of the hard ground, and birds of the air (from the evil one), come to devour the seed.

2. soil on stony ground – The shallow heart is fertile, but the soil is “stony”. There is little soil and moisture to feed the plant; it is unable to resist the scorching sun, so it withers and dies. It has no root development, no stability, because it has no depth to endure trials and temptations.

3. soil choked with thorns – The worldly heart is fertile, but “thorny”. The cares and pleasures of life choke out the word. The seed and the thorns (weeds) compete against one another. The stronger, faster-growing weeds choke out the word of God. Thorns crowd in upon the seed, drawing away moisture and nourishment necessary for growth.

4. soil that is good ground – The understanding heart is good soil; it is fertile and prepared. This ground will bring forth fruit because the Holy Spirit has worked upon the heart and the believer responds in cooperation with the dealings of the Holy Spirit.

According to this parable, about one-fourth of those who heard the message of the Kingdom of God, were saved by it.

The “good ground” bears fruit in different degrees; Mark 4:28, which points to 3 stages/levels of growth, development and maturity:

<u>30-Fold</u>	<u>60-Fold</u>	<u>100-Fold</u>
Milk	Bread	Meat
The Blade	The Ear	Full Corn in Ear
Baptism in Water	Baptism in H. Spirit	Baptism in Fire
Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Outer Court	Holy Place	Most Holy Place
Multitudes	12 Disciples	Peter, James, John
Feast of Passover	Feast of Pentecost	Feast of Tabernacles
Born an Heir	Earnest of Inheritance	Full Possession
Gleanings	Harvest	First Fruits
Walk	Run	Mount Up
Brass Vessels	Silver Vessels	Gold Vessels
Workers	Warriors	Worshipers
Spirit saved	Soul being saved	Body shall be saved
Faith	Hope	Love
Thanksgiving	Praise	Worship
Out of Egypt	Through the Wilderness	Into the Land
Birthright	Blessing	Inheritance
The Way	The Truth	The Life
Little children	Young Men	Fathers
Foolish Virgins	Wise Virgins	Watchman
Outer Gate	Door of Tabernacle	Inner Veil
Sealed w/Circumcision of water baptism	Sealed w/Holy Spirit of Promise	Sealed w/Mind of Christ in the Forehead

There Is An Order In The Harvest; 1 Corinthians 15:22-23:

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own ORDER. Christ the first fruits: afterward they that are Christ’s at his COMING.”

1. Greek word ORDER is: “tagma” - (orderly in arrangement; series; succession; assignment).

2. Greek word COMING is: “parousia” - (being near; return; coming; presence)

a. PAROUSIA definition from Vine’s Expository Dictionary: “When used of the return of Christ, at the Rapture of the church, it signifies, not merely His momentary coming FOR His saints, but His presence with them from that moment until His revelation and manifestation TO the world”.

b. It literally means “presence”, not merely a coming for His saints, but a series of events related to it. He comes (appears) in different “watches of the night” as recorded in Mark 13:35.

c. The sign that His PAROUSIA has begun, is when Jesus used the word “coming” in Matthew 24:37,39, in the passage that deals with the pattern of Noah: the “taking” of some and the “leaving” of others; Matthew 24:37-44; also Matthew 25:10.

d. PAROUSIA begins when some are taken by translation, when the “household” of the church has been “broken into” by the thief (Jesus) in the night; Luke 12:39.

There Are Stages In The Rapture/Resurrection Of The Saints; 1 Cor. 15:20,23; Rev. 20:6

1. Jesus Christ and many O.T. saints were resurrected; Matt. 27:52-53; Eph. 4:8-10.
2. The “wise virgins”, those who are ready, watching, with vessels full of oil, are “taken” when Jesus is revealed at the Midnight Rapture; Matthew 25:10
3. The 144,000 Jews, will be “caught up” before the second advent of Jesus Christ.
4. The great multitude of Tribulation saints will be “translated” prior to God’s wrath being poured out, and will return with Jesus Christ to the earth.
5. “Two Witnesses” raised from the dead, will also ascend up to heaven; Rev. 11:7-12

Jesus Spoke Of His Appearing During Different Watches Of The Night; Mark 13:35

In Mark 13:35 Jesus said “Watch ye therefore; for ye know not when the Master of the House cometh:

1. “at even” – The Evening Watch is 6:00-9:00 PM. The “First Watch” was fulfilled when Jesus rose from the dead; also many Old Testament saints arose from the dead and were seen in Jerusalem; Matthew 27:52-53; John 20:19
2. “or at Midnight” – The Midnight Watch is 9:00-12:00 AM. It is also called the Second Watch; Matthew 25:6; Ruth 3:8
3. “or at the Cockcrowing” – The Cockcrowing Watch is 12:00-3:00 AM, and is also called the Third Watch; Luke 12:38; 22:60-61
4. “or in the Morning” – The Morning Watch is 3:00-6:00 AM, the Fourth Watch; Mark 6:48-51; John 11:24

There Are Different Ways To Harvest Various Grains And Fruits

A. The Earth Is The Lord’s “Threshing Floor”

1. Threshing points to God’s special “dealings” in our lives: trials, pressures, difficulties and chastening; Jeremiah 51:33; Matthew 3:11-12; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 12:5-7

2. Threshing separates kernels of grain from the husk. The “husks” of the world must no longer cling to us. We are “in” the world, but we are not “of the world”; John 18:36

3. In biblical days, a winnowing fork, a “stick” (rod), and the feet of oxen or cartwheels were all used in the process of separating the grain from the husk.

4. The Lord Jesus Christ, angels and the Church are all involved in the “harvesting” process; Isaiah 41:15-16; Micah 4:13; Revelation 14:14-15.

B. The SAINTS ARE THRESHED DIFFERENTLY; see Luke 12:47-48; Isaiah 28:25-28. Barley and wheat are planted in the autumn, but the barley crop matures faster than the wheat crop. First barley (a soft grain) is gathered from the field, then the wheat.

1. The Barley Harvest – Barley was a “first fruits” grain harvested by a winnowing fork, which tossed it into the air. Chaff was easily separated in this manner; Deut. 26:2, 10.

a. Wise virgins are ready and will enter the Marriage when Jesus appears; Matt.24:40-41;25:10. A smaller amount of barley fragments (small baskets) are collected, John 6:5-13, prior to a larger amount of fragments (large baskets) collected; Matt. 15:32-38.

b. This group points to “overcomers” and the Church of Philadelphia, which is KEPT FROM (rescued out of) Great Tribulation. Early Redemption is a REWARD for the faithful church; see Revelation 3:10-11.

c. The word “Paralambano” (Strong’s Greek #3880) is found in Matthew 24:40-41; it means “a taking along; to take unto or with”, and is associated with this “gathering”.

d. This group is like Enoch who pleased the Lord; he “walked” in habitual fellowship with God, and he was not, for GOD TOOK HIM”; see Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5-6.

2. The Wheat Harvest – The husk of the wheat is tougher than the barley. In biblical days, the grain was broken down through a threshing process. The wheat was harvested utilizing the feet of oxen or cartwheels being driven over the grain ; Rev. 6:11; 20:4.

a. These saints will be READY LATER. They may have heard the Gospel message, but rejected the demand to carry their cross, and to FULLY OBEY THE LORD.

b. The foolish virgins are UNPREPARED, professing Christians. They are lukewarm or disobedient when Jesus appears at midnight; Matt. 25:8-9;11-12; Rev. 3:15-19.

c. The main wheat harvest is much larger than the first fruits harvest. Most will be purified (threshed) by the “tribulum board” (Great Tribulation, the “grinding out” of hardship, persecution or death); Revelation 2:21-23.

d. The word “Harpazo” (Strong’s Greek # 726) means “to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out”, is associated with this “gathering”

e. In the parable of the Marriage Feast, a man (an unconverted professor of religion), was not allowed to enter the Feast because he did not have on a “wedding garment”; Matt. 22:11-14. He was cast into “outer darkness” (the great trial) of Revelation 3:10, which washes the robes of saints to make them pure; Rev. 7:13-14; Daniel 12:10.

3. The Grape Harvest – The grape harvest follows the grain harvest. The “winepress” is associated with the shedding of blood; Isaiah 63:3.

a. The winepress is located “outside” of the city; Hebrews 13:12-13; Rev.14:20.

b. The process of “treading out the grapes” is symbolic of Jesus taking vengeance upon the wicked. He has a “vesture that is dipped in blood”; Revelation 19:13-15.

c. The wicked will “drink the wine of His wrath”. Those who worship the beast and receive his mark, are thrown into the “winepress” of the wrath of God; Rev.14:9-10,19.

These Conditions Determine When I Receive My Spiritual Inheritance

1. When the Father determines that I have finished my course; 2 Timothy 4:7

2. When I am prepared to meet Him and the “oil” in my vessel is full; Matthew 25:4-10

3. When my consecration, fruit bearing and obedience before Him is complete.

4. The righteous may be taken in death to spare them from the evil to come; Isaiah 57:1
THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:

Persecution – those who live godly lives shall suffer persecution; 2 Timothy 3:12

Tribulation – through many troubles and afflictions we enter the Kingdom; Acts 14:22

The Great Tribulation – the “hour of trial” that comes upon the earth; Revelation 3:10

Wrath – God’s obedient people are not appointed to wrath; 1 Thessalonians 5:9

