

# **The Time of Harvest**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Revelation 14:1-20.

B. Jesus chose 144,000 to shake the world at the coming of the age.

## II. Jesus promises to take believers to Himself before the great tribulation begins. (I Thessalonians)

A. Heaven is another realm of existence that is present along with us.

B. When the Lord takes the church out, He remains with 144,000 also in the invisible realm.

## III. The "Christ commandos."

A. They are so close to heaven that they hear the song of the redeemed. This is a reference to the church.

B. They kept themselves for the Lord only not defiling themselves with women.

1. For them marriage would have been defiling because it was not for them.

2. This reflects the decision of the Apostle Paul.

C. They followed the Lamb wherever He went. (Matthew 24)

D. They were the first-fruits of the harvest--the first ones redeemed for the church at this time.

E. They were transformed men.

## IV. The eternal gospel.

A. This is the gospel that is always there.

B. This is the gospel of creation--creation is constantly telling us about God.

C. The witness of creation is that we can do nothing without God.

D. The one who comes to God must believe that He is and that He rewards those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11)

## V. Babylon the Great.

A. This is a false church.

B. God wants believers to know before it appears that it is fallen and false.

C. There is no rest for those who worship the beast of Revelation.

1. This is the outcome of love refused.
2. The whole of Scripture pleads with men not to fall into this judgment.
3. Love cannot be forced.
4. If the person does not choose God, God must turn him over to his choice.

VI. The dead will be blessed who die in the Lord "from now on." Those living after the church has been caught away may well feel they will miss the resurrection from the dead.

VII. Jesus is the one who brings the harvest. (Matthew 13)

- A. The harvesters are the angels.
- B. The time of the 144,000 is the time when the Son of Man will reap.
- C. In the Scriptures, the vine is always a symbol for Israel--apostate Israel will be judged during this time. (Isaiah 5, Psalm 88)
- D. God ultimately does not want judgment--He wants a new day.

**Application questions:**

1. How does God's work continue after the church is raptured?

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2. What is the value of understanding about the false church ahead of time?

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3. How can God's judgment in the future awaken a person to repentance today? Explain.

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