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The Reapers Are the Angels

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Series: Angels

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Jesus had a group of slow learners. They were following Him wherever He went, and they heard His every word, but they seemed to be unable to understand what He was saying.

So He began to teach them by telling them little stories. These were not deep, philosophical expositions, nor were they complicated, short stories that could be sold in the local book store as mysteries, though they were, in a sense, mysteries being revealed. No, they were more like children's stories. They were, on the surface, so simple that any six-year old could understand the words, repeat the plot, and draw a reasonable conclusion. Ah, but underneath there were rich treasures just waiting to be mined, deep truths about another kingdom in a spirit world that could invade the human heart and transform it completely. He kept saying, *“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”*

Even then, these called-out ones, in whose hands the entire future of the church would rest, spent so much time scratching their heads they must have been bald by now. Most of the time, they just didn't get it. Later they would, and later, God knew, we could. So He called them parables, and He left them for us as rich treasures, planted just beneath the rich soil of Scripture, waiting to be captured by any who would dare to dig just an inch or two beneath the surface.

One day He was sharing these parables when He began to try to plant some seeds about what was going to come to pass when this world as we know it, would feel the full weight of the cosmic conflict that was so shaking its foundations.

We find Jesus, on this occasion, sitting in a boat, sharing his heart. The story is found in Matthew, chapter 13.

The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

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And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

And he spake many things unto them in parables...

(Matthew 13:1-3)

Picture the scene, if you will. The Master was seated in a tiny boat that was pulled out just a few feet into the water, and a great crowd was standing on the shore, hanging on His every word. He decided to use this occasion to speak to them, using these little stories we've been describing. Jesus was sharing principles on sowing seed. These principles would come as no surprise to any farmer, but they also held hidden seeds about the soil of men's hearts and the seed-snatcher, whose goal it was to see that the seed of the Word of God did not take root. While on the subject of sowing seed, He went on:

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. (Matthew 13:24-30)

This is not a complicated story, but it is an important one. It sets the stage for our final study of angels. Jesus was telling them about a wheat farmer who sowed good seed in his field. That seems simple enough. But Farmer Brown and his workers

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went to sleep, which was a natural thing to do. While they were taking their forty winks, however, an enemy of the farmer slipped under the barbed wire fence and dropped pounds of weed seed on the same soil.

A month or so later, the wheat began to push its way out of the ground, but the field was so infested with weeds that it was difficult to determine what was good and what wasn't. The farmer knew immediately what had happened. "What do we do?" the workers asked. "Do we go in now and try to pull up the weeds?" The farmer was wise, indeed. He said, "No, let them both keep growing. When they are full-grown, we will easily be able to tell the difference. At harvest time we will go in and pull up the weeds and cast them in an oven and burn them. Once they are out of the way, we can gather the wheat and bundle it."

Now, if you went to church this week and the pastor preached a sermon on the intricacies of keeping weeds out of your yard, you probably would be a little confused. Oh, you respect him and know he is sincere, but what does planting seed and sowing weeds have to do with God? The disciples, apparently, not yet attuned to listening to parables, wanted to know the same thing.

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

(Matthew 13:36)

They said, "Enough of these allegories, Lord, tell us what you're talking about." And so Jesus did. In plain, everyday Greek...

He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one ;

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them

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which do iniquity;

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

(Matthew 13:37-43)

So Jesus began the process of explaining the role that angels would play in the last days. He explained a lot of things in this parable in the process. He said:

1- The sower is Jesus Christ (vs 37).

2- The field is the world we live in (vs 38).

3- The good seed are the believers (vs 38).

4- The “tares” or weeds are unbelievers who are scattered in and look and act like Christians, but aren’t (vs 38).

5- The one who has done this (scattered in the unbelievers) is Satan, himself (vs 39).

6- The day of reckoning is coming (vs 40).

7- On that day, God Himself will send a fleet of angels out to do yard work. The reapers are the angels (vs 39). They will become weed-pickers. They will separate the true, converted ones from those who know the language, and may even outwardly walk the walk, but who have never been born again by the blood of Jesus Christ.

8- The fate of those unbelievers is clear (vss 41-42). They will be cast into the lake of fire forever. They will scream in agony, but to no avail. They pretended to be what they weren’t, when there was absolutely no cost to them to become what they professed to be.

9- The fate of the believers is also clearly known (vs 43). They will be translated and transported into the heavenlies, where they will shine like the sun in the presence of the Son.

This passage reminds us that God is very serious about this issue of salvation. There is only one way and only one solution. You and I often can’t tell who is and who isn’t a believer. Many profess to be, but aren’t. Others are, but you would never know

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it. God says, don't try to become fruit inspectors. Leave it to the Master Farmer. At harvest time, at the end of the age, He will send forth a battalion of angels. These angels will be armed with special eyeglasses that have coated lenses. When they look through those God-ground prescription glasses, their eyes will be able to see the blood of Christ over the lives of those who have come to God on His terms. Everyone else will be a shoo-in for the furnace. The angels will be God's agents of record sent on the most important mission they have ever been on. On their first run through planet earth, they will be seeking all those who have never come to God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

On the surface, everyone will look alike; but when seen through God's eyes, there will be one difference and only one. It will have nothing to do with what they have done. It will have everything to do with what they have done about what God has done. If they have trusted Christ personally, the blood of Jesus Christ will cover their sins; and the angels will be told when they see the blood, to pass over. All who have not chosen to have their sins covered by the blood of Christ will be cast into a furnace of fire, and there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. It will be a horrifying experience. Those, however, who are under the blood will be free at last without the restraints of sin, and they will shine like the noonday sun. To be sure they understood, He gave them another parable, and explained it like this:

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

(Matthew 13:47-51)

Don't forget: *the reapers are the angels*. Jesus was inscribing

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on the tablets of the human heart His first portrait of the angelic host at the end of the age. And though it was only a preview, it was the beginning of a series of exhortations which would not only explain what the angels would be doing all day during the final days, it would also help to explain what God had planned for that period of time that would just precede the end of time as we know it.

Just imagine with me that you are an angel. I know this may stretch your imagination, but try for a moment to capture the excitement of what is going to happen in those last days. Pretend that your name is Angela Angel or Arthur Angel, and maybe the most exciting thing you've done so far is rescue Mary Mishap or Carl Clumsy from a few almost-fatal blunders. Suddenly, you find yourself in the midst of a search of every man and woman on the face of the earth, and having wondered all of eternity why God let His Son die without calling on the angels to rescue Him, you are called to the Throne of God and given these rose-colored glasses and told that your territory was Toledo, Ohio; or Rome, Italy; or Anchorage, Alaska. You are to capture, if you will, everyone not covered with the blood and take them to their eternal destiny. You would no longer want for excitement. As you return from your assignment out of breath, your winged commander whispers, "You ain't seen nothin' yet." Everything angelic was about to change.

Because much of what was about to happen would either be initiated in the heavenlies or would actually take place in heaven, the angelic entourage was about to be more visible and much more central in God's scheme of things. These winged wonders, who had been mostly in the wings, if you will, waiting their time to come onstage, and who have avoided being the center of attention for so many years, will suddenly find themselves the main attraction. It will be spiritual warfare, and they will be the army of the Most High God. Jesus wanted to be sure the disciples understood, so He stopped and asked them if they did. Of course, like us, they were quick to respond, "Yea, Lord," when they really didn't have a clue. He wanted to be sure that we do. Again and again, Jesus reiterated what the angels were about to do.

We know that Michael, or one of the other archangels, will

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play a great part in the rapture of the church, when those who have not died will be lifted like a magnet into the heavenlies to meet the Lord in the air. You know the passage. It is found in I Thessalonians 4.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

(I Thessalonians 4:15-18)

Imagine, as an angel, how awesome that experience will be. You will be called to your command post in the heavens one day, and told to stand at attention for the greatest event in history. Suddenly Michael appears and Jesus appears and the entire host of heaven appears. The clouds part, Jesus begins to descend through the clouds between heaven and earth. Suddenly, Jesus shouts. It sounds like the voice of a thousand thunders. Michael shouts as well. Then the most awesome trumpet blast you have ever heard, literally wakes the dead. As the music of heaven swells in the background, you suddenly see Christians drawn from earth to heaven as though a giant magnet was drawing them.

Businessmen are snatched from their offices. Homemakers are caught up while they are working in the kitchen. Children are literally lifted from their classrooms. Nothing like it has ever happened before. Nothing like it will ever happen again. Every Christian who is still alive is lifted into the heavens to meet Jesus Himself. He is descending towards them as they are ascending towards Him. Oh, what a day; what a glorious day. And you, Mr. and Miss Angel, are a big part of the celebration.

Not only would the angels be the sent ones who would sever the wicked from the righteous at the end of the age and be present at the rapture of the church, they will be present at

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the judgment seat of Christ.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. (Matthew 16:24-27)

Then in Matthew 24, we read of their presence with the Lord when He comes again.

Behold, I have told you before.

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

(Matthew 24:25-31)

Again we read in Mark, chapter 13:

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

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And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

(Mark 13:24-27)

The reapers are the angels. Can you imagine the awesomeness of it all? This isn't some science-fiction movie. This is a true story. The angelic host will not only be participants, but will also be key figures in the second coming of Christ. They will be present at the rapture, present at the Bema Seat, present at the wedding of the Lamb, present at the second coming, and will play a major role in the process of separating the believers from the unbelievers at the judgment seat of Christ. Though they have been invisibly active, what they have done will seem like nothing when compared to what they will do during those exciting days. No, God isn't finished with them yet. In fact, He has barely begun.

Time will not allow an extensive search of all the things angels will be doing in the heavens before, during, and after the great tribulation. We can, however, grab a seat on Revelation Airways, flight 777 and at least look down on planet earth from an angelic perspective and catch a glimpse of what is taking place as Satan and his cohorts misread the freedom God gives them. They think they are gaining the upper hand, when in reality, they are only digging their graves deeper and heating the furnace to its final temperature. In the meantime, however, the battle will heat up, and as it does, the angelic police force, led by Captain Michael, will get enough "9-1-1" calls to blow the fuses in the phone system.

Here are just a few samples of what angels will be doing all day:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:
(Revelation 1:1)

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He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (Revelation 3:5)

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; (Revelation 5:11)

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, (Revelation 7:1,2)

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, (Revelation 7:11)

And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. (Revelation 8:2-6)

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: (Revelation 10:1)

And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, (Revelation 10:5)

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And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

(Revelation 10:8-10)

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

(Revelation 11:15)

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

(Revelation 12:7)

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

(Revelation 12:9)

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

(Revelation 14:6)

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

(Revelation 15:1)

And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

(Revelation 15:8)

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

(Revelation 16:1)

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

(Revelation 18:1)

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And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. (Revelation 18:21)

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; (Revelation 19:17)

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. (Revelation 20:1)

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. (Revelation 21:9)

And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. (Revelation 22:6)

And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. (Revelation 22:8,9)

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. (Revelation 22:16)

Oh, Beloved, the battle will rage, but the victory is ours. Satan and all his host will go down in defeat as surely as God is who He says He is. Don't forget that as this incredible scenario plays out in the theater of eternity, perhaps very, very soon, it will be the angels of God who are front and center in the midst of the fray. The reapers are the angels. They will have labored in the shadows, lo, these many years, but now the Commander in Chief of the King's army will call them into the battle they have waited for so long. They have seen Satan win what appeared to be victory after victory; yet each of Satan's conquests seemed to

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only play into God's hands, for what Satan meant for evil, God meant for good. Still, the world and all that was in it, seemed to these angels to be Satan's domain. They have constantly been called upon to rescue the saints, but they must have wondered whether or not this seemingly endless battle would ever come to some conclusion. They will find out. They do not fully grasp the reason for it all. They understand the nature of God better than we do, but the ways of God and the plan of God are still a mystery, *because they, having never sinned, have never tasted of His grace.* I Peter 1 tells us:

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

(I Peter 1:8-12)

The angels keep running to the "Heaven's Gates" Public Library, looking under "grace" on their EBM Computers, and they can't find an explanation they can understand. This thing about the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow is not clear to them. They watched God die, and God did nothing. They have seen saints suffer at God's hand, and though He has used it for His glory, they don't quite understand. They have never been lost, so they have never been redeemed. So they are in school right now, and we are exhibits "A", "B", and "ZZZ". They are watching us, trying to understand the grace of God. I believe, one day they will. I don't know. In the meantime, oh, what we are learning from them.

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We learn what true obedience is all about by watching them. We watch them and see that real obedience is availability to do whatever God asks of us whenever He asks it. They may not understand being bought with a price, but they understand that they are not their own. They understand the reality of servitude. They do the most menial things and never complain.

We understand what transparent service is by watching them. Most of the time we never know they have been there. So often they appear as “angels unawares” and meet our needs and leave. They live to call attention to God, not to themselves. Oh, the level of humility they have. Is not this the kind of humility Jesus demonstrated, and then added. “Let this mind be in you?”

We are learning of the glory of worship from them. Night and day they sing “Holy, Holy, Holy”. Yet, even in their worship they do not call attention to themselves or even to their worship. The eyes of their hearts are focused on God. He is their everything.

We are learning of the depth of holiness by watching them. They understand that true holiness leaves no room for compromises or for redefining words based on the behavior of those around us. To them God is holy, and they must be holy, too. Dear God, teach us from the angels.

We are learning of the high value God places on children by watching them. Jesus called a little one and said, “Be careful how you treat these little ones. Their angels do always behold the face of My Father.” All this we have learned just by watching them as they are watching us. What a wonderful way to know the heart of God.

They are looking to us to understand salvation and grace. As the song says it so well, “Angels never felt the joy that our salvation brings.” But, oh, Beloved, what we can learn from them. Why don’t we? Possibly because we cannot physically see them; possibly because we are afraid that others will not understand. But God has not written anything in Scripture without a purpose. By reporting more than 100 appearances of angels, the Word seems to place a much higher level of importance on these heavenly messengers than we do. It’s time we saw in them what God wants us to see: character and obedience.

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There is one more thing we can learn as the angelic host draws the curtain on history, as we know it, and re-titles it “His Story”. It is the glory of the final words of the Word of God. They are both words of encouragement and words of evangelism. Picture, if you will, the magnitude of this moment. An angel has appeared to John and given him a vision of God’s final battle and God’s final victory. Hear the music swell, if you will, as the drama reaches its incredible conclusion. Jesus speaks and explains it all to John, and to us. And as He does, the angels fold their wings.

Like the angels, may we bow in humble submission and fold the wings of our hearts in adoration and praise, as well. May we never again doubt the work of angels, and may we never again stop expectantly looking for the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Read the end of the book, Beloved. It is the culmination of all that God has been saying and doing these thousands of years. It says this:

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.
(Revelation 22:16-21)

Is there someone you love who is even slightly uncertain of where they stand with God, and you have postponed confronting them with the reality of the Cross? Or could it be you? Is there any doubt at all that you have been washed in the blood of

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Jesus? Have you confessed your sins and asked Jesus into your life? Or have you substituted a church relationship for a relationship with God? Have you assumed that relative goodness will cause God to change the rules? Beloved, next to God, your goodness is as filthy rags. We must be born again.

Remember, there will come a time when those who truly possess the Spirit of God will be carried on angels' wings into the presence of God; yet at that same time, the reapers will come. And *the reapers are the angels*. God's desire is that we be found in Him. He has offered us Living Water. He has said, "Let him that is athirst come." The offer is to "whosoever will". That includes the vilest sinner and the most righteous unbeliever. There is no difference. We all have sinned.

If there is the slightest doubt, dear friend, ask Him into your heart right now. Pray, "Lord Jesus, I accept your offer of grace. I come to you, unworthy, but ready. Give me, I pray, this "Living Water" that I may live forever. Take my life, Lord Jesus. It is yours. Live in me and through me and do with me whatever you choose. I'm yours. Amen."

If someone has just said "yes" to Christ, the angels have just started singing. *The reapers have become the choir*. And that is the most glorious thing they do all day. Listen. Can you hear them? The reapers are rejoicing. The Scripture says they rejoice over one sinner who repents. Sing with them, Beloved. Sing with them. Let's all sing with them. And as we do, let's quietly pray John's prayer: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Even so, come. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen." And all the people said... "Amen."

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COME QUICKLY

The Master sent an angel
To tell to John the story
Of Satan's final, vicious days,
And God's impending glory.

"I AM Messiah", Jesus said,
"I paid the price for sin",
And to a waiting world, this word:
"I AM will come again".

This gift of love He offered
Was not for some, but all,
And whosoever will may come;
"Drink freely", was His call.

Through the ages, it's been true.
Redemption's cost was weighed,
And whosoever called on Him
Has found the price was paid.

Now clouds on life's horizon
Speak of a day not far,
When breaking through the clouds
We'll see the bright and morning Star.

"Oh, come, Lord Jesus, Come again,"
"Come quickly", Lord, we cry;
And eagerly we saints look up,
And view that eastern sky.

"Surely, I come quickly",
We hear our Jesus say,
And we reply, "Come quickly"
"Oh, Lord, please don't delay."

"Come quickly", dear Lord Jesus
And rid the world of sin;
"Come quickly", dear Lord Jesus,
"Come quickly, Lord, Amen."

The Reapers Are the Angels
For Focus and Application

1- Read Matthew 13:1-3 and 24-43. Try to visualize the scene. Jesus is sitting in a boat a little off the shore. Around the shoreline, is a huge crowd of people, standing in the sun, just to hear this teacher tell them about God. He begins by telling what appears to be children's stories, or at least stories children can understand. How would you respond? If you hear the truth and do not understand, is it possible you have not asked God to open the eyes of your heart to hear it? When you have your time alone with God do you remember to ask Him to reveal His word to your heart?

2- Jesus later explained the parables to the disciples. Why did he wait to do that? Who initiated the explanation? Does God sometimes wait for us to ask Him what His word means? Why don't we do it?

3- When Jesus explained what He meant, the story all made sense. The disciples said, "Yea, Lord, we understand." Did they? Explain your answer. How would you apply this parable to the church today?

4- Do you believe that all unbelievers will end up in the lake of fire? What does the Word say?

5- What part will the angels play in the process of separating the believers from the unbelievers at the end of the age?

6- What is the rapture of the church? What does I Thessalonians 4:15-18 say will happen? Could that be today? Are you excited about it or frightened?

7- Why do you think angels use trumpets? What will happen when the trumpet blows?

8- Make a list of at least 10 things angels will do according to the book of Revelation.

9- Why don't angels understand grace? Reread Revelation 22. What does it say about God's Word? What does it promise?

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