



# Growth Points

Feb 5, 2012

Marked by Worship — Revelation 14:6-20

## Notes

Revelation 14:6-20

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup>He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” <sup>8</sup>A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.” <sup>9</sup>A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, <sup>10</sup>he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.” <sup>12</sup>This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. <sup>13</sup>Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.” <sup>14</sup>I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one “like a son of man” with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. <sup>17</sup>Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup>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.” <sup>19</sup>The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. <sup>20</sup>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.

**Warnings from 3 Angels:** (14:6-13) These angels call all people to worship God and warn them of the punishment in store for those who follow Babylon and the beast. The mention of Babylon is foreshadowing. Chapters 17 and 18 elaborate this, so we will leave our discussion on Babylon until that time. These angels look forward to final judgment and warn of the ongoing torment of those that reject Christ. This is also a message to believers calling them to patient endurance and faithfulness (verse 12)

**The Two Harvests:** The language of “son of man” and the crown indicate that the harvester is Christ. The difference between believers and unbelievers is portrayed in the two harvests. The first harvest is not described in detail, but seems to be a positive image. The New Testament often refers to believers being harvested. The harvest of the grapes seems to refer to those people who will suffer wrath. The treading of the grapes to make wine is a graphic picture of what is in store for unbelievers. The river of blood is clearly to extravagant to be a literal river, but rather figurative depicts God’s judgment. This whole picture portrays the return of Christ which will be elaborated and more fully developed in chapter 19. At this place in the book, we should take this as foreshadowing. We are given a peek of the final act in order to encourage perseverance.

## Church Prayer Points

1. Pray against the our spiritual enemy.
2. Pray that our witness will influence our city
3. Pray for our series on Revelation, that it would inspire many
4. Pray for the board and nominating committee as they plan for the new year.
5. Pray long range ministry plans such as Summer day camp, (Urban Adventures)
6. Pray that God would guide us as a church



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## Seed Question:

Do you ever live as if you believe that you can sow one thing and reap something different?

## Deeper Roots:

1. What are the two crops mentioned in this passage and what do they signify?
2. How does worship like a seed that leads to these different crops?
3. How does worship mark people according to what they worship?
4. Why is God's judgment deserved?
5. What is the gospel message in this chapter? / How is the gospel defined in this chapter?

## Bearing Fruit:

1. Does this passage inspire you to share the gospel?
2. How would people say that you have been marked by worship?

## Branching Out:

Plan to use the deeper journals as a way to inspire personal devotions and scripture reading