

THE TIME OF HARVEST

Mt. 13:24-30; 9:35-38

I. What is the harvest?

- A. Harvest is used in Scripture for signs ripe to judge-
1. Joel 3:13 - "Put ye in the sickle for the harvest is ripe: cut down these sinners that are ripe for judgment."
2. Jer. 51:33 - "the time of Babylon's harvest shall come."
3. Mt. 13:39 - Jesus in the parable of the sower calls the end of the world, or the day of judgment the harvest - shall separate the tares from the wheat.
4. Rev. 14:15 - "the harvest of earth is ripe."
B. Harvest is used in the ordinary sense of the word to signify the time of reaping the fruits of the earth.
Gen. 8:22 - "harvest shall not cease."
C. It is used to signify a time of opportunity.
Prov. 10:5 - "He that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

II. This leads us to the next point: "When is the time of reaping?"

- A. It is whenever the harvest is ripe.
B. There is a great spiritual harvest ripe now.
1. John. 4:35 - "the fields are white to harvest."
2. Luke 10:2 - "the harvest truly is great."
C. This harvest cannot wait until later - it must be reaped now.
D. Eph. 5:18-21, "Redeeming the time"

III. Who Are the Reapers?

- A. Christian believers are the reapers.
This is every Christian's responsibility.
B. We should pray the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers.
(Mt. 9:37 - Luke 10:2)
1. This is a missionary message.
2. There is a harvest of souls on the foreign fields.
3. We must pray, give to send missionaries and go ourselves if God so leads & opens up the way.
4. Concerning prayer, there are times when God would have us fast and pray.
C. The reapers should be qualified.
1. Have the vision of the fields.
2. Realize a sense of the need of opportunity.
3. Be willing to work.

IV. What will happen when the harvest is past?

- A. What will happen to the unsaved?
1. Jer. 9:20 the bitter wail of a doomed soul.
2. All hope of salvation forever gone.
B. What will happen to the saved?
1. Tears for lost opportunities.
2. Rewards for faithful service.

