

# Small Group Study Guide - Gathering and Judgment

*Revelation 14:14–20*

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## Introduction

TV shows used to end with previews: “Scenes from next week’s episode.” They built anticipation for what was coming. Revelation 14:14–20 gives us something similar—not a fictional preview, but a **real preview of what is to come**: the swift judgment of God.

**Question:** How does comparing Revelation’s “preview” to TV “scenes from next week” help us think about God’s warnings and promises?

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## The Son of Man with a Sickle (vv. 14–16)

John sees “*one like a son of man*” seated on a white cloud with a golden victor’s crown and a sharp sickle. This is Jesus Christ, the divine Judge.

- The title “Son of Man” is messianic (Daniel 7:13–14; Matthew 24:30).
- The golden crown signifies victory.
- The sickle indicates readiness for harvest.
- At the Father’s command, Jesus begins the harvest.

**Question:** What does the image of Jesus with a sickle teach us about His authority and role in judgment?

**Question:** How does Mark 13:32 help explain why the angel announces to Jesus that the time has come?

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## The Two Harvests (vv. 17–18)

Two more angels appear, each with a role in God’s harvest. One carries a sickle, another comes from the altar with authority over fire. This likely connects to the prayers of the martyrs (Revelation 6:10) crying out for justice.

**Question:** How do the prayers of God’s people relate to His timing in judgment?

**Question:** Why do you think John emphasizes angels coming from the *temple* and the *altar*?

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## The Harvest of Grapes (vv. 19–20)

The second harvest is described with vivid imagery: grapes gathered and thrown into the “great winepress of the wrath of God.” The result is catastrophic—blood flowing as high as a horse’s bridle for 1,600 stadia (about 180 miles).

Interpretations of the two harvests:

1. **Two separate harvests** – grain = righteous, grapes = wicked.
2. **One harvest seen twice** – two images reinforce certainty and finality.
3. **One harvest in two stages** – grain = general judgment, grapes = Armageddon (Revelation 19).

**Question:** Which interpretation do you find most convincing, and why?

**Question:** Why do you think Scripture often uses agricultural imagery (grain, grapes, harvest) to describe judgment?

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## Preview of the Final Judgment

This passage previews the coming judgment:

- Judgment will come swiftly at the Father’s appointed time.
- Jesus, the Son of Man, will reap the harvest of humanity.
- The winepress of God’s wrath points to Armageddon (Revelation 19:15; Isaiah 63:2).
- For unbelievers, it is terror. For believers, it is hope and vindication.

**Question:** How does knowing judgment is certain but delayed impact the way we live today?

**Question:** How does John 5:27 reassure believers even as we read of such terrifying judgment?

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## Closing Thought

Revelation 14 is not fiction—it is a preview of what Jesus will surely do. For the world, it is a warning; for the believer, it is a promise of vindication. The Judge is also our Savior.

**Final Question:** Are you ready? If not, what is keeping you from trusting Christ today?