

THE HARVEST OF MATTHEW 13

INTRODUCTION: The study on the Harvest of Matt. 13 is to give us a clearer understanding of when the harvest is to take place and what is to happen to the wheat and tares at the time of the harvest. Who are the wheat and the tares? Who does the sowing and who does the reaping? These questions we need to examine for a better understanding of the harvest.

Read Matthew 13:24-30

1. **The man who sowed good seed. (Matt. 13:37)** The Son of man. This is Christ. He is referred to as the Son of man after he was born of a woman. He sowed the good seed after His baptism.
2. **The enemy who sowed the tares. (Matt 13:39)** The devil. **TM 46** shows that “while the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, the wheat; Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship, the tares. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares.”
3. **The field. (Matt. 13:38)** Here we see the field to be the world. In **COL 70** we read “The field...is the world. But we must understand this as signifying the church in the world.” Please read the rest of that paragraph.
4. **The reapers. (Matt. 13:39)** The angels. **TM 47** shows “The time of harvest will fully determine the character of the two classes specified under the figure of the tares and the wheat. The work of separation is given to the angels of God and is not committed into the hands of any man.
5. **The time of harvest. (Matt. 13:39)** The end of the world. This does not necessarily mean Christ second coming. **COL 72** puts the harvest at the end of probationary time. **Heb 9:24-26** puts the end of the world at the time Christ entered into the most holy place to “put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WHEAT AND TARES AT THE TIME OF HARVEST

1. **Matt. 13:30** The wheat and tares are to grow together until the time of harvest. Then the tares will be gathered together first in bundles to be burned, then the wheat gathered into the barn. At the time of harvest the **tares are removed first**. For further understanding of how this is done refer to the study on **Rev. 7**.
2. Harvest is in two phases... first fruits of the Harvest gathered in when the tares are removed then the sickle can be put to the grain and the rest of the Harvest takes place. First fruits are the first ripened grain to be harvested. See **DA 785, 786**
3. Thus we see that there will be two reapings also. One of the first fruits, then one for the second fruits. See **Rev. 14:14-16**. In these verses we see the Son of man reaping in a harvest. This could not be His second coming as He only has a crown and a sickle in his hand. Compare this with **Rev. 19:11, 12, 15**
4. **Rev. 14:17-19** we see another angel doing another reaping, **9T 97** tells us to know the time of our visitation. “The time of God’s destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth.” While the door is closed to us as SDA’s because we have had great light the door is still opened for those who have never had the opportunity to know the truth.

HARVEST IS A PERIOD OF TIME.

1. See **Jer. 8:20**. After the harvest, probation is closed and the people can no longer be saved.

SUMMARY: Here we can clearly see in this study that the wheat and tares are to grow together until the time of Harvest. Once the Harvest has begun, the tares are the first to be removed then the wheat gathered into the barn, or God's kingdom. It is then that the great multitude of **Rev. 7:9** is brought in by the 144,000. We clearly see two reapings, one for the gathering of the first fruits, and one for the gathering of the second fruits. Once the harvest is over, then probation is closed and one can no longer be saved. Then it is that Christ will throw down the censer and say "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."