

The Harvest is the End of the Age

"The harvest is truly plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37, 38)

The time of our Lord's first advent was the harvest of the Jewish age; and that as a harvest the above text applied to that nation only. For more than sixteen hundred years the Law Covenant had been in operation between God and Israel. Under that covenant Israel had been disciplined and schooled, instructed through the law and by the prophets.

Jesus came, not only to be the Redeemer of mankind in general, but also to offer himself as King to the Jews, and to make them his joint- heirs in his kingdom. Had there been a sufficient number of Jews in heart- readiness to receive the Gospel message, according to divine agreement, the entire bride of Christ would have been elected, or chosen, from that one nation and not a Gentile would have been invited to participate in the honors of these spirit- begotten ones, called in the Scriptures, the spiritual "seed of Abraham." (Galatians 3:29) Nevertheless, the Lord knew that Israel would not be ready to receive him, and he provided for their rejection and the opening of the door to membership in the bride class to worthy Gentiles.

At the close of the Jewish age, when Israel should have had their greatest degree of ripeness and preparation, our Lord presented himself and began to do the reaping work. He also sent for the disciples as his representatives. When they returned to him our Lord said to them, "I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor; other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors." - #Jo 4:38

Jesus tells us distinctly that while his work was that of reaping, he blended with it a sowing. Seeing that the Jews were not ready for the kingdom, and also seeing that eighteen more centuries would be required for the calling and developing of the saintly, spiritual ones, our heavenly Father started the work of the seed- sowing for the new dispensation. Then, according to our Lord's parable he left the work in the hands of his servants and went "into a far country" - even heaven itself. Since then he has been supervising his work and has been represented through the faithful members of his church, his bride. He and the apostles sowed the "good seed" of the kingdom, meanwhile gathering the ripe wheat of the Jewish nation into the kingdom class, through the begetting of the Holy Spirit. By and by the harvesting of the Jewish age ended completely, when all the wheat of the nation were gathered into the Gospel church of spirit- begotten ones, and then came the "burning of the chaff" - the great time of trouble which ended the Jewish age, A.D. 70.

Since then the work of seed- sowing, evangelism, etc. among the Gentiles has gone on, not without difficulty, however. As our Lord's parable shows, Satan, the adversary, came "while men slept" - in the "dark ages" - and over- sowed the wheat field with tare seed. As a result, the field looked very prosperous, although, in reality, the "tares" had a choking and disastrous effect on the "wheat." Nevertheless the Lord would not allow the separating of wheat from tares until the full end of the age, the harvest. The tares were so numerous and intertwined with the wheat that to have plucked them all up would have brought the disastrous "time of trouble" too soon. Hence, the decree that both should grow together until the harvest. "The harvest is the end of the age." - Matthew 13:39

We are now living in the end of the Gospel Age- in the harvest time of that age. Faithful Christians are now being separated by our Lord, the chief reaper, from the tares of imitation Christians. Soon the trials of the true members of the body of Christ will be completed and the faithful will soon be gathered into the heavenly garner. Then will commence the glorious work of Christ and his bride bringing earthly blessings to Israel, and all the families of the earth through Israel. This will mean a great blessing, not only for Christ's church, but for all the "groaning creation" - all mankind, which, if willing and obedient under Messiah's reign, will be released from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty appropriate to the children of God. - Romans 8:21

As the harvest of the Jewish age ended in a time of great trouble, So the Bible assures us that the end of this Gospel age will also end with "a great time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21. That the world is nearing catastrophic conditions no one can deny. The Bible alone explains the situation and shows us that God's work of the present age is about completed; that the elect members of the bride of Christ have nearly all been found and made ready. When all the ripe wheat have been taken to the heavenly garner then the plowman of trouble will overturn the earth in preparation for sowing seed for the next dispensation- the Millennial Age, "wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13

For a more complete study of this and many other helpful Bible topics send for your copy of "The Divine Plan of the Ages."