All Things New: Hope Starts Here

DAY 9—THREE ANGELS AT THE END

"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. 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.' So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped" (Rev. 14:14–16).

Three Scenes in Revelation 14

Revelation 14 has three scenes: the victorious 144,000 standing on the sea of glass in heaven (vss. 1–5), the three angels' messages designed to prepare this group for the second advent (vss. 6–13), and the second coming of Jesus with His reward of eternal life for believers and destruction by "the brightness of His coming" for unbelievers (vss. 14–20; compare with 2 Thess. 2:8). This last scene is the climax of all of earth's history, "the blessed hope" for which we have waited so long (Titus 2:13).

Ripe for the Harvest, Ready for Heaven

Notice the timing is not arbitrary, nor is it irrevocably fixed in heaven. Jesus comes when "the harvest of the earth is ripe." Like any wise farmer, Jesus waits to reap the harvest until the time is right. A parable described this process of ripening: "first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come" (Mark 4:28, 29, emphasis added). According to Jesus, the group who are ready for heaven "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12). They "follow the Lamb wherever He goes," and "in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Rev. 14:4, 5).

The judgment in heaven merely confirms and ratifies what has already become a reality on earth. God's people are so close to Jesus that nothing can separate them from Him. Even during the time of trouble and the seven last plagues (Rev. 16), which come after He leaves the heavenly sanctuary, putting off His mediatorial robes and donning His kingly robes, Jesus walks with them and talks with them through the Holy Spirit. They are ready for heaven, for they have heaven in their hearts—which is the precious presence of Jesus Himself. If you don't yet know this wonderful assurance and presence of Jesus or desire an even closer walk with Him and more constant awareness of His loving Spirit, pray to Him in the heavenly sanctuary and ask Him to come near. Let's pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

Every prayer group has its own way of praying together. We invite you to spend the next 30–45 minutes in united prayer, following the leading of the Holy Spirit. We encourage short conversational prayers (1–3 sentences), allowing more people to participate and pray multiple times. Below are a few examples of praying through Scripture based on today's theme. You may also pray through other Bible passages and include additional prayer topics during your time together. For more prayer ideas, please refer to the Leader's Guide and the World Church Prayer Requests.

Praying God's Word — Revelation 14:14–16

"On the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown . . . 'Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped."

"One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown"

Lord, we worship You as our King and Savior. Reign in our hearts today. Shape our lives to reflect Your character, strengthen our faith, and prepare us for the glorious day when we will see You face to face.

"For the harvest of the earth is ripe"

Father, the fields are ripening for harvest. Through OneVoice27 this year, send us out as laborers with one voice, that many may be gathered in before the great reaping. Make us ready, and make us reapers in Your harvest.

"And the earth was reaped"

Lord, hasten the day when the harvest is complete and You return to gather Your people home. Keep us close to You—following the Lamb, faithful and without deceit—so that we are ready for that glorious day.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.
Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.
Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.
Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).
OneVoice27: Pray for the OneVoice27 evangelistic emphasis culminating this September—that today's prayers become bold proclamation and that many will hear of Jesus before He comes.
Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.
Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Bringing in the Sheaves (#369); Hail Him the King of Glory (#202); O, When Shall I See Jesus (#448)
Other Songs: Soon and Very Soon; Even So, Come; Is He Worthy?; We Will Stand