

At sunset last Saturday evening we entered the month of Elul... The month of **Preparation and** Repentance

It is traditional to spend this month blowing the shofar, and in self-reflection and repentance preparing for the Fall appointed times of Yom Teruah (also called Rosh HaShanah) and Yom Kippur

- "Elul" is similar to the root of the verb "search" in Aramaic. Per the Talmud the Hebrew word "Elul" can be expanded as an acronym for "Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li" "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song of Solomon 6:3).
- Elul time to search our hearts and draw close to God in preparation for coming Day of Judgement, Rosh Hashanah, and Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur.
- Shofar is blown to "wake our spirits" to begin soul searching. It is traditionally blown in the morning every day of Elul up to Yom Teruah.
- Elul is the month of Teshuva return and repentance.

The shofar is the Hebrew ram's horn (traditionally, or

the horns of any other kosher animal) The "Yemenite Shofar" is made of the horn of the greater African Kudu **Tragelaphus** strepsiceros, and is said to be the largest animal horn on earth.

We are less than 4 weeks away from Elul 29, the last day of the civil year, the last day of this Shemitah year, and the next day of Tishri 1, Yom Teruah Let's welcome this month of repentance with the shofar

Praise Adonai!

Hallelu ET Adonai (Praise the Lord!)

Praise Him with the cymbal, Praise Him with the dance Praise Him with the shofar, Praise Him with your hands Praise Him with the timbrel, Praise Him with the harp

Praise Him with the drum and the flute Praise Him with your heart

Hallelu ET Adonai, Hallelu ET Adonai, Hallelu ET Adonai Come and praise the Lord

Praise Him in the heavens, Praise Him moon and stars
Praise Him for His glory and power, Praise Him with guitars

Praise Him in the battle, Praise Him in the storm Praise Him for the victory's won, Praise Him with this song

Hallelu ET Adonai (3)
Come and praise the Lord (repeat)

And let everything that has breath Come and praise the Lord





Praise Adonai!

Hallelu <u>ET</u> Adonai

(**Praise the Lord**, literally, praise YHWH)

ET is <u>not</u> "the"

- What is it?
- Is it important to know?



Example: Hallelu et Adonai = Praise the LORD (YHWH)

Psalm 117 is shortest psalm (and chapter) of the Hebrew Tanakh (OT). One of the "Hallel" (praise) songs (113-118) traditionally recited during holidays.

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!
Laud Him, all you peoples!
For His merciful kindness is great toward us,
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

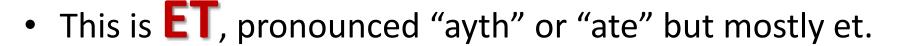
Only two verses long, just 17 words (in Hebrew):



kol go·yim, sha·be·chu·hu kol ha·u·mim, ki ga·var a·lei·nu chas·do, ve'e·met Adonai le'olam. ha·le·lu-Yah

ha·le·lu **et** Adonai

- Composed of only two Hebrew letters.
- *Is this a word?* If so, why is it NOT translated from the Hebrew into any other language, even though it is in plain view in the Hebrew?



- Considered "silent" in Hebrew and is not even read or spoken in Hebrew
- Appears over 7,000 times in the Tanakh
- Rabbis and scribes have argued over this for millennia.
- Explanation, not a word, considered "untranslatable" and serves as a sign of a direct object in the sentence (i.e., merely a literary or grammatical tool).

So, is there more to this "ET" than it would seem?

Consider this...

"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter."

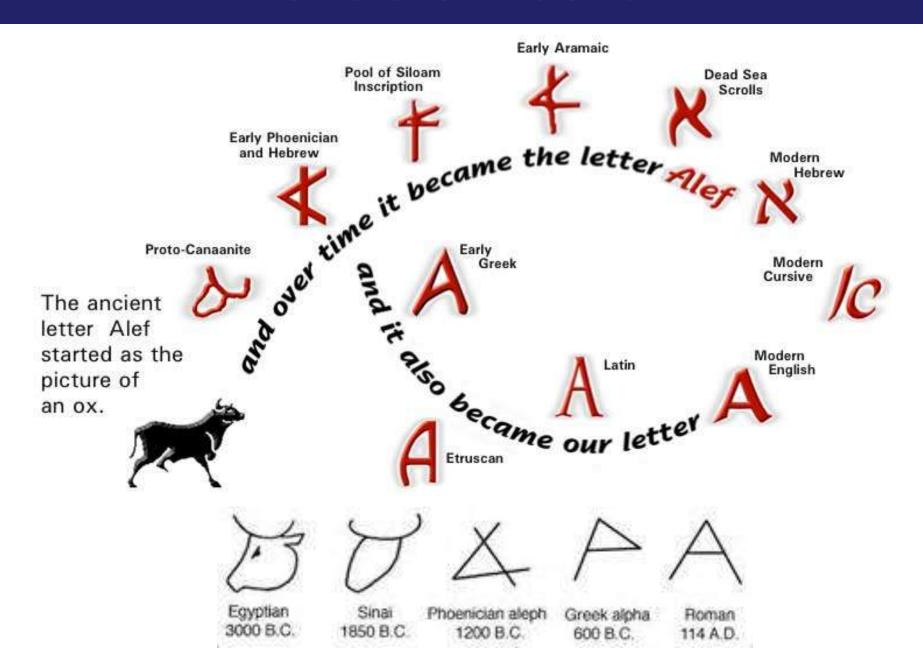
Proverbs 25:2

Let's take a look at these two letters...

Aleph: The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (alefbet). Root form literally means "ox" and implies strength, and preeminence. In the ancient Hebrew pictographic script, was written as:

Strength Leader First



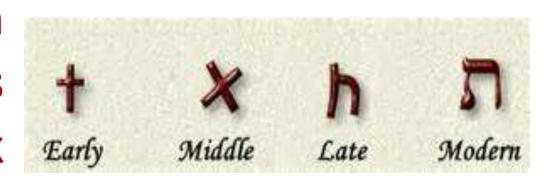


Tav: The <u>last</u> letter of the Hebrew alphabet (#22). Root form implies "a covenant sign" (sacrifice). Original form a cross. Also means *perfection*, *mark*. Ancient Hebrew pictograph:



Covenant Sign Cross Mark

Perfection



Every letter has a picture meaning and a number assignment

Name	Pictograph	Meaning	Name	Pictograph	Meaning
Aleph	5	Ox / strength / leader	Lamed	J	Staff / goad / control / "toward"
Bet	<u></u>	House / "In"	Mem	M	Water / chaos
Gimmel	L	Foot / camel / pride	Nun	٩	Seed / fish / activity / life
Dalet	ь	Tent door / pathway	Samekh	*	Hand on staff / support / prop
Hey	봣	Lo! Behold! "The"	Ayin	0	Eye / to see / experience
Vav	Y	Nail / peg / add / "And"	Pey	0	Mouth / word / speak
Zayin	Ą	Plow / weapon / cut off	Tsade	8	Man on side / desire / need
Chet	ш	Tent wall / fence / separation	Qof	4	Sun on horizon / behind
Tet	8	Basket I snake I surround	Resh	Ð	Head / person / first
Yod	Ţ	Arm and hand / work / deed	Ship	E	Eat / consume / destroy
Kaf	UJ	Palm of hand /to open	Tav	+	Mark / sign / covenant



So, what exactly do these two letters mean, when put together....?

"Strength of the Covenant"



Rabbinic tradition has expanded the meaning of the "et" to signify that a word prefixed by **the Aleph Tav** ("et") captures the very essence of a thing, everything about it. They are getting closer, but still so far away in understanding.

One particular verse got my attention, and should have gotten the attention of all Rabbis and scribes...

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10)

We don't see anything special in English (other than the obvious surface meaning) or any other language, but here is what it looks like with one tiny addition in the Hebrew, not translated into English or any other language...

...then they will look on Me whom they pierced.

The **aleph tav** ("et") is found right from the very beginning of the Tanakh....

earth the and heavens the ha'aretz v'et ha'shamayim

Note 7 Hebrew words, the center word being the Aleph Tav

This is a solution of the large to the center word being the Aleph Tav

This is a solution of the large to the center word being the Aleph Tav

And the Is found over 7,000 times in the Tanakh. But to fully understand the meaning, we must go to the *B'rit Chadasha*, the New Covenant, the last book...

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8

We know Him best as the "Alpha and Omega," but these are Greek letters. In reality, Yeshua was providing the key to understanding the entire Old Testament, the Hebrew scriptures which were written of Him. He is the Aleph Tav, the strength of the covenant, and is written on every single page of scripture.



Rev 1:8 I am the 'Aleph' and the 'Tau', the Beginning and the Covenant without End, says (Yahushua Ha Mashiach) "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Explanation: The "Ox Head" is the pictograph for the ancient letter "Aleph; the first letter of the Hebrew language. The "Crossing of the two sticks" is the pictograph for the ancient Hebrew letter "Tau" that is the last letter in the Hebrew language. However, it is

not the end, signifying the initiation of a covenant "without end." These two words placed together called Aleph-Tau, constitute a sacred Paleo Hebrew word which cannot be translated into any earthly language other than the ancient Hebrew text; i.e.: Gen 29:35; Psalm 34:1; 117:1; 2 Chron 31:2; Jer 33:11; Zeph 3:20; others. Written in its original form: .tb

Source: Strong's Hebrew Paleo Hebrew Dictionary No. 853

Let's consider one more thing while we're at it....

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

(Colossians 1:15-17)

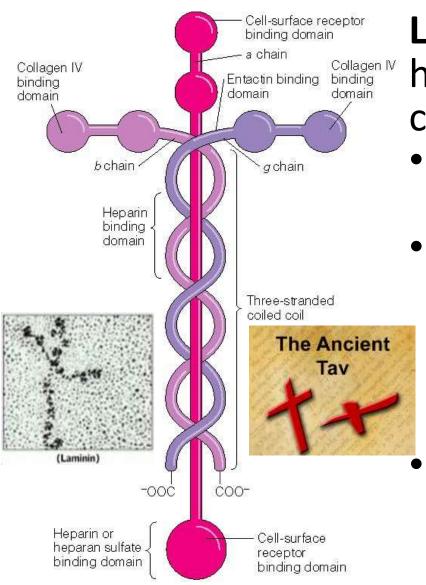
Word of God is incredibly rich and amazingly engineered. We cannot take it anything other than literally, and keep looking for those amazing treasures ready to be unearthed. **The word used for "consist"** above means literally to exist together, being held together.

The Complete Jewish Bible translation of this passage:

"He is the visible image of the invisible God. He is supreme over all creation, because in connection with him were created all things — in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, lordships, rulers or authorities — they have all been created through him and for him. He existed before all things, and he holds everything together."

A few facts...

- The Hebrew language has 22 letters.
- The 22 letters of the Hebrew alefbet can be combined to form an endless variety of words and meanings, and held together by the aleph tay.
- The original Tanakh was composed of 22 scrolls ("books")
- There are 22 life-sustaining amino acids
- These 22 amino acids combine to form a vast variety of life sustaining proteins.
- The cells of all living creatures are "held together" by an "adhesion" protein molecule called laminin.



Laminin is the "glue" that holds the cells of all living creatures together.

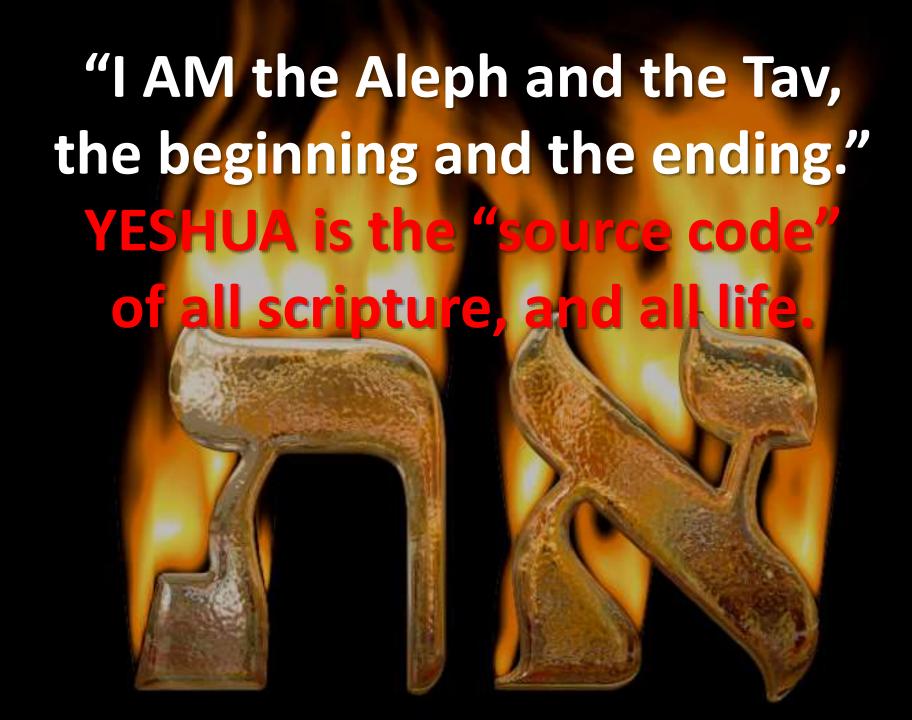
- Is its unique shape a "coincidence?"
- Is the ancient pictograph of the Hebrew letter tav, meaning covenant sign, a coincidence? Absolutely not.
 - Is God's Word true and literal and infallible?

Absolutely YES!

- Computers have a "hidden" source code that facilitates their operation. This is the <u>language</u> of programmers.
- Aleph-Tav is source code of the word of God, programmed by the author, the Eternal One. Helps us understand His message, facilitates (and explains) His plan.
- It <u>cannot be seen in any language other than</u>
 <u>Hebrew</u>. Critical to our understanding, not just as a code for the "strength of the covenant" in general, but <u>everywhere it is placed provides</u> extra meaning in context.



We have barely even touched the tip of this iceberg. This is an incredible study and adventure into God's Word.



Revelation 14 Part 4



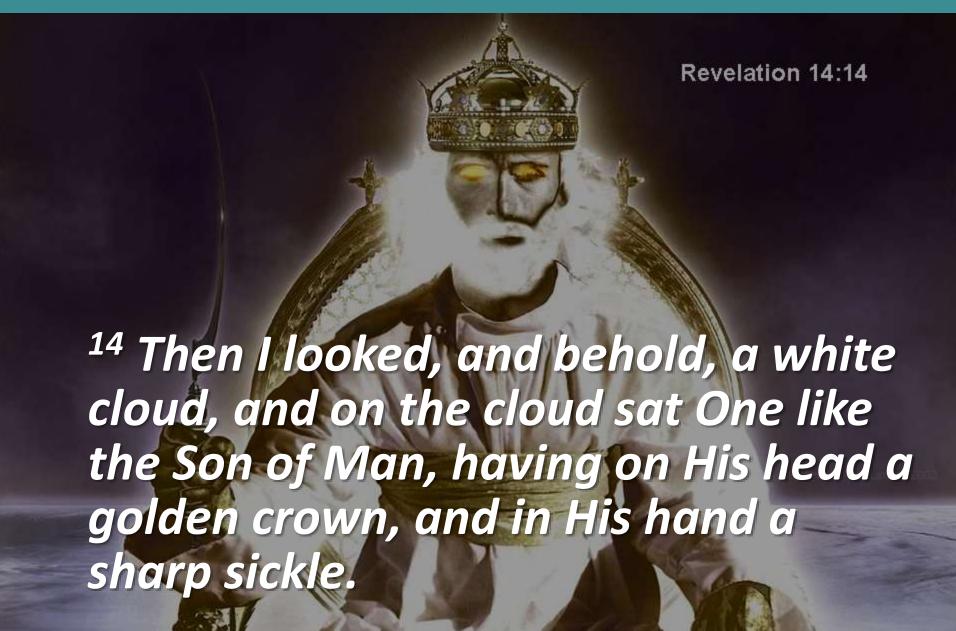
3 Distinct "Scenes:"



¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." 19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.



- We now have a complete scene change, different action and different characters.
- This scene is a preview of the final judgment.
- Stated earlier that chapter 14 reads like an overview of what is yet to come in this book.
- Chapter 6 like an outline of conditions present during tribulation, this chapter a synopsis of the unraveling of the entire plan of God to the end of this time of judgment.
- Timeline of tribulation advanced to end here.
 Will be given more detail in coming chapters, but this chapter serves as the high overview.

- Can be seen as <u>summary of entire book</u>, as it relates to **final disposition** of believers and unbelievers.
- "...behold..." (pay attention!), something important coming. Indeed, some One important is coming.
- "One like the Son of Man,..." Know who this is. Comes from Daniel 7:13: "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him." No one but Jesus!
- "Son of Man," Jesus' favorite title for Himself.

 Sitting on a white cloud. When Jesus ascended into heaven after resurrection, he disappeared into the clouds. "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. .. This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9, 11). He will return in the clouds as well. Luke 21:27 also states: "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Some interpret this cloud as the Shekinah ("glory in the tent") glory. Presence of God often represented by a cloud.

Where	Scripture reference
Wilderness, guiding,	Exodus 13:21, 22; 14:19-24
protecting Israelites	
Manna, provision of food	Exodus 16:10
Giving of Law (1st time)	Exodus 10:9, 16, 18; 24:15-18
Giving of Law (2 nd time)	Exodus 34:1-5
Tabernacle, initial	Exodus 40:34, 35
completion	
On Mercy Seat (atonement	Numbers 9:16-22
cover of Ark)	

Where	Scripture reference
70 elders of Israel chosen	Numbers 11:25
Solomon and Ark of the	1 Kings 8:10, 11
Covenant	
Prophecy regarding	Isaiah 19:1
destruction of Egypt	
Jerusalem, glory leaves	Ezekiel (1:4; ch 10; 11:22, 23
Temple, before destruction	
Transfiguration of Jesus	Matt 17:5; 1 Peter 1:17-19
Ascension of Jesus	Acts 1:9
Catching up of Church	1 Thessalonians 4:17
When Jesus returns	Matt 24:30, 26:64; Rev 1:7,
	14:14 ; Luke 21:27

- "...a golden crown..." Interesting to note this crown not expected diadema, crown of kingly authority. It is instead the "stephanos" crown, which was the victor's crown.
- Jesus is indeed King of Kings, and wears many crowns, including the crown of victory. "His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns...." (19:12a)
- This crown is <u>golden</u>, not normal crown of laurel leaves for the athletic victor. A permanent crown of victory.

- Jesus won victory for us. He once wore a crown of thorns, but now it is a crown of victory.
- We will also wear the victor's crown: "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57)
- "And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God." (Revelation 15:2)

 Although this is the victor's crown, the One on the clouds here also wear's the crown of authority. He is in charge now.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Revelation 14:16

- In the next verse we hear of another angel with another sickle that will also be doing a harvest.
- Most think these are two different harvests.
- Differences in these two harvests lead us to believe this first, by One like the Son of Man, (obviously Jesus) is harvest of the believers.
- Some think this may even reference the "catching up," while others believe it is final harvest of believers before Millennium.

- Since this chapter may be a larger overview to include the disposition of all people (believers and unbelievers) the timing of this first harvest before the next one could indeed indicate the "catching up" (even prior to the Tribulation).
- However, we should note that the harvest of believers will ALWAYS happen before the harvest of unbelievers (no matter when it occurs on a timeline regarding the Tribulation – Pre-Mid-Post).
- Because of its timing in this book (after the mid-point of the tribulation) some point to mid-tribulation rapture.

- However, since chapter 14 is an overview of sorts, these harvests more than likely point to the end of the tribulation, and the final disposition of believers and unbelievers. As such, it may not reference a particular group of believers at a particular time in the tribulation. It may represent the ultimate harvest of all believers.
- It should be noted that still others believe that both of these harvests are in fact the same one, and involves only the unbeliever, not believers.

- Important note: this <u>angel</u> is not giving Jesus a <u>command</u>. **Angels do not command God.**
- Angel is <u>speaking proclamation</u> of this harvest.
 He is relaying a message, "now is the time!"
- No other details regarding <u>how</u> harvest is accomplished, or what *kind* of harvest it is.
- Many commentators assume (dangerous!) a wheat or grain harvest, due to nature of some words used here.
- Word for "ripe" implies over ripe, or dry, literally means "to desiccate." Hence, interpretation that it is a grain harvest.

- We do not know what kind of harvest it is, but many speculate it is the wheat of Jesus' parable of the wheat and tares (weeds).
- This harvest appears to be different than the one next by the angel (who is harvesting the vine, or grapes). Luke 3:17 states "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."
- The wheat would then represent the believers, and tares (or weeds) unbeleivers.

Revelation 14:17

Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe."

- Again, notice how active angels are in this book, and in the unfolding of the plan of God.
- In this chapter alone we are shown six angels.
- Likely this number is deliberate, since we've just been shown the mark of the beast, 666, which is the number of man, "incomplete."
- Man without God is incomplete for eternity, and that is what the angels facilitate or announce here: judgment for all eternity.

- 1. First angel (v. 6) having the everlasting gospel, bringing a warning of coming judgment
- 2. <u>Second</u> angel (v. 8) announcing Babylon is fallen, doomed
- 3. Third angel (v. 9) warning not to take mark of the beast, or worship him, or be eternally separated from God in a place of torment
- 4. Fourth angel (v. 15) proclaiming that the time of the harvest by Jesus has arrived
- 5. Fifth angel (v. 17) from the temple in heaven, carries a sharp sickle, harvests the vine
- 6. Sixth angel (v. 17) from the altar, announcing the time of harvest for the "vine of the earth"

 Words of Jesus in Matthew 13:39-43 help us understand this harvest: "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

- Again, the tares (weeds) are unbelievers (wheat=believers). Notice those who reap unbelievers are angels, not Jesus.
- Jesus has just been seen reaping one harvest, but not this one. Another indicator this is the harvest of unbelievers. (more info shortly)
- In verse 18 yet another angel, one who comes from the altar and has "power over fire." Same angel in chapter 8. Altar of incense, and the burning coals (fire) thereon, represent prayers of the saints.
- This harvest most likely a direct answer to those prayers "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

- Notice repeatedly we are told this is a
 "sharp" sickle. Sickle really is an
 unpleasant and nasty looking
 implement. Designed for a tough job.
 This particular sickle, in the hands of the
 angel harvesting the unbelievers, will
 not fail its intended task. It is has been
 prepared, sharpened, for this harvest.
- No one will escape this harvest, who does not follow the Lamb. The details indicate this harvest has a certain "violence" to it, unlike the previous harvest.

- This angel not gathering grain or wheat, but "clusters of the vine of the earth," or grapes.

 Some speculate since "the vine" is often used
 to represent Israel, that this harvest is only
 directed at Israel's unbelieving Jews.
- However, these grapes of the vine are more likely representing a filling of God's cup of wrath, complete to overflowing, <u>for all wicked</u>.
- The word for "ripe" in this verse is different than the ripe used in v. 15. This ripe implies "fully mature." The evil of the unbelievers is fully mature now, and ready to be cut off.

- Concept is used in scripture to sometimes describe when God takes ultimate destructive action against the wicked.
- For example, the two prophets to Nineveh had completely different results. First, Jonah preached repentance and all of Nineveh repented, much to Jonah's dismay. God spared them. But when Nahum preached to Nineveh, the result was final destruction.
- The fullness of their evil was not yet full under Jonah, but was complete when Nahum preached. It is the same here. The evil of mankind is complete, ready for final harvest and destruction.

So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

- This passage makes an obvious allusion to final battle, Armageddon, when the remaining unbelievers will be "harvested."
- Prophet Joel warned of this: "Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow— For their wickedness is great." (Joel 3:11-13) The word used here for "great" (wickedness) also implies "full."

- "...the winepress of the wrath of God." A well developed symbol in scripture of the wrath of God at the end of time.
- Not only does it appear in these verses in Revelation 14, and in Joel 3 above, <u>but also</u> <u>in Isaiah 63</u>, which speaks of the One who does this "trampling."



 "Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes." (Isaiah 63:1-3)

• "...trampled outside the city..." Most believe battle of Armageddon will rage outside the city of Jerusalem, in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, also called the Valley of Megiddo (Har Megiddo in Hebrew, Armageddon in Greek).

Jesus was crucified <u>outside the</u>
 <u>city</u>, and the battle for ultimate
 control and authority will
 be waged outside the city,
 and won by the One
 wearing the victor's crown

- "...blood....up to the horses' bridles...." Seems to be a horrible sight, and for us may be difficult to take literally.
- This speaks of destruction, the slaughter of all those opposed to God, and it will be a literal battle. This picture may be literal, and it may be figurative. It may be both.
- <u>Does not have to mean the blood will literally be</u> <u>4-5 feet deep</u>. Means this battle will result in much blood spilling and *spattering* even as high as the horses' bridles.
- Though we dislike these images, sin must be removed before Yeshua takes His throne on earth.

- "...one thousand six hundred furlongs." A fairly precise measurement, most likely literal.
- Equals approximately 180 miles, about the length of the Valley of Megiddo, scene of many Biblical battles, and scene of final world battle.
- These verses clearly show this particular harvest is most definitely <u>NOT</u> the harvest of believers.

Likely this chapter serves as an <u>outline summary</u> of events yet to happen in Tribulation.

7 events listed here:

- 1. Presentation of believing remnant of Israel (144,000 Godly Jews, preserved thru Trib)
- 2. Preaching of Gospel and accompanying warning of soon to come judgment
- 3. Advance notice of ultimate destruction of Babylon, *literally,* and all in opposition to God
- 4. Warning, fate of those who take mark of the beast
- 5. Blessing of martyred saints
- 6. Harvest of believers by King of Kings
- 7. Harvest of unbelievers, and their destruction at battle of Armageddon

The Aaronic Blessing: Birkat Kohanim

May the LORD bless you and keep you יָבָרֶכְרָ יהוה, וְיִשְׁמְרֶרָ

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you ָיָאֵר יהוה פָּנִיו אֵלֶיךְׁ, וִיחֵנֶּּךְ Ya er Adonai panav elekha viḥunneka

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

יִשָּׂא יהוה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיָשֵׂם לְךְּ שָׁלוֹם

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

